



APRIL 2025

PUNA NEWSLETTER

Hawai'i County Police Department



'A'A I KA HULA, WAIHO I KA HILAHILA I KA HALE.

Dare to dance, leave shyness at home.

As Merrie Monarch returns to Hawai'i Island, this 'ōlelo no'eau reminds us of the courage it takes to step forward—with purpose, preparation, and pride. Whether on stage or in our neighborhoods, the collective work of showing up mākaukau matters. Community safety, like hula, is built on discipline, awareness, and trust in one another.

This month, as we welcome visitors and celebrate the rich culture of Hawai'i, we also lean into our shared responsibility. Community policing relies not just on officers, but on everyone—neighbors who stay alert, residents who report concerns, and individuals who choose to get involved.

Monthly Review

- **CRIME TRENDS**
- **PUNA'S MOST WANTED**
- **GOOD WITNESS**
- **ABANDONED VEHICLE**
- **INJURED OFFICER FUNDRAISER**
- **RESOURCE GUIDE**

This newsletter is brought to you by your Community Policing Team—Officers Cardines, Lunsford, Sato, and Scanlan. It's designed for the public and serves as our way of sharing helpful information and raising awareness. Feel free to share!



MARCH REPORTED CRIMES



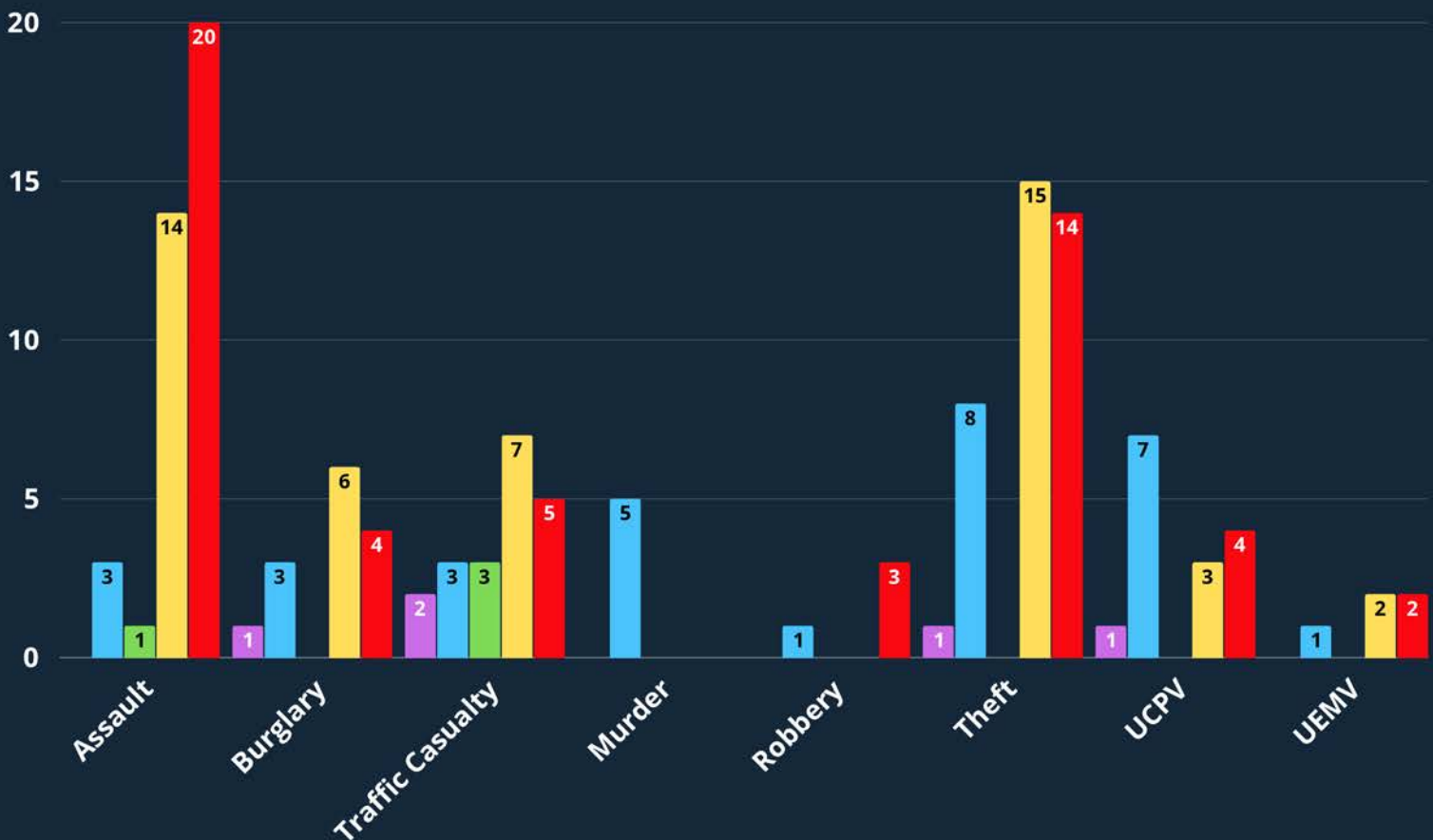
VOLCANO

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.
- **Traffic Casualty:** Major traffic casualties; \$3000 plus in damages and/or injuries.
- **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.

MARCH CRIME STATS

VOLCANO

BURGLARY - 1

HALE OHIA RD

THEFT - 1

9TH AVE

TRAFFIC CASUALTY - 1

HWY 11 & ALII ANELA ST

UCPV-1

OLD VOLCANO RD

MOUNTAIN VIEW

ASSAULT - 3

HILOHILO ST
UAU RD (RD 5)
APELE RD

BURGLARY - 3

HILOHILO ST
IHOPE RD
ALE RD (RD F)

THEFT - 8

HIBISCUS ST
HILOHILO ST (2X)
PLUMERIA ST
ALE RD (RD F)
APELE RD
PIKAKE ST
LUHI RD
UEMV - 1
HAUMALU ST

TRAFFIC CASUALTY - 3

SOUTH KULANI RD & PUHALA ST
HWY 130 & NORTH KULANI RD
KAHIKOPELE ST & OHIA AVE

MURDER - 5

HIBISCUS ST
PLUMERIA ST (3X)
IHOPE RD

ROBBERY - 1

HILOHILO ST

UCPV - 7

HOPUE RD & ALE RD
PLUMERIA ST
IHOPE RD
HILOHILO ST (2X)
LUHI RD
LEHUA ST

MARCH CRIME STATS

KURTISTOWN

ASSAULT - 1

HWY 130 (7 ELEVEN KURTISTOWN)

KEA'AU

ASSAULT-14

14TH AVE (3X)

KEAAU HIGH SCHOOL

FOODLAND KEAAU

KEAAU NATURAL FOODS

KALOLI DR

30TH AVE

37TH AVE

39TH AVE

PARADISE CT

AINA PUA ST (2X)

OPUKAHAIA ST

BURGLARY - 6

14TH AVE (2X)

35TH AVE (2X)

GOVERNMENT BEACH RD

36TH AVE

UCPV - 3

27TH AVE

22ND AVE

GOVERNMENT BEACH RD

UEMV - 2

OLAA RD

1ST AVE

THEFT - 15

34TH AVE (2X)

6TH AVE

OLAA RD (4X)

20TH AVE

14TH AVE

MELEKAHIWA ST

1ST AVE

36TH AVE (2X)

39TH AVE

KEAAU TRANSFER STATION

TRAFFIC CASUALTY - 12

PILI MUA STREET

27TH AVE & KALOLI DR

HWY 130 (4X)

3RD AVE

PUANANI ST & 40TH AVE

26TH AVE

22ND AVE

ALA HEIAU RD (2X)

MARCH CRIME STATS

PĀHOA

ASSAULT-20

HWY 130 & HOMESTEAD RD
PIKAKE RD
KAHAKAI BLVD (2X)
GOVERNMENT BEACH RD
PARADISE DR
PAHOA VILLAGE RD (5X)
KEHENA BEACH
KAIMU MAKENA HOMESTD (3X)
WELEA ST (2X)
AKEAKAMAI LP
PAHOA KALAPANA RD

BURGLARY- 4

LIDO LN
KUMAKAHI ST
OPAKAPAKA ST
APAA ST

TRAFFIC CASUALTY - 9

PAHOA KALAPANA RD
HWY 137 (3X)
HWY 130 & AINALOA BLVD (2X)
KAMAILI RD
KAHAKAI BLVD
PAHOA VILLAGE RD

THEFT - 14

SOUTH PUNI MAUKA LP
GOVERNMENT BEACH RD
NALU PL
UILANI DR
MAUI RD
KALUAHINE ST
KAHAKAI BLVD (2X)
PAHOA VILLAGE RD (3X)
HAPUU RD & HAWAII RD
CORAL DR
LEILANI AVE

UCPV - 4

KEHENA BLACK SAND BEACH
MAUI RD
UILANI DR
KAIMU CHAIN OF CRATERS RD

UEMV - 2

GOVERNMENT BEACH RD
UILANI RD

WANTED



James SMITH



Benny GORDON



Christopher LUCRISIA



Kealiiokekai KAMANU



Jason (Pena) MITCHELL



Kennedy WILSON



Christopher MATTOS



Matthew CHAVARIES



**Clyde LOA
(Escapee)**

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.



ABANDONED VEHICLES

Helping Keep Our Communities Clear, Safe, and Welcoming

Abandoned vehicles aren't just an eyesore—they can pose safety hazards, block emergency access, and attract vandalism. With your help, we can work together to keep our roadways and shared spaces clear.

How to Report an Abandoned Vehicle

Call Police Dispatch at **(808) 935-3311** and request to report an abandoned vehicle.

Be ready to provide the following:

- **Specific location** of the vehicle
- **License plate** and **VIN**, if available
- **Make, type, and color** of the vehicle
- How long the vehicle has been at the location

What Happens Next?

- A police officer will tag the vehicle with a 24-hour removal notice.
- The Department of Abandoned Vehicles (DAV) reviews the report, inspects the vehicle, and coordinates tow services.
- To check on a case, call HPD Traffic Services Section at (808) 961-2227.

Your reports help *speed up* the removal of abandoned vehicles from public roads, municipal parking lots, parks, and beaches.

Community Tip

- Take a photo (safely) if you're unsure how to describe the vehicle—it can help responders act more quickly.



PARK SMART

DON'T GET TAGGED AND TOWED!

Vehicles left on the roadside for extended periods may be considered ABANDONED. Once tagged by police, they can be towed within 24–72 hours. Removing the notice does not stop the tow process.

Together, we can maintain the safety, cleanliness, and beauty of our Puna neighborhoods.

ON OR WITHIN 10 FEET FROM THE EDGE OF ANY ROADWAY | PUBLIC OR PRIVATE

VIOLATION



**HAWAII COUNTY CODE: 20-07-01
HAWAII REVISED STATUTE: 290-1**



EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS ARE A VITAL PART OF THE PROCESS OF SOLVING CRIMES.



YOUR OBSERVATIONS MATTER MORE THAN YOU THINK.



Practice Makes Prepared

Strengthen your observation skills with small daily habits:

- Describe 5 things about a passing person or car.
- Memorize a license plate and try recalling it 5 minutes later.
- Pay attention to one unique detail—like a sticker, hat, or tattoo.

These simple habits help sharpen your memory when it matters most.

When a crime or suspicious activity happens, *you may be the most important voice* in helping police respond quickly and effectively. Being a good witness doesn't mean putting yourself in danger—it means staying aware and remembering the details that can make a difference.

What to Look For

- **People:** Gender, approximate age, race, clothing, facial hair, hairstyle, height/build, unique marks or tattoos, accents, mannerisms, etc.
- **Vehicles:** Make and model, color, license plate, condition (dents, faded paint), modifications (spoilers, lifted/lowered), number of people inside, direction of travel.
- **Time & Location:** What time did it happen? Where exactly? What direction did they go?

MAHALO PATROL

Honoring Those Who Make a Difference



FRIENDS OF FIRST RESPONDERS

Chaplain Renee Godoy founded **Friends of First Responders (FFR)** in April 2021. She has served as Chaplain to the Hawai'i County Police Department since 2007 and Fire Department since 2015. Through her years of service, she became aware of the difficult issues first responders face and the toll it takes on their health and relationships. FFR offers community support and resources to strengthen first responders and their families.



venmo

On March 14, 2025, one of our own—an officer with the Hawai'i Police Department—was seriously injured in the line of duty near Prince Kūhiō Plaza in Hilo. After receiving treatment on O'ahu, he has since returned to Hawai'i Island and is now on the road to recovery. While he is expected to heal, the recovery process will take time and continued support.

In support of the officer and his 'ohana, FFR is currently accepting donations to help ease the financial burden. Contributions can be made via **Venmo @FFR-Hawaii.**

PLEASE DO NOT PUT THE OFFICER'S NAME OR 'OHANA NAME IN THE VENMO NOTE.



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.