

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA  
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
[www.labor.hawaii.gov](http://www.labor.hawaii.gov)

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

Date and Time: June 27, 2024, 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
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
Gary Lum	SFC Administrative Specialist III (AS)

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Socrates Bratakos SFC Administrative Specialist II

Michael O’Sullivan Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) Administrator

Carol Suzuki SFC Secretary

Absent: Sheldon Hao SFC Vice Chair and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)  
City and County of Honolulu

Guests:

Gary Honold Regional Director, Northwest Division  
National Fire Protection Association

Dr. Libby Char Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation Program  
Department of Education, State of Hawaii

Annie Kalama Assistant Superintendent, Office of Student Support Services,  
Department of Education, State of Hawaii

Michael Casey School Health Section  
Department of Education, State of Hawaii

K. Johnson joined in around 1:40 p.m. and left at about 2:30 p.m.

I. Introduction

A. Call to Order at 1:05 p.m.

B. Introduction of Attendees

Public comment received from Cody Walden of Kohala Ranch on the topic of wildfire prevention. His letter was read aloud at the meeting regarding wildfires and support for the Hawaii County fire department. The letter is on file with the SFC.

C. Approval of the SFC FY 2024 2nd Quarter Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2023. All members voted in favor of accepting the minutes as written.

D. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of SB 3068 added under new business as item D.3. SB 3068 proposes to provide funding for Maui's recovery. Member Walker motioned to approve the agenda with the additional topic, the motion was seconded by Member Jacobs; all members present unanimously approved the agenda.

II. Old Business

A. Governor's [proclamation relating to housing](#)

The Governor's emergency proclamation relating to housing suspends the ability of the SBCC to amend or update the state building codes.

The seventh emergency proclamation appears will expire on August 17, 2024, and the SBCC have not adopted or amended any codes to the SFC's knowledge. Counties have been actively working on amendments to the NFPA Fire Code 2021 and are wondering when they can move forward to adopt them.

After much discussion, it was decided to table the matter in the SFC and for fire departments to work at their county level with their Corporation Counsels to amend the code, if their Corporation Counsel gives them the green light to do so.

B. 2024 Legislative Session

1. [House Bill \(HB\) 1886](#) - Failed

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

It was suggested that the SFC and AG Rosenberg draft a new bill to submit to the legislature, and/or submit legislation as part of the DLIR package.

2. [HB1887](#) - Failed

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.

3. [HB1888](#) - Failed

Allows consumer fireworks permits for cultural events only.

4. [HB1889](#) – Transmitted to the Governor

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

Governor is scheduled to sign the bill on June 27, 2024, Act 101,  
Gov. Msg. No. 1202.

5. [HB1842](#) – Transmitted to the Governor

Increases the maximum fine for violations of the fire protection laws.

Bill is scheduled to be signed on July 8, 2024.

6. [HB2193](#) – Transmitted to the Governor

Authorizes law enforcement and fire officers to enter and inspect any licensee's or permittee's premises, under certain conditions, to verify compliance with the State's Fireworks Control Law.

Bill is scheduled to be signed on July 8, 2024.

7. [House Concurrent Resolution 4](#) – Adopted in final form

Requests the current members of the Northwest Wildland Fire Protection agreement to amend the agreement to allow Hawaii to join as a member.

Member Walker reported that Hawaii was voted in as a new member of the Northwest Wildland Fire Protection organization. The resolution allows the State of Hawaii to send personnel to the mainland to help fight fires. Each state has their own standards. Walker will be tracking the types of call outs being experienced. Alaska has been the most active in calling for help.

8. [Senate Bill \(SB\) 2284](#) – Transmitted to the Governor

Establishes a two-year program at the University of Hawaii to develop a wildfire forecast system for the State using artificial intelligence.

Member Jacobs reported that the University of Hawaii's Engineering Department solicited this bill. There are systems in place, and this bill allows for further study wildfire forecasting.

9. [SB2085](#) – Transmitted to the Governor

Establishes the Office of the State Fire Marshal within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to be headed by a State Fire Marshal. Exempts the State Fire Marshal from Civil Service Law. Requires the SFC to establish the terms of employment for the State Fire Marshal and appoint the State Fire Marshal to serve for a term of five years. Requires the SFC to report to the Legislature.

The Governor is scheduled to sign this bill on July 8, 2024. Funding amount was reduced to \$160K for one full time assistant and one administrator. AS Lum will discuss the job description and the recruitment process with DLIR's human resources.

C. The following bills failed to advance:

1. [HB1530](#)

Requires that an employer of firefighters maintains its fire staffing service at a level of not less than four on-duty firefighters in each company.

2. [HB1564](#)

Establishes a statewide firefighting helicopter program, to be administered by the State Fire Marshal.

3. [HB1720](#)

Provides cancer screening for full-time state firefighters every three years to cover twelve types of cancer.

4. [HB1841](#)

Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resource (DLNR) for operating expenses, equipment, the establishment of positions, and capital improvement projects to support wildfire emergency response.

5. [SB786](#)

Requires government entities to seek reimbursement for all or a portion of search or rescue expenses for persons who require rescue after leaving a hiking

trail to enter an area closed to the public or hiking on a trail closed to the public, and there is a sign giving notice of the closure.

6. [SB2143](#)

Appropriates funds to the Wildfire Management Branch of the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife to provide nonprofit organizations with grants for wildfire preparedness and mitigation programming.

Member Walker explained that this bill provides flexibility of spending funds, e.g., building fences.

III. New Business

A. Department of Education Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation program – Elizabeth Char, M.D.

Dr. Char, emergency physician, introduced Annie Kalama and Michael Casey from the School Health Section of the Department of Education (DOE). The Department of Education has embarked on a significant project—to have each student earn a CPR certification before they graduate from high school. Thirty-nine states in the District of Columbia have legislation mandating that students be CPR trained before graduation so DOE would like to proactively train students instead of waiting to be mandated to do so.

The pilot project first increment includes teaching 10<sup>th</sup> grade high school students at Mililani and Waialua on Oahu. The next increment of the project includes Waipahu and Kalani High Schools on Oahu, Waiakea in Hilo, Waimea on Kauai, Maui High School, and Molokai. Dr. Char came to request support for this DOE program by providing about 45 minutes of time to assist in the classroom to teach CPR. Because help is limited, they are only teaching “common sense” CPR, which includes teaching students how to use AED’s and compression. When teaching 30 students at once, it would be practical to have assistants.

To assist in teaching the students, you don’t have to be certified to teach. At the end of the session, students are awarded CPR curriculum cards which indicate that they have successfully completed the course. It is hoped that employers will accept DOE CPR cards to move away from certification.

Ms. Kalama added that any assistance received would be supplemental resources. All hands-on deck is needed to teach 20K students each year—57 high schools

statewide. Nurses, coaches, Hawaii Heart Foundation (Pam Foster contractor) have agreed to help teach. DOE is working on creating a network of assistance to draw on resources in order to reach its goal to cover the entire state. Encouraging kids to take the training home with them as 75% of all arrests happens at homes. It was emphasized that bystander CPR improves survival rates. Goal is to boost survival rates by witness bystanders.

This is an informal request for support. The pilot program is for one year, Dr. Char's contract period. DOE would like program to be sustainable so health academy students as juniors and seniors can teach 9th and 10<sup>th</sup> graders, down to grade school students, making it part of the DOE curriculum. Dr. Char is working on laying the ground work and frame with the intent to expand in the future. Health class curriculum involves fire, EMS, health aides, teachers, non-profits, etc. Partners are crucial for the program to succeed as DOE cannot effectively run program by themselves. Additionally, the students love having uniformed personnel in their schools.

Chief Todd said he'd support the program. It was suggested that DOE work through their county fire department's training staff in each county. DOE's goal is to schedule classes in the fall with advance notice.

B. NFPA update – Gary Honold

Mr. Honold is encouraging participation in sitting on an NFPA technical committee. NFPA will pay for 80% of the participation cost under their "enforcer program." The committee's scope includes battery creation, manufacturing, storage, installation,

use and maintenance, worker safety, and for responders—how to deal with the end of life of the battery. He asks that anyone in the fire departments who would like to be on a committee, to let him know

A battery's life cycle is the key to safety. Lithium batteries are now sodium ion batteries. NFPA's goal is to get manufacturers to be safer. Currently, batteries go unregulated, and a majority of batteries are manufactured in foreign countries. Having standards on battery life cycle will make battery use safer.

October 6 to 12, 2024 is fire prevention week. The Fire Prevention Week theme is, "Smoke alarms, make them work for you." Data still shows that a majority of fires in the home is in the presence of a non-working smoke alarm.

The NFPA fire marshal forum will be held on November 12 to 14, 2024 in Quincy, Massachusetts. Honold suggested that SFC Chair attend or delegate someone to attend. NFPA will pay for airfare, meals, hotel and a day and a half of training. Hopefully 50 states are in attendance. Member Jacobs volunteered to attend.

Dates have not been set for the State review of NFPA 1 fire code 2024 to generate amendments. Per Statute, counties have 14 months to draft and adopt amendments to the fire code, or the State code defaults to National model code. Publication was October 2, 2023, so the deadline is October 2, 2025. Honold provides post adoption training for which he is willing to conduct on island.

Since 2021 county level representatives of the SFC Fire Prevention Committee have not met due to pandemic concerns. Honold can arrange and provide assistance at meetings to help guide Committee through the process. NFPA can help review the amendments.

Motion: To re-establish fire prevention committee. Jacobs made the motion and Gibson seconded the motion. Members voted and the motion was carried. Each county to assign one or two people to serve on the committee to work on the 2024 amendments. AS Lum will coordinate first virtual meeting.

C. Proposed [State Fire Marshal](#)

1. Status of proposed State Fire Marshal

SFC is working on creating the position and establishing an organization plan of duties and responsibilities. Chair Todd asked to be kept informed of the progress.

2. Report to legislature due November 2024

D. 2024 legislation affecting SFC members

1. [Senate Resolution \(SR\) 34, Senate Draft \(SD\) 1](#)

Requesting the Department of Accounting and General Services to establish a working group to plan and construct a Hawaii first responders memorial.

Someone from your fire departments was probably asked to provide input.

2. [SR 70, SD1](#)

Requesting the Department of Law Enforcement to convene a search and rescue working group to develop and make recommendations to deter hikers from entering illegal hiking trails and to address rising search and rescue costs facing the state and counties due to increased illegal hiking traffic.

Maui does not charge for rescues from hiking trails.

Kauai charges and collects for rescues as dispatchers ask and hikers admit to them that they acted irresponsibly and called to be rescued.

3. [SB 3068](#).

SB 3068, SD1, HD1, CD2 was returned from the Governor without approval (Gov Msg. No. 1364). Bill appropriates funds to support the State's response to wildfires. Member Walker will be speaking with legislators to gain support of the bill. Chair Todd to support the bill.

IV. Next Quarterly Meeting

The first quarterly meeting for fiscal year 2025 is scheduled for August 12, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. Members may arrive early to discuss non-SFC fire department matters.

The second quarterly meeting for fiscal year 2025 is scheduled for Oct. 3, 2024 for Fire Prevention Week proclamation signing at the Governor's office.

V. Adjournment

A motion was made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m.



KAZUO TODD  
Chair