



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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**Kauai Police Officers Plead No Contest
to Theft and Falsification of Government Records**

LIHUE - Sergeant Wesley F. Perreira, Sergeant Lawrence E. T. Stem, and Officer Channing T. Tada of the Kauai Police Department pled no contest today to a thirteen-count indictment before Third Circuit Judge Kathleen N.A. Watanabe. The indictment was filed on August 21, 2006.

Perreira entered no contest pleas to one count of Theft in the Second Degree for taking \$478.07 from the County of Kauai in salary; one count of Attempted Theft in the Second Degree for attempting to obtain a total of \$483.40 from a federal grant program for airfare, rental car and per diem; and two counts of Tampering with a Government Record.

Stem entered no contest pleas to two counts of Theft in the Second Degree for taking \$422.21 in salary from the County of Kauai and \$383.40 from a federal grant program for airfare and per diem; and three counts of Tampering with a Government Record.

Tada entered no contest pleas to two counts of Theft in the Second Degree for taking \$403.03 in salary from the County of Kauai and \$383.40 from a federal grant program for airfare and per diem; and two counts of Tampering with a Government Record.

On the evening of September 12, 2005, Perreira, Stem, and Tada flew from Kauai to Maui to attend a two-day Indoor Marijuana Investigation Training at the Puunene Armory near Kihei. The training was hosted by the Maui Police Department and partially funded by federal grant money. The three officers stayed in a Lahaina hotel and never reported to the training, which started on the morning of September 13, 2005. While on Maui, the three officers failed to notify their chain of command, as required by Kauai Police Department policy, that they would not attend the training, and to provide a reason.

On returning to Kauai, Perreira, Stem, and Tada submitted time sheets that included the two days of training and failed to indicate any type of illness or leave. Stem and Tada also completed a Kauai Police Department training form, rated the training, and again failed to notify the department on the training form that they had not attended the training. Several weeks later, the Kauai Police Department learned that the three officers failed to attend the training. At that time, Perreira, Stem, and Tada informed the Kauai Police Department that they allegedly had been sick and therefore unable to attend the training.

Theft in the Second Degree is a class C felony punishable by up to five years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$10,000. Tampering with a Government Record is a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and/or a fine of up to \$2,000.

Sentencing is scheduled on April 30, 2008 before Judge Watanabe.

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