



PUNA NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

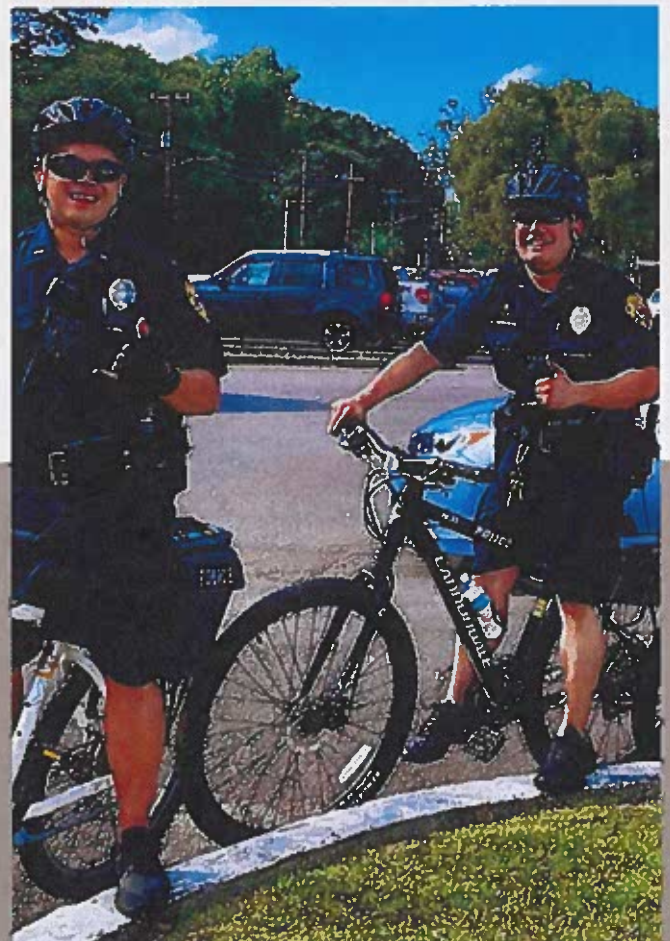
Start 2024 with a Resolution to be Prepared!

Start the new year right by prioritizing your preparedness for any emergency. Resolve to be Ready in 2024 by creating a family emergency plan, building an emergency kit, staying informed, learning new lifesaving skills, and knowing your threats and hazards.

The goal of this newsletter is to provide community information, crime prevention tips & education, inform you about crime in our community, and alert you to upcoming Police Department events. We look forward to sharing this information and helping you learn how to keep your families, homes and property safer.

In this newsletter you will find:

- Traffic law reminders
- Crime trends
- Crime Reporting
- Puna's Most Wanted



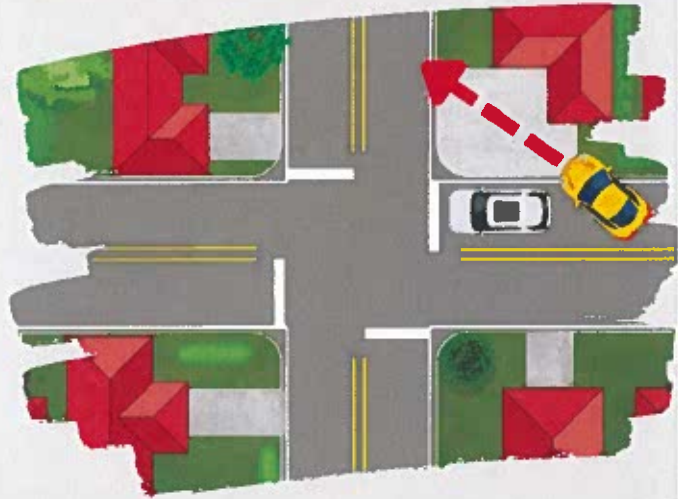
RULES OF THE ROAD

A Refresher on Often-Forgotten
Driving Laws from Driver's Ed

«CUTTING CORNERS»

The Hawaii Police Department would like to remind all drivers of Hawaii County Code Section 24-172 regarding cutting corners. This law prohibits any person from operating or driving a vehicle on or across any sidewalk area or through any driveway, parking lot, or business entrance for the purpose of making right or left turns from one street into another by avoiding intersections or as a means of traveling from one street to another.

It is crucial for all drivers to follow this law, as it helps ensure the safety of pedestrians & other drivers. Cutting corners can cause accidents, especially in areas with high foot traffic, & can result in serious injuries or fatalities. Moreover, violating Section 24-172 can lead to a traffic citation, & drivers who repeatedly violate this law could face more severe consequences. Cutting corners can cause Traffic Collisions, especially in areas with high foot traffic, & can result in serious injuries or



fatalities. Moreover, violating Section 24-172 can lead to a traffic citation, & drivers who repeatedly violate this law may face more severe consequences.

We understand that some drivers may be tempted to cut corners to save time or avoid traffic. However, it is important to prioritize safety over convenience. By taking the extra time to follow the rules of the road, we can all help reduce the number of collisions & injuries in our communities. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep our roads safe.

MOPED LAWS

know before you go



- ✓ Eye protection
- ✓ License
- ✓ Speed limits

Moped operators need to be aware of the laws & regulations regarding moped use to ensure the safety of themselves & others on the road. Moped operators are required to follow the same traffic laws as other vehicle operators, including laws related to speed limits, right-of-way, & DUI. In addition, we would like to remind the community about a few other laws that are unique to moped use. Please note this article is not an exhaustive list of moped laws; for additional information, refer to the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) & Hawaii County Code (HCC).

First, let's define a moped. The definition of a moped can be viewed in full in Section [HRS §286-2](#). In short, a moped may have 2 or 3 wheels, may carry only 1 person, must have a maximum of 1/2 horsepower, a top speed on a straight level surface of no more than 30 mph, & have an automatic transmission. If your moped goes faster than 30 mph, it is no longer a moped; it is a motor scooter with different insurance & different licensing requirements.

Below are some of the laws we commonly see violated that operators claim to be unaware of:

- A driver's license is required. You can drive a moped with any class license. If you don't have a license & desire only to drive a moped, a Class 1 license will meet your need. It allows the holder to drive only mopeds, & both a knowledge & a practical test are required [HRS §291C-194](#).
- Mopeds must be registered with the County director of finance, meaning they must have a license plate & a current registration sticker affixed to that license plate [HRS §249-14](#).
- Moped operators must wear protective eyewear [HCC §24-186.1 \(1\)](#).
- Only 1 person is allowed to ride on a moped, meaning no passengers are allowed even if the moped was built to accommodate a second rider [HRS §291C-195\(c\)](#).
- Mopeds driving below the speed limit must ride as near to the right side of the roadway as feasible [HRS §291C-196\(a\)](#).
- Moped operators must drive in a single file [HRS §291C-196\(b\)](#).
- Mopeds are prohibited from driving on sidewalks or paths intended for the exclusive use of pedestrians [HRS §291C-196\(c\)](#).
- Moped drivers are required to use bicycle lanes when present [HRS §291C-197 \(a\)](#).
- Mopeds are limited to a maximum speed of a moped to 35 MPH [HRS §291C-198\(b\)](#). Even on downhill with a speed limit above 35 MPH, a moped is required to stay at or below 35 MPH.
- All mopeds must undergo a yearly safety inspection [HRS §291C-202](#).
- You are prohibited from modifying a moped motor to increase the horsepower above 2 horsepower [HRS §291C-206\(a\)](#).
- Persons under 18 years of age must wear a helmet with a chin strap [HRS §286-81\(e\)](#).

NOTE: Wearing a helmet is not required for persons over 18, but it is very highly recommended. No one ever expects to crash, but if you do crash, a helmet will help protect your good looks, teeth, nose, eyes, skull, & your brain. A full-face helmet provides the most protection. Having a face shield reduces wind noise & discomfort from bugs, dirt & rain. Additional recommended protective items are: eye protection, full-fingered gloves, long-sleeved shirt & pants and shoes that cover your ankles.

It's important to understand & follow the laws & regulations regarding moped use to ensure the safety of yourself & others on the road. If you have any further questions or concerns please reach out to our community Police Officers.

Child Passenger **SAFETY RESTRAINT**



What you need to know about the new law

The Hawai'i Police Department would like to remind the public of changes to the Child Passenger Safety Restraint Laws (HRS [§291-11.5](#)) that took effect on June 27th. Senate [Bill 152](#), which updates these laws, is intended to protect our children while on the road. We ask everyone to spread the word and to follow these laws to ensure the safety of our keiki.

According to the amended law, children of certain ages are now required to be secured in rear-facing car seats (previously, there was no such requirement). Children under the age of 10 (previously 8) are now required to ride in a booster seat, unless they are 4'9" or taller and able to use a factory seatbelt.

In addition to these new regulations, lawmakers have increased the fines for violating these laws, with a maximum fine of \$800 for repeat offenders.

For more information, please visit the [Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition](#) website."

OVERVIEW

Child under 2 years old

- Must be properly restrained in a rear-facing car seat with harness.

Child age 2-4 year old

- Must be properly restrained in a rear-facing or forward-facing car seat with harness.

Children under 4-10 years old

- Must ride in a booster seat unless they have reached the height of 4'9"
- Must be properly restrained regardless of how many seat belt assemblies are in the vehicle.

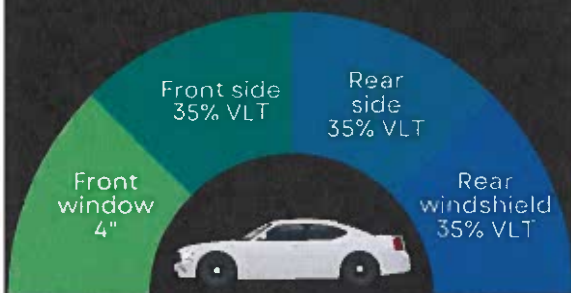
Penalties

- Violators may pay up to \$800 in fines and will be required by the court to attend a child passenger safety class approved by the Hawaii State Judiciary.

TINT LAWS

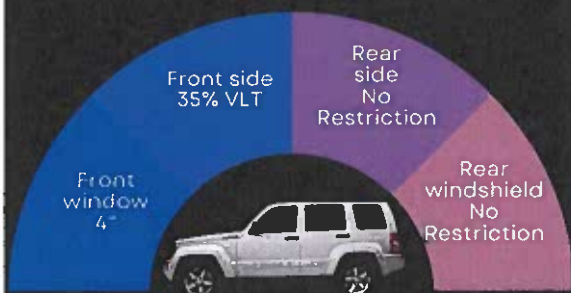
PASSENGER VEHICLES

Sedan, coups, Station wagons, & hatchbacks



MULTI PURPOSE VEHICLES

SUVs, Pick-Up trucks, & Vans



The Hawai'i Police Department reminds motorists of current tint laws (HRS section 291-21.5(a))

WHY DO WE CARE?

First & foremost, it's the law. Nevertheless, there are a few other considerations that the public may not consider when purchasing tint for a vehicle.

ACCIDENTS

Having excessively dark windows can substantially diminish a driver's vision while driving, particularly during the night or in poor weather conditions. This can result in serious traffic.

collisions with another vehicle or even a pedestrian

OFFICER-SAFETY CONCERNS

Tint impedes police from seeing into a car during a traffic stop. This can pose a tremendous safety risk for officers, preventing them from viewing what the occupants are doing. Many offenders use dark tint to hide unlawful activities such as drug deals or their identity when they have an active warrant for arrest.

WHAT IS AUTHORIZED?

Medical exemptions: There are no authorized medical exemptions to this law.

Additional points of note

1. There are no medical exemptions to tint laws.
2. Dual side mirrors are required if the van's, minivan's, truck's, or buses' back window is tinted.
3. Safety check facilities are now required to test your tint with a tint meter and submit photos proving compliance. If your tint is not in compliance, you will not be issued a safety check, and if driven can be cited for this too.
4. Fines can range between \$250 – \$500 for the vehicle owner and \$500-\$100 for business who installed the tint PER WINDOW.

- VLT= Visible light transmission
- There is a +/- 6% margin of error authorized.



SLOW DOWN &

MOVE OVER

Attention Hawaii drivers! Did you know that there's a law in place to help protect our emergency responders? It's called the move over law, & it's important to understand what it requires of you.

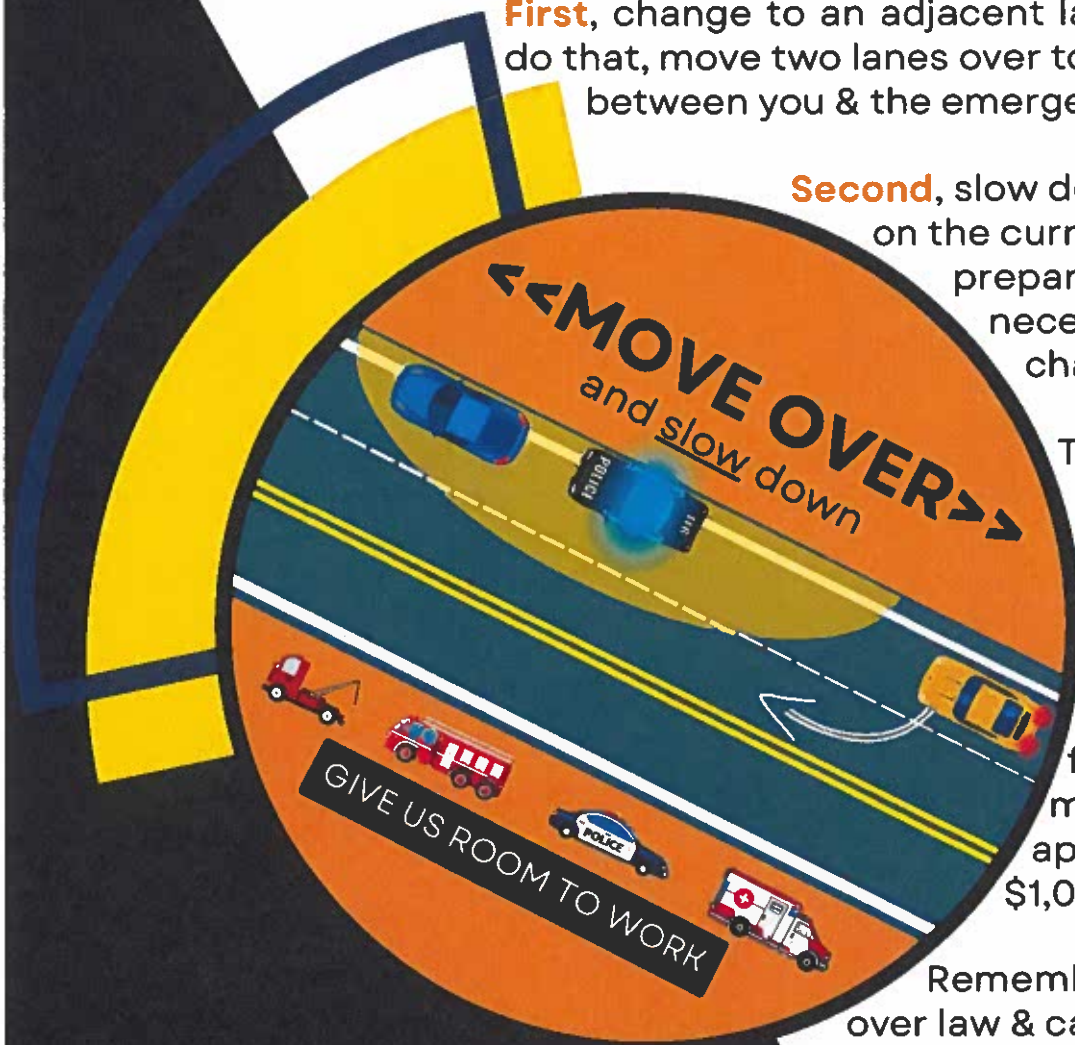
When you see a stationary emergency vehicle with its lights on, such as a police car or a fire truck you must take action. Here's what you need to do:

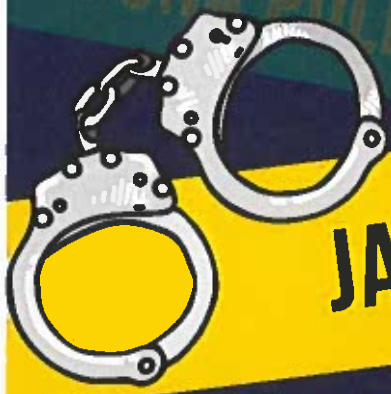
First, change to an adjacent lane if possible. If you can do that, move two lanes over to create an empty lane between you & the emergency vehicle.

Second, slow down to a safe speed based on the current road conditions. Be prepared to come to a full stop if necessary to make a safe lane change.

This law applies to a variety of emergency vehicles, including police & fire department vehicles, tow trucks, & more. If you don't comply with the move over law, you could face a traffic citation, mandatory court appearance, & a fine of up to \$1,000.

Remember, violating the move over law & causing injury or death to an emergency responder may result in additional charges. Let's all do our part to keep our emergency responders safe by following Hawaii move over law.





JANUARY REPORTED CRIMES



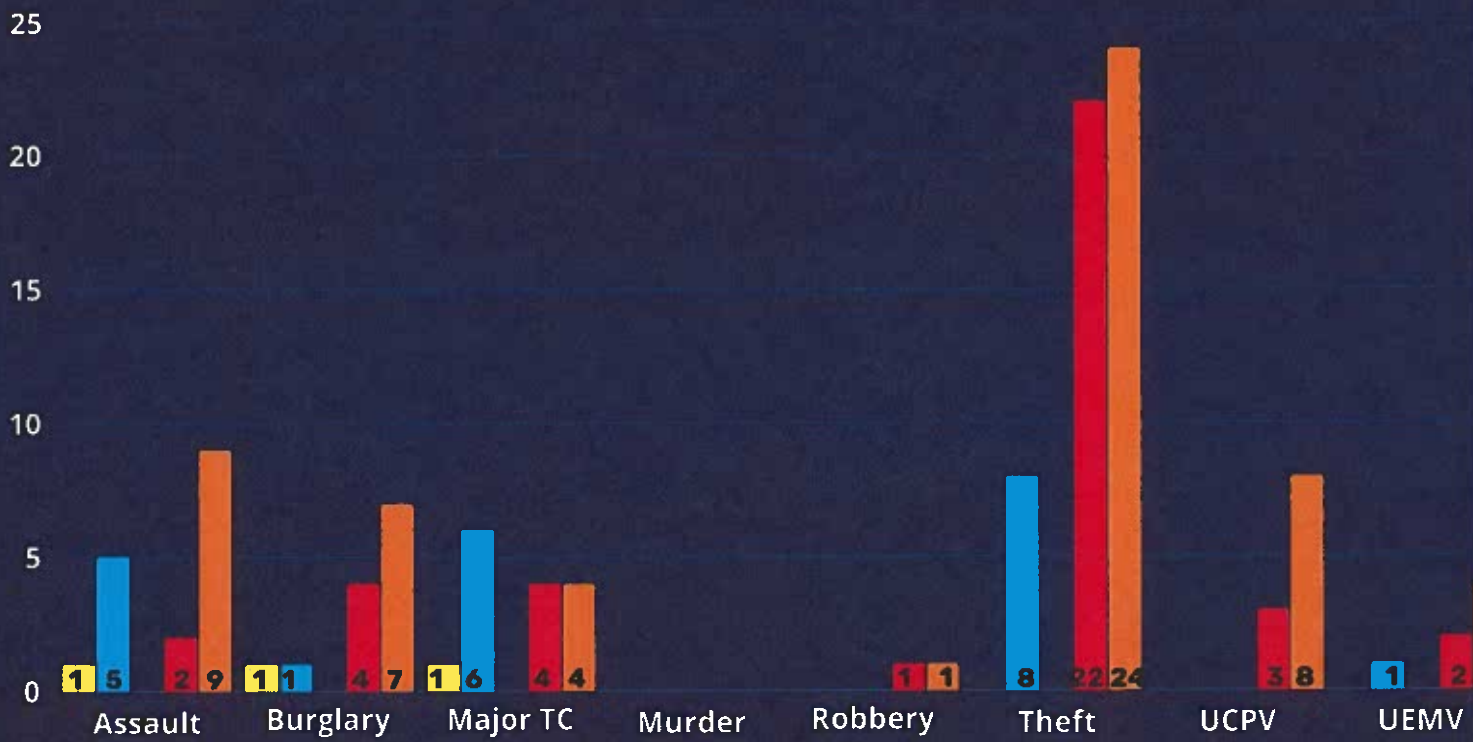
VOLCANO

MT.VIEW

KURTISTOWN

KEA'AU

PĀHOA



- **Assault:** When a person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes bodily injury to another or negligently with a dangerous instrument.
- **Burglary:** Intentionally & unlawfully entering & remaining in a building with intent to commit a crime against person or property.
- **CPD:** Criminal Property Damage; unlawful damaging of another's property; vandalism.

- **Robbery:** If in the course of committing theft non-consensual taking of a motor vehicle the person uses force.
- **Theft:** When a person obtains or exerts control over property of another with intent to deprive the other of the property.
- **UCPV:** Unauthorized Control of Propelled vehicle; auto theft.
- **UEMV:** Unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle car break-in.

JANUARY CRIME STATS

VOLCANO

Assault: 1

Omaomao Road

Major Traffic Casualty: 1

Highway 11 - MM27

Burglary: 1

Mokuna Street

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Assault: 5

Kaleponi Drive

Mountain View Elem.

3rd Road

Volcano Road

Makoa Road

Major TC: 6

Highway 11 (3x)

Pikake Street

Plumeria Street

Moho Road

Burglary: 1

Kona Street

UEMV: 1

Volcano Road

Theft: 8

Kopaa Street

Ala Naulani

Kokokahi Road

Volcano Road

Huina Road

Oahu Street

Wao Kele Road

Thorne Street

JANUARY CRIME STATS

KEAAU

Assault: 2

Shipman Park
32nd Avenue

Major TC: 4

Hwy 130/Keaau Transfer Station
Orchidland Drive/35th Avenue
Hwy 130/Keaau High School
Orchidland Drive/Hwy 130

UEMV: 2

Beach Road & Kaloli Drive
Keaau Bypass Road & Milo Street

UCPV: 3

Haa Place
9th Avenue
37th Avenue

Robbery: 1

32nd Avenue

Theft: 22

35th Avenue
5th Avenue
7 Eleven Keaau(2x)
Milo Street/Banana Farm
Ohiohi Street
Haa Place
13th Avenue(4x)
40th Avenue
28th Avenue
Ipuaiwaha Street
Keaau High School(2x)
15th Avenue
Railroad Avenue
34th Avenue
Macadamia Road/Volcano Road
37th Avenue
10th Avenue

JANUARY CRIME STATS

PAHOA

Assault: 9

Pahoa Village Road(2x)
Road A
Puhala Drive
Pohoiki Boat Ramp
Ohiki Street
Kaehukai Street
Kapu Lane(2x)

Major TC: 4

Highway 130/Leilani Avenue
Highway 130/Pahoa Station
Leisure Lane
Limu Street

Burglary: 7

North Puni Mauka Loop
Leilani Avenue
Kamaili Road
Forest Road(2x)
Tiki Lane
Pahoa Village Road

Robbery: 1

Ohiki Street

UEMV: 4

Kehena Beach (2x)
Pahoa Village Road (2x)

UCPV: 8

Kuhio Drive
Plumeria Drive
King Kamehameha Boulevard
Kahakai Boulevard/Longs Pahoa
Pahoa Village Road
Forest Road
Driftwood Lane
Pomaikai Street

JANUARY CRIME STATS

PAHOA

Theft: 24

Hilo Lane

North Puni Mauka Loop

Kahakai Boulevard & Paul's Repair

Moaniala Street

Puakenikeni Place

Pahoa Village Road(3x)

Niuhi Street

7 Eleven Pahoa

Kuhio Drive

Kalapana Kapoho Beach Road

Lililo Drive

Keaau Pahoa Road/Makuu Mrkt.

Kehena Beach

Hapuu Drive

Holiday Road

Pahoa Kapoho Road

Driftwood Lane

Moku Street

Plumeria Drive

Forrest Road

Pahoa Elementary School

Leilani Avenue

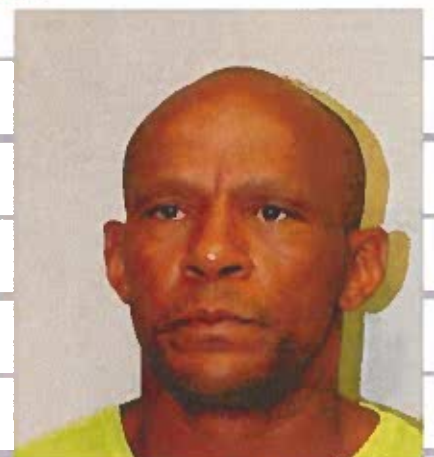
WANTED



Matthew CHAVARIES Jr.



Isaac PAULINE



Benny GORDON



Hubert KEKAHUNA-KEKONA



Daesyn Pacheco-Muragin



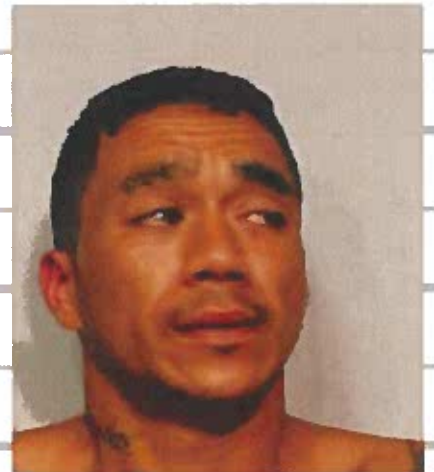
Irvin AGRES



Kaoionamamo LUNDIN



Bronson Castro



Jeremy Coyaso

Please do not attempt to contact any wanted person as they may be armed and/or dangerous. If you have information regarding the whereabouts of any listed individual please call police.

WANTED



Anthony CELIS



Kyle PUU-GUSTAFSON



Kehaulani PUA



Chace GAMBILL



Lawrence CASTRO



Amber MCATEE



Kawai KAHEE



Chandsome KAWELO-LEWI



Linita KAPELI-SPENCER

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