



THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I

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News Release

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Kaua'i police positively ID all 7 helicopter crash victims

LĪHU'E – The Kaua'i Police Department's Crime Scene and Laboratory Unit has positively identified the pilot and six passengers aboard the helicopter that crashed on Dec. 26 in Kōke'e.

All seven victims were recently confirmed due to KPD's forensic work that was expedited with the use of a new, advanced form of DNA technology.

"The findings we made would have typically taken weeks but we were able to complete them in-house within a short period of time so that we could bring some sense of closure to the families and friends of the victims," said Kaua'i Police Chief Todd G. Raybuck. "I really want to thank everyone at KPD, and all of our partner agencies, for their hard work throughout this entire investigation. I also want to express my deepest condolences again to those who lost their loved ones in this terrible tragedy."

The pilot was positively identified as 69-year-old Paul Matero of Wailua. Four of the six passengers were confirmed to be a family from Switzerland – 50-year-old Sylvie Winteregg, 49-year-old Christophe Winteregg, 13-year-old Alice Winteregg and 10-year-old Agathe Winteregg. The other two passengers were confirmed to be 47-year-old Amy Gannon and 13-year-old Jocelyn Gannon of Madison, Wisconsin.

The Applied Biosystems RapidHIT ID System™ from Thermo Fisher Scientific that was used to identify the remains was validated and implemented by KPD in 2019.



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