



U.S. Department of Justice

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January 27, 2026

Via Electronic Mail

The Honorable Leslie E. Kobayashi  
United States Magistrate Judge  
300 Ala Moana Boulevard  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Re: Estrada Lopez v. Michael Smith, et al.  
Case No. CV26-00011 LEK-WRP

Dear Judge Kobayashi:

I am writing to inform you that the Immigration Court hearing took place this morning. Please note that the Immigration Judge has granted Petitioner's request for adjustment of status and the Agency waived appeal. The Agency expects Petitioner to be released from custody soon.

I am hopeful that this case will be dismissed soon. However, in an abundance of caution, the following is a response to the inquires contained in the Court's EO dated January 23, 2026 (ECF No. 9).

Petitioner is currently located at the Honolulu Federal Detention Center. I have informed my client, pursuant to the Court's January 23, 2026 EO, that Petitioner shall remain in the United States or the District of Hawaii until the Court rules on the Petition. The United States does not have any objections to Petitioner's service in this matter. At this point, the United States will make an argument that *Bautista* has no preclusive effect on this case which was filed in the United States District Court, District of Hawaii.

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I am currently working with the Agency to provide counsel with details related to Petitioner's release.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

KENNETH M. SORENSON  
United States Attorney  
District of Hawaii

/s/ Edric M. Ching

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EDRIC M. CHING  
Assistant U.S. Attorney

EMC: htr

cc: Leilani Stacy. Plaintiff's Counsel. (via email)  
Jongwook Phillip Kim. Plaintiff's Counsel (via email)  
Emily M. Hills. Plaintiff's Counsel. (via email)