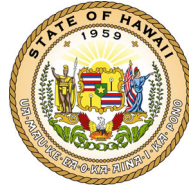


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STATE FIRE COUNCIL (SFC)
FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2021-2022 FOURTH QUARTER MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time: June 14, 2022, 1:00 p.m.

Place: Meeting held by audioconferencing pursuant to HRS § 92-3.7, Remote meeting by interactive conference technology; notice; quorum. Effective: January 1, 2022

Present:

Steven Goble	SFC Chair and Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD), Kauai County
Kazuo Todd	SFC Vice Chair and Fire Chief of the Hawaii County Fire Department (HCFD), Hawaii County
Sheldon Hao	SFC Member and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) City and County of Honolulu
Adam Rosenberg	Deputy Attorney General (AG) Department of the Attorney General, State of Hawaii
Gary Lum	SFC Administrative Specialist (AS) III
Wayne Masuda	SFC AS II
Carol Suzuki	SFC Secretary

Excused:

Bradford Ventura	SFC Member and Fire Chief of the Maui Department of Fire and Public Safety (MFD), Maui County
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Guests:

Jason Samala	Deputy Chief, HFD, City and County of Honolulu
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Eric Moller	Deputy Chief, HCFD, Hawaii County
Michael Gibson	Deputy Chief, KFD, Kauai County
Gavin Fujioka,	Deputy Chief, MFD, Maui County
Denis Nagao	Airport Fire Commander, Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting Station (ARFFS) Hilo International Airport
Glen Mitchell	Airport Fire Chief, Hawaii State Fire Department Daniel K. Inouye International Airport
Max Matias	Airport Fire Chief, Kona International Airport at Keahole
John Kennedy	Airport Fire Chief, Kalaeloa Airport, Kapolei
Gary Honold	Regional Director, Northwest Field Office National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Missoula, Montana

I. Introduction

- A. Chair Goble called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time (HST). This meeting was recorded
- B. Chair Goble welcomed everyone. Attendees introduced themselves. There were no public comments or attendees.
- C. Approval of the SFC FY 2021-2022 Second Quarter Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2022 (1:07 p.m. on the recording)

A motion was made by Member Hao and seconded by VC Todd. Hearing no discussion or corrections to the minutes, the minutes were approved.

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

- D. Approval of the Agenda (1:08 p.m. on the recording)

Motion: VC Todd made a motion to add to the agenda under new business items to include C. Fire Fighter's Safety Guide 2022 photo and signature of Kauai's fire chief or acting fire chief, and D. Election of Officers.

The motion was seconded by Member Hao.

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

II. Member Reports

A. Chair Steven Goble, Fire Chief, KFD (1:10 p.m. on the recording)

1. Grants

- a) An application for an Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) for apparatus and health and wellness classes is pending approval.
- b) An application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for brush trucks is pending approval.
- c) Chair Goble expressed appreciation the Health and Safety Wellness classes have been offered to its fire fighters.

2. County Issues

- a) KFD's FY 2023 budget was approved by their county council which included a moderate increase to cover the department's personnel cost due to the collective bargaining agreement (CBA).
- b) The KFD is working with partners on wildfire fuel management. Plans are to replicate the Anahola wildfire management plan on the west side of Kauai since it was successful.
- c) The KFD is working on local amendments to adopt county fire code. KFD's goal is to accomplish this in the next quarter.
- d) KFD is working with the local water supply to improve water flow and supply issues.

3. Other Matters

Chair Goble reported that this is his last meeting with the SFC members as he has resigned his position effective June 23, 2022 to take care of personal family matters. Chair Goble expressed his appreciation and support for the SFC and

the fire departments statewide. SFC AS Lum acknowledged Goble's service over the past two years.

B. Maui Fire Department

No one was in attendance to give MFD's report.

C. Vice Chair Kazuo Todd, Fire Chief, HCFD (1:20 p.m. on the recording)

1. Grants.

Refer to HCFD report available on their website.

Todd referred to report geothermal fund unique to Hawaii County.

2. County Issues

VC Todd shared his screen and reported that the HCFD submits a monthly report that details the HCFD's highlights, personnel and budget. The report is available online at the HCFD website.

In summary, May was a busy month, 94% of the FY 2022 budget has been spent with \$2M over spent on overtime; fortunately the county council approved funds to cover this expense. There was a slight increase in the budget from \$52M in FY 2022 to \$62M in FY 2023. The budget includes an increase of \$1.2 million for the Emergency Medical Systems (ambulance service).

See report for more details.

3. Other Matters

The HCFD will add positions for clerks, a safety officer, dispatchers, and others. Refer to report for more details.

On December 13 to 18, 2022, the Fire Chiefs Association is offering a conference on the island of Hawaii. Refer to the Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association 2022 Conference web page to register for the conference (HFCA Annual Conference 2022). Traditionally the SFC Chair attends. Cost is \$650 general admission. There are charges to attend group discussions. Exhibition space also available from \$1,500 and up. Working on having the National Fire administrator, the USFA, and National Fire academy wants to bring in. Need to sell tickets to bring in money first.

Gary Honold: plans to attend and offered to present updates to the general membership. VC Todd asked that he email Todd or Deputy Chief Moller so they can figure out a time slot for Honold to present.

D. Member Sheldon “Kalani” Hao, Fire Chief, HFD (1:30 p.m. on the recording)

1. Grants.

- a) HFD received Department of Transportation grants and purchased automatic extrication tools.
- b) Working on acquiring a tanker using CDBG grant funds awarded to HFD.
- c) Applying for DOT grants in FY 2023 for steel privies for all of our companies who are issued hydraulic risk tools of all 33 sets.
- d) In FY 2023, HFD will be applying for \$1.2 million in earmarked congressional delegated funds which Senator Brian Schatz was instrumental in acquiring. Funds will be used to replace five station generators; cost is an estimated \$1.8 million.
- e) With the help of Representative Case, HFD will be awarded \$2.7 million to purchase or implement apparatus door hardening.

2. County Issues.

- a) The budget approved is relatively flat with only a \$100K increase. No funds were approved to cover collective bargaining agreement increases.
- b) HFD was allotted funds to purchase land in an effort to relocate and build a new Pearl City fire station.
- c) HFD is also working on strategically relocating the Waialua fire station to provide better response.
- d) Funds were approved to purchase a twin engine helicopter with hoist capabilities; cost estimated to be \$12 million.

3. Other Matters.

- a) Last year the arson dog and his handler retired. The replacement arson dog and handler started on May 1, 2022. During arson dog Kukui’s tenure, she

had investigated 87 fires of which seven cases went to court. Of the seven cases, five defendants were found guilty and 2 cases are still ongoing.

- b) Efforts are being made to reduce water consumption in the Pearl City to Hawaii Kai urban corridor; water drills have been improvised to conserve water use.
- c) There are 107 vacancies and 32 recruits in class. A new recruit class is due to graduate in August, reducing vacancies to 75. A new recruit class of 42 students will begin in July, and another class of 24 students will commence in December.
- d) Eight personnel were promoted to battalion chiefs and there are four existing assistant chief vacancies. There are currently no applicants for assistant chief.

III. SFC Quarterly Update

A. 2022 Legislative Bill Update by AS Lum (1:34 p.m. on the recording)

(Shared on the screen the table entitled “Log of Bill Status as of May 10, 2022”)

1. SB 2017 relating to Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) licensing. Last year EMT licensure for those who do not work on an ambulance (life guards and fire fighters) was limited to jurisdictions whose population was greater than 500,000. This year the bill was successfully amended to include all counties. The bill was forwarded to the Governor for signature.
2. SB 2185, relating to fireworks control. This was not SFC’s bill, and requires the auditor of fireworks records from each county to submit annual reports to the legislature. In conference committee language was deleted to provide grant and aid. The bill was forwarded to the Governor for signature. Maybe next year the bill can be amended to include the grant-in-aid cost, if significant to each County.
3. SB 2923 relating to home owner liability and increasing the fines for fireworks violation incidents. The bill was forwarded to the Governor for signature.
4. HB 1587 relating to establishing an intrastate mutual aid system with counties to share resources in emergencies. This bill was introduced by the HEMA, and AS Lum has reached out to the HEMA administration to discuss the impact on county fire departments and whether or not it involves cost. He is waiting to

hear back from the HEMA. The bill was forwarded to the Governor for signature.

5. HB 1644 relating to environmental protection by restricting the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) from using any fire foams that contain polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to suppress flammable liquid fires (includes gasoline, oil and jet fuel). When the bill becomes law, training with the PFAS will not be allowed. This restriction primarily impacts ARFF. ARFF's Glen Mitchell commented that he signed off as they don't use PFAS and all fire trucks were retrofitted so that foam testing is not performed.
6. SB 2015 relating to repeal of the prohibition on county requirements for installation of automatic sprinkler systems in 1- to 2-family residential dwellings. The building industry is the main opposition to this bill, claiming sprinkler system installations will significantly raise the cost of new construction and puts the home out of reach of home buyers. SFC will need input for a strategy if we want to pursue this bill.

Goble affirmed that the cost of upgrading the water meter is of concern. Mr. Honold commented that he is trying to convince the State Building Code Council (SBCC) that installation of residential automatic fire sprinkler systems do not require upgraded water meters. There has been opposition from the American Water Association. Mr. Honold said he can help by providing incentivizing installation information of fire sprinklers in the way of trade-offs, i.e., increase lot density to offset construction cost associated with the building of new residences with sprinkler systems. There is good information on the fire sprinkler coalition website.

7. State Fire Marshall's Office. SFC submitted testimony in support of a study to create a State Fire Marshall office. The bill did not advance because it requires funding.

IV. NFPA Update by Gary Honold (1:47 pm on recording)

- NFPA had a very successful international conference and expo in Boston last week. Mr. Honold was able to dine with one of the representatives from the Maui Fire Department and take him on a tour of several Boston neighborhoods.
- Mr. Honold attended the International Fire Marshal's Association (IFFA) board of directors and president's meeting where they worked on a strategic plan and direction it wants to move in. The State of Hawaii currently does not have a chapter. If Hawaii would like to explore becoming a chapter, there are lots of networking and resources

available. Hawaii's challenges are very similar to the western U.S. in the way of drought and wildfire and also other specific needs.

- NFPA emergency responder and safety standards consolidation project. NFPA is taking 105 to 110 standards and consolidating them into about 34 standards to alleviate redundancy and make it easier to research standards, reducing the need to look through editions. Mr. Honold invites everyone to read the draft online and give him input. Please feel free to call him if there are any questions. NFPA is half way done with this project.
- A new standard, NFPA 1300, is a community risk assessment and risk reduction template to develop your own risk assessment and risk reduction program. NFPA partnered with a tool called CRAIG 1300 which helps gather data that is needed to identify risks in your community. Stakeholders outside of the fire service could participate in the risk reduction process. Mr. Honold offered a free demonstration of Craig 1500 and said he can put SFC in touch with fire matter experts.
- A new standard, NFPA 420, a standard for marijuana cultivation and extraction processes. Currently it is a chapter in NFPA 1 and will be taken out and be its own chapter. NFPA is looking for people to apply to sit on its technical committee. The concern is electrical fires and the challenge is the enforcement of the codes. Many states that have legalized recreational and medicinal marijuana have building electrical fire enforcement challenges. NFPA offers training about marijuana processing facilities and what things to look for in the NFPA standards and codes on the cultivation and extraction processes.
- Enforcer Funding Program. Mr. Honold recommended that those passionate about getting ahead of the curve on safety issues for these types of facilities and processes, to apply to sit on the technical committee and be in the enforcer program. The enforcer funding program at NFPA is offering to pay 80% of the cost to participate on the committee. Mr. Honold offered to provide a list of technical committees looking for members.
- NFPA has resumed convening a State Fire Marshal forum that includes the U.S. and Canada. The roundtable meetings will be held in November at the NFPA Quincy, Massachusetts headquarters to work on updates and discuss State issues. It is usually a worthwhile event; usually the State Fire Council chair participates.

V. Old Business (1:56 pm on recording)

A. SFC Strategic Direction

The potential for adding other entities, i.e., state ARFF and wildland crews, to the SFC to gain full representation across fire protection agencies was discussed at the last SFC meeting. Chief Mitchell of ARFF said they'd be willing to participate. AS Lum had sent the SFC by-laws to existing members for their information. If SFC were to include other entities, the by-laws will need to be amended at the next legislative session in January 2023.

Goble concurred that including other fire protection agencies in the SFC would be the right thing to do as these agencies are our partners and the continuing challenges of fighting wild fires makes sense to have representation on this council by those groups. AG Rosenberg confirmed that introducing legislation to modify HRS 132 at the next legislation session would be the next step.

Motion: Vice Chair Todd made a motion to draft a bill to introduce at the next legislative session in 2023 which modifies HRS 132 to expand membership of the SFC to add DOFA, state airport crash group airports, and other agencies, as appropriate. The bill will be discussed prior to being submitted to the legislature. Chief Hao seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

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

B. Wildfire Mitigation Plan

AS Lum came across a comprehensive Hawaii Wildfire Mitigation Plan dated sometime in 1999/2000 by the Department of Defense Division (DOD) and the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HEMA). He attempted to find out if there was an updated plan to no avail. The plan includes all resources and assets of fire agencies across the state. The plan just needs a more modern risk assessment report. AS Lum sent to SFC members a link to the plan. The SFC may want to review for anything that needs to be updated and/or make recommendations to HEMA. Please let AS Lum know so that he can forward comments to HEMA. Goble commented that the Hawaii Wildfire Management Group touches upon similar things. Risk assessment and bringing stakeholders together. Maybe opportunity here to join forces.

VC Todd reported that DOD does statewide community protection plans. In 2016 Kauai was done, Maui broken up and some done, Big Island most of the west side completed. They are working on Hamakua and Puna. They were talking about post-fire planting of non-fire spreading plants and how to get it done.

VI. New Business (2:15 p.m. on recording)

A. County Fire Inspection Enforcement of State Facilities

Where do we belong and what enforcement rights do we have?

AS Lum reported that the Fire Prevention Committee members met. They are having challenges when they write up violation on Department of Education property. What remedies do they have to get this corrected? In historical files, AG November 22, 2002, can county fire code inspectors enforce fire code on state property? Basic answer is that fire code is not a law and not enforceable by the SFC or members of the SFC. Knowing this, how do we encourage corrections to fire code violations on state property. Chair Goble concurred although we are compelled to inspect, but we cannot enforce corrections. Ruling we don't have authority to enforce. Can raise issues, but leave to State to make decision to fix or not. What is possibility to amend the HRS to allow inspectors enforcement powers over State property.

AG Rosenberg: Probably doable, but would politically be an uphill climb.

VC Todd commented that a State fire marshal needs to be established to have authority to follow through to ensure fire code compliance on State land. Issues are at schools, but can't enforce repair of the violations cited. SFC may need to have conversations with legislators to see if City can be granted legal authorization to enforce violations. AS Lum said we've had some support in the legislature of fire issues in the past. Chair Goble suggested the topic be tabled and that Chiefs engage law makers and see if they have appetite for change. VC Todd will contact his legislator brother and see if there is interest.

B. Fire and Smoke Damper System Inspection/Testing

In late December 2021, Acting Honolulu Fire Chief Lionel Camara entered into an agreement with the Hawaii Sheet Metal Workers' union to designate the local chapter as the exclusive certifying agency for personnel to inspect and maintain smoke control systems in buildings. HFD Chief Hao stated the current administration cancelled the agreement in January 2022. The HFD is now seeking more information on this issue from the SFC and NFPA before moving forward.

Mr. Honold replied there are similar instances throughout the entire country and he has requested the NFPA's Training and Certification Division for development of a training and certification program for personnel to inspect, test, and maintain these systems. He'll provide an update at the next SFC Quarterly Meeting.

AS Lum asked how many other counties would be interested in this conversation as they don't have as many high rise buildings with these systems.

Vice Chair Todd recommended a State Certification Program for smoke damper and related systems similar to the SFC's existing Certification Program for inspection, testing, and maintenance of Fire Protection Systems. Chair Goble agreed with Vice Chair Todd's recommendation.

C. Fire Fighter's Safety Guide (FFSG)

The section of the FFSG which displays the Chiefs' photographs is pending the identification of a replacement Kauai Fire Chief. Chair Goble stated that he is confident the Kauai Fire Commission will identify a replacement in time for the FFSG publishing deadline.

D. Election of Officers

Motion: Member Hao nominated Vice Chair Todd as the SFC Chair. Chair Goble seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

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

Motion: Chair Todd nominated Member Hao as the SFC Vice Chair. Member Goble seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

Record of Votes: Chair Todd - Aye
Member Goble - Aye
Member Hao - Aye

VII. Next Quarterly Meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 7, 1:00 p.m.

Guests from State ARFF: Glen Mitchell expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the SFC, and he looks forward to engaging with the SFC in the near future.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.


KAZUO TODD
Vice Chair