

COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

Certificate of Commendation

Awarded to

RODNEY DELIMA, POLICE OFFICER II

Officer of the Month, January 2022

On behalf of the citizens of the County of Hawai'i and the East Hawai'i Aloha Exchange Club, it is a great pleasure to congratulate Officer Rodney DeLima of Puna Patrol for this honor, based on his skillful communication and de-escalation techniques, and his conscientious approach to stressful and dynamic situations.

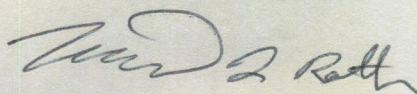
On the evening of January 9, 2022, Officer DeLima was assigned to a domestic dispute which occurred in the Hawaiian Beaches neighborhood of the Puna District. The female caller reported that she was locked out of her residence and the suspect, her partner of more than twenty years, was experiencing a severe emotional crisis.

Officer De Lima arrived on scene and rapidly assessed the situation. The suspect was situated behind a closed bedroom door, armed with knives, showing signs of mental distress and volatility, and presenting a potential risk to himself.

With active listening skills, respect, and empathy, Officer De Lima was able to build rapport and trust with the suspect, decrease the intensity of the situation, and encourage a safe resolution. Tragedy was averted and the suspect was transported to Hilo Medical Center for an emergency evaluation and the necessary mental health treatment.

Officer DeLima's commitment to compassionate and respectful dialogue led to a favorable outcome for the responding officers and the suspect. He embodies the Hawai'i Police Department core values of Integrity, Professionalism, Compassion, Teamwork and Community Satisfaction.

Done this 24th day of February 2022.



MITCHELL D. ROTH
MAYOR