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May 9, 2012

TO: Media Outlets
FR: Prosecuting Attorney Shaylene Iseri-Carvalho
RE: OPA Establishes Hawai'i's First Prosecutor-Directed Cold Case Murder Unit



A kukui flame,
symbolizing *Ke Ahi
Pio'ole*, Hawai'i's
first Prosecutor-
Directed Cold Case

Lihu'e – *Ke Ahi Pio'ole*, translated as "the fire that never burns out," is Hawai'i's first Prosecutor-Directed Cold Case Murder Unit.

The OPA and the Kauai Police Department have shared the pain with the victims of the tragic and brutal murders that have remained unsolved on Kauai. New advances in DNA technology and forensic techniques have created an opportunity for prosecutors and investigators to evaluate these cases in a different way.

Recognizing the need to devote intensive and comprehensive resources to solve and prosecute these murders, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney applied for and aggressively lobbied to obtain funding from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) to focus on hiring specialized consultants and securing highly-accredited forensic laboratories to further examine tangible evidence with utmost scrutiny. Law enforcement agencies across the State submitted applications for JAG funding, each detailing the goals and merits of their prospective programs. A committee made up of county and state government agencies reviewed over 40 applications and voted to award funding to only 22, one of which was to OPA for almost \$100,000 to create *Ke Ahi Pio'ole*, the State's first Prosecutor-Directed Cold Case Murder Unit.

The unit is comprised of two experienced prosecutors from the OPA and two senior investigators from KPD Investigative Services Bureau that are committed to work extensively together with other expert homicide consultants and forensic chemists to re-interview

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witnesses and retrieve and test evidence with technology that was not available in the past.

“Our drive and dedication to solve and prosecute these murders has never gone cold” explained Prosecutor Shaylene Iseri-Carvalho. “The establishment of *Ke Ahi Pio’ole* and securing the competitive grant funding formalizes what we’ve been doing all along – working tirelessly with KPD to keep the flame going, never forgetting the victims of these horrific crimes.”

“The Kauai Police Department is excited to work in partnership with the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney toward solving these crimes so that the victims and their families can receive justice,” said Kaua'i Police Chief Darryl Perry.

“Through the heightened efforts and increased focus, we will ensure that each of the unsolved murders receives the careful attention they deserve, and that those responsible for these heinous crimes are held accountable.” said Iseri-Carvalho.