



SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A TRADITION OF SERVICE SINCE 1856

San Mateo County Sheriff's Office
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NEWS RELEASE

Incident Date and Time: Thursday, April 18, 2019 at approximately 3 PM

Location: Poplar State Beach Half Moon Bay, CA.

Type of Crime/Incident: Missing person.

Name: Naphtali Finau (aka Moi Moi), 18-year-old, Hayward resident.

Summary:

San Mateo County Sheriff's Deputies assigned to the coast side Patrol Bureau received information about a swimmer in distress at Poplar State Beach in Half Moon Bay. Deputies learned Naphtali was boogie boarding when his friends on the beach recalled seeing Naphtali's boogie board shoot out of the water and Naphtali was not with it. A few minutes later, his friends saw Naphtali about 40 feet off shore struggling to keep his head above the high waves. Due to the strong current and high waves, his friends were unable to safely pull him back to shore. Naphtali was last seen wearing blue swim shorts and he did not have a flotation device or a wet suit.

Naphtali never returned to the shore. An extensive area search was conducted utilizing rescue swimmers, surface water craft, USCG and CHP helicopters. Unfavorable weather conditions such as fog and dangerous ocean conditions hindered rescue efforts.

On Friday April 19, at approximately 8 AM after receiving information of a possible sighting of something in the water near Poplar State Beach, San Mateo County Sheriff's deputies, Harbor Patrol, and Cal Fire responded to the area to search again. After an exhaustive search, first responders did not to locate Naphtali or anyone in the water in need of rescue or recovery.

Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to call the Sheriff's Office at 650-363-4911 or you may also remain anonymous by calling the **San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Anonymous Tip Line at 1-800-547-2700.**

Release Date: April 19th, 2019

Case #19-03870

