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TO: Media Outlets

FR: Prosecuting Attorney Shaylene Iseri-Carvalho

RE: Paroling Authority Sets 45 Year Minimum Term for Convicted Murderer



**Matthew Blankswade**

LĪHU'E – The Hawai'i Paroling Authority has determined that convicted murderer Matthew Blankswade should serve at least 45 years of his life sentence for brutally killing his girlfriend's father, Jeffrey Brisebois.

During the early morning hours of June 26, 2000, Blankswade broke into Brisebois's home on Powerhouse Road, Wainiha, armed with a stolen shotgun. As Brisebois was sleeping, Blankswade aimed the muzzle within 2 feet of him and fired a single shot directly into his head. The shot fractured the victim's left front skull and pellets penetrated his brain, causing his death.

Blankswade was apprehended by KPD later that evening and initially denied any involvement, but admitted to the killing after failing a polygraph examination.

He pled no contest and was convicted of Second Degree Murder and sentenced to life with the possibility of parole by the Honorable Judge Clifford Nakea on July 12, 2001.

The Hawai'i Paroling Authority held a hearing on May 31, 2012 to reset Blankswade's minimum term of imprisonment due to deficiencies in the Board's prior minimum term settings. At the hearing, the Paroling Authority took arguments from both the prosecution and defense before rendering its final decision. Prosecuting Attorney Shaylene Iseri-Carvalho appeared on behalf of the State and Don Wilkerson, court-appointed counsel, represented Blankswade, who appeared by video from Saguaro Correctional Center in Arizona.

Iseri-Carvalho highlighted the premeditated nature of the murder and the cold and callous way in which Blankswade carried it out. She argued that he prepared himself by stealing guns and practicing shooting in the days leading up to the killing. Dressed in camouflage and under the cover of darkness, Blankswade then approached the victim's remotely located home and shot him at close range while he lay defenseless. After the murder, he spent the day at the beach and

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later had dinner with the victim's family, apparently unaffected by the heinous crime he had just committed.

Wilkerson, on behalf of Blankswade, argued that Blankswade was remorseful and noted his young age at the time of the killing, lack of criminal record, and participation in college classes while incarcerated as factors in favor of leniency.

When asked by a Board member as to the reason for killing Brisebois, Blankswade replied, "He was not a nice guy...I wanted to be the hero."

The Paroling Authority issued an order on June 1, 2012 setting Blankswade's minimum term to expire on June 26, 2045. Since he was 21 years old at the time of the homicide, Blankswade would be 66 years of age before becoming eligible for release if he serves the minimum term. "We're extremely pleased with the Paroling Authority's decision in this horrendous case" said Iseri-Carvalho after receiving the ruling. "We hope the extended sentence will provide relief and comfort for Brisebois's family after this senseless tragedy."

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