

# Computer simulation used

PowerPoint presentation shows the trajectory of the bullet that killed Gaylon Baldado

By CHRIS LOOS

Tribune-Herald staff writer

The jurors in the Genesis Kauhi murder trial looked unusually alert Thursday while watching a computer graphics program depicting Gaylon Baldado standing in the shower when he was fatally shot.

The PowerPoint presentation was only a "demonstrative aid" to a forensic biomechanic's testimony, Judge Greg Nakamura told the jurors.

Kauhi, 52, is accused of killing her ex-husband at her Baker Avenue home in Keaukaha on Oct. 18, 2001.

Prosecutors allege that Kauhi shot Baldado, 51, while he was taking a shower because she



KAUHI



A computerized diagram from a Thursday presentation to the jury shows Jeffrey Wheeler's depiction of the trajectory of the fatal bullet that entered Baldado's abdomen on the left and exited through the right buttock, lodging itself in the shower wall.

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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'd showered together and Baldado somehow got shot in the ensuing struggle.

Last month the jury heard a 911 tape of Kauhi saying she had shot Baldado once.

Thursday, Jeffrey Wheeler showed the jury how he lined up the bullet holes in Kauhi's bathroom with the wounds in Baldado's body. He said he used physics and mathematics to determine Baldado's position.

Wheeler said he looked at police photos and diagrams and visited the shooting site personally. He said it was clear that the bullet went through the shower curtain 47 inches from the floor. "The edges were bent inward with powder burns," he said.

The bullet lodged in the back wall of the small shower stall 32½ inches from floor.

Wheeler said the bullet had to have passed through the shower in a downward angle. "It clearly started outside the stall," he added.

Wheeler used Baldado's



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Conducting a PowerPoint presentation Thursday from the witness stand, Jeffrey Wheeler, an expert in crime and accident reconstruction, shows the jury where a bullet entered Gaylon Baldado.

autopsy report and autopsy photos to determine where the bullet entered the man's left abdomen and exited his right buttock. "It was a gut shot," he said. "It did a lot of tearing and ripping along the way."

The medical examiner who conducted the autopsy confirmed

that the bullet traveled through Baldado's body in a straight line, Wheeler said.

Kauhi and some of the jurors averted their eyes when the autopsy photos appeared on the screen. Other jurors watched with somber faces.

Wheeler then explained that overlapping the bullet's trajectory — or direction of travel — in the shower and between Baldado's wounds would indicate Baldado's position during the shooting.

"We know it was one bullet — the same bullet," Wheeler said. "If we match those, it will basically tell us he was standing ... in the shower stall when he was shot."

Wheeler showed a computer-generated model of a man Baldado's size and put the figure inside a scale model of the shower in the position where the trajectory lines matched.

"These are two lines and they are overlapping each other," he said.

One juror nodded.

The computer image showed Baldado with his back to the shower spout and his left arm facing the shower curtain. "He had to be standing," Wheeler said. "He was not crouching, he was

standing upright. And he was not bending because the trajectory wouldn't match."

Wheeler added a computer-generated handgun along the trajectory, showing it inches away from the outside of the shower curtain.

He then created a scale model of a female using the height and weight that Kauhi gave police at the time of her arrest. The image showed the female figure pointing a gun directly into the shower curtain.

"It doesn't tell you who did it," Wheeler said. "But it does match and it does tell you that it's consistent with someone 5-foot-1 doing it."

Wheeler said he also tried to simulate the shooting if Baldado was outside the shower but was unable to get a match.

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

The unusually long trial began April 27. Jurors have fidgeted and occasionally nodded off during especially tedious testimony.

The trial resumes Monday.

Chris Loos can be reached at [cloos@hawaii-tribune-herald.com](mailto:cloos@hawaii-tribune-herald.com)