

## Fmr President Obama Made 'Surprise Visit' to Hawaii, Days Before Judge Issued Travel Ban Ruling

By Kyle Becker

*UPDATE: This story has been removed from IJR.com.*

*Editor's Note: This story has been updated to remove unnecessary speculation about the timing of the visit. We apologize for any undue conclusions that might have been drawn from the report.*

Former President Barack Obama made a “[surprise visit](#)” to Oahu this week, just [days ahead](#) of a controversial ruling on President Trump's new travel ban executive order issued by a Hawaiian judge.

The travel ban ruling, issued by U.S. District Judge Derrick K. Watson, was [blasted](#) by President Trump as a case of “unprecedented judicial overreach.” Watson is a [former Harvard classmate](#) of President Obama

who was appointed under his administration in 2012.



Issued [on Wednesday](#), the ruling was an initial salvo in an expected state-level pushback against the executive order. The judge, in his 43-page ruling, controversially used Trump campaign statements to make the circumstantial case that the executive order violated the law, although both executive orders are [arguably](#) within the law and executive authority.



*Screenshot/Hawaii News Now*

Ahead of the ruling, the president made the aforementioned “surprise visit” to Oahu, Hawaii. The Trump campaign has accused the former president of being actively involved in U.S. politics after his departure from the Oval Office, even going so far as to blame the president for [leaks](#) that damaged the Trump administration.

The former president's trip, as the Honolulu Star-Advertiser [reported](#) on Monday:

*Coming off a string of high-profile meetings, former President Barack Obama made an unannounced return to Hawaii Monday.*

*Just three months removed from his last official holiday visit as president, Obama was spotted dining at Buzz’s Lanikai Monday night.*

*Earlier in the day, Obama met with tech executives at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose.*

Obama took in golf with a few buddies, including Bobby Titcomb, who was [arrested](#) in 2011 for soliciting a prostitute in a sting operation. Incidentally,

Titcomb's father is Judge Frederick James Titcomb, who even made guest appearances on the television show "Hawaii Five-O."



*Hawaii News Now/Hawaii PD*

Barack Obama did not stay at his usual locale, a \$4,500-a-night luxury home in Kailua, Oahu. As reported by CBS News, the Obamas have stayed in several [different vacation spots](#) on visits to Hawaii.



Instead, the president resided at a “private” undisclosed location, [according to](#) Hawaii News Now. As the story noted, the president's motorcade was spotted on Tuesday afternoon.

This is not to allege the former president met with Judge Derrick Watson, but merely to point out the timing and the opportunity was there ahead of a controversial court ruling.

Watson's decision [struck down](#) President Trump's travel ban on the grounds that it was discriminatory against a particular religion and “likely against the Constitution.”