

Statement of Acting Captain Taylor Kamakawiwo'ole
District VI (Kihei), Maui Police Department

To Senator Mazie Hirono and the Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

It is with heavy hearts, yet profound pride, that we witness the name of Officer Suzanne O etched into the stone of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. She was more than a badge; she was the heartbeat of our precinct and a true sister in blue.

This ode is dedicated to her memory, her sacrifice, and the enduring legacy she leaves behind in the halls of justice and the hearts of her colleagues.

In the quiet dawn where the shadows retreat, And the rhythmic pulse of the city street Begins its hum, we remember the grace of a steady hand and a kind, bright face. Officer Suzanne O, a name now set in stone, for a life of service that was uniquely her own.

She walked the line with a sister's heart, choosing daily to play the most difficult part. Not with a spirit of steel or of cold, But with kindness and courage, quiet and bold. A worker of tireless, unwavering might, who carried our burdens and shepherded light.

To us, she was more than the uniform worn, a comfort in storms when our spirits were torn. A mentor, a partner, a pillar of truth, Inspiring our veteran officers while guiding those who will continue to carry the torch into the future. Her impact ripples through the ranks we hold, A story of sacrifice that we were able to behold.

Though her watch has ended, her spirit remains, In the peace of the streets and the end of the pains. On this wall of heroes, let her name forever shine, A testament etched in a sacred line. Suejin, your legacy will never depart; You are written in stone, and alive in our hearts and minds forever.

Officer O's addition to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is a bittersweet milestone. While we mourn the loss of a sister who was taken too soon, we find solace in knowing that her hard work and loving nature are now recognized at the highest level of our nation. Her name forever etched into a wall that will bring pride and promise not only to the future generations in her family but also in ours.

Her life was a masterclass in what it means to serve with empathy. She proved that one can be both a formidable protector and a compassionate friend. As her name joins those who gave everything, we pledge to carry her values forward in every patrol, every call, and every act of service. We miss your laughter, humor, and presence daily. We will always remember you and until that day when the trumpets sound and heavens open and we are all united with our heavenly father, please watch over all of us as we continue to be the light of hope in times of darkness.

Officer O taught us that to serve is to love, and to sacrifice is to ensure that love endures. As her name is honored by this Committee and our nation, we commit ourselves to being the living vessels of her hard work and her beautiful spirit. Suzanne's watch has not ended; it has simply changed form, guiding us toward a more compassionate and dedicated future.

The Honorable Mazie Hirono
United States Senate

Dear Senator Hirono,

I respectfully submit this letter in honor and remembrance of fallen Suzanne O of the Maui Police Department.

Officer O was a shining light within our small and tight-knit Maui community. She was deeply respected, admired, and loved by all who had the privilege of knowing and working alongside her. She served the people of Maui with true aloha, pride, compassion, and unwavering dedication.

Officer O was an exceptional public servant who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to others. She gave her life protecting our community and helping make our island and our world a safer place. Her courage, professionalism, and commitment to duty embodied the very best qualities of law enforcement service.

Beyond the badge, Officer O was a protector, mentor, friend, and source of positivity to everyone around her. She genuinely loved our community and took great pride in being a police officer. She carried herself with humility, kindness, and strength, and she was exceptionally good at what she did. Her positive attitude and caring spirit left a lasting impact on countless lives throughout Maui County.

Officer O is greatly missed and will forever remain in the hearts of the men and women of the Maui Police Department and the community she faithfully served. Her legacy and the gold standard she set through her service, professionalism, and aloha spirit will continue to inspire all of us for years to come.

Thank you for recognizing and honoring Officer Suzanne O's life, sacrifice, and service to the people of Hawaii.

Very Respectfully,

Nick P. Krau

Nicholas P. Krau
Captain
Commander, Wailuku Patrol District
Maui Police Department

To Whom it May Concern,

I had the pleasure of training Officer Suzanne O while she was a police recruit and later serving with her as her Watch Commander. Her sacrifice for the citizens of Maui County will forever remain at the forefront of my thoughts for the rest of my life.

It is people like Suzanne that represent the best of humanity. She was willing to put herself in harms way to protect her community and her fellow Officers. She was willing to make a difference in this world and she did. We miss you Suzanne. Please watch over us.

Respectfully,

Lieutenant Brandon Phillips

Maui Police Department