

Reconstruction expert to testify in Kauhi trial

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An expert in crime and accident reconstruction is expected to testify today that the trajectory of a bullet hole indicates that Gaylon Baldado was shot from outside a shower while he was inside.

Kauhi, 52, is on trial for the Oct. 18, 2001, fatal shooting of her ex-husband at her Baker Avenue home in Keaukaha.

Prosecutors allege that Kauhi shot Baldado, 51, while he was taking a shower because she didn't want to lose his financial support when he started a new life with another woman.

The defense contends Baldado confronted Kauhi with a handgun after they took a shower together and then they struggled

and Baldado somehow got shot outside the shower.

Jeffrey Wheeler, a researcher and consultant in forensic biomechanics testified Wednesday that he specializes in reconstructing injuries by examining physical evidence. "You can work backward and determine the cause from the injuries," he said.

In establishing his credentials, Wheeler said he has a master's degree from UCLA in biomechanics, which he described as a combination of medicine and engineering.



WHEELER

Wheeler said he conducted the world's largest study using live volunteers to learn the effects on muscles during low-speed car crashes. He is also a consultant for the television show "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation."

Earlier Wednesday, the younger brother of Gaylon Baldado testified that Genesis Kauhi apologized to her after Baldado was shot.

"I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Jacob forgive me," Kauhi allegedly said. Jacob Keaweaeulu said he didn't remember the date of the statement but said Kauhi made it when he saw her at the police station.

Keaweaeulu, who is two years younger than Baldado, also said Baldado had a rifle but he never saw him with a handgun.

Under cross-examination, Keaweaeulu acknowledged that when police asked him if Baldado had "firearms" he said yes.

Officer Mark Arnold testified that when he processed Kauhi at the police station the day she was arrested, she said she was 5-foot-1 and weighed about 130 pounds. He said he took her word for it and did nothing to verify whether that was accurate.

The trial is into its 10th week. The defense is expected to begin presenting its case sometime next week.

Meanwhile, Kauhi — who has pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder and a weapon offense — is free on \$10,000 bail.

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