



Media Release

International Association of Women Police – Bravery Award, 2021 Tiffany-Victoria Bilon Enriquez, Honolulu Police Department, Hawaii, USA.

Officer Bilon Enriquez joined the Honolulu Police Department in 2012, and worked in the Metro Patrol District 6, Waikiki Beach area. Sadly, on January 19, 2020, she tragically became the first female Honolulu Police Officer to die in the line of duty. At the time of her death, she was 38 years old, leaving three daughters and one grandson without a mother and grandmother.

Officer Enriquez was known for her cheerful personality and her love of children. She also served as a U.S. Air Force reserve and had worked for the Montgomery Sheriff's Office in Tennessee prior to returning home to Hawaii. She was known for her maturity and courage, and was often the one to make entry, or determine if additional back up was needed. Officer Enriquez was respected and liked by her colleagues and her supervisors, who knew they could count on her to do the job the right way.

On January 19, 2020, Officer Enriquez, and Officer Kalama both responded to a request for help at a reported stabbing incident at a home near Diamond Head, Honolulu. On arrival both officers were ambushed and shot and killed. Officer Enriquez was the first to arrive at the house and was struck down while looking for the suspect. Officer Kalama was shot minutes later when he and additional officers arrived to assist.

The suspect in the shooting of Officer Enriquez, Jerry Handel, barricaded himself in the house before setting it on fire. He perished in that fire along with female home owner. Seven additional homes were destroyed by the fire that spread.

Officer Enriquez was an asset to the Honolulu Police Department and Law Enforcement in general. She would have gone far in the Department and been part of the positive change in the community. Her selfless actions on the fateful day in January 2020 demonstrated her bravery in that she was prepared to pay the ultimate sacrifice for the protection of others. Her death reminds us all of the risks faced by police officers every day in serving their local communities, and the impact it can have on their families, friends and colleagues.

IAWP President Deborah Friedl, "The IAWP is so pleased to recognize the outstanding work of our colleagues in law enforcement. Their stories exemplify that with the right tools, training and opportunity, women excel in policing and keep our communities safer."

The **Mission** of the IAWP is: To strengthen, unite and raise the capacity of women in policing internationally. The **Vision**: IAWP envisions a world where police reflect the diversity of the communities they serve and where human rights are protected.

For more information about IAWP visit www.iawp.org

For further information on the 2021 recognition programme or permissions please contact executivedirector@iawp.org