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HONOLULU – A Circuit Court judge has sentenced Kristopher Kalani, 33, to life in prison without the possibility of parole for viciously beating his girlfriend with a hammer in 2018.

In February 2020, a jury found Kalani guilty of attempted murder in the second degree. The same jury subsequently found that Kalani qualified as a persistent offender because he had been previously convicted of two or more felonies. Those past felonies include assault in the first degree and assault against a law enforcement officer in the first degree. As a persistent offender, the jury found that an extended term of imprisonment was necessary to protect the public. The jury also found that Kalani qualified for repeated offender status because he committed his crime within 10 years of his conviction for assault in the first degree.

In addition to sentencing Kalani to life in prison without the possibility of parole, Judge Rowena A. Somerville further imposed a ten-year mandatory minimum sentence.

“Kalani’s sentence of life without the possibility of parole is in accord with the egregiousness of his crime,” said Prosecuting Attorney Steve Alm. “As a repeat offender, this sentence was the only way to assure that the public is kept safe from this individual,” he continued. “His victim’s life has been irreversibly harmed by this heinous crime, and we can only hope that this sentence provides her with some measure of closure,” he said.

The case was prosecuted by Felony Prosecution Division Chief Scott Bell.

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