

Double murder hearing draws to a close today

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SANTA CRUZ — The preliminary hearing into evidence against double-murder suspect Royal Kenneth Hayes was expected to draw to a close this afternoon.

Assistant District Attorney Madeleine Boriss, prosecuting Hayes for the grisly murders of a San Francisco Bay Area couple last December, said the three-week hearing should end this afternoon.

The hearing has been conducted behind closed doors following a request from defense attorney Jon Minsloff that the media and public be barred.

Municipal Court Judge William Kelsay is presiding over the hearing.

Hayes, a 43-year-old Hawaiian realtor, is accused of the murders of Lauren deLaet, 36, and Donald MacVicar, 32. He is also facing a special allegation of

double murder which could bring the death penalty if proven.

Hayes also faces charges of assault with a deadly weapon, false imprisonment and possession of cocaine for sale for an incident that allegedly involved Debbie Chichiletti, one of the key witnesses against Hayes.

Hayes is alleged to have shot the victims in the head with a silencer-tipped handgun. He then reportedly chopped off their heads and hands, and buried their bodies in graves on the UC Santa Cruz campus.

Judge Kelsay will be determining whether or not Hayes will be brought to trial in Superior Court.