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STATE FIRE COUNCIL (SFC)
FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018-2019 THIRD QUARTER MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: March 7, 2019

Time of Meeting: 9:30 a.m.

Place of Meeting: Hawaii County Fire Department (HCFD)
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Present:

Manuel P. Neves	SFC Chair Fire Chief, Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)
David Thyne	SFC Member Fire Chief, Department of Fire and Public Safety, County of Maui (MFD)
Darren Rosario	SFC Member Fire Chief, HCFD
Kilipaki Vaughan	Deputy Fire Chief, Kauai Fire Department (KFD)
Robert Perreira	Assistant Fire Chief, HCFD
Lloyd Rogers	SFC Administrative Specialist
Adam Rosenberg	Deputy Attorney General State of Hawaii (State), Department of the Attorney General (DAG)

Gary Honold Regional Director
 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

I. Introduction

- A. Chair Neves called the meeting to order at 9:44 a.m.
- B. Chair Neves welcomed everyone, and the introduction of attendees followed.
- C. Approval of the SFC FY 2018-2019 Second Quarter Meeting Minutes

Motion: Member Rosario motioned to approve the SFC FY 2018-2019 Second Quarter Meeting Minutes. Member Thyne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Record of Votes: Chair Neves - Aye
 Member Rosario - Aye
 Member Thyne - Aye

D. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Member Rosario motioned to approve the agenda. Member Thyne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Record of Votes: Chair Neves - Aye
 Member Rosario - Aye
 Member Thyne - Aye

II. Unfinished Business and General Orders

A. SFC County/State Issues

1. Report of Member Rosario

a. Grants

- (1) The HCFD was awarded an FY18 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) which will be used to purchase a \$270,000 wildland brush truck for Paradise Park.
- (2) An FY19 CDBG grant that would have been used to purchase a fire ambulance for the Puna District was not approved.

- (3) The HCFD is awaiting notification for an FY19 Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) which will be used to purchase automatic compression devices and an FY19 AFG Fire Prevention and Safety Grant which will be used to expand smoke alarm installations.
- (4) The HCFD was awarded a matching \$50,000 U.S Department of Agriculture Wildland Grant which will be used for equipment and training.

b. County Issues

- (1) The HCFD's FY20 budget was returned to the department as status quo. The current county shortfall is \$19 million.
- (2) The opening of an advanced life support unit for the Puna district is scheduled on March 1, 2020, with a \$1.5 million appropriation. Continued funding is pending the passage of the Governor's legislative package.

c. Other Matters

- (1) The HCFD currently has 33 fire operations and 6 support services vacancies.
- (2) Four Fire Captains, one Fire Equipment Operator, and two Emergency Medical Specialist IIs are anticipated to retire by December 2019.
- (3) The 46th Fire Fighter Recruit Class (FFR) is projected to graduate in May 2019 with 19 personnel, and 17 personnel are slated to begin recruit training on April 1, 2019.

2. Report of Member Thyne

a. Grants

- (1) An FY15 AFG grant in the amount of \$518,607 that was used to purchase 75 self-contained breathing apparatuses and 150 air tanks and a Department of Transportation grant in the amount of \$17,344 for Rescue 42's vehicle stabilization equipment is pending closure.

- (2) Current grants include \$40,000 from the National Development Research Institute for a peer fitness program and equipment; an FY18 AFG grant in the amount of \$108,000 to purchase rapid intervention team training packs; a Hawaii Tourism Authority grant in the amount of \$125,000 to purchase three rescue watercrafts and three all-terrain vehicles; an FY15 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) grant in the amount of \$125,928 to purchase various all-hazards incident management team (AHIMT) training; and an FY16 State Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$70,830 to purchase AHIMT training and vapor protection ensembles.

b. County Issues

Member Thyne reported the current status of the MFD's salaries, wages, operating expenses, and capital improvements. A tracking tool was used to show budget balance percentages to learn if spending allowances were exceeded or not.

c. Other Matters

- (1) Currently, the MFD has 18 vacancies, including one Battalion Chief (BC), three Captains, one Fire Fighter (FF) IV, two FF IIs, six FF Is, and four in Ocean Safety.
- (2) For FY19, one Building Maintenance Repairer position was filled and one Fire Equipment Mechanic is pending.
- (3) Promotional interviews are being planned in March and April 2019 for BC, FF IIs, and Ocean Safety.

3. Report of Chief Vaughan

a. Grants

- (1) The KFD's FY18 AFG grant was approved for a minirescue pumper for the Haena-Wainiha area along with vehicle extrication, airbags, and cribbing equipment.
- (2) The KFD's FY19 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant will add 12 FFs for a second rescue company at the Hanalei Fire Station.

- (3) The KFD submitted an FY19 HSGP grant application which requested a training facility and ballistic vests.

b. County Issues

- (1) Fire Chief Robert Westerman retired on December 31, 2019, after serving 13 years as the KFD's Fire Chief. The new Fire Chief selection is in progress.
- (2) There were ten retirements in 2018 and four are anticipated in 2019.
- (3) There were promotions for one Assistant Chief, seven Captains, eight FF IIIs, and five FF IIs.
- (4) The KFD's budget is status quo with a request for minimum level line items.
- (5) The American Medical Response added two medic units based in Lihue.
- (6) The Ocean Safety staffs 11 lifeguard towers with 53 personnel. For FY19, three new positions were added for a Wanini roving patrol. Future towers are planned for Wanini and Kalapaki. A modified schedule was implemented utilizing four ten-hour days.
- (7) The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness, and the KFD held training classes for Kilauea and Haena with an upcoming annual CERT refresher in May.
- (8) Opportunities for professional development for the KFD's executive staff included attendance in the Administration of Public Assistance for Community Recovery, Fire-Rescue International, Certified Labor Relations, and the Fire Service Executive College Station.

Motion: Member Rosario motioned to recess the meeting at 11:30 a.m. The motion passed.

Record of Votes: Chair Neves - Aye
Member Rosario - Aye
Member Thyne - Aye

The meeting reconvened at 12:56 p.m.

1. Report of Chair Neves

a. Grants

Chair Neves reviewed the information contained in the HFD Grant report that was distributed to SFC members.

b. County Issues

- (1) The HFD had 57 retirements in 2018, and there are currently 80 vacancies.
- (2) Three BCs and 16 FF IIIs were promoted, and there will be approximately 50 more promotions.
- (3) The current FFR class started with 28 candidates and is now at 19. They must successfully complete five certification levels. The HFD and the University of Hawaii (UH) initiated a process that would allow students who complete the five certifications from the UH and pass the HFD written and agility entrance exams to become eligible for a FFR training class for approximately four months instead of the regular eight months.
- (4) The Candidate Physical Ability Test for FF candidates was costing \$1,500 per person. The HFD converted to another ability test that resulted in a 30% failure rate.
- (5) Training was completed for Chief Officers and Captains on active shooter incidents and the Blue Card Command (BCC) using the online TargetSolutions program. The BCC required 180 policy and procedure revisions which were incorporated into an HFD command.
- (6) Training commenced on Low-Angle Rope Rescue Operations, a certified course developed by the California State Fire Marshal's office, to learn techniques and methods for using rope, webbing, hardware friction devices, and litters in low-angle rescue situations.
- (7) The HFD will begin training on hose-handling techniques, as it initiates the use of the 1¾-inch initial fire fighting hose line. Training also

includes maneuvering a 2½-inch hose line for high-rise fire fighting that provides more water for the fire.

- (8) The Hauula Fire Station has been relocated since the new station is being constructed.
- (9) The Fire Communication Center will be relocating to the Joint Traffic Management Center which will cost about \$135 million.
- (10) New positions have been approved for a third rescue company which will be located on the windward side. The HFD is in the process of converting a contracted Fireworks Inspector to a uniformed position.
- (11) The HFD is awaiting the approval of a fourth helicopter. It will increase the number of pilots from two to six to allow two on-duty pilots per shift.

B. SFC Update

1. Status of the State Fire Code

NFPA 1 Fire Code, 2015 and 2018 Editions

Mr. Rogers stated that the State amendments to the NFPA 1 Fire Code, 2015 edition are still with the DAG. He also stated that the Fire Prevention Committee will hold one more meeting in the near future to finalize the State amendments to the NFPA 1 Fire Code, 2018 edition. Since both sets of amendments are very similar, the finalized 2018 amendments will be forwarded to the DAG for review.

2. State Building Code Council (SBCC)

- a. The SBCC is comprised of 11 voluntary representatives from State, county, and private industry and is administratively attached to the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS). It is responsible to review the national building codes and standards related to building, residential, energy, fire, plumbing, elevator, etc., and adopt statewide building codes within two years of the publication date, which becomes the basis of county building codes. It has never been provided funding for staff or other expenses since its formation in 2007. The SFC is a voting member.

- b. The amendments for the structural and nonstructural revisions for the 2012 International Building (IBC) and Residential Codes (IRC) were approved by the SBCC on November 13, 2018. The sprinkler requirement for one- and two-family dwellings in the State Residential Code was retained. This means that within one year, all State projects will be required to install residential sprinklers in these dwellings. The SBCC Chair is working with the DAGS and the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to use a reimbursable Federal Emergency Management Agency grant to update high-resolution wind maps for each of the major Hawaiian Islands.
- c. Investigative committees for the 2018 editions of the IBC, IRC, Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC), the NFPA 1 Fire Code, and the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) are continuing their review. The SBCC completed its revised code adoption process without needing to go through the administrative rules and will continue to meet and discuss the codes and amendments in an open forum.
- d. The county building codes adoption are in varying degrees of progress on the UPC, 2012 edition; the 2014 and 2017 editions of the National Electrical Code; and the IECC, 2015 edition.
- e. The SFC continues to support the SBCC by attending monthly meetings, providing draft agenda/minutes, advising on producing uniform statewide building code amendments for county adoption, and creating administrative rules for the state fire code.

3. State Training and Education

FY 2019 Two-Day Off-Campus Classes

Two of the nine classes were delivered, one for the KFD and one for the HFD. Two Honolulu classes were cancelled.

4. Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) Program

- a. We are awaiting the RIPC Administrative Rules draft that was forwarded to the DAG in December 2018 for review before forwarding it to the Legislative Reference Bureau.
- b. We are awaiting results from the state of Massachusetts (MA) on the outcome of litigation involving RIPC test failures of ITG's Maverick

Menthol 100s cigarettes. This brand/style cigarette also failed two tests conducted for the State in 2017. In consultation with the DAG, the SFC was advised not to take any immediate action on this matter until MA resolves its litigation. Subsequent independent RIPC testing of ITG's Maverick Menthol 100s has been conducted by this office in FY 2018. All subsequent samples tested have passed.

- c. Retail outlet cigarette inspections will be limited to the island of Oahu. Independent RIPC testing will continue.
 - d. RIPC certification fees collected during calendar year 2018 was \$167,250.
 - e. As of February 22, 2019, RIPC fees collected in 2019 was \$3,750.
- e. Five 2019 bill proposals related to the RIPC program are:

House Bill (HB) 493 and Senate Bill (SB) 146	Authorizes the SFC to use monies in the RIPC program special fund to support the duties and responsibilities of the SFC; specifies testing procedures of the RIPC program; and provides that a cigarette manufacturer who fails certain testing may be subject to civil penalties
HB 496 and SB 149	Authorizes the SFC to employ additional staff, contract with county fire departments to fulfill staff positions and purchase office equipment and supplies, and repeals that the SFC Administrator be employed on a full-time basis
SB 631	Expands the use of the RIPC program special fund to support the duties and responsibilities of the SFC, including the hiring of staff; specifies the testing process by the SFC in determining a cigarette's compliance with performance standards under the state law; and expands the conditions in which a civil penalty may be imposed on a manufacturer to include a cigarette failure rate of 25% or greater after two successive failed tests.

Table 1: Total inspections conducted, brand style cigarettes tested (and cost), and total RIPC fees collected during each FY

	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13
Inspections	0	0	0	0
Cigarette Brands Tested/Cost	0/\$0	0/\$0	0/\$0	0/\$0
Fees Collected	\$361,500	\$160,875	\$102,000	

	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Inspections	0	19	415	793
Cigarette Brands Tested/Cost	0/\$0	100/\$27,041	244/\$103,307	604/\$221,190
Fees Collected	\$33,750	\$112,875	\$136,125	\$43,500

	FY18	FY19	FY20	Total
Inspections	181	214	0	1,622
Cigarette Brands Tested/Cost	92/\$35,933	78/\$37,968	0/\$0	1118/\$425,439
Fees Collected	\$233,625	\$68,625		\$1,287,000

5. Fire Protection Systems Administrative Rules

The SFC staff fielded several questions on the new administrative rules. To date, thirteen applications have been submitted and eleven were recommended for approval to the HFD. The SFC is communicating with the county's fire prevention bureaus on implementation and approval procedures. Counties also need to incorporate license fees in their respective county fire codes

C. Hawaii Licensing of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT)

Dr. Elizabeth Char provided the update to this issue by e-mail. An interpretation from the DAG has been requested as to whether someone with a State EMT license must be employed by an ambulance agency in order to keep their State EMT or paramedic license. This may take several months, as the State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) office has asked for a formal reading. This is very important to the fire service because it would potentially mean the loss of State EMT or Mobile Intensive Care Technician licenses for fire personnel who do not do outside work with EMT agencies. It would negatively affect fire service educators.

D. Youth Fire Prevention and Intervention Program (YFPIP)

Members reviewed the draft YFPIP Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the program guide, and initial questions submitted by the Kauai and Hawaii County's Corporation Counsels. Since each county Fire Chief has been requested to be signatories to the MOU, it is in varying stages of each county's review and approval process. Since the MOU partners primarily with the State Departments of Health and Education, the mutual county fire service agreement to the MOU is important.

E. Members reviewed the provided upcoming national conferences.

F. Other Matters

The HFD is planning to have its personnel wear a medical identification bracelet that would provide an extensive, individual medical profile that would be available anytime and anywhere. It is another step in ensuring FF health and safety.

III. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.



MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair