



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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**STATE FIRE COUNCIL (SFC)  
FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2013-2014  
THIRD QUARTER MEETING MINUTES**

Date of Meeting: March 13, 2014

Place of Meeting: Hawaii County Building  
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1501  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Present:

Manuel P. Neves	SFC Chair Fire Chief, Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)
Robert Westerman	SFC Vice Chair Fire Chief, Kauai Fire Department (KFD)
Jeffrey Murray	SFC Member Fire Chief, Department of Fire and Public Safety (MFD) County of Maui
Darren Rosario	SFC Member Fire Chief, Hawaii Fire Department (HCFD)
Socrates Bratakos	SFC Administrator Assistant Chief (AC), HFD
Li-Ann Yamashiro	Deputy Attorney General State of Hawaii (State) Department of the Attorney General (DAG)
Clay Travernicht	Extension Specialist Pacific Fire Exchange (PFE), University of Hawaii
Elizabeth Pickett	Executive Director Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO)

I. Introduction

- A. Vice Chair Westerman called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.
- B. Vice Chair Westerman welcomed everyone, and an introduction of attendees followed.

Chair Neves was excused from the meeting's morning session.

C. Approval of the SFC FY 2013-2014 Second Quarter Meeting Minutes

Motion: Member Murray motioned to approve the SFC FY 2013-2014 Second Quarter Meeting Minutes. The motion passed.

D. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Member Rosario motioned to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

II. New Business

Presentations were made by Mr. Travernicht and Ms. Pickett

The presentations covered each agency's information and background regarding wildland fire data, impacts, needs, resources, and collaborative efforts. The PFE and HWMO requested (from the SFC) recent wildfire data. Administrator Bratakos will provide contact information to the State National Fire Incident Report System coordinator for data updates upon receiving an e-mail request from the representatives.

A recess was called at 11:30 a.m., and the meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m. Chair Neves joined the meeting.

III. Unfinished Business and General Orders

SFC Member Reports/Updates

A. Report of Member Rosario

1. Grants

- a. A 2014 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) used to install smoke detectors in elderly and high-risk homes is ongoing.

- b. A 2012 AFG grant used for fire ground survival train-the-trainer training and props was completed in March 2013.
- c. A Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant has not been received.
- d. A Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) grant was utilized for training and equipping tankers.

2. County Issues

- a. The HCFD's budget process is ongoing, and challenges include funding for arbitrated raises. The State Department of Health and the Hawaii County are examining additional sources of income.
- b. A supplemental budget request was submitted for personnel and an apparatus, and the HCFD is preparing for an upcoming budget hearing.

B. Report of Member Murray

1. Grants

- a. A Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant was utilized to fund equipment.
- b. Department of Homeland Security Grant (DHSG) funds were forwarded to the County of Maui.
- c. A 2013 AFG for Fire Prevention and Safety Grant is being utilized for the smoke detector program.
- d. A SAFER grant was not awarded.
- e. A DOFAW grant was utilized to build portable tanks and pumps.
- f. A Community Development Block Grant was utilized for a Molokai tanker.

2. County Issues

- a. The MFD secured their bid for an aerial apparatus.
- b. The Maui County Council provided the MFD with full funding, which included a higher bureau incentive pay.

- c. Member Murray provided a summary on the recent Molokai plane accident and lessons learned.
- d. A short discussion ensued on personnel emergency notification.
- e. The MFD promoted a new AC and a Battalion Chief (BC) for Ocean Safety.

C. Report of Vice Chair Westerman

1. Grants

- a. A DHSG was utilized for turnout replacement.
- b. A 2013 AFG grant for fire prevention is being utilized for the smoke detector program.
- c. A SAFER grant was received and will be utilized to fund six new positions.
- d. A DOFAW grant was utilized for training and equipment maintenance.
- e. A VFA grant was utilized for training and equipment.

2. County Issues

- a. The KFD helicopter contract renewal is progressing.
- b. The KFD engine apparatus contract will be reinstated.
- c. The KFD 2015 FY budget increased by 16 percent.
- d. The KFD recommended changes to the Ocean Safety Bureau, which were submitted to the Ocean Safety Prevention Specialist.

D. Report of Chair Neves

1. Grants

Chair Neves outlined the HFD's 2013 DHSG, DOFAW, and AFG grant awards:

- a. The HFD applied for a 2014 AFG grant which will be utilized to purchase breathing apparatuses.
- b. The HFD applied for a 2014 AFG Fire Prevention and Safety grant, which will be utilized for the installation of smoke alarms and fire inspections.
- c. The HFD received DOFAW funding, which will be utilized for a rehabilitation program, including ambulance-type vehicles and trailers.
- d. The DHSG was utilized for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive and All-Hazards Incident Management Team training.

## 2. County Issues

- a. The HFD filled four AC positions and will be filling eight BC and 16 Fire Captain positions.
- b. The January 2014 Fire Fighter Recruit (FFR) Class consisted of 25 FFRs. The 100<sup>th</sup> FFR Class will consist of 24 FFRs and is anticipated to commence in July 2014.
- c. The HFD is requesting a 22% increase for its FY 2015 budget due to collective bargaining costs. The budget also includes the deactivation of 25 positions.
- d. The Capital Improvement Program is ongoing with new fire stations for Hauula and Waialua as its top priority.
- e. The updated Strategic Plan is being finalized and will include revisions to the mission and vision statements and five major initiatives.
- f. The HFD's 2015 reaccreditation is in progress. A working team consisting of individuals who worked on the Strategic Plan, Standards of Cover, and the Self-Assessment Manual was formed.
- g. Chair Neves participated in AFG peer grant reviews. He highlighted the application questions on certification, levels of certification, and paramedicine in the community.

E. SFC Administrator's Report

1. Status of State and County Fire Codes

The State Fire Code was submitted to the Governor, who approved proceeding to a public hearing. The State DAG is reviewing the public notice requirements and the hearing will be scheduled in April or May, 2014.

2. Status of the County Fire Codes

- a. The HFD, KFD, and HCFD have adopted the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1 Fire Code, 2006 Edition with state and county amendments. Maui county amendments were submitted to the Maui County Council for review.
- b. The Fire Prevention Committee (FPC) met on February 12-13, 2014, in Honolulu. Administrator Bratakos informed the FPC on the status of the current legislation. The FPC discussed visible fire alarm system requirements and the inspection, testing, and maintenance requirements for fire hydrants. The FPC continues to work on county fire code amendments and has completed 70% of that project. The FPC reviewed Chapters 19 through 50 of the NFPA 1 Fire Code, 2006 Edition for county ordinances.
- c. A discussion ensued on the National Fire Code committees. Administrator Bratakos will provide a recommendation for representatives from the FPC.

3. State Building Code Council (SBCC)

The SBCC continues to meet monthly. The SBCC approved the State Fire Code and listened to presentations on the State Elevator Codes and Standards on the International Codes Council's green code provisions. The SBCC continues its review of the 2012 editions of the codes and standards.

4. Statewide Training and Education

Delivery is in progress for the 2013-2014 courses approved by the National Fire Academy. The course selections for the 2014-2015 year are in progress. The SFC did not apply for a 2014 state training grant.

5. Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette Program

Receipts from manufacturers now total over \$670,000 since the inception of the program. Work on the administrative rules and field enforcement is under development since retired Fire Captain Earle Kealoha was hired as a Program Specialist in January 2014.

6. Fireworks

- a. Three fireworks bills were submitted to the legislature for the 2014 Legislative Session that include a limited consumer fireworks use for religious/cultural purposes only (ban), housekeeping, and a nonhousekeeping measure. Two bills regarding storage requirements and notifications/labeling and a third for increased permit fees have moved through committees and crossed over.
- b. The Honolulu City Council proposed via Resolution 14-9 an extension or refund of unused permits for New Year's Eve in 2013. They also proposed Bill 5, which would allow the use of sparklers and fountains with a permit and provide a refund for unused permits. The HFD testified in opposition to both measures.

7. Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Data Collection Request

The DLNR's request for incident data on rescues on DLNR land is still pending an official letter from that agency.

8. Crowd Manager Training

Crowd manager training issues are still under review by the FPC and each county's fire prevention staff.

9. Cooking Hood Systems

The FPC continues to review criteria for commercial cooking hood systems related to accumulated grease buildup.

10. Public Safety Technology Park

Administrator Bratakos was directed by the Chair to work with Senator Donovan Dela Cruz to implement a public safety technology park in Central

Oahu. This will involve 150 acres of land to be utilized for critical information security in conjunction with shared use by public safety agencies.

11. Worker's Compensation Law

The outcome of our proposed House Bill 1705 cancer bill may have had the opposite effect of what the SFC intended. The SFC requested that the Finance Committee Chair defer the bill and the SFC will work on this bill for next year's legislative session. The SFC believes that HFD fire personnel may not be informed about this and will not file for WC benefits and use their health care coverage for claims. If approved for WC benefits, which will take several months, 100% of medical costs are covered, 66 2/3% of salary is covered, and 33 1/3% of the employee's sick leave or vacation leave without paying taxes. There is no time limit on WC benefits claims.

12. Other Matters

DAG Yamashiro suggested that the SFC review its legislation process to include bills for review through the DLIR and the DAG.

IV. Adjournment

Motion: Vice Chair Westerman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3 p.m. The motion passed.



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MANUEL NEVES  
Chair





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Jeffrey Murray	SFC Member Fire Chief, Department of Fire and Public Safety, County of Maui
Darren Rosario	SFC Member Fire Chief, Hawaii Fire Department
Socrates Bratakos	SFC Administrator Assistant Chief, HFD
Li-Ann Yamashiro	Deputy Attorney General (DAG) State of Hawaii Department of the Attorney General
Yan Bratakos	Member of the Public

I. Introduction of Attendees

- A. Chair Neves called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.
- B. Chair Neves welcomed everyone, and an introduction of attendees followed.

II. Review of the March 13, 2014, Meeting Notes

Administrator Bratakos reviewed the March 13, 2014, meeting notes.

III. Unfinished Business

A. Legislation

SFC members reviewed and discussed bills that the SFC is supporting, monitoring, or deferring in the 2014 Legislative Session.

B. Response Plans to Natural and Manmade Disasters

Intrastate Mutual Aid System. There was no discussion on this matter.

C. National Fire Issues/Concerns

A discussion ensued on photovoltaic codes and standards.

D. Conferences and Meetings

1. Chief Rosario will attend the Vision 20/20 Model Performance in Fire Prevention Symposium on March 26-28, 2014, in Towson, Maryland
2. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) conference on June 9-12, 2014, in Las Vegas, Nevada
3. Chair Neves will attend the National Association of State Fire Marshals Annual Conference on July 28-30, 2014, in St. Pete's Beach, Florida.
4. Fire-Rescue International Annual Conference on August 13-16, 2014, in Dallas, Texas

#### IV. New Business

##### A. Fire Fighter's Safety Guide (FFSG)

1. A discussion ensued on seeking funding from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations for developing and publishing the FFSG.
2. A discussion ensued and SFC members agreed to keep the Hawaii product.
3. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) released an early national message to Hawaii.
4. Sparky the Fire Dog, the NFPA's mascot, will be introduced locally.
5. Administrator Bratakos will provide NFPA provisions for educational materials to the DAG.

##### B. SFC Statewide Programs

###### 1. Fire/Life Safety Educational Initiatives

Administrator Bratakos informed SFC members of the alternate energy national train-the-trainer program.

###### 2. Hawaii Fire Data Collection/Analysis

- a. Chair Neves discussed the collection of data, which includes smoke alarms, evacuation, state land hiking rescues, and tourist-related incidents, that may impact transient accommodation tax and other related matters.
- b. Honolulu is working on the National Fire Incident Reporting System's (NFIRS) review, audit, training, and testing. Administrator Bratakos will provide the NFIRS report test to the three county fire departments.

##### C. Emergency Medical Responses

Chair Neves discussed emergency medical services. Payment is currently provided only for transportation and not for treatment. A discussion ensued on the potential solutions to include legislation for payment of treatment services.

A discussion ensued evolving models for emergency medical response, including resources for treatment, transport, and addressing the Certificate of Need.

A recess was called at 10:30 a.m., and the meeting reconvened at 11 a.m.

D. Next Quarterly Meeting

The next SFC quarterly meeting will be held in Kahului, Maui. Potential dates will be sent to members.

IV. Adjournment

Motion: Vice Chair Westerman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m.  
The motion passed.



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MANUEL NEVES  
Chair