



**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

**HAWAII COUNTY POLICE OFFICER ENTERS PLEA FOR TAMPERING  
WITH PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

News Release 2026-09

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 25, 2026

HILO, Hawaii – On February 25, 2026, Hawaii Police Department Officer Blane Kenolio pled no contest to the criminal charge Tampering with Physical Evidence. Kenolio asked the presiding court to grant deferred acceptance of his no contest plea.

The charge stemmed from Kenolio's unconstitutional search of an arrestee's belongings inside the Hilo Police Station. Kenolio searched a closed container found inside the arrestee's handbag without a warrant. He then sprayed an alcohol solution on the outside of the closed container and thoroughly wiped it down to remove trace evidence of his search.

The investigation was conducted by the Department of the Attorney General's Special Investigation and Prosecution Division (SIPD) and the Hawaii County Police Department.

"Officer Kenolio's no contest plea underscores the importance of accountability and adherence to constitutional protections. The rule of law applies equally to everyone," said Attorney General Anne Lopez. "We thank the Hawaii Police Department for its

cooperation and professionalism throughout this investigation and we remain committed to maintaining public trust in our justice system.”

“Professionalism, integrity, and respect for constitutional protections are the cornerstones of policing,” said Hawai‘i Police Chief Reed Mahuna. “We value the collaborative and professional manner in which this matter was investigated and remain committed to serving our community with transparency and accountability.”

The case, State v. Blaine Kenolio et al., 3CPC-26-0000022 is being prosecuted by SIPD Deputy Attorney General Benjamin Rose. Tampering with Physical Evidence is a misdemeanor offense punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$2,000 fine. Sentencing is scheduled for May 28, 2026 at 9 a.m.

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