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STATE FIRE COUNCIL (SFC)  
FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019-2020 FIRST QUARTER MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: September 19, 2019

Time of Meeting: 9:30 a.m.

Place of Meeting: Kauai Fire Department (KFD)  
4444 Rice Street, Suite 315  
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

Present:

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Manuel P. Neves  | SFC Chair<br>Fire Chief, Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)                                   |
| Darren Rosario   | SFC Member<br>Fire Chief, Hawaii Fire Department (HCFD)                                   |
| David Thyne      | SFC Member<br>Fire Chief, Department of Fire and Public<br>Safety, County of Maui (MFD)   |
| Kilipaki Vaughan | Acting Fire Chief, KFD  |
| Lloyd Rogers     | SFC Administrative Specialist   |
| Adam Rosenberg   | Deputy Attorney General<br>State of Hawaii (State), Department of the<br>Attorney General |
| Edward Doi       | Division of Water Resources and Planning<br>Kauai Department of Water KDW                 |
| Bryan Wienand    | Manager and Chief Engineer KDW  |

Gary Honold

Regional Director  
National Fire Protection Association

## I. Introduction

- A. Chair Neves called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
- B. Chair Neves welcomed everyone, and the introduction of attendees followed.
- C. Approval of the SFC FY 2018-2019 Fourth Quarter Meeting Minutes

Motion: Member Rosario motioned to approve the SFC FY 2018-2019 Fourth 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 Thyne motioned to approve an amended agenda to meet first with the KDW officials. Member Rosario seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

## II. New Business

### A. Meeting with KDW Officials

Members discussed the requirement to have a backflow prevention device installed when a flow through residential fire sprinkler system is combined with the home's domestic water system. Information that does not require a backflow prevention device from other standards was presented to the KDW officials. They will research the issue further and possibly revise their requirements.

B. Election of the SFC Chair and Vice Chair

1. Motion: Member Rosario motioned to nominate Chair Neves to the position of SFC Chair. Member Thyne seconded the motion. The nominations were closed and the motion passed.

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

2. Motion: Member Thyne motioned to nominate member Rosario to the position of SFC Vice Chair. Chair Neves seconded the motion. The nominations were closed and the motion passed.

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

C. Meeting with Kauai State/County Legislators

There were no Kauai State or county legislators in attendance. Members reviewed and discussed the following SFC 2020 legislative bill proposals:

1. A statute that penalizes employers by requiring payment when employees exceed a percentage of their base pay to increase their retirement benefits. Members agreed that any revision to this statute should be initiated collectively from the Council of Mayors or each county council.
2. A bill to revise statutory language to allow the SFC the flexibility to employ support staff personnel
3. A bill to allow the state fire code to be adopted without public hearings, but continue to provide an open forum for stakeholder discussion and input
4. A bill to authorize the SFC to utilize funds from the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette special fund to defray the cost of community fire education safety and prevention programs
5. A bill to allow dependent beneficiaries of fire fighters (FF) who die in the line-of-duty to receive a tuition waiver from Hawaii State colleges and universities

6. A bill to require owners who sell their residences to install smoke alarms  
Motion: Member Rosario motioned to recess the meeting at 12 p.m. The motion passed.

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

The meeting reconvened at 1:20 p.m.

### III. Unfinished Business and General Orders

#### SFC County/State Issues

##### A. Report of Vice Chair Rosario

##### 1. Grants

- a. The HCFD was awarded a State Highways grant to purchase one set of hydraulic extrication tools.
- b. The HCFD was awarded a matching \$50,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildland Grant to purchase equipment and conduct training.
- c. The HCFD is awaiting notification for an FY19 Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) to purchase automatic compression devices and an FY19 AFG Fire Prevention and Safety Grant to expand smoke alarm installations.

##### 2. County Issues

- a. The HCFD FY20 budget is still awaiting funding for overtime. The HCFD is currently utilizing regular salary and wage funding for emergency overtime funding.
- b. The HCFD FY21 budget is anticipated to be the same as the previous FY without any new positions.
- c. Hawaii County is working on reestablishing Highway 132 from Pahoa to the Kapoho area of Highway 137. This will improve access for emergency responses to homes that were not destroyed by the Kilauea eruptions.

3. Other Matters

- a. The 47<sup>th</sup> Fire Fighter Recruit (FFR) Class completed their FF training and is currently performing emergency medical technician training.
- b. The 48<sup>th</sup> FFR Class commenced on August 16, 2019, with 21 candidates.
- c. Recruitment is being projected for the 49<sup>th</sup> FFR Class, as there will be anticipated vacancies due to retirements occurring in January 2020.

B. Report of Member Thyne

1. Grants

The MFD was awarded \$62,176.02 by the Department of Transportation for extrication equipment.

2. County Issues

The MFD has 22 vacancies as of September 19, 2019, including nine FF IIIs, 12 FFs, two Ocean Safety Officer IIs, and an Inventory Warehouse Technician. The MFD anticipates approximately 10 vacancies by January 2020.

3. Other Matters

- a. The FY20 adopted budget of \$4,439,029 includes the addition of a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Technician, an Information Communications Manager, and an Office Operations Assistant II. The Maui County Council also added one Secretary III, one Ocean Safety Officer III, five full-time Ocean Safety Officer Is, and 10 half-time Ocean Safety Officer Is.
- b. The MFD is reorganizing its administrative/support staff, which will include a review of current position descriptions.
- c. The MFD promoted a Battalion Chief (BC) to the Ocean Safety Bureau and seven Fire Captains.
- d. The 35<sup>th</sup> FFR Class consisting of 20 candidates commenced on August 1, 2019, with graduation anticipated on December 13, 2019.

C. Report of Acting Fire Chief Vaughan, KFD

1. Grants

- a. The KFD FY18 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant that would add 12 personnel to a second rescue company at the Hanalei Fire Station is still pending.
- b. The KFD FY18 AFG grant that was awarded to purchase vehicle extrication equipment and an initial attack minirescue pumper for the Haena-Waniha area is pending.
- c. A Homeland Security Grant for \$750,000 will be used for a training facility.
- d. The KFD received Fundamentals of Grant Management training on August 12-14, 2019.
- e. The Friends of the KFD donated \$5,000 for peer support training.

2. County Issues

- a. The hiring of the new KFD Fire Chief is still pending.
- b. In May 2019, the KFD began restricting earned compensatory time to eliminate associated long-term liabilities.
- c. The KFD anticipates two to four retirements by the end of 2019.
- d. The KFD received training in energy storage systems, complex coordinated terrorist attack, helicopter short-haul, and International Fire Service Accreditation Congress third-party evaluator.
- e. The KFD formalized its Community Risk Reduction Program in October 2019 and included a fall prevention program, a health clinic academy, and community engagement for elderly.

- f. The KFD Ocean Safety Bureau currently has 11 towers and four roving patrol units, which implement a four ten-hour per day schedule. Future towers are being planned for beaches at Wanini, Black Pot, and Kalapaki Bay. Drone mapping of Queens Bath and Lumahai Beach was initiated in September 2019.
- g. Kauai's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program has a new budget process for procurement and planning and initiated outreaches for a health and wellness fair and a CERT class for the Pacific Missile Range Facility.

D. Report of Chair Neves

1. Grants

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

2. County Issues

- a. HFD training in the last quarter included Incident Safety Officer, Active Threat exercises with the Honolulu Police Department, and Emergency Medical Services refresher classes.
- b. The Joint Traffic Management Center will be in operation at the end of 2019.
- c. New station facilities are being planned for Pearl City, Waialua, and Mililani Tech Park. The City and County of Honolulu retained properties from the Department of Education at Young Street, Wailupe, Kaneohe, and Manoa.
- d. The HFD is working on its FY21 budget.
- e. Forty-five recruits are scheduled to graduate in January 2020. Promotions were completed for BCs, Captains, and FF IIIs.
- f. The HFD currently has 33 vacancies (3%) and expects 30-40 retirements at the end of 2019.

- g. The third rescue company is scheduled to be operational in January 2020 at the Aikahi Fire Station.
- h. Following a phased reduction of jet skis, the HFD will operate four. The third helicopter is ready for service upon the completion of training for one 40-hour pilot.

#### IV. Adjournment

Motion: Member Rosario motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 p.m. Member Thyne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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



MANUEL P. NEVES  
Chair