



JANUARY 2025

PUNA NEWSLETTER

Hawai'i County Police Department



HO'OKAHI KA 'ILAU LIKE 'ANA

Wield the paddles together.

As we embark on the journey of 2025, this 'olelo no'eau reminds us of the strength found in unity. Whether navigating challenges or celebrating progress, it is through collective effort that we achieve meaningful change. This month, we honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (January 20) and Queen Lili'uokalani (January 17), whose legacies exemplify the power of community and shared purpose. Their work inspires us to reflect on how we can contribute to a more just and equitable future, starting here in Puna.

Let us continue to work together—residents, leaders, and community partners—to create a safer, more connected, and thriving 'ohana. No task is too great when approached with shared commitment and aloha.

Monthly Review

- **CRIME TRENDS**
- **RULES OF THE ROAD REFRESHER**
- **NEIGHBORHOOD NUGGETS**
- **PUNA'S MOST WANTED**
- **MAHALO PATROL**
- **RESOURCE GUIDE**



DECEMBER REPORTED CRIMES



VOLCANO

MT.VIEW

KURTISTOWN

KEA'AU

PĀHOA

25

20

15

10

5

0

Assault

Burglary

Traffic Casualty

Murder

Robbery

Theft

UCPV

UEMV



- **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 or 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 person of their property.
- **UCPV:** Unauthorized Control of Propelled vehicle; auto theft.
- **UEMV:** Unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle; car break-in.

DECEMBER CRIME STATS

VOLCANO

Major TC- 1

Pearl Avenue & Volcano Road

KURTISTOWN

Major TC- 2

Volcano Road & 7 Eleven Kurtistown
Volcano Road & Hawelu Road

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Assault- 2

Ala Naualani Road (2x)

Burglary- 1

Moho Road

Major TC- 3

Rose Street & Lehua Street
Mauna Kea Drive & Volcano Road
Volcano Road

UCPV- 2

Volcano Road; Hirano Store
Ohelo Street

Theft- 6

Volcano Road; Hirano Store
Uluhemalu Road
Hibiscus Street
Opeapea Road & Alula Road
North Kulani Road
Ala Naualani Road

DECEMBER CRIME STATS

KEA'AU

Assault- 8

Keaau High School
Keaau Pahoa Road (3x)
Keaau Middle School
Paradise Drive
Pohaku Circle
Orchidland Drive

Burglary- 5

8th Avenue
22nd Avenue
1st Avenue
4th Avenue
10th Avenue

Major TC- 15

6th Avenue
Old Volcano Road & Volcano Road
Keaau Bypass Road & Milo Street
12th Avenue & Paradise Drive
Makuu Drive
Highway 130 & Highway 139 (2x)
Highway 130 & Kukula Street
Keaau Pahoa Road & Paradise Drive
Kaloli Drive
Kaloli Drive & 30th Avenue
Kaloli Drive & 28th Avenue
Keaau Pahoa Road & Makuu Drive
Keaau Pahoa Road near Orchidland Drive
Pohaku Drive & Shower Drive

UEMV- 4

Mikahala Street; Ken's Towing
Beach Road; Shipman Trailhead
Kaloli Drive
3rd Avenue & Makuu Drive

Theft- 20

Mikahala Street Ken's Towing (2x)
13th Avenue
28th Avenue (2x)
Kuaaina Road
Keaau Spigots near Keaau Transfer Station
Sandalwood Court
Huina Road County Base yard (2x)
Beach Road; Shipman Trailhead
Old Volcano Road; HFS FCU Keaau (2x)
40th Avenue
Volcano Road
Railroad Avenue
34th Avenue
Opukahaia Street
24th Avenue
11th avenue

UCPV- 5

30th Avenue
6th Avenue
3rd Avenue & Makuu Drive (2x)
14th Avenue

DECEMBER CRIME STATS

PĀHOA

Assault- 8

Treefern Drive
Forest Road
Pahoa Village Road near Mystic Closet
Pahoa Village Road
Pahoa Village Road; Puna Kai Gravel Parking
Pahoa Elementry School
Mauna Kea Drive
Kehena Beach Park

Burglary- 16

Hapuu Road
Maile Street
Hawaii Road
Ala Lokelani
Malolo Street
Lai Street
Oio Street
Stardust Drive
Kahakai Blvd.
Seaview Road
Government Beach Road; Puna Aqua Farms
Pahoa Vilage Road (2x)
Pahoa Kalpana Road (3x)

Major TC- 8

Kahakai Blvd. & Pahoa Village Road (2x)
Pahoa Vilage Road fronting Popeye's
Chicken
Keaau Pahoa Road & Pahoa Kapoho Road
Pahoa Village Road / Pahoa Elem. School
Ainaloa Blvd.
Kahakai Blvd. & Olao Street (2x)

UEMV- 3

Forrest Road
Pahoa Community Center Parking Lot
Lai Street

Thefts- 22

Kaupili Street
Hapuu Road (2x)
Cottage Circle & Pirscella Road
Kauai Road
Hawaii Road
Pahoa Village Road; 7 Eleven Pahoa (2x)
Kalpana Seaview Estates (2x)
Kono Street
Kahakai Blvd.; Longs Pahoa (2x)
Kahakai Blvd.; Keonepoko Elem. School
Kahukai Street
Hakuma Street
Pahoa Kapoho Road (2x)
Kamaili Uka Road
Government Beach Road
Pahoa Kalapana Road
Forest Road

UCPV- 2

Pahoa Village Road; Nings Thai Crusine
Stardust Drive



FATAL PEDESTRIAN CRASH

Two minutes into the new year, Hawai'i Island police responded to a South Kona traffic collision that left a 52 y.o. male pedestrian dead. The 23 y.o. driver was arrested for driving under the influence of an intoxicant and negligent homicide.



FATAL CRASH

Hawai'i Island police are investigating a fatal traffic collision involving a vehicle and bicyclist that occurred on Monday night, December 30, in Pāhoa. The driver of the vehicle has been arrested for negligent homicide and driving under the influence.

RULES OF THE ROAD REFRESHER

Promoting Safety for Pedestrians and Cyclists

In light of recent tragic incidents involving pedestrians and cyclists in our community, it's imperative to revisit the rules of the road to enhance safety for all.

Pedestrian Reminders

- **Use Crosswalks:** Hawai'i law (§291C-72) requires drivers to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. Pedestrians must also avoid stepping into the path of an oncoming vehicle that is too close to stop safely.
- **Stay Visible:** When walking, wear bright/reflective clothing or carry a flashlight to help drivers see you.
- **Be Alert:** Avoid distractions like phones while crossing streets and always check for vehicles before stepping into the road, even at a crosswalk.

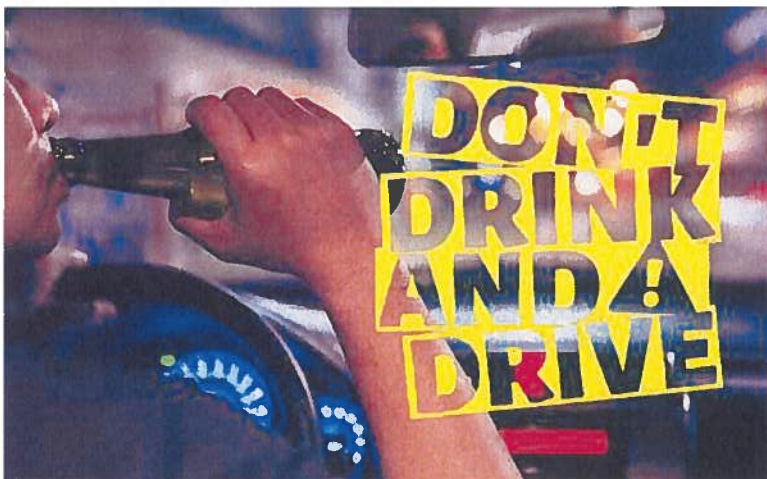
Bicyclist Reminders

- **Follow Traffic Laws:** Hawai'i Revised Statutes (§291C-142) require bicyclists to follow the same traffic laws as cars, including stopping at lights and stop signs.
- **Ride Safely:** Stay as close to the right-hand curb as possible unless making a left turn or avoiding hazards (§291C-145).
- **Stay Visible at Night:** Bicycles must have a white front light and a red rear reflector when riding after dark to comply with state law.

Driver Responsibilities

- **Yield to Pedestrians:** Stop for pedestrians in crosswalks and give them the right of way. Always remain vigilant near intersections.
- **Share the Road:** Keep a minimum of three feet when passing bicyclists, as required by Hawai'i law, to ensure their safety.
- **Avoid Distractions:** Focus on the road to react promptly to pedestrians and cyclists, especially during low-visibility conditions.

By adhering to these guidelines, we can work together to prevent further tragedies and ensure safer roads for everyone in our community.



DID YOU KNOW?



30% of crime can be reduced with well-placed outdoor lighting.

20% of burglaries nationwide occur through unlocked doors or windows.

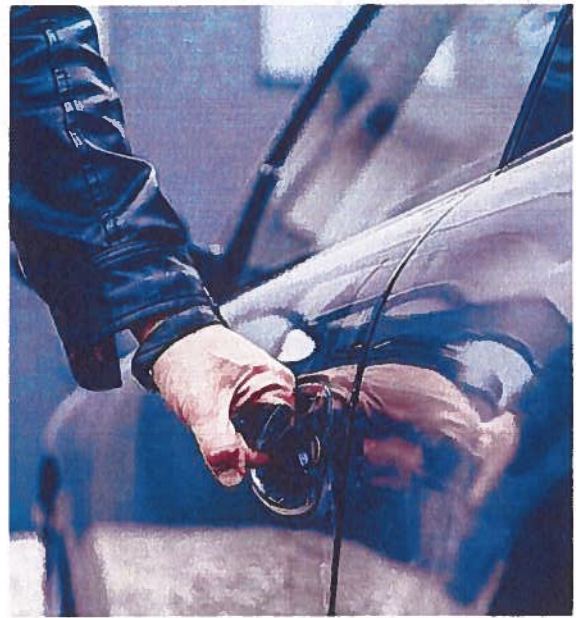
10 minutes is all it takes for most car thefts and break-ins to occur after parking.



General Safety Tip

Trust your instincts. If something feels unsafe, remove yourself from the situation and seek help. Being aware of your surroundings and listening to your intuition can prevent potential harm.

- Keep your phone charged and accessible for emergencies.
- Share your plans with a trusted friend or family member when heading out alone.
- Avoid isolated areas, especially at night, whenever possible.



NEIGHBORHOOD NUGGETS

Your safety and the safety of your neighborhood are our top priorities. Here are four practical tips to help protect your home, vehicle, and personal well-being:

Home Safety Tip

Keep your home well-lit at night. Motion-activated lights around entry points deter intruders by creating an unpredictable environment.

Vehicle Safety Tip

Never leave keys, wallets, or valuables in your vehicle, even when parked at home. Thieves often check cars in residential driveways for easy access.

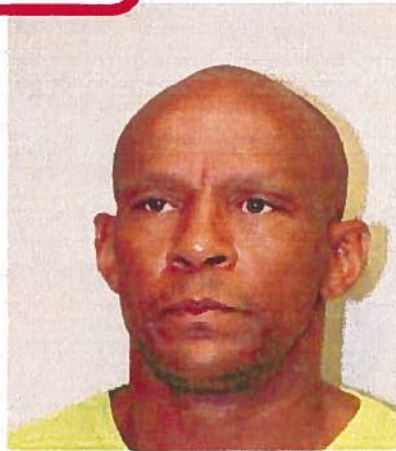
Neighborhood Safety Tip

Foster connections with your neighbors. Establish a communication system—like a phone tree or group chat—to quickly share concerns or updates.

WANTED



Nathanael CHOW-GUZMAN



Benny GORDON



Kade KAPIKA-OVERTURF



Kealiiokekai KAMANU



Alexander KAUWE



Keanu KRAUSE



**Clyde LOA
(Escapee)**



**Kawai POMROY
(Escapee)**

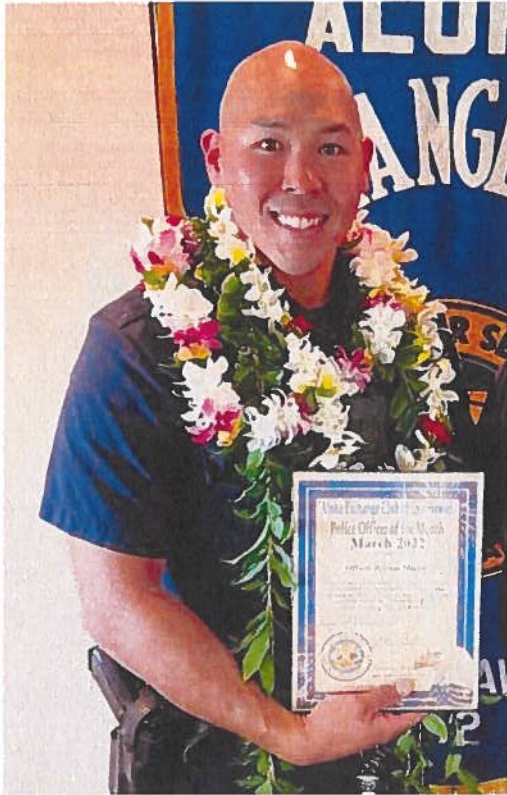


Malani TAVUI

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.

MAHALO PATROL

Honoring Those Who Make a Difference



OFFICER BRYSON MIYOSE

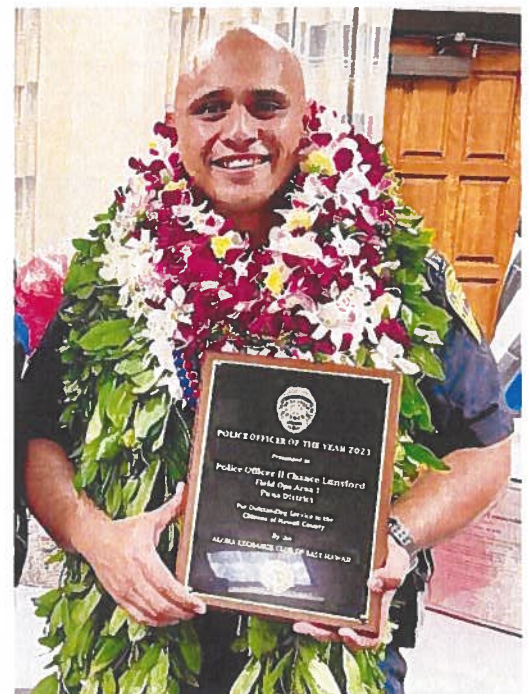
Thank you, Officer Bryson Miyose, for over four years of dedicated service as a Community Police Officer in Puna. Your commitment to building trust and ensuring safety has made a lasting impact on our community.

Congratulations on your promotion to Sergeant! As of February 1, 2025, Sergeant Miyose will begin his new role as a supervisor with South Hilo Patrol. Best wishes as you embark on this next chapter of your career, and mahalo nui for your continued commitment to Hawai'i Island.

OFFICER CHANCE LUNSFORD

Please welcome Officer Chance Lunsford to our Puna Community Policing team. Puna native, Officer Lunsford has served HPD for nine and a half years, spending his entire career serving the Puna District. He is also a member of the Special Response Team (SRT). Officer Lunsford was awarded "Police Officer of the Year 2023" where he has demonstrated exceptional skills in enforcement and investigations.

We are excited to have him join our team and bring his expertise to our community.





For life-threatening emergencies, call 911.

For non-life-threatening emergencies, call (808) 935-3311.

For the Fire Department, call (808) 961-8336.



PROPER 911 USE

Learn when and how to use 911 for emergencies to ensure a quick and effective response.



POLICE DIRECTORY

Access contact information for HPD departments, stations, and specialized units.



CRIME STOPPERS

Submit anonymous tips about crimes or suspicious activity to help keep our community safe.



ANIMAL CONTROL

Report stray or dangerous animals, access lost-and-found services, or learn about licensing and care.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Find support, counseling, and emergency resources for victims of domestic violence.



KULEANA HOTLINE

Share non-emergency community concerns confidentially to improve neighborhood safety.



REPORT AN UNSAFE DRIVER

Notify authorities about reckless, impaired, or dangerous driving behavior.



GET A COPY OF A POLICE REPORT

Request copies of police reports for legal, personal, or insurance purposes.



SUBMIT A TIP ABOUT AN UNSOLVED CASE

Provide confidential information to assist investigations.