As a technical lead, I would propose an architecture on AWS that fulfills the company's requirements and the stakeholders' concerns.

**Description of the Architecture:**

The image upload web application and Kafka stream both feed data into Amazon API Gateway, which authenticates and authorizes requests before forwarding them to AWS Lambda.

**Lambda** is responsible for triggering processing scripts that process the images and generate metadata.

This processed data is stored in Amazon S3, which provides object storage that is scalable, durable, and secure.

S3 triggers AWS Lambda again, which extracts metadata and sends it to Amazon Kinesis Data Streams.

**Amazon Kinesis Data Analytics applies** real-time analytics to the metadata to generate insights, which are stored in Amazon S3 and are accessible through **Amazon QuickSight.**

**Data is retained in S3 for 7 days** and automatically purged afterward to comply with the company's archival requirements.

The architecture uses **Amazon Elastic Container Service (ECS)** to host the processing scripts in containers, providing scalability and high availability.

The architecture uses **Amazon CloudWatch to monitor and manage the environment**, providing operational visibility and insight into resource utilization, performance, and health.

The environment can be easily maintained using AWS Managed Services, which provides automated management of common infrastructure tasks, including patching, monitoring, and backup.

**AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM)** is used to control access to resources, and Least Privilege is enforced, ensuring that only the necessary permissions are granted to the users and services that need them.

It is designed for efficient and low-latency processing, taking advantage of the scalability and flexibility of the cloud.

**Assumptions:**

1. The processing scripts are already containerized and can be easily deployed to AWS ECS.
2. Data retention requirements for compliance and privacy are limited to 7 days.

If this retention period changes, the architecture can be modified accordingly.