



**ERIK NASARENKO**  
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**NEWS RELEASE**



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### Former Ojai Teacher Charged for Sex Crimes on Student

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Paul Herder (DOB 03/20/58), of Pahoa, Hawaii, pled not guilty at arraignment in Ventura County Superior Court. Herder, a former teacher at Oak Grove School in Ojai, is charged with 23 felony counts of sexual assault upon a minor. Aggravating circumstances were also filed alleging that Herder took advantage of a position of trust to commit the sexual assaults. Herder is alleged to have participated in an unlawful sexual relationship with a former student.

An investigation into Herder began February 2023, when detectives with the Ventura County Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Unit learned of the allegations. The alleged unlawful relationship occurred from 2013 to 2017. During that time, Herder was employed as a teacher at Oak Grove School. He is accused of engaging in numerous sexual acts with the minor.

In June 2023, detectives traced Herder to Hawaii, where coordinated efforts with detectives from the Hawaii Police Department were conducted. Herder was located and arrested in Pahoa, Hawaii. He was extradited back to Ventura County on July 31, 2023.

Herder has a history of teaching at various schools, as well as providing private tutoring throughout his career. Anyone with additional information regarding Paul Herder is asked to contact the Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Unit at (805) 384-4722.

Herder is scheduled for an early disposition conference on August 24, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura County Superior Court.

**Case: 2023016623**

**Defendant Information:**

Paul Herder (DOB 03/20/58)

Pahoa, Hawaii

**Charges:**

- (2 counts) PC 288(c)(1) – Lewd Act on a child
- (7 counts) PC 288.4(b) – Luring
- (4 counts) PC 289(h) – Anal & genital penetration by foreign object
- (4 counts) PC 288a(b)(1) – Oral copulation of a person under 18
- (5 counts) PC 261.5(c) – Unlawful sexual intercourse
- PC 311.4(c) – Using minor for sex acts