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

Date and Time: October 7, 2022, 1:00 p.m.

Place: Meeting held in person at the Nuuanu Fire Station No. 29 in a training room, Wyllie Avenue, 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
Adam Rosenberg	Deputy Attorney General (AG) Department of the Attorney General, State of Hawaii
Gary Lum	SFC Administrative Specialist III
Wayne Masuda	SFC Administrative Specialist II (remote)
Carol Suzuki	SFC Secretary

Absent: Michael Gibson SFC Member and Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD), Kauai County

Guests:

Jason Samala Deputy Chief, HFD, City and County of Honolulu

Martinez Jacobs Glen Mitchell	Airport Fire Chief, Hawaii State Fire Department Daniel K. Inouye International Airport
Michael Walker	Forester, Division of Forestry and Wildlife Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)
Gary Honold	Regional Director, Northwest Field Office National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Missoula, Montana
Andrew Klein, P.E.	Fire Protection Engineer/Chemical Engineer, Klein Engineering, PLLC (remote)
Stephen Spletzer	Principal Engineer and HVACR professional, Chemours (remote)
Rick Paulino	President/Business Representative, Sheet Metal Air Rail Transportation Workers, Local Union 293
Maile Wong, Burton Takafuji Ken Shimizu	Representatives of the Sheet Metal Air Rail Transportation Workers, Local Union 293
KITV Island News	Attendee did not identify themselves.

I. Introduction

- A. Chair Todd called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time (HST). This meeting was recorded. (2:20 running time on the recording)
- B. Chair Todd welcomed everyone. Attendees introduced themselves. There were no public comments.
- C. Approval of the SFC FY 2021-2022 Fourth Quarter Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2022 (6:20 on the recording)

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

Record of Votes: Chair Todd - Aye
Vice Chair Hao - Aye
Member Ventura – Aye

D. Approval of the Agenda (8:00 on the recording)

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

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

II. Member Reports

A. Chair Kazuo Todd, Fire Chief, HCFD (9:10 on the recording; the following were highlighted at the meeting; refer to the Hawaii County Fire Chief's report for more details)

1. Grants

- a) Received a \$500,000 AFG grant to purchase extractors.
- b) Submitted a request for 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Office of Housing and Community Development (HUD) grants to purchase five brush trucks.

2 County Issues

- a) On July 15, 2022, the County's 50th recruit class with its State Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARF) partners yielded 14 county fire fighters and 7 state fire fighters. (Refer to the Hawaii County Fire Chief's report for more details.
- b) Wild fires claimed 19,000 acres of land within the DLNR jurisdiction.
- c) Fire Chiefs attended the Fire Rescue International Conference and Fire Service Executive Development Institute's Master class on August 23 to 26, 2022. Next week Wednesday, Mary Beth will be conducting a workshop on how to make decisions. Chair Todd encouraged attendance.
- d) The Sayre Foundation Awards dinner was held on September 3, 2022. The event recognizes and awards responders for their heroic acts and serves as a fundraiser for fire equipment. The purchase and delivery of a Airbus 825 aeromedical helicopter was the highlight of the year.
- e) Purchasing two drones—Matrix 30T for use during the Ironman Triathlon when fire fighters man the operations center and for search and rescue. Drones are also flown to locate hot spots in areas where people cannot go.

- f) The County is receiving a new truck for Station 15, North Kohala on Akoni Pule Highway in Kapaau.

3. Other Matters

- a) The administrative ratio to uniformed personnel staffing was previously small. Filling of clerk jobs and adding maintenance workers will bring Hawaii County up to par. Filled two of the 5 clerk positions; working on maintenance workers' packet.
- b) Three unfunded Fire Communications Officers positions are being created for temporary assignment (TA) purposes.
- c) For the HFCA (Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association) annual conference scheduled to be held on December 14 to 18, 2022, there are a total of 153 registered attendees and 45 exhibitor booths. The conference is seventy-five percent (75%) full.

- B. Maui Fire Department (18:00 on the recording; the following were highlighted at the meeting; refer to the Maui County Fire Chief's report for more details)

1. Grants

- a) A Federal Emergency Management Agency Federal Grant (FEMA AFG) was received, a 10% match, and was used to pay for compliant fire fighter physicals.
- b) A CDBG grant was used to purchase several vehicles, a Mini 7 and an Engine 7 for the Hana Fire Station; and a Mini 9 for the Ho'olehua Fire Station. The last two vehicles have not been delivered.
- c) Homeland Security Grant Program.
- d) A Department of Transportation (DOT FY 2022) grant was used to purchase a battery extrication tool and a multi-force dual airbags, and have been received and are in service.
- e) The County accepted an award from FEMA to reimburse the County for Kona Low Flooding.
- f) An application for the Community Roadside Chipping grant was submitted.

2. County Issues.

- a) Capital Improvement Project (CIP) monies were used to renovate bathrooms, an eight-month project, at the Wailuku and Kihei Fire Stations; renovations are complete.
- b) Nineteen vehicles are in the various acquisition process.

3. Other Matters.

- a) On December 1, 2022, the 38th recruit class expects 20 county fire fighters to graduate.
- b) A new National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) is being explored to possibly replace Fire Records Management Software (Fire RMS).
- c) Working on reorganizing and expanding the ocean safety component for better morale and continuity. Plans include adding positions and adding coverage for a new tower at Pu'u Keka'a (Black Rock). Once reorganization has been approved, recruitment to fill vacancies can begin.
- d) FFIII and FFI promotions in December 1, 2022. Reallocated one Captain for control and command capability.
- e) As of September 15, 2022, MFD has approximately 21 vacancies.

C. Vice Chair Sheldon (Kalani) Hao, Fire Chief, HFD (26:00 on the recording; the following were highlighted at the meeting; refer to the Honolulu Fire Chief's report for more details)

1. Grants.

- a) With the 2018 Homeland Security grant funds, HFD purchased \$683,000 in equipment, i.e., towable trailers, confined space equipment, structural collapse equipment, tactical emergency casualty care equipment, individual first aid kits, Cobalt Resolve detectors, and a breathing air compressor for Station 25. The Elevated Rail Rescue Plan includes the Standard Operating Guidelines is the development of a training plan—heavy rigging training and a Rescue Systems 3 training.
- b) With the 2019 Homeland Security grant funds purchased 307 ballistic protective equipment sets (vests, plates, helmets and bags).

- c) An award of \$54,250 from a Department of Transportation grant is pending. HFD will use funds to purchase steel, collapsible step cribbing for 35 companies who were issued hydraulic risk tools.
- d) Applied for \$1.2 million in congressionally earmarked funds which Senator Brian Schatz was instrumental in acquiring. Funds will be used to replace five station generators at an estimated cost of \$1.8 million.

2. County Issues

- a) Training. Recently completed the 5-year reoccurring training calendar that will be instituted this year to provide opportunities to fire personnel to retain their competence, especially on the fire suppression side where it would be impossible to do all the training in one year. The focus this year will be on single family residences. There will be a skill assessment to evaluate how well personnel retained what was taught.
- b) Apparatus. HFD initiated the process to procure a twin-engine rescue helicopter.
- c) Facilities. HFD is committed to the City's Energy Savings Performance contract and has started the installation of photovoltaic solar panels, roof coating, light retrofit, water conservation and water heater and transformer replacements for HFD's 49 facilities. It is anticipated that these upgrades will reduce energy consumption, improve fiscal responsibility, and have a positive impact on the environment.
- d) Budget. Current expense funding remains relatively flat. The FY 2024 budget request will include collective bargaining agreement increases.

3. Other Matters

a) Personnel matters:

- All Battalion Chief vacancies are filled. HFD is in the process of filling four Assistant Chief positions.
- There are 85 Fire Fighter Recruit (FFR) vacancies. On August 5, 2022, the 112th FFR class graduated 29 FFRs.
- The 113th FFR class which started in July 2022 is comprised of 40 FFR, and the 114th FFR class is comprised of 14 students commences in December 2022.

- b) The Fire Fighter's Safety Guide (FFSG) has been published and will be distributed to schools by October 5, 2022. A pdf copy of the FFSG was sent to each county for printing.
- c) The ambulance fatality is still under investigation. HFD did their own review and will be switching over to brass connections with oxygen tank.

III. SFC Quarterly Update (33:00 on the recording)

A. 2023 Proposed State Fire Council 2023 Legislative Bills

1. 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.
2. 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. Discuss strategies as this has been a perennial effort.
3. Amend [HRS §132D-3](#) **Permissible uses of consumer fireworks** to limit the use of consumer fireworks to cultural events from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. as allowed by permit pursuant to section [§132D-10](#).
4. 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](#).

AS Lum is open to other proposals.

Re-establishment of the State Fire Marshal office was open for discussion. Currently, State facilities are inspected by county fire inspectors who are not authorized to enforce the repair of any violations or broken alarms, etc. on State property. A State Fire Marshal can support fire prevention efforts and hire investigators to focus on enforcement of the code and have the ability to follow through to see that repairs are made in an effort to reduce the risk of fire hazards.

B. NFPA 1 2021 Ed. Amendments Update (46:00 on the recording)

The 2021 fire code was published in August 2020. AS Lum talked about the amendments to the NFPA 2021 fire Code. Theoretically, the national code is the default state code until adoption of the amendments. The State of Hawaii generally accepts the code at the State level. The counties are then tasked with

amending the state fire code within two years, i.e., permit fees, plan review fees. AS Lum explained that he had generated 120 amendments a year ago and counties were to amend codes according to their county's needs. It was suggested that the SFC simplify 20 most important codes for the counties to work on amending, and remove amendments that are not needed in the county.

The amendments no longer need legislative approval due to an amendment to the Hawaii Revised Statutes a few years ago. Amendments made at the county level that's been reviewed by county representatives will then go through a review by the State Building Code Council (SBCC) that is comprised of building officials and private industry representatives who vote to accept the proposed amendments.

The matter of code amendments was tabled to be discussed at the next SFC meeting when the SFC can get it to the SBCC with Chiefs attending or subject matter experts in attendance.

A motion was made by Member Ventura and seconded by Vice Chair Hao to table the matter of code amendments to be discussed at the next SFC meeting when the SFC can get it to the SBCC with Chiefs attending, or invite subject matter experts to attend meeting.

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

The motion was unanimously approved.

1. Amendment Request to allow Next Generation Refrigerants

Guests Andrew Klein, P.E., Fire Protection Engineer/Chemical Engineer, Klein Engineering, PLLC, and Stephen Spletzer, Principal Engineer and HVACR professional, Chemours discussed the need to update the building code to replace hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) with the next generation of refrigerants hydrofluoro-olefin (HFOs) categorized as refrigerants having zero ozone depletion potential. Klein and Spletzer have been lobbying each State to encourage updates to the code sooner so that new equipment can be utilized. There is no statewide mechanical code in the State of Hawaii. There are requirements for machine rooms in the Hawaii state fire code – refrigerant concentration limit (RCL) lowers flammability limits and toxicity. The industry is advocating the use of refrigerant concentration limit (RCL) instead of lower flammability limit (LFL) as a means of incorporating these refrigerant exposure measurements. The industry is in the process of transitioning to HFOs so they are asking that the building code be amended to update the threshold to the exposed temperature to incorporate new refrigerants.

Klein is recommending approval of 33.342 definition and Section 4 to basically change language to match up with the new refrigerants.

Chair Todd requested that Spletzer forward background information so that SFC Members can be more knowledgeable before deciding to adopt the amendment into NFPA code amendments.

A motion was made by Member Ventura and seconded by Vice Chair Hao to defer discussion on amendment on next generation of refrigerants until all members have had a chance to review materials on the subject.

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

The motion was unanimously approved.

AS Lum will also add Klein to the next Fire Prevention Committee meeting on NFPA 1 2021.

2. NFPA Report on Flammable Refrigerants

Honold reported that refrigerants are being addressed at the technical committee level; he currently does not have a lot of information on this matter.

IV. NFPA Updates (1:22:50 on the recording)

Gary Honold reported that the first-ever NFPA Responder Forum held in October was an event designed to expose the fire service to emerging technologies, research, and standards development, and included two days of panel discussions, presentations, and small-group meetings. Go to [NFPA.org](https://www.nfpa.org) "Responder Forum Resource Portal" to read articles and information as well as the National Fire Codes Subscription Service® (NFCSS). Papers on the following topics have been published as a result of the Forum: 1) recruitment and retention, 2) fire and ambulance off-load time, 3) emerging energy technologies, 4) support of national of cancer.

Honold also named the various web-based, online training topics being offered by NFPA.

NFPA is half way through the Emergency Response and Responder Safety Consolidation Project." Go to: "NFPA.org errs" to see latest updates.

V. New Business (1:03:10 on the recording)

A. HVAC Systems Safety Presentation

Rick Paulino, President/Business Representative, Sheet Metal Air Rail Transportation Workers, Local Union 293 presented a PowerPoint presentation and show a mockup demonstration for the smoke/fire dampers. Please see his presentation handouts.

VII. Next Quarterly Meeting

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

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.



KAZUO TODD
Chair