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## STATE FIRE COUNCIL (SFC) FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2023-2024 SECOND QUARTER MEETING MINUTES

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

Place: Meeting held in person 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
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
Martinez Jacobs	SFC Member and Airports Fire Chief Airports Division, Transportation Department (ARFF) State of Hawaii
Michael Walker	Fire Protection Forester Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) State of Hawaii
Adam Rosenberg	Deputy Attorney General (AG) Department of the Attorney General, State of Hawaii

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Gary Lum	SFC Administrative Specialist III
Socrates Bratakos	SFC Administrative Specialist II
Carol Suzuki	SFC Secretary

Guests:

Gary Honold	Regional Director, Northwest Division National Fire Protection Association
Ryan Yamane	Deputy Director Department of Human Resources Development State of Hawaii
Kraig Stevenson	Senior Regional Manager Government Relations International Code Council (ICC)
Gary West	National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM)
Carl Fippinger	Vice President Fire and Disaster Mitigation International Code Council (ICC)

I. Introduction

- A. Chair Todd called the meeting to order at 1:04 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 2024 First Quarter Meeting Minutes of August 31, 2023.  
  
Vice Chair Hao made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Member Gibson seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.
- D. Approval of the Agenda

Member Ventura made a motion to approve the agenda as written, and Vice Chair Hao seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

## II. Old Business

- A. Discussion on State fire code amendments and governor's second proclamation relating to housing. To recap, the SFC had voted to adopt and accept amendments to the NFPA 1 2021 code, which are still pending adoption by the SBCC. Due to the Governor's emergency proclamation relating to housing that froze code adoption by the SBCC, NFPA 1 2021 edition is the default state fire code.

The Governor's second proclamation is unchanged from the first version regarding code adoption restrictions. County fire prevention bureaus have started work on making amendments to the approved NFPA 1 2021 code. Ryan Yamane suggested that each county send any amendments to their counties' corporation counsel for review.

- B. Smoke Damper Certification Program

It was decided to continue the smoke damper topic on the agenda until the next meeting to allow for more time to further explore the feasibility of adding the smoke damper inspection certification program to the certificate of fitness program for licensure of duct/smoke damper inspections, based on demand and need for this service.

- C. Review and Discuss Amended SFC Bylaws Draft and Vote to Adopt

At the SFC FY 2024 First Quarter meeting, AG Moriyama asked if the amended bylaws were made publicly available six days prior to the meeting. The amended bylaws were posted via a hyperlink from the meeting agenda which was later determined to satisfy the requirements for public notice according to §92-7.5.

Member Ventura made the motion and Vice Chair Hao seconded the motion.

Motion: To adopt amended by-laws that adds two new SFC members, namely, State ARFF and DOFAW agencies, and provide updated language.

A vote was taken and all six SFC members were in favor of adopting the amended by-laws.

## III. New Business

- A. Proposed 2024 Legislative Bills

The following three proposed bills from the 2023 legislative session are being reintroduced.

1. Expand Use of RIPC Special Funds.

To allow expenditure of funds on programs that facilitate fulfillment of functions of the State Fire Council as described in HRS §132-16.

2. Repeal Act 53 2017 Legislature.

To repeal the prohibition on counties from requiring automatic fire sprinkler installation for new one- and two-family dwellings as the national model building code specifies.

The SFC may have more support on this proposal due to recent events.

3. Limit the Use of Consumer Fireworks

Allows consumer fireworks permits for cultural events only from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. pursuant to HRS §132D-10.

This proposal may receive less opposition than in prior legislative sessions due to recent events.

4. Expand Presumptive Cancer Coverage

Proposes to add language to additionally cover cancers that may affect female fire fighters.

The SFC has no other proposals.

B. SFC Proposals 2024 to Governor Green

Admin Specialist Lum delivered the SFC's proposal for a State Fire Marshal to the Governor's office. Ryan Yamane has been assigned to research reestablishment of the Fire Marshal's office. He said the proposed bill recommends establishment of a State Fire Marshal to be nominated and selected by the Governor and established under DLIR, where the current SFC resides. A full-time Administrative Specialist IV will be requested to assist the Fire Marshal. Mr. Yamane shared the following proposed duties for the State Fire Marshal:

1. Shall develop fire risk assessment and strategic plan for the State of Hawaii.
2. Develop amendments to a national model fire code and adopt them every three years.

3. Develop a plan to enforce fire code inspection and compliance on State properties and facilities.
4. Develop a plan to establish an emergency resource supply chain for airborne assets to support counties during wildfires.
5. Develop a public fire safety message campaign.
6. Generate an annual report.

The administration will additionally request \$100K funds for establishment of an office to cover rent, office supplies and equipment, and training.

Mr. Yamane has briefed the budget and finance department, and the director and deputy of the DLIR on the proposed bill.

Mr. Gary West stated that NASFM is supportive of Hawaii's efforts to establish a State Fire Marshal.

C. SFC Administrative Issues

No items were discussed.

IV. Next Quarterly Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 1:00 p.m., subject to confirmation.

V. Adjournment

A motion was made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:40 p.m.



KAZUO TODD  
Chair