



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
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News Release

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COUNTY OF KAUAI
KAUAI POLICE DEPARTMENT
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Operation Keiki Shield results in two arrests on Kaua'i

LĪHU'E – Through a partnership with the Department of the Attorney General, its Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC), along with numerous federal and military law enforcement partners, the Kaua'i Police Department and the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney participated in an operation aimed at protecting children from online sexual predators. The operation, known as “Keiki Shield,” resulted in two arrests on Kaua'i between Sept. 9 and Sept. 11, 2022.

Nicholas Wehrly, 34, of Eleele, and Eric Nakamoto, 39, of Hanamaulu, have been charged with First Degree Electronic Enticement of a Child. Bail has been set at \$20,000 each.

“The Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General thanks the Kaua'i Police Department and the other law enforcement agencies taking part in Operation Keiki Shield for their leadership in keeping Kaua'i's children safe from these online predators,” said First Deputy Attorney General Valerie Kato. “Our Internet Crimes Against Children Unit will continue to work in concert with Hawai'i's police departments and prosecutors to hold these criminals to account for their illicit actions.”

Operation Keiki Shield is an ongoing operation to identify, locate, and arrest offenders who commit Internet-facilitated sexual crimes against children and to identify and rescue child victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse.

“Speaking as a father and husband, there is nothing more important to me than the safety of our Keiki,” said Kaua'i Police Chief Todd Raybuck. “Mahalo to the Department of the Attorney General,

our county, state, federal, and military law partners for their aggressive and steadfast mission to seek and arrest child predators through the Keiki Shield operation.”

Operation Keiki Shield 14 was hosted by the Kauaʻi Police Department and included officers and agents from the Kauaʻi Police Department, the Department of the Attorney General, ICAC Taskforce, the Maui Police Department, the Honolulu Police Department, Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Honolulu.

Additionally, Kauaʻi Prosecuting Attorney Rebecca Vogt Like issued the following statement.

“Our Office is committed to protecting the most vulnerable in our community and we will continue to prioritize cases where our children are at risk,” said Like. “We are grateful for the diligence and hard work of our State and Federal partners. Their professionalism and commitment led to a successful operation.”

Since the first iteration of Operation Keiki Shield on Kauaʻi in November 2019, five suspects have been arrested on Kauaʻi.

For tips on staying safe for children, teens, and adults, visit <https://ag.hawaii.gov/hicac/safety-tips/>.



Eric Nakamoto, 39, of Hanamaulu



Nicholas Wehrly, 34, of Eleele

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