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STATE FIRE COUNCIL (SFC) SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)
Third Floor Conference Room
636 South Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 25, 2025
8:00 a.m.

This meeting will be held in person and via audioconferencing pursuant to HRS § 92-3.7, Remote meeting by interactive conference technology; notice; quorum Effective: January 1, 2022. You may join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone at <https://cchnl.webex.com/cchnl/j.php?MTID=ma5b61001b08de0bf7c1427a50cdcb99b>

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because neither audiovisual communication nor audio communication can be re-established within thirty (30) minutes, the public hearing will be automatically terminated, unless stated otherwise during the public hearing. If the connection cannot be restored within 30 minutes, the hearing will be terminated.

TESTIMONY

Persons may submit oral testimony remotely by joining the meeting in person or via Webex as indicated above. Oral testimony will be taken during the agenda's Public Comments or as an agenda item begins. Written testimony may be submitted to the SFC by email to glum@honolulu.gov, sbratakos@honolulu.gov or csuzuki@honolulu.gov; or by postal mail or hand delivery to:

State Fire Council
c/o Honolulu Fire Department
636 South Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5007

- I. Introduction
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Introduction of Attendees and Public Comments
 - C. Approval of Agenda
- II. Old Business
 - A. Statewide Fireworks database project by Department of Law Enforcement. Honolulu Fire Prevention Bureau Battalion Chief Hwang will provide an update on the project.
 - B. State Fire Marshal (SFM) appointment. The board anticipates going into executive session to discuss this item based on section 92-5(a)(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes, which allows a board to hold an executive session "[t]o consider the hire, evaluation, dismissal, or discipline of an officer or employee or of charges brought against the officer or employee, where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved; provided that if the individual concerned requests an open meeting, an open meeting shall be held[.]"
 - 1. Decision on potential acceptance of the report by the Permitted Interaction Group that was formed at the SFC Special Meeting on February 3, 2025; to continue with the appointment process for the SFM position and further screening of SFM applicants.
 - 2. Report from the Permitted Interaction Group that was formed at the SFC 3rd Quarter Meeting on January 27, 2025, on procedures on the hiring process for the SFM, including practices from other jurisdictions and interview questions.
 - C. SFC may discuss and adopt the general positions and policy direction on fire-related legislative topics, subject matters and measures, including the bills in II.D. or other fire related bills, the State Fire Marshal, fire safety, the state fire and building codes, fireworks, firefighters, and the county fire departments.
 - D. Discussion of current status of fire related bills and future steps to be taken on the bills:
 - 1. House Bill (HB) 1, amends responsibilities of the State Building Code Council. HSG decision making 2-5, 9AM. **Deferred by the House Committee on Housing (HSG) on Feb 5.**
 - 2. HB 55, converts certain fireworks-related offenses from misdemeanors to class C felonies. **No hearing scheduled.**
 - 3. HB 83, increases penalties for certain firework violations and establishes higher penalties for any subsequent violation. **No hearing scheduled.**
 - 4. HB 113, requires certain owners and occupants of properties located in hazardous fire areas to maintain effective firebreaks within thirty feet of the property and to practice other fire prevention activities. **SFC supports but believes enforcement will**

- be problematic; referred to the House Committee on Finance (FIN) on February 3.
5. HB 187, increases fines that may be assessed against certain fireworks-related violation. **No hearing scheduled.**
 6. HB 200, imposes a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for use at cultural events. **No hearing scheduled.**
 7. HB 201, supplements salary of the State Fire Marshal. Passed 2nd reading, referred to PBS. **SFC supports, referred to the House Committee on Public Safety (PBS) on January 30.**
 8. HB 361, requires the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to: (1) Adopt the National Incident Management System as the standard for all incident management and emergency response operations; (2) Complete an after-action review for all significant emergency incidents or exercises; (3) Develop and manage position task books; (4) require the use of standardized Incident Command System forms; (5) Maintain accreditation through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program; and (6) Define specific roles and responsibilities for all Incident Command System and emergency operations center positions. Expands training and education qualifications and responsibilities for the Administrator of Emergency Management and county-level administrators or directors of emergency management. Amends the contents of the state comprehensive emergency management plan. **No hearing scheduled.**
 9. HB 367, allows for building permit exemptions for certain kinds of activities. **SFC concerned with potential abuse, referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs (JHA) on February 14.**
 10. HB 415, amends the sunset date of Act 83, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, to repeal section 46-19.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, on June 29, 2025. **Deferred by HSG on February 5.**
 11. HB 608, Establishes the shipping container inspection program and shipping container inspection program special fund. Amends the definitions of "aerial devices" and "fireworks" within state fireworks law. **No hearing scheduled.**
 12. HB 627, appropriates funds to the Department of Education for positions to implement and maintain school safety measures. **SFC supports, scheduled to be heard in the FIN committee on February 20.**
 13. HB 745, beginning 1/1/2028, makes the most recent Hawaii state building codes adopted by the state building code council supersede all existing county building codes and thereafter allows counties to remove requirements of the state building codes or add requirements to the state building codes only with prior council approval. Repeals the counties' authority to adopt, amend, and update the Hawaii state building codes for their respective county building codes. **Referred to the FIN committee on February 14.**
 14. HB 806, appropriates funds for the Honolulu Police Department and Department of Law Enforcement to conduct sting operations on Oahu to enforce fireworks

- ordinances or laws. Authorizes a court to order the forfeiture of one-half of any pension of an Employees' Retirement System member, former member, or retirant upon conviction of the individual for a felony related to certain uses of prohibited fireworks. **Referred to the FIN committee on February 14.**
15. HB 827, expands workers' compensation medical benefits for firefighters to include coverage for adenocarcinoma or mesothelioma of the respiratory system; cancer of the buccal cavity, colon, pharynx, and thyroid; and malignant melanoma. Specifies that an employer may prove that the cancer or disease was not associated with the firefighting duties to deny medical benefits under workers' compensation law. **Referred to the FIN committee on February 12.**
 16. HB 1064, amends the laws concerning the Office of the State Fire Marshal to best effectuate the recommendations of the "Phase 3" Forward-Looking Report by Fire Safety Research Institute on the August 2023 Maui wildfires. **SFC supports, referred to the FIN committee on February 14.**
 17. HB 1280, requires the State Fire Marshal to convene an electric vehicle fires working group to examine the impact of electric vehicle fires in residential, commercial, and business properties that have confined parking structures. **No hearing scheduled.**
 18. HB 1483, establishes an adjudication system and procedures to process fireworks infractions. Amends multiple definitions and penalties for fireworks offenses, including heightened penalties if another person suffers substantial bodily injury, serious bodily injury, or death as a result of the fireworks offenses. Establishes various criminal offenses and penalties related to fireworks or articles pyrotechnics. Appropriates funds. **SFC supports, referred to the FIN committee on February 14.**
 19. Senate Bill (SB) 11, requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to create and annually update a wildfire hazard map. **SFC oppose, referred to the WAM/JDC committees on February 14.**
 20. SB 17, establishes the Wildfire Mitigation Working Group. Requires a report to the Legislature. **No hearing scheduled.**
 21. SB 43, requires the State Building Code Council to assess the financial impact of the adoption of a code or standard on single-family and multi-family home. **No hearing scheduled.**
 22. SB 130, 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. **SFC opposes, referred to the joint Senate committees on the Judiciary and the Ways and Means (JDC/WAM) on February 6.**
 23. SB 223, requires certain owners and occupants of properties located in hazardous fire areas to maintain effective firebreaks within thirty feet of the property and to practice other fire prevention activities. **SFC supports but believes enforcement will be problematic, referred with amendments to the JDC/WAM committees on February 12.**
 24. SB 302, amends the definition of "cultural". Prohibits the use of consumer fireworks

- except for cultural use by permit. Repeals the wording of section 132D-3(1), HRS, that generally allows the use of consumer fireworks without a permit on New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, and the Fourth of July. **SFC supports, referred with amendments to the JDC committee on February 12.**
25. SB 303, amends the sunset date of Act 83, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, to repeal section 46-19.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, on June 29, 2025. **No hearing scheduled.**
 26. SB 376, establishes a refundable income tax credit for taxpayers who construct or install improvements to their residence that increase the residence's fire safety rating as calculated by the taxpayer's homeowner's insurance policy. **SFC supports, referred to the WAM committee on February 14.**
 27. SB 436, provides that no person shall serve as State Fire Marshal for more than 3 terms. **WAM committee decision making on February 14.**
 28. SB 476, increases fines that may be assessed against certain fireworks-related violations. **Deferred by the senate committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs (PSM) on February 5.**
 29. SB 508, establishes the hike safe card program and search and rescue special fund to be administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Requires government entities to seek reimbursement for all or a portion of search or rescue expenses when the person or entity knowingly enters state, county, or private property, knowingly enters a hiking trail that is closed to the public, or violates applicable laws, provided that the closure is posted by sign, barricade, or other device that gives reasonable notice of the closure. Exempts persons who possess a hike safe card from search and rescue cost reimbursement, under certain conditions. Requires counties and the State Fire Council to adopt ordinances or rules as necessary to pursue reimbursements. **No hearing scheduled.**
 30. SB 512, requires the State Fire Marshal to establish a Statewide Firefighting Helicopter Program. Appropriates funds for the State Fire Marshal to obtain helicopters, facilities equipment, drones, and supplies; hire and train staff; and do other things necessary to ensure that the Program is ready to begin providing aerial firefighting services on 7/1/2026. **No hearing scheduled.**
 31. SB 514, establishes the Hawaii Wildfire Relief Fund and Hawaii Wildfire Relief Fund Corporation within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. **No hearing scheduled.**
 32. SB 554, requires claims of post-traumatic stress disorder suffered by first responders to be compensable under workers' compensation under certain conditions if the post-traumatic stress disorder resulted from the first responder acting within the course and scope of the first responder's employment. **No hearing scheduled.**
 33. SB 555, creates a presumption for workers' compensation purposes that diseases of the heart in firefighters and law enforcement officers were proximately caused by and resulted from the nature of the person's employment if certain conditions are met. Exempts injuries caused by disease of the heart from certain time limitations applicable to workers' compensation claims. Establishes a process for regular physical examinations of firefighters and law enforcement officers to reduce heart

- disease risks. **No hearing scheduled.**
34. SB 611, prohibits the sale, importation, personal use, and commercial use of all fireworks, except consumer fireworks. Removes permitting requirements for consumer fireworks. **No hearing scheduled.**
 35. SB 649, requires the Department of Transportation to inspect personal aircraft that enter the State and land at state airports for the purpose of preventing the unauthorized transportation of fireworks and article pyrotechnic into the State. Requires the Department to coordinate with an appropriate law enforcement agency or county fire department to dispose of prohibited fireworks and articles pyrotechnic. **No hearing scheduled.**
 36. SB 871, designates mandatory minimum periods of imprisonment for individuals with previous arson convictions. Requires additional penalties for arson crimes that endanger vulnerable areas. Requires restitution for victims of arson who experienced property damage. **SFC supports, the JDC committee will hold public decision making on February 21.**
 37. SB 999, repeals all permissible uses of consumer fireworks and makes conforming amendments to the Fireworks Control Law. Establishes civil penalties for the use and sale of consumer fireworks, including nuisance abatement proceedings and forfeiture of assets used in the commission of the illegal use or sale of consumer fireworks. Establishes the Firework Forfeiture Special Fund to deposit asset forfeiture proceeds and to provide for community safety education programs. **SFC supports, referred with amendments to the JDC/WAM committees on February 14.**
 38. SB 1102, establishes that the Chief of the State Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Unit of the Airports Division of the Department of Transportation shall serve not more than three terms of four years each. **SFC opposes, referred with amendments to the JDC committee on February 12.**
 39. SB 1110, companion bill to HB 361. **No hearing scheduled.**
 40. SB 1177, establishes within the Office of the State Fire Marshal the Office of the State Search and Rescue Coordinator. Provides for the authority and duties of the State Search and Rescue Coordinator. Establishes the search and rescue special fund. Appropriates moneys. **No hearing scheduled.**
 41. SB 1234, amends multiple definitions and penalties for fireworks offenses, including heightened penalties if another person suffers substantial bodily injury, serious bodily injury, or death as a result of the fireworks offenses; establishes criminal offenses of general fireworks or articles pyrotechnic prohibitions in the first and second degree; sending or receiving fireworks or articles pyrotechnic by air delivery; distributing fireworks or articles pyrotechnic to non-permit holder; removal or extraction of pyrotechnic contents; consumer fireworks prohibitions; refusal to provide identification; and violating requirements of carrier; establishes an adjudication system and procedures to process fireworks infractions; and makes an appropriation. **SFC supports, passed with amendments by the WAM committee on February 18.**
 42. SB 1383, companion bill to HB 1064, move SFM to DoD. **SFC supports, referred with amendments to the WAM/JDC committees on February 7.**

E. SFC may discuss and decide whether, and to whom, it will delegate or redelegate the authority to track legislative measures, draft testimony, and discuss and address legislative matters.

III. Discussion of SFC Fourth Quarter Meeting including scheduling and topics.

IV. Adjournment

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, please contact SFC at 808-723-7169 or 808-723-7176 (voice), the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations at 808-586-8847 (TTY), or 1-888-569-6859 (TTY neighbor islands) or email to glum@honolulu.gov or sbratakos@honolulu.gov as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled. Upon request, this notice is available in alternate/accessible formats.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialists Gary Lum (glum@honolulu.gov) at (808) 723-7169 or Socrates Bratakos (sbratakos@honolulu.gov) at (808) 723-7176.