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STATE FIRE COUNCIL (SFC)
FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019-2020 SECOND QUARTER MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: December 13, 2019
Time of Meeting: 8:30 a.m.
Place of Meeting: Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)
636 South Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Present:

Manuel P. Neves	SFC Chair Fire Chief, HFD
Darren Rosario	SFC Member Fire Chief, Hawaii Fire Department (HCFD)
David Thyne	SFC Member Fire Chief, Department of Fire and Public Safety, County of Maui
Kilipaki Vaughan	Acting Fire Chief, Kauai Fire Department
Lloyd Rogers	SFC Administrative Specialist
Gary Lum	SFC Administrative Specialist
Adam Rosenberg	Deputy Attorney General Department of the Attorney General State of Hawaii
Gary Honold	Regional Director National Fire Protection Association

Gregg Takayama State Representative
 Hawaii State Legislature

Ryan Yamane State Representative
 Hawaii State Legislature

I. Introduction

- A. Chair Neves called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.
- B. Chair Neves welcomed everyone, and the introduction of attendees followed.

II. Unfinished Business

SFC Quarterly Update

A. Status of the State Fire Code (NFPA 1 Fire Code, 2018 Edition)

The Legislative Reference Bureau returned the proposed state fire code amendment package with edits, and SFC staff is currently addressing those edits. The DAG's review is continuing along with an open comment period for fire code stakeholders. The next step is a Small Business Regulatory Review Board Impact Statement and hearing.

B. State Building Code Council (SBCC)

- 1. The SBCC is comprised of 11 voluntary representatives from State, county, and private industry and is administratively attached to the DAG. It is responsible for reviewing the national building codes and standards related to building, residential, energy, fire, plumbing, elevator, etc., and adopting statewide building codes within two years of the publication date, which then becomes the basis of county building codes. It has never been provided funding for staff support or other expenses since its formation in 2007. The SFC is a voting member.
- 2. The Investigative Committee continues to review the provisions for the International Building Code (IBC), the International Residential Code (IRC), the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC), the International Energy Conservation Code, and the International Existing Building Code, 2018 editions. The Investigative Committee completed its review of the International Swimming

Pool and Spa Code, 2018 edition, and provisions will be included in the IBC amendment package.

3. The SBCC requested the State Plumbing Code Investigative Committee to review and submit recommendations to incorporate specific provisions that are more cost-effective than currently exists in the UPC and incorporate them as amendments to the UPC, 2018 edition.
4. The SBCC submitted its 2019 annual report to the legislature.
5. The SFC continues its support of the SBCC by attending monthly meetings, providing draft agenda/minutes, advising on producing uniform statewide building code amendments for county adoption, and creating administrative rules for the state fire code.

C. Statewide Training and Education

1. Two-Day Off-Campus Classes

Seven of the nine classes were approved. One class for the HCFD was cancelled.

2. State Fire Training Director's Training

Mr. Lum attended the State Fire Training Director's Training at the National Fire Academy (NFA) on October 16-17, 2019. The following topics were discussed:

- a. The potential cancer risk from hood and proper removal techniques. The HFD posted a removal techniques video on the front page of its internal website.
- b. The NFA will soon be implementing its online application process.
- c. Curriculum for the Managing Officer (MO) and Executive Fire Officer (EFO) programs have been modified to enhance probability of success for students. The MO program focuses on professional development of first- or mid-level officers/supervisors. The length of the EFO program has been reduced from four to two years by implementing a combination of on-campus and online courses.

- d. The United Laboratories Firefighter Safety Research Institute website is a rich source of scientific research with the goal of reducing fire service injuries and fatalities.
- e. The Fire Community Assessment Response Evaluation System (FCARES) is an analytical system designed to evaluate community risk and fire department operational performance using national data layers in a geographic based system. FCARES includes more than a decade of research on structure fires and related injuries and death and building footprints, housing and mobile home units, public health and census data, and vulnerable populations. FCARES combines large sets of data from various sources to provide insight into a fire department's risk environment, resource capacity, and overall capability to respond to emergency incidents.

D. Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) Program

1. The SFC is still awaiting the RIPC Administrative Rules draft review that was forwarded to the DAG in December 2018 and January 2019.
2. On July 17, 2019, Nats Rich Smooth Taste brand/style cigarettes failed (75% failure rate) an RIPC test conducted by Essentra Scientific Services. An additional 20 samples (800 cigarettes) were purchased and sent to Global Laboratory Services to conduct follow-up testing on August 8, 2019. All 20 Nats Rich Smooth Taste samples failed. A third test sample was sent to Essentra Scientific Services on August 22, 2019 (samples purchased from Hawaii Island). Among the four Nats brand/styles in this sample, Nats Rich Smooth Taste and Rich Taste failed, while Nats Mellow Taste and Nats Menthol passed. A letter was sent to Nat Sherman LLC informing them of these test failures and removal of these brand/style cigarettes from being sold in Hawaii. Still more Nats samples will be purchased during upcoming inspections on the islands of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai in December 2019.
3. See Table 1 for an overview of RIPC Statistics during FYs 2010 to 2014.
4. See Table 2 for an overview of RIPC Statistics during FYs 2015 to 2019

Table 1: RIPC Statistics (FYs 2010 to 2014)

	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014
Beginning Balance	0	\$367,500	\$401,625	\$503,625	\$664,500
RIPC Specialist Salary	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,221
Office Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Public Outreach	0	0	0	0	0
Outreach Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Honolulu Inspections	0	0	0	0	0
Outer Island Inspections	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Honolulu/Outer Islands/Mainland Travel Costs	0	0	0	0	0
Cigarette Samples Purchased for Testing	0	0	0	0	0
Cigarette Purchasing, Shipping and Testing Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sub-total	\$0	\$367,500	\$401,625	\$503,625	\$648,279
Plus Fees Collected	\$367,500	\$34,125	\$102,000	\$160,875	\$33,750
Ending Balance	\$367,500	\$401,625	\$503,625	\$664,500	\$682,029

Table 2: RIPC Statistics (FYs 2015 to 2019)

	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
Beginning Balance	\$682,029	\$727,287	\$740,361	\$631,725	\$781,539
RIPC Specialist Salary	\$28,215	\$29,277	\$34,505	\$39,926	\$41,356
Office Expenses	\$1,111	\$3,676	\$1,799	\$4,569	\$3,019
Outreach Expenses	\$0	\$230	\$0	\$0	\$1,032
Honolulu Inspections/Outreach	19	505	525	141	1087
Outer Island Inspections	0	148	281	54	0
Honolulu/Outer Islands/Mainland Travel Costs	\$0	\$3,011	\$10,205	\$4,793	\$773
Cigarette Samples Purchased for Testing	70	218	172	92	198
Cigarette Purchasing, Shipping and Testing Costs	\$27,041	\$86,857	\$105,627	\$34,523	\$60,104
Sub-total	\$625,662	\$604,236	\$588,225	\$547,914	\$675,255
Plus Fees Collected	\$101,625	\$136,125	\$43,500	\$233,625	\$80,625
Ending Balance	\$727,287	\$740,361	\$631,725	\$781,539	\$755,880

E. Fire Protection Systems Administrative Rules

SFC staff fielded several questions on the new administrative rules. To date, 49 applications have been submitted and 44 were recommended for approval to the HFD. The SFC is communicating with the county fire prevention bureaus on implementation and approval procedures. Counties must also incorporate license fees in their respective county fire codes.

F. Youth Fire Prevention and Intervention Program (YFPI)

This program was initiated by the HFD in partnership with the Departments of Education and Health, which addressed youth involvement in fire-setting behavior. Subsequently, each county fire department was invited to join the partnership and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by all parties on September 19, 2019. The MOU clarifies the responsibilities of the respective agencies and the procedures that shall be followed to ensure an efficient working relationship in the referral of YFPI cases. The program is a standardized statewide initiative that provides education and intervention for youth and families in Hawaii to reduce youth fire-setting behavior and promotes community fire safety.

G. Hawaii Licensing of Emergency Medical Technicians

There was no progress since the last quarter update. The Hawaii Medical Board has deferred its ruling pending an official opinion from the DAG.

H. SFC Grant Working Group

There were no updates to this group.

I. NFPA Codes and Standards (Update from Mr. Honold)

1. The NFPA will be offering, at no cost, fire fighter online training for the new flammable refrigerants being used by the industry. The web platform is being developed and will be available in the first quarter of 2020.
2. The city of Augusta, Georgia, related stakeholders, and the NFPA are collaborating on an active shooter/hostile event response program with a completed document and training platform available in the fourth quarter of 2020.
3. NFPA 14, Standard for the Installation of Standpipe and Hose Systems, 2019 edition is available. The new edition added requirements for Maritime Standpipe and Hose Systems and is coordinated with NFPA 303, Fire Protection Standard for Marinas and Boatyards. Also, the maximum pressure permitted at any point in the system has been increased from 350 to 400 pounds per square inch.
4. NFPA 770, Standard on Hybrid (water and inert gas) Fire Extinguishing Systems, is a new standard with a 2021 edition release. This standard

addresses the design, installation, acceptance, maintenance, and testing of hybrid fire extinguishing systems that use a combination of atomized water and inert gas to extinguish fire.

5. The NFPA Energy Storage Systems (ESS) Safety Training Program, <http://www.nfpa.org/esstraining>, provides tools and information that U.S. fire fighters need to safely handle emergency incidents involving ESS.

J. Conferences and Meetings

Members provided comments on the annual Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association Conference that was held on December 4-8, 2019, at the Ko Olina on Oahu.

K. Update of Contingency Planning Needs for Fire Fighters

Members were provided a Post-Incident Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement between the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Emergency Management and the Kauai Emergency Management Agency. Similar agreements between the other counties are being developed, and the intent is to have all counties and the Hawaii State Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) as signatories. County reimbursements can be made directly with the county that provided the assistance. The HIEMA can initiate a request to one or more counties to support a State response. An application for a Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Assistance Grant can be submitted through the HIEMA for reimbursement during a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

L. Report on the State Fire Code, NFPA 1, Fire Code and the International Fire Code (IFC)

The HFD previously compared the two fire codes, and the other three counties were requested to conduct their own comparisons and provide comments. Vice Chair Rosario stated their prevention bureau found the IFC was easier to understand and already correlated with the IBC. However, because much of their resource material is published by the NFPA and they have been using the NFPA fire code, they would like to continue to use it as the State and Hawaii County fire codes. There were no comments from Maui or Kauai.

M. Other Matters

No other old business was discussed.

III. New Business

A. National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) Flammable Refrigerants Issue

Members were provided information on this issue. The NASFM provided information on a nationally referenced standard in the IRC, 2019 edition, which allows the use of a flammable refrigerant and exposes fire fighters and citizens to unnecessary risk. The NASFM requested International Code Council (ICC) voting members to submit votes disapproving of this allowance. The other side of this issue was that the allowable flammable refrigerant is efficient and environmentally friendly compared to other nonflammable refrigerants. Members were requested to have their department's voting members submit their votes through the ICC online voting process.

B. Public Schools/Day Care Inspections

Members discussed these fire inspections. State statute requires public schools to be inspected annually and other buildings, except State airport properties and the interior of private dwellings, are required to be inspected every five years. The HFD inspects day care facilities biennially. Members also discussed the other State buildings and facilities that each county is responsible to inspect, which includes the harbors, offices, universities, and community colleges. The counties do not receive any compensation from the State, and the State is not required to comply with violations found by the county fire department. In addition, the counties respond to incidences for fires, rescues, hazardous materials, and medical emergencies on State properties. SFC staff will compile a list of what the county fire departments do and attempt an estimated cost of those services.

C. Discussion on the 2020 Legislative Bill Proposals

Members reviewed the 2020 bill proposals, which included the following:

1. Allowing the RIPC special fund to be used for statewide fire prevention, education, and training
2. Revising the process of adopting the state fire code
3. Repealing the prohibition to not allow counties to require residential fire sprinklers in new or existing one- and two-family dwellings

4. Implementing a residential fire sprinkler income tax credit
5. Requiring general contractors to provide a cost estimate for a sprinkler system to a new home buyer
6. Allowing a tuition waiver from a State university or college to surviving dependents of fire fighters who die in the line of duty
7. Requiring sellers of existing residential property to provide working smoke alarms
8. Limiting the allowable uses of consumer fireworks.

D. Meeting with Hawaii State Legislators

Members discussed the 2020 legislative bill proposals with the legislative attendees.

- E. The next quarterly meeting will be held on the island of Hawaii in February or March 2020. Proposed dates will be sent for confirmation.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 1:30 p.m.



MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair