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STATE FIRE COUNCIL (SFC) FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2022-2023 THIRD QUARTER MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time: January 20, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

Place: Meeting held in person at Honolulu Fire Department headquarters on 636 South Street, Honolulu, Hawaii, and by audioconferencing pursuant to HRS § 92-3.7. Remote meeting by interactive conference technology; notice; quorum. Effective: January 1, 2022

Present:

Kazuo Todd	SFC Chair and Fire Chief of the Hawaii County Fire Department (HCFD), Hawaii County
Sheldon Hao	SFC Vice Chair and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) City and County of Honolulu
Bradford Ventura	SFC Member and Fire Chief of the Maui Department of Fire and Public Safety (MFD), Maui County
Michael Gibson	SFC Member and Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD), Kauai County
Adam Rosenberg	Deputy Attorney General (AG) Department of the Attorney General, State of Hawaii
Gary Lum	SFC Administrative Specialist III
Carol Suzuki	SFC Secretary

Guests:

Michael Walker	Forester, DLNR-DOFAW
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Gary Honold	Regional Director, Northwest Field Office National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Missoula, Montana
Andrew Klein, P.E.	Fire Protection Engineer/Chemical Engineer
Stephen Spletzer	Principal Investigator Chemours Company
Rick Paulino	President/Business Representative, Sheet Metal Air Rail Transportation Workers, Local Union 293
Dominique Taudin,	Senior Fellow, Codes and Standards Carrier Corporation
Helen Walter-Terrinoni	Vice President of Regulatory Affairs Air Conditioning, Heating, & Refrigeration Institute (AHRI)
Mary Koban	Senior Director Regulatory Affairs, AHRI
Robert Glass	Daikin Comfort Technologies, Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)

I. Introduction

- A. Chair Todd called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time (HST). This meeting was recorded.
- B. Chair Todd welcomed everyone. Attendees introduced themselves. There were no public comments.
- C. Approval of the SFC FY 2022-2023 Second Quarter Meeting Minutes of December 5, 2022

A motion was made to accept the minutes with amendment to the time of the December 5, 2022 meeting from 10:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Approval of the Agenda

AS Lum requested an amendment to the agenda under "Old Business" to add Item C. to include a discussion on, "Amending the state fire code regarding next generation refrigerants."

AS Lum also requested under “New Business” to add Item C. Review and report of the state of the State Fire Council.

A motion was made and seconded to modify the agenda with its amendments as indicated above. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Old Business

A. Update on NFPA training and certification of inspectors for HVAC smoke damper assemblies.

Gary Honold reported that since there has been no demand for a certification program for fire smoke damper training, and after lengthy discussions with his subject matter experts, NFPA decided not to develop a full certification program.

A similar program was developed for water based inspection, testing, and maintenance; no trades are taking certification testing. A demand from external stakeholders is needed in order to develop a program for HVAC.

Mr. Honold said there have been isolated incidents of smoke damper failures and HVAC fires, but failures have not been a major trend nationally. The initial thought was to regulate the servicing of HVAC systems, but it is not known if there is a need for these services.

Chair Todd proposed that the topic be tabled until more research is done and a need is determined.

Commercial hood duct cleaning has become a national issue due to failure to properly clean hood systems. Honold will share more information with the SFC after next week’s NFPA regional operations meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to shelve the topic for more discussion at the next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to talk about Item C before Item B under old business. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Amendment to the State Fire Code.

Regarding amendments to the State Fire Code on new refrigerants, Klein presented language for the 2024 edition of NFPA’s national fire code, which was approved by NFPA. Two days ago Klein sent the language to AS Lum to disseminate to the SFC members for their consideration. AS Lum explained that

by law the public needs to be provided the information at least six days before this public meeting.

C. State fire code adoption and processes.

Members discussed the fire code adoption process. SFC approves amendments, then fire code moves to the State Building Code Council (SBCC). Rosenberg stated the code adoption process according to Chapter 91 was eliminated. Code then moves to Subcommittee of Building Officials at the SBCC, where building officials must unanimously approve fire code, then moves for adoption by SBCC. Chair Todd recommended taking a look into legal need for further approvals.

Following the discussion, a motion was made to accept the proposed State Fire Code based on NFPA 1 2021 and amend county codes later to add language on refrigerants. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Todd will forward these code amendments to the FPC and NFPA to ensure compliance with NFPA 1 2024 committee language.

Honold said once code formally adopted, NFPA will offer web and county training on NFPA 1, NFPA 13, and NFPA 72.

Chair Todd asked about 2018 code training. Honold requested for SFC to inform him when code is adopted and he will coordinate training with the counties.

III. New Business

A. Results and Outcomes from meeting with State Legislators

AS Lum provided summary of discussion with legislators.

Members discussed, voted on bills SFC is tracking. Votes passed as recorded.

HB143 Provides for additional use of moneys in RIPC fund.

Support

HB144 Allows county decision to determine proper requirements for residential fire sprinkler systems.

Support

HB145 and SB192 Imposes a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks.

Discussion on prohibition of fireworks, alternative of legalization and taxation, use of special funds.

Support

HB216 and SB498 Establishes shipping container inspection program and special fund. SFC to research further.

Monitor

HB146 and SB193 Adds DOFAW and ARFF to SFC Membership

Support

HB162 Amends definition of emergency worker to include dispatchers.
Discussion on appropriate language for law.

Monitor

HB163 Relating to collective bargaining.
Discussion on provisions for volunteers.

Monitor

HB175 Discretion on use of sirens for emergency response.
Discussion of county positions.

Oppose

SB37 Establishes shipping containers inspection program.

Support

SB80 and SB786 Makes people liable for search and rescue expenses.
Discussion on whether this bill would deter people from calling and worsen the situation. Members talked about local county positions and education efforts.

Monitor

SB229 Establishes felony offenses for misuse of unmanned aircraft.
Discussion on drone interference to rescue missions.

Support

SB251 Requires police to purchase and deploy explosion detection technology.
Discussion of status contingent on HPD asking for support.

Monitor

SB319 Establish a working group to study emergency medical licensure reciprocity.

Monitor

SB346 and HB175 Makes it discretionary for use of emergency sirens.

Oppose

SB409 and HB285 Appropriates funds for Community Fuels Reduction Project

Support

General discussion on meeting with legislators. Members talked about having face-to-face meetings with legislators around time when SFC is meeting. Chiefs have the ability to discuss issues and problems for their counties.

B. State of the State Fire Council.

The SFC budget looks like it will have a surplus. Of the \$104,000 budgeted annually for salaries, \$34,000 has been spent so far. There was a deficit a couple years ago and HFD covered the shortfall.

We have a vacancy and are looking to fill the position. HFD's retired Assistant Chief Socrates Bratakos is a potential candidate as he is knowledgeable about SFC matters.

There is a small amount in current expense. Travel is covered by draw down from state side, so SFC does not see expense. DLIR provides funding quarterly, and the City disburses funds to pay salaries.

RIPC program is projecting a surplus. RIPC collects from manufacturers \$350 for each brand; brands need to be certified by RIPC. Funds collected pay for the administrator position, sending samples to labs, and inspecting for correct labeling.

There is an \$885,000 balance in special funds. In FY 2022, the RIPC program brought in \$90,000 in cigarette payments. AS Lum said he reviews RIPC paperwork.

AS Lum asked that Chiefs monitor bills that will come out on 48-hour notice. Members discussed personal testimony by Fire Chiefs on various bills, depending on priority and availability.

IV. Next Quarterly Meeting

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., place to be determined, in person, via audioconferencing or remotely via interactive conference technology.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.


KAZUO TODD
Chair