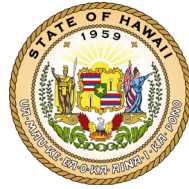


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## STATE FIRE COUNCIL (SFC) FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020-2021 FOURTH QUARTER MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time: May 19, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

Place: Meeting held by audio conferencing pursuant to Governor David Y. Ige's Emergency Proclamations, which can be found at <https://governor.hawaii.gov/category/covid-19/covid-19-emergency-proclamations/>, and Mayor Kirk Caldwell's Emergency Proclamations and Orders, which can be found at <https://www.honolulu.gov/mayor/proclamations-orders-and-rules.html>.

Present:

Steven Goble	SFC Vice Chair Fire Chief, Kaua'i Fire Department (KFD)
Kazuo Todd	SFC Member Fire Chief, Hawai'i County Fire Department (HCFD)
David Thyne	SFC Member Fire Chief, Maui Department of Fire and Public Safety (MFD), Maui County
Adam Rosenberg	Deputy Attorney General Department of the Attorney General State of Hawai'i
Lloyd Rogers	SFC Administrative Specialist (AS) III
Gary Lum	SFC AS II
Carol Suzuki	SFC Secretary

Excused:

Lionel Camara, Jr. Acting Fire Chief, Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)

Guests:

Raymond Bizal Director of Regional Operations  
Northwest Field Office for Gary Honold  
National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

Candace "Mikiala" Akiona Community Relations Specialist  
Community Risk Reduction Section  
Planning and Development Division, HFD

Val Martin Secretary, Hawai'i Fire Chiefs Association (HFCA)  
Maui Assistant Fire Chief (Retired)

Cole Harding President, Life Inspection Safety Vault  
(a records management company)

I. Introduction

A. Vice Chair Goble called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Hawai'i Standard Time (HST). This meeting was recorded. (00:08 on the recording)

Chair Goble welcomed everyone and asked attendees to introduce themselves. There were no public comments.

B. Approval of the SFC FY 2020-2021 Third Quarter Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2021 (08:30 on the recording)

Motion: Member Thyne motioned to accept the minutes and Member Todd seconded the motion although he was not in attendance at that meeting.

Record of Votes: Vice Chair Goble - Aye  
Member Thyne - Aye  
Member Todd - Aye

C. Approval of the Agenda (10:12 on the recording)

Motion: Member Todd motioned to approve the agenda and Member Thyne seconded the motion. Hearing no opposition, the agenda was approved.

Record of Votes: Vice Chair Goble - Aye  
Member Thyne - Aye  
Member Todd - Aye

## II. Member Reports on SFC County/State Issues

### A. Vice Chair Steven Goble, KFD (11:20 on the recording)

#### 1. Grants

- a. The KFD applied for a \$1 million Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to purchase communication equipment (\$660,000) and to replace a brush truck/mini pumper (\$340,000). The KFD is awaiting decision on their grant application.
- b. A Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant request was submitted for \$4.2 million to be used to fill twelve existing vacancies over a three-year period. Vice Chair (VC) Goble spoke with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and they removed supplanting language to meet application requirements. The KFD was informed by the FEMA that this was low priority.
- c. Act 12 funds were used to purchase one watercraft and initial attack vehicle to support the North Shore. The KFD needs appropriate resources for unexpected events and is planning to permanently pre-stage equipment in isolated areas in order to quickly and efficiently respond to such incidents as the recent flooding and subsequent land slide. The KFD was able to respond to flood, but the landslide caught them off guard. An additional water response vehicle/craft is being requested to shuttle supplies and equipment across the river areas; and stage a mini pumper at a resiliency center that is being developed.
- d. A Homeland Security Grant Program application was submitted for a new Hazardous Materials (HM) response vehicle. In 2008 the KFD previously acquired a HM response vehicle, however more capability is currently needed.

#### 2. County Issues

##### a. Fire Prevention

- 1) The KFD is working on developing local amendments for the State Fire Code which needs to get done within two years from the date the code was adopted by the State.

- 2) The KFD continues to work with the State on details regarding inspections of Department of Education (DOE) facilities. The DOE facility inspections are ongoing. AS Rogers mentioned the HFD conducts school inspections in October, timed with National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) Fire Prevention Week. VC Goble explained that in January the KFD had a new fire prevention captain and the inspection schedule this year was due to the limited access to schools, so VC Goble is not sure if it is the official school inspection schedule or not.
- 3) The KFD has been conducting inspections manually and is working on updating technology to revamp and help support the inspection/plan review process.

b. Budget

- 1) KFD faces challenges with the anticipated loss of the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) revenue to the county—an estimated \$15 million.
- 2) The county's final budget approval is slated for June 2. The budget submitted was relatively flat and there were no significant changes.
- 3) On June 1, 2021, the KFD will be meeting with stakeholders, i.e., land owners, local and state agencies, etc. as they enter brush fire season. The KFD will be focusing on mitigation efforts and targeting areas, i.e., fuel management, homeless issues inherent to some of the areas, fire breaks, and response resources. They will also be aligning resources with private land owners who have the ability to get KFD out of potential problems before it becomes an actual fire problem. VC Goble has spoken with Hawaiian Home Lands partners about specifically targeting areas of concern in the upcoming meeting.

3. Other Matters

a. Utilization Study by Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI)

ESCI completed a KFD onsite review/audit visit from May 3 to 5, 2021. A couple of years ago, Kaua'i's County Council questioned excess pension problems which led to questions about staffing, deployment, etc. Out of that audit process came the recommendation to move forward with a utilization study—a comprehensive look at KFD's operations of Fire, Emergency Medical Services and Ocean Safety. All of these are components of KFD's evaluation. The comprehensive evaluation of the

KFD operations included looking at budgets, staffing, facilities, equipment, deployments, etc. VC Goble is looking forward to an exchange of information as a result of the audit and ultimately a final report at the end of FY 2020-2021, which will lay ground work for a solid plan for all aspects of operations going forward.

b. Staffing

There are twelve existing vacancies. KFD applied for the SAFER grant to cover these positions for a three-year period. A recruitment was held and potential candidates have been identified and are pending SAFER grant approval to hire. (Also mentioned in A.1.b. above.) The KFD is looking forward to receiving the grant as staffing is currently strained and they are preparing to start a new recruit class soon.

c. Facilities

- 1) The helicopter hanger is in the design phase.
- 2) A modular training facility is in the design phase.
- 3) Capital improvement projects/repairs and maintenance projects are ongoing.

d. Apparatus

- 1) At the end of April, the KFD took delivery of a brush truck which is having technology and equipment installed before truck can be put into service.
- 2) A replacement engine is in the final stages of being built and is undergoing a final inspection in South Dakota with an estimated delivery date of July 1, 2021.
- 3) KFD used Act 12 funding and Chief Thyne's information on Darley pumps to enable them to spend half of the cost on skid units by custom building them with what Darley is able to provide to them. Member Todd requested information on Darley pumps too.
- 4) The chassis for an initial attack pumper was delivered to Rosenbauer for build and has an estimated completion date of November 1, 2021. (Not on recording but took information from VC Goble's report.)

B. Member David Thyne, MFD (26:55 on the recording)

Retired Fire Chief Ventura asked to be kept in the loop so that the Hawai'i Fire Chiefs Association (HFCA) can advocate/support legislative initiatives that SFC proposes.

1. Grants

- a. In 2019 there was a big fire that was agriculturally devastating; no homes were lost and no injuries were reported due to fire. As a result, there was a benefactor who wanted to donate to the MFD, and the benefactor was told that the donation cannot be accepted because MFD's non-profit status was lost for various reasons and that MFD was in the process of reestablishing the non-profit. The benefactor diligently pursued donating and MFD was finally able to accept the donation via the Hawai'i Professional Fire Fighters Association (HPFFA), an O'ahu organization. Member Thyne explained that from the total donation, \$20,000 was withheld by the HPFFA earmarked for Maui. With the \$80,000 donated and forwarded to them, MFD was able to purchase the following apparatus for their wildland efforts:
  - 1) High pressure pump for mule
  - 2) Mule
  - 3) Pump for pickup truck
  - 4) Trailer
  - 5) Pumpkin
  - 6) Mini striker portable pump
- b. MFD used FEMA AFG Covid-19 funds to purchase N95 masks and gowns.
- c. A Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) was awarded to low income communities—Moloka'i and Hāna. The grant gives MFD the ability to enhance services outside of the county procurement process which allows them to more robustly outfit the stations. For example, Hāna is the rain forest and wet side of the island, however, water supply is spotty and hydrant locations are far and few between locations so a water tanker provides a remote water source. The following was purchased:
  - 1) Mini 7 (Hāna Fire Station)
  - 2) Engine 7 (Hāna Fire Station)

3) Mini 9 (Ho`olehua Fire Station)

2. County Issues

- a. A new Engine 1 fire truck for the Wailuku, the busiest fire station, has passed its final inspection and is currently being shipped.
- b. A new Engine 3 fire truck is also on order for Lahaina's west Maui station. Final inspection was completed in April and is also being shipped.
- c. For the Wailuku fire station, MFD has transitioned from the dual axle cabinet type mini pumper to new specifications that are now more utility skid, there is higher ground clearance, and is wildland centric—a hybrid between wildland and a Type 4 or 5 pumper application. MFD is willing to share their specs if the other county fire departments are interested.
- d. Apparatus
  - 1) Engine 2 (Paia Fire Station) Pre-construction was completed in April.
  - 2) Utility 4 (Kaunakakai Fire Station) Pending bid specifications
  - 3) Pickup Truck (Battalion 1 Chief) Pending bid specifications

3. Other Matters

- a. The 37<sup>th</sup> fire fighter recruit class is scheduled to start on July 1, 2021. The class consists of 18 county fire fighters and 5 state fire fighters. The county has eighteen vacancies. Intergovernmental movements (IGMs) from the state will be used to fill vacancies. The MFD is changing its promotional process by having an internalized, adjusted process while staying within the civil service rules and will look to human resources for guidance, rather than solely relying on the personnel services department.
- b. The budget was approved as submitted. City Gate performed the MFD's audit a few years ago. At that time, the County Council tried to question the budget, but it turned out to be a positive for MFD. The MFD used the audit report as a tool to solidify and substantiate the budget that they requested. As an example, the report recommended the replacement of two engines and a utility vehicle every year at a cost of \$2.5 million per year.

Member Todd requested a copy of the utilization audit. Member Thyne said the report can also be found on the county website and will send.

- c. Member Thyne will be retiring July 1, 2021. This is his last SFC meeting. To date there are two applicants for the MFD's fire chief position and Sunday, May 16, 2021 was the deadline to apply.
- C. Member Kazuo Todd, Fire Chief, Hawai'i Fire Department (HCFD)  
(41:10 on the recording)
- 1. Grants
    - a. The HCFD received a \$345,000 AFG grant for Covid-19 related purchases and so far has spent \$204,000. At this time, HCFD has enough personal protection equipment to last for the next five years.
    - b. With the Sayer Foundation donation, HCFD purchased its second wildland tanker that can be used off road and be able to drive almost anywhere. The "Big Dog" tanker carries about 1,500 gallons of water and will be used at the South Kohala Fire Station. Delivery was accepted in March 2021, and the vehicle has been put in service. In two weeks a third tanker will arrive.
    - c. The HCFD applied for a SAFER Grant to cover the cost of filling six captain and three fire fighter positions.
    - d. The Sayre Foundation awarded a grant to the HCFD to provide one rescue water craft and training for fire personnel. The HCFD will have a total of three water craft jet skis.
  - 2. County Issues
    - a. The budget was approved for the same amount as last year. The supplemental request for more PPE was granted and gave the HCFD \$200,000 more for that line item. However, in the previous year, that line item was reduced by \$115,000, so in reality they will only be getting \$85,000 more this year, and it is still \$130,000 less than what was actually spent in that line item.
    - b. The HCFD is currently going through budget amendments with the County Council. Tomorrow Member Todd will be meeting with a Councilmember to explain why the HCFD should keep the \$50,000 in the equipment line item.
    - c. Funding was approved by the State of Hawai'i to fund the Emergency Medical Services. The \$4+ million was the remainder of the \$21 million in current funding to equal the HCFD's funding for fiscal year 2020-2021.



- d. The State reduced funding for lifeguard positions by \$674,000 in fiscal year 2021-2022. The reduction will affect Kua Bay and Hapuna Bay on the Kona side of the island. The reduction is understandable with the State hurting as the TAT collection is down due to the COVID-19.
- e. The HCFD is on a COVID-19 busting team and has been participating in the emergency management committee meetings. For positive cases, rather than waiting for a cluster to develop, the team shows up, vaccine is administered on the scene to persons and their family, and testing and tracing is performed at that time. Member Todd is not sure what duties will be assigned to the HCFD, which could be performed by a private entity or another organization.

### 3. Other Matters

- a. Member Todd stated that he is working on the HCFD's budget and would be willing to share his budget with other counties to compare and see where monies are allocated. He would like to see other county's budgets as well, so that he can show his finance department how the other counties have spent their money. The general consensus within the Hawai'i County is that the HCFD earns more overtime than any other department, which he believes is not accurate, compared to the county's police department. Member Todd would be interested in reviewing the software Honolulu uses to track its budget. Member Thyne said he will share what he can as Maui is similar in size. AS Rogers said he will relay to Chief Camara that the HCFD would like to see the budget software.
- b. Member Todd also reported that he will be entertaining applications for their Deputy Fire Chief's position. He wants to do something different from previous fire chiefs and would like to see who would be interested in the position, rather than only asking someone he knows to fill the position. The selection process will include interviews.

### D. Lionel Camara, Jr., Acting Fire Chief, HFD (AS Lum reported on behalf of Chief Camara per his written report) (50:20 on the recording)

#### 1. Grants

- a. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding is not a grant, but a federal fund. Money was spent on surge testing and on some overtime incurred for manning vaccine sites. After all the payroll is processed and reconciled, the HFD will report on the status. Currently, the HFD has spent \$1,888,680.

- b. Homeland Security grants will likely fund the list of projects shown on the report submitted.
2. County Issues
- a. All fire fighters received emergency operations training on the Honolulu Area Rapid Transit (HART) rail system.
  - b. Apparatus
    - 1) Replacements for Engines 1, 4, 9, 10, 16, 30 and 37 are under construction by Kovatch Mobile Equipment (KME).
    - 2) The HFD received replacement Rescue 1 and Rescue 2 apparatuses from SVI. The HFD also received a total of 11 rapid response vehicles, which are large sport utility vehicles (SUV) that are sent out on medical calls instead of sending an aerial apparatus. This reduces the wear and maintenance on the aerials. In addition, the HFD received Ladder 18 and Ladder 30 replacements from KME. They are also soliciting bids for Quint 31 and 34, and for two SUV's.
  - c. Budget

The proposed budget of \$142 million in fiscal year 2021-2022 was reduced to \$139 million.

The capital improvement budget proposals include building improvements (\$4.35 million), fire station relocations for planning and design (\$150,000), and equipment (\$5.7 million). The HFD is trying to work within the ceiling guidelines because the City is short \$400 million for fiscal year 2021-2022.
3. Other Matters
- a. Personnel Matters
    - 1) The 109<sup>th</sup> recruit class that started in October, 2020 with 22 Fire Fighter Recruit I's will graduate in June, 2021.
    - 2) The Fire Fighter II class started in March, 2021. This is the second year that HFD is conducting this accelerated process in which persons entering the job as a fire fighter recruit already have all 3<sup>rd</sup> party certifications and their total training time is virtually cut in half.

b. Covid-19 Response

HFD assisted in manning the Leeward Community College vaccination site until April, 2021.

III. SFC Quarterly Update (1:00:55 on the recording)

A. Status of the State Fire Code

1. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1 Fire Code 2018 Edition

In January the State Building Code Council approved the amendments to the fire code and the document was posted to the SFC website. Counties have two years in which to enact local amendments to the fire code or leave the code unamended and accept the State fire code. Member Todd asked Raymond Bizal, Director of Regional Operations, if NFPA can incorporate county amendments into the 2018 fire code edition?

Ray explained that they'd be happy to produce the Hawai'i version of NFPA 1 for the state fire code. It may require some discussion with legal counsel regarding whether NFPA is allowed to use county amendments to produce the book. All in attendance agreed that this matter will be discussed further in executive session. DAG Rosenberg will provide his opinion on legality and copyright issues.

2. NFPA 1 Fire Code 2021 Edition (1:05:10 on the recording)

The SFC staff has incorporated the NFPA 1 Fire Code 2018 amendments into the 2021 edition. Moving forward, the SFC will have the fire prevention committee review for needed changes. The SFC is also waiting on a document from the NFPA that outlines the significant changes between 2018 and 2021. The code adoption process has been streamlined because it is not required to go through administrative rules.

The following is a chronology of the process: 1) The NFPA changes are received, 2) The SFC prevention committee (who met twice this past time) reviews, 3) The DAG reviews, 4) The SFC reviews and approves the State Fire Code amendment proposals (after fire chiefs have spoken with their prevention committee member), 5) The SBCC has stakeholders review, which usually takes a month, 6) The building code officials reviews and approves the amendment proposals, and 7) The building code officials forward their recommendations to the SBCC for review and approval. This process takes under a year; by middle of 2022 code should be completed. Member Todd concluded that it is a three-year cycle instead of six years as the administrative rules process is not necessary. AS Rogers reconfirmed

that the 2018 code is done and in effect only at the state level at this point. The NFPA provides technical support and can publish the Hawai'i state version if the State can work it out.

In the past NFPA provided training on newly adopted codes. This can be conducted online or in person depending on vaccination status. The training will be helpful to counties as there are some recently promoted prevention personnel. A significant change in the code is the fire protection system licensing process. When an individual wants to perform maintenance on sprinklers, fire alarm systems, standpipe systems, private fire hydrants, that person needs to be licensed by their county fire department. AS Lum is helping to facilitate this licensing process and can answer questions regarding licensing requirements.

Ray commented that Gary Honold wanted for a while to offer complimentary training to state and county fire prevention officers in Hawai'i on NFPA 13 and 72. Ray offered to work offline on an online training schedule. In August the NFPA will unveil a certification on water based system testing and maintenance which may be useful to the SFC. AS Lum asked if the NFPA certification covers private fire hydrants and water supply. Ray replied he will inquire and follow up offline. Member Todd asked if the \$100 fee to obtain a license allows person to work on all types of systems and on any island. In case the licensed person commits a violation, there are provisions for remedies to address any violation in the Hawai'i administrative rules in case county has to take action. AS Rogers recommended that a periodic onsite fire inspector witnesses what they are doing because when there is no oversight for people who do these maintenance checks, the word gets around in the industry when we are not doing anything. Training on the fire code is open to all authorities having jurisdiction, including building inspectors, state and federal fire inspectors, the Department of Education, the State Division of Forestry and Wildlife, and is not limited to fire prevention personnel. If an inspector does not know what is involved in the inspection, testing, and maintenance (ITM) of fire protection systems, then the inspector will need proficiency training.

B. NFPA Update (1:42:00 on the recording)

Raymond Bizal presented NFPA's updates and has forwarded his report to the SFC.

The NFPA is conducting a pilot project to build a dashboard which combines substantial external data such as census and local data for fire departments to determine community risk. Information on the dashboard can be used for the Insurance Services Office and other accreditations, or be used for writing

grants for fire operations and prevention. More information is available at [nfpa.org/crr](http://nfpa.org/crr).

The NFPA's Standards Council has developed new standards addressing the protection of facilities from fire related hazards where cannabis is grown, processed, extracted or tested. Standards include general skills, knowledge and experience in order to maintain equipment and facilities. Go to [www.NFPA.org/Cannabis](http://www.NFPA.org/Cannabis) or [www.NFPA.org/420](http://www.NFPA.org/420) for more information.

In 2018, NFPA's Building Code Development Committee provided guidance for remote home inspections. The NFPA Standards Council approved the standards for remote inspections, NFPA 915. The deadline for public input is June 1, 2021.

The 2022 edition of fire safety for buildings under construction is almost complete. NFPA 241 has fire prevention online learning geared toward program managers supervising construction workers.

The NFPA 2021 Educational Messages Advisory Committee (EMAC) desk reference for educational messaging is now available free of charge. The NFPA coordinated with the U.S. Fire Administration to customize the reference in line with the desk reference 2020 edition. The EMAC desk reference is available at [www.NFPA.org/emac](http://www.NFPA.org/emac).

The NFPA's Outthink Wildfire policy is an initiative to end the destruction of communities by wildfires in thirty years. There are five tenets of the policy: 1) That buildings be ignition resistant, 2) current codes and standards and land use practices are in place and enforced, 3) fire departments must be prepared by training personnel and have the tools necessary to fight fires in order to respond safely and efficiently, 4) government must increase resources for vegetative fuel management on public and private lands, 5) the public must understand their role and take action in reducing wildfire risks. The NFPA also added accounts for the influence of insurance; where insurance carriers can use risk models to reward mitigation efforts and discourage risky building and development practices. The NFPA hopes the SFC members will embrace the policy and take it to the State level.

The NFPA's Emergency Response and Responder Safety Consolidation project is underway to consolidate 115 standards down to 35 standards. This is a five year process. The old chapters will be associated with the new numbering of chapters. Refer to [www.NFPA.org/errs](http://www.NFPA.org/errs) for more information.

NFPA's code and standard content can now be accessed on real time on a new website. This platform replaces the subscription service. There are 115

documents loaded; and all current codes/standards will be loaded by the end of the year with on-line and off-line capabilities. This site can be used to develop training curriculum. The new website is available at [www.NFPA.org/link](http://www.NFPA.org/link).

C. State Building Code Council (SBCC ) (1:19:55 on the recording)

1. The SBCC is comprised of 11 volunteer representatives from the state, county and private industry and is administratively attached to the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS). The SBCC reviews and approves the national building code, residential, plumbing, electrical, energy, and elevator for the State. The SFC is a voting member and is represented by AS Rogers. Manufactured housing has been a contentious issue at the SBCC. The Hawai'i Pacific Resource Partnership and various building trade unions contend that unless regulated, factory-built housing (FBH) has an advantage over site-built housing because they don't go through the same permitting process at the county level. There are two types of housing where factory-built housing can be done for a much lower cost. The SBCC's investigative committee has been looking into this. Other states are regulating factory-built housing. Because Hawai'i has experienced significant increases in materials, labor and land cost, Hawai'i Planning Mill (HPM) is trying to make FBH available on the Big Island. There has been much resistance and strong lobbying by labor unions against HPM's FBH effort.

D. State Training and Education (1:24:10 on the recording)

The U.S. Fire Academy annually funds training for county fire departments (FDs). County FDs apply for these locally run classes by making a request to the SFC, who will then send the training requests to the NFA. For FY 2021, the State applied for nine classes and due to the Covid-19 pandemic, four classes were cancelled. There are four classes pending. Member Todd reported that the May F0646 Supervision/Leadership class was cancelled due to the instructor's inability to meet Covid-19 requirements.

Retired Chief Farias is a certified NFA instructor, and in June he will be a local source to teach classes.

For FY 2022 the first semester application period closed in April. Out of nine potential classes, as a State, the SFC signed up for four classes. Hawai'i and Kaua'i missed the April deadline for applying for classes, but there will be another opportunity to select classes for the second semester in about six months. The application period opens in August or September and the SFC only has a month in which to enter the State's selection of classes.

E. Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette Program (1:29:40 on the recording)

The program ensures cigarettes sold statewide have the reduced propensity feature to reduce the amount of cigarette caused fires. The SFC's inspector visits stores and randomly buys samples to send to the lab for testing. The manufacturer also sends to the State a fee that certifies that their brand is RIPC compliant. The cost is \$300 every three years per brand and style. The fund has accumulated almost \$700,000. The Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 132C stipulates that the funds be only used for the RIPC program administration and enforcement. Each year the SFC asks the legislature to expand the use of the special funds without success. The SFC will continue to pursue its request to broaden the use of funds with the hopes to fund the fire safety program's fire safety guide in the future. So far, the HFD has been providing the funding for the guide that is distributed statewide.

F. Fire Protection Systems Administrative Rules (1:36:15 on the recording)

The SFC helps oversee the licensing of companies and personnel who inspect fire protection systems: fire alarms, fire sprinkler systems, extinguishers, standpipes, private fire hydrants, non-water based systems such as (kitchen) hood fire extinguishing systems. The program started in 2018 and was previously administered by the HFD and included licenses to inspect portable fire extinguishers and water-based systems. The process is the county fire department receives an application and AS Lum certifies they have proper certifications, and sends the application back to the county recommending approval or not. Currently there is no third party exam for hydrants, and is based on a person's application, resume and training. AS Rogers said that licensing for hood cleaning inspections is not part of the administrative rules, but the counties may want to add a provision to their fire code to make a hood cleaning license mandatory. Member Todd will definitely look into adding it to their fire code.

G. Youth Fire Prevention and Intervention Program (YFIRES)  
(1:54:10 on the recording)

Presentation by Candace "Mikiala" Akiona, Community Relations Specialist, HFD

The YFIRES's is an online database created by a number of qualified fire related organizations and representatives. (Mikiala shared her screen to display the website.) While data collection is important for community risk reduction, planning and implementation, or assessing new programs, is one big concern, along with maintaining the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance and ensuring the confidentiality of the

youth's information that is inputted into the database. Listed in Appendix A of the manual are only twenty elements that contribute to the majority of the report. The generic information is needed to maintain consistency of the data collected and helps with the reporting process and how data is organized.

Mikiala logged into the website's home page to demonstrate database reporting features including a dashboard. Besides being a free service, YFIRES is a national effort and offers many features that can support an organization's program needs to improve management efforts.

The program is an opportunity to manage juvenile fire starter cases directly from the website. Incoming referrals are logged into a safe haven database. The HFD has primarily used the program to track data and has not yet used it to facilitate assigning cases to intervention specialists. The HFD decided once a case investigation is completed, Mikiala will receive hard copies, email, reports and will input only data related to the 20 items. This website is user friendly and has tutorial videos for every step.

Mikiala displayed the data reporting feature that allows for comparison of local data to national data. The YFIRES program has the ability to compare ages, gender, etc., and has the ability to design a specific report to meet local needs. The HFD has not implemented the YFIRES program yet, as there have not been enough cases to produce a report.

To get access to the YFIRES program, each county could assign an administrator to register for the program, or the SFC can play the role of administrator for a joint program and list all four counties. Vice Chair Goble suggested more discussion is needed on how SFC would like to move forward either enrolling as a State entity or county that rolls up to a bigger system. Member Todd liked the state option. Member Todd commented that as an investigator he had not come across any known youth fire starters so could not justify a Hawai'i county program and Vice Chair Goble agreed. The database is good to have in case a trend starts. AS's Rogers and Lum now have access to YFIRES, and others can have access with the authorization to extract information.

Mikiala volunteered to reach out to the county fire prevention contacts who participated in the YFIRES training in Honolulu in 2018. All counties were represented together with other departments within the state and city, such as the Honolulu Police Department.

We have a statewide Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Health and the Department of Education to provide external resources to fire fighters who are deemed part of the program like the



intervention specialists. Whenever fire fighters reach a certain threshold and they realize it is beyond fire safety and more support is needed, Mikiala indicated there are about 20 operational personnel who are willing and eager to help and connect with the families who may need more professional support. Mikiala offered to send a copy of the MOU to the counties and a template program guide for intervention specialists for reference since these are not routine occurrences. Counties can modify the guide to fit their needs and expectations.

#### IV. 2021 Legislative Bill Update (2:10:00 on the recording)

Each year AS's Rogers and Lum lobby legislators either in person or virtually to gain support on the SFC introduced bills. The [legislature status table](#) that was distributed is for fire chiefs' information as it illustrates the status and the bill's progress through the legislative session. The table also identifies the committee chairs who heard or deferred bills, and who has a record of support or no support. Member Todd volunteered his brother, Representative Chris Todd, as a potential contact at the state legislature on any fire related bills.

The 2021 legislative session ended in April. A number of bills were introduced and many of them did not get a hearing. Some bills were heard and moved through the process and were deferred. The major bill that made it through the process and is awaiting the Governor's signature is a revision to the statute to allow fire fighters and other first responders who do not work on ambulances to be eligible for a State EMT license. The bill was modified in conference committee to only apply to personnel of the City and County of Honolulu.

All bills related to fireworks were deferred.

Val Martin indicated that as a 501(c)3 organization, the Hawai'i Fire Chiefs Association (HFCA) is not a registered lobbyist. However, the HFCA's attorney said that they are not prohibited from sending out letters and letting others know what HFCA supports and does not support, as long as that is not its organization's main function or objective. AS Rogers offered to include the organization in the tracking of legislative bills if they want inclusion. Mr. Martin requested to list him as a contact and will update the SFC when the HFCA president and the board members change.

V. New Business (2:22:30 on the recording)

Life Inspection Safety Vault (LISV) presentation by Cole Harding, President.

The Life Inspection Safety Vault has developed an application (app) specific for the fire prevention bureau. Cole Harding spent 13 years in the industry. The reason for starting this company was to help fire prevention bureaus gather data on fire protection systems. The program is developed to be user and budget friendly. There is no cost to fire departments as revenue is generated through the third party inspection companies. Mr. Harding explained that options for adopting the LISV are by ordinance or through the technical assistance or report section of the fire code. Mr. Harding recommended the SFC speak with its NFPA representative to determine if the current State Fire code contains language to adopt the LISV. The features of the LISV system includes the following:

- Allows inspection companies to submit their reports in real time to the fire department's (FD's) portal so that the information on compliance is readily available.
- Allows inspection companies, with a click of a button, to send out deficiency notices to the premise owner to correct deficiencies, which eliminates the need to send someone out to locations, especially if they are in remote areas.
- Pictures of deficiencies can be added to the report which may help with setting up follow-up schedules.
- FDs can leverage database information for reports, recognize patterns and trends of various inspection companies, and have information on types of buildings, occupancy types, etc.
- FDs can block a fire inspection company if it does not think the fire inspection company is doing valid work. Different requirements can be set up specifically for each jurisdiction.
- The LISV can provide forms so that a business can enter their information into a database, such as contact information, hours of operation, type of fire safety system, etc. Client will have information even before companies go out to perform their physical inspection.
- The LISV has the capability to create and make all State inspection forms consistent.
- Consumers and or business owners will be able to log in to the application and research which businesses are compliant and which are not.

- Data collected is owned by the FD and department has complete access to all data. Inspection companies can only see information they've submitted and can't view reports by other companies, eliminating an unfair advantage. FDs can give business owners access so that they can view their business information.
- FDs controls inspection company access to database. AS Lum clarified that this relates to the State program that the SFC oversees regarding companies and personnel who perform ITM of fire protection systems which is separate from fire code inspections that fire fighters perform.
- The LISV bills the inspection company for the use of the system per address and at \$15 per system type. Example: \$5 flat rate for all fire extinguishers and not \$15 for each extinguisher.

Member Todd confirmed with Mr. Harding that the service providers (inspection companies) are going to be required to pay the LISV to use the system we are requiring them to use.

In reply to the concern that this cost will be passed on to business owners, Mr. Harding said the feedback they have been getting is that inspection companies have had largest years from gaining new business on the enforcement side and many of them have not increased their prices.

Mr. Harding explained that the system/database can be customized according to what they are told to track and what notices are to go out. The LISV works with fire inspection companies to provide them with customer support and training. The LISV information technicians manages the software.

Vice Chair Goble asked if this project is a statewide or county type of application and the adoption process.

AS Lum explained that he had heard about the system from one of the HFD fire inspectors who thought it would be advantageous for counties to hear the same proposal. Since the SFC is assisting with the certificate of fitness application process for people who perform fire inspections, it would be optimal if all four counties use the same system. The cost factor can potentially be an obstacle if we make this a requirement for companies performing the service statewide. If the SFC wants to pursue the use of the LISV's application and make it a State directive, DAG Rosenberg gave the SFC a few ideas on how to make it a requirement by ordinance.

AS Rogers explained that implementing the use of a vendor to track fire inspections using a database involves changing the administrative rules, which is a time consuming process. Otherwise, implementation can be done on a county-by-county basis via ordinance.

The SFC members agreed to add the topic of using a vendor to track fire inspections to the next quarterly SFC meeting agenda.

VI. Next Quarterly Meeting

The next quarterly SFC meeting will be scheduled later, as soon as a quorum can be met, when either HFD or MFD selects their fire chief.

VII. Adjournment

Member Todd motioned for adjournment of the meeting and Member Thyne seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Goble', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

STEVEN Goble  
Vice Chair