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

Date and Time: December 5, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Place: This meeting was held in person at 636 South Street, Honolulu, Hawaii, and via 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
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

Absent:

Sheldon Hao	SFC Vice Chair and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) City and County of Honolulu
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Guest: D. Lopes, a member of the public

I. Introduction

A. Chair Todd called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Hawaii Standard Time (HST). This meeting was recorded. (0:37 time on the recording)

B. Chair Todd welcomed everyone. Attendees introduced themselves. There were no public comments.

AS Lum reported AS Wayne Masuda passed away last Sunday (November 27, 2022, and requested a moment of silence in his remembrance.

C. Approval of the SFC FY 2022-2023 Second Quarter Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2022 (5:00 on the recording)

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

Record of Votes: Chair Todd - Aye
Member Ventura – Aye
Member Gibson — Aye

D. Approval of the Agenda (6:13 on the recording)

A motion was made by Member Ventura and seconded by Member Gibson. Hearing no discussion or corrections to the agenda, the agenda was approved.

Record of Votes: Chair Todd - Aye
Member Ventura - Aye
Member Gibson — Aye

II. Old Business (7:10 on the recording)
NFPA 1 2021 Ed. Amendments

Chair Todd reported that their county council just approved Hawaii's 2018 fire code, and suggested that the process of adopting the fire code be simplified.

On Kauai, the task of amending and adopting the fire code is assigned to the Fire Prevention Bureau. Member Gibson is reviewing a working draft and will follow up with what needs to be done.

On Maui, Member Ventura reported that their county council just approved adoption of Maui's 2018 fire code amendments. Amendments were made to the fee schedules, enforcement, etc. and all contractors and vendors have access to the amended code.

Honolulu has adopted the county amendments for 2018 fire codes which was approved by the City Council.

Chair Todd requested that counties share their amended and adopted codes with other Hawaii island counties.

SFC's goal is to move forward on this topic at the next meeting.

III. New Business (16:00 on the recording)

[2023 Legislative Package](#) - proposed Bills (see [2022 Legislative Bills](#))

- A. Proposal to amend HRS §132-16 State fire council; composition; functions to add the State Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Unit and the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife to reflect all non-federal fire-fighting agencies in the State.

AS Lum is working on drafting the bill and will send to Fire Chiefs for their input.

- B. Proposal to repeal Act 53, 2017 Legislative Session, which extended the prohibition of the adoption of any codes or regulations by the counties that require the installation of residential fire sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings.

AS Lum commented that a proposed bill had been submitted for years, and the SFC has not been able to move the needle. The home-rule concept that the State should not be mandating building codes and that each county should be able to regulate their own county's building codes stalls when reaching the Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs (PSM), Commerce and Consumer Protection (CPN) in the Senate, and in the Consumer Protection and Commerce (CPC) committee in the House.

As a whole, Fire Chiefs support the requirement to install sprinklers in one and two-family dwellings.

AS Lum shared that only two states in the nation have been able to regulate this mandate into law/code—California and Maryland.

- C. Proposal to amend HRS §132D-3 Permissible uses of consumer fireworks to limit the use of consumer fireworks to cultural events from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. as allowed by permit pursuant to Section §132D-10.

AS Lum recapped that the bill proposal as written would permit use of fireworks only for cultural or religious events. Fireworks would also be allowed for funerals, Chinese New Year and religious events and special events like blessings and

grand openings of businesses. This is an unpopular proposal that stalls due to legislators who have their constituents who don't want their rights to play/burn fireworks restricted. This bill basically removes use of fireworks from the two biggest holidays in the year—New Years and Fourth of July.

As a whole, Fire Chiefs support this bill, but know that the likelihood of the bill becoming law is slim. Nevertheless, Fire Chiefs support the intent of the bill which is to protect the public from potential harm from fires and health/breathing complications.

- D. Proposal to amend HRS §132C-9 Reduced ignition propensity cigarette program special fund to allow expenditure of funds on programs that facilitate fulfillment of functions of the State Fire Council as described in HRS §132-16.

This bill proposes use of the funds for improving safety and awareness programs towards educational purposes. The bill stalled when it was referred to the Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs (PSM) and Ways and Means (WAM) committees in the Senate. The SFC Chair voiced his support for this bill.

There were no additional bills suggested. Chair Todd encouraged SFC members to meet with legislators in person.

IV. Next Quarterly Meeting

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.


KAZUO TODD
Chair