



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
*KA MOKU 'ĀINA O HAWAII*

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR  
*KE KIA'ĀINA*

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
*KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA*

**ANNE LOPEZ**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

**FORMER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE PLEADS  
GUILTY TO EMBEZZLING GOVERNMENT FUNDS**

News Release 2026-07

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 23, 2026

HONOLULU – On February 23, 2026, former Hawai'i Department of Public Safety employee Lisa Kuwamura waived indictment and pled guilty to Theft in the First Degree and Official Misconduct. Kuwamura, who worked as an account clerk for the Sheriff Division – Kaua'i Section, manipulated computer records that tracked her time and attendance between October 1, 2021 and June 20, 2024, in order to receive more than \$64,000 in unearned compensation.

Theft in the First Degree is a class B felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine. Official Misconduct is a class C felony punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. This will be the first Official Misconduct conviction since the Legislature enacted the anticorruption law in 2023. Kuwamura waived indictment and entered guilty pleas pursuant to a plea agreement.

The investigation was conducted by the Department of the Attorney General's Special Investigation and Prosecution Division (SIPD) and the Hawai'i Department of Law Enforcement's Office of the Inspector General.

“We expect public employees to uphold the highest standards of integrity and accountability. When that trust is violated, my department will take decisive action,” said Attorney General Anne Lopez. “I commend the dedicated work of our Special Investigation and Prosecution Division and our strong partnership with the Department of Law Enforcement, in ensuring that misconduct is thoroughly investigated and prosecuted.”

“The Hawai‘i Department of Law Enforcement takes allegations of employee misconduct seriously. After we were made aware of the allegations of theft, we partnered with the Department of the Attorney General’s Special Investigation and Prosecution Division to ensure that a fair and comprehensive investigation was conducted, so that the employee in question could be held accountable for violating the trust of the department and the community. We hope this serves as reminder to everyone that no matter who you work for, no one is above the law.”

The case, State v. Lisa Kuwamura, 5CPC-26-0000028, is being prosecuted by SIPD Deputy Attorney General Cheuk Fu Lui. Sentencing is scheduled for June 4, 2026.

SIPD is the state of Hawai‘i’s primary law enforcement unit responsible for investigating and prosecuting corruption, fraud and economic crimes. The public can report corruption, fraud and economic crime using the Submit a Tip feature on the SIPD website at <https://ag.hawaii.gov/sipd/tips/>. If there is an emergency or immediate threat to life, please call 911.

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