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1 FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION  
 2 COUNTY OF MAUI  
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 7 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
 8 REGULAR MEETING  
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 12  
 13 Held at Maui Fire Department Prevention Bureau, 313  
 14 Manea Place, Wailuku, Hawaii, commencing at 10:01 a.m., on  
 15 July 18th, 2019.  
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 20 REPORTED BY: SANDRA J. GRAN, RPR/CSR #424  
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1 (JULY 18TH, 2019, 10:01 A.M.)  
 2 \* \* \*  
 3 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay. I'd like to call the July 18,  
 4 2019 meeting to order. Before we go to approve the minutes,  
 5 I'd just like to make a request to all the commissioners -- we  
 6 have eight out of nine here today -- please, please, just say  
 7 yes or no on an email if you -- when Jill sends out for  
 8 attendance. It's really important for her to know ahead of  
 9 time, that's why. That's just a request, just whenever you  
 10 get the email, just -- all you've gotta do is say yes or no,  
 11 you don't have to explain anything, yeah, just so she knows.  
 12 Thank you.  
 13 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Sure.  
 14 CHAIR MISAKI: I would like to call for approval of  
 15 the minutes from the last meeting.  
 16 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: I'll make a motion to  
 17 approve.  
 18 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Second.  
 19 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay. It's been moved and seconded.  
 20 All those in favor?  
 21 (Response.)  
 22 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay. Is there anybody here for  
 23 public testimony?  
 24 (No response.)  
 25 CHAIR MISAKI: I don't see anybody here, so we can

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1 ATTENDANCE  
 2 COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:  
 3 Edwin Misaki, Chair  
 4 Kyle Ginoza, Vice-Chair  
 5 Jack Freitas, Member  
 6 Travis Tancayo, Member  
 7 Linda Fernandez, Member (in at 10:05)  
 8 Gregg Lundberg, Member (out at 11:38)  
 9 Dwight Burns, Member  
 10 Donna Sterling, Member  
 11 Lisa Vares, Member  
 12  
 13 STAFF:  
 14 David Thyne, Fire Chief  
 15 Richard Kawasaki, Assistant Fire Chief  
 16 Valeriano Martin, Assistant Fire Chief  
 17 Michael McDonald, Captain  
 18 Jennifer Oana, Deputy Corporation Counsel  
 19 Jill Matsui Peterson, Commission Secretary  
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1 move on to Item No. 4. Because Herman will not be attending,  
 2 he did submit a report, so you guys can look it over and if  
 3 you have any questions, please write it on the report so next  
 4 meeting you can ask him the questions. Okay? So we can move  
 5 on from that.  
 6 Chief.  
 7 CHIEF THYNE: Thank you, Chair.  
 8 CHAIR MISAKI: Yeah.  
 9 CHIEF THYNE: So, again, we had some off-the-record  
 10 conversation about the recent fire and we'll -- we have Chief  
 11 Kawasaki, our assistant chief of operations, that will go  
 12 into -- give you kind of a "Reader's Digest" version of how  
 13 the fire moved across the landscape, some of our actions we  
 14 took, and just to kind of explain our operations a little bit  
 15 more. I know a lot of you probably saw things on the media  
 16 and for Chief Travis, who's been in these types of situations,  
 17 this is going to be something very familiar, but we did want  
 18 to let you folks know kind of how things went.  
 19 We are going through a post-incident analysis  
 20 process where we look at -- and we do that for every major  
 21 incident where we look at our operations, we look at what was  
 22 planned, what happened, and then how we can improve our  
 23 efforts in the future. And in every incident of magnitude  
 24 there's always lessons learned, you know, things we can get  
 25 better at, and so we're gonna -- we're going through that

1 process. One of battalion chiefs, Kaulana Kino, is heading  
2 that up with Chief Kawasaki and at some point in time we will  
3 hopefully be able to share some of those lessons learned with  
4 you folks, so...

5 And in the interests of full disclosure, as I  
6 mentioned earlier, I was actually on vacation for two weeks  
7 the 1st of July through the 15th of July, so... So for Chief  
8 Ventura and I, we promised you and we've made a commit to both  
9 our agency, our public, and for you folks at the commission to  
10 make sure that one of us is here at all times on island and  
11 able to engage if need be. So Chief Ventura now is on  
12 vacation with his family traveling on the mainland and then  
13 he'll be attending a conference in Georgia for a week after he  
14 returns. So he'll be back for our next meeting, but he won't  
15 return to the island until August 10th. So I'll be going  
16 through his report, but it'll have to be a brief one. I don't  
17 have my report included in here because -- I lied to you about  
18 two months ago when I said it's the shortest report I'd ever  
19 give you, I even have a shorter one this time.

20 (Laughter.)

21 CHIEF THYNE: So for the interests of time,  
22 basically what happened after our last meeting is we -- I had  
23 one week and then I went on vacation for two weeks and then I  
24 had one week back in the office and now I sit before you, so  
25 there was no need to do a report other than to just summarize

1 It's some astronomical amount that we're gonna be  
2 managing, but it's quite a few, anyway. So great news in the  
3 sense we'll be able to fix some stations, we're gonna be able  
4 to get some vehicles and equipment, but it's gonna take a lot  
5 of work and a lot of hands to make sure that we manage that  
6 appropriately. We're looking forward to it. I'll be able to  
7 hopefully give you a breakdown how our assignments went, what  
8 we got allocated in the next meeting, Chair, if that's okay  
9 with you folks.

10 CHAIR MISAKI: That's great.

11 CHIEF THYNE: So I'll just kind of -- that's me and  
12 I'll go into Chief Ventura, you have his update. So basically  
13 are on pace to start a recruit class, as you'll see in his  
14 first section there. We do have 20 applicants -- or, excuse  
15 me, 20 potential trainees that were -- that are going through  
16 the process. And the only reason I say "potential" is that if  
17 medical screenings don't come back where they should be at,  
18 things like that, then we may have to -- I don't want to say  
19 let a person go, but we won't be able to bring them into the  
20 recruit training program because they have to do a medical  
21 workup and so if they, hypothetically, turn up with some  
22 medical issue that they didn't know about or didn't meet the  
23 criteria for a firefighter recruit, then we'd have to let them  
24 go prior to them starting recruit school.

25 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: How many openings do you have

1 the week after we met last time with you folks, we were  
2 managing our budget as the fiscal year ended, making sure we  
3 crossed t's, dotted i's and took care of our budget as tasked  
4 upon us and then as we kicked off this --

5 (Commissioner Fernandez entered the room.)

6 CHIEF THYNE: Do you need to recognize Linda, that  
7 she's here?

8 CHAIR MISAKI: No. We'll just put her down as  
9 attending.

10 CHIEF THYNE: And then what I would hope to discuss  
11 with you at the next commission meeting is how we're gonna  
12 approach this new fiscal year budget. We do have our fiscal  
13 year budget, it was released very close to July 1st, we  
14 finally got all the details, which is -- which is, in my ten  
15 years of being in the back office, pretty rare. Not only did  
16 we get kind of a head's up and so we were able to hit the  
17 ground running in the fiscal year, but this one came -- like a  
18 day before we got all of the different details of our budget,  
19 so we're sorting through that.

20 We are very successful in our budget in the sense  
21 that, you know, getting vehicles, getting additional funding  
22 for the different projects, Chief Val may talk about some of  
23 the things that he's going to work on from the support  
24 services side, but it's --

25 Chief Val, is it 46 projects?

1 currently?

2 CHAIR MISAKI: Do you know, Rick? It varies because  
3 we just had a couple guys go out.

4 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: More than -- more than  
5 20.

6 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah.

7 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: We already did the  
8 recruit selection, but then we had a couple of people indicate  
9 after we had the --

10 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: So you don't go and have a  
11 bigger recruit class --

12 CHIEF THYNE: We can't. Yeah, so the only -- so  
13 we've tried to do that, Kyle, and you may have done it in your  
14 former roles in the county -- police, we talked about that  
15 when Chair Hirata was here, and they have a way to kind of --  
16 I don't know how they do it. They're police, so they can do  
17 kind of what they want, but for us, it's -- we only -- when we  
18 ask for an eligible list, it can only be on the vacancies for  
19 the approved positions in our budget, which they call EPs.  
20 And so what happens, like Chief Kawasaki just mentioned, is we  
21 hire during that moment in time we have 20 vacancies, that  
22 process takes up to six months to go through that, interviews  
23 and conditional hires and medical screenings and all of that,  
24 and then two or three other guys put in their papers to go out  
25 because they've reached their retirement time, so now there's

1 three vacancies that we can't fill because the process already  
 2 pau, so to speak. So, yeah, we can't kind of order ahead  
 3 knowing that we're going to have potential guys retire, or  
 4 gals retire. So we always kind of are behind the eight ball  
 5 in some senses, but that's normal. We have people out on, you  
 6 know, industrial leaves, we have people on vacations, so it's  
 7 just -- it is what it is, you know, so we can't really  
 8 schedule ahead.  
 9 So moving into the improvement committee, we have --  
 10 and we may get some off of this recent fire, but we -- Chief  
 11 Ventura has established a committee of our folks at the  
 12 station level that want to help to move this department  
 13 forward, to work on projects that are suggested from our  
 14 personnel. And one of the things based on a couple of  
 15 searches that we had for, you know, the gentleman in Iao and  
 16 then the gal that was out, you know, in Makawao Forest Reserve  
 17 was the opportunity to use forward-looking infrared radar that  
 18 basically detects a heat signature even in an enclosed canopy.  
 19 We were hearing from the folks that were flying some of our  
 20 missions that they were picking up heat signatures for birds  
 21 in the canopy, bee hives, things of that nature, so... So  
 22 that's something we're looking into and we'll look to prepare  
 23 as a proposal for the upcoming budget as we get into 2021.  
 24 We've gotta do our research, we don't want to just throw out  
 25 ideas without getting what specifically is the product we

1 want, why we want it, what it costs, how we've evaluated that,  
 2 when we approach our mayor and our county council. So our  
 3 committee will work on that and you'll see that in Chief  
 4 Ventura's update as we move along.  
 5 Sorry, Chair.  
 6 CHAIR MISAKI: Just make a comment. Just, again,  
 7 you know, 'cause we used the FLIR a lot too, it's limited to  
 8 early morning or --  
 9 CHIEF THYNE: Correct.  
 10 CHAIR MISAKI: Even when it becomes in the evening,  
 11 the land is still hot enough that it doesn't produce a  
 12 signature. So usually after 12:00 midnight to about 8:00 in  
 13 the morning you can get a good heat signature, so it's limited  
 14 use.  
 15 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Question, Chief. As far as  
 16 the flight policy for Air 1, is it still daytime hours and  
 17 doesn't overlap --  
 18 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Yeah, yeah.  
 19 CHIEF THYNE: Right.  
 20 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: That's kind of -- if there  
 21 was a nighttime program, that thing would probably be more  
 22 efficient, maybe, I'm not sure.  
 23 CHAIR MISAKI: They've flown for us just at daylight  
 24 so that we get the -- and then there are times on the North  
 25 Shore valley when we're doing animal control where we --

1 sometimes they can go all the way to 12:00 noon because of the  
 2 depth of the valley and if it's really cloudy, things stays  
 3 cool for a while.  
 4 CHIEF THYNE: Correct.  
 5 CHAIR MISAKI: So it has its limits, but it's a very  
 6 neat tool.  
 7 CHIEF THYNE: And we did -- just to add on to Chief  
 8 Travis's comments -- or, I'm sorry, Commissioner Travis's  
 9 comments, so we currently use -- on the island of Molokai I  
 10 believe that's Jake Muise?  
 11 CHAIR MISAKI: Yes.  
 12 CHIEF THYNE: So he actually volunteers his time.  
 13 We're hoping to bring him on as a vendor, Chief Kawasaki was  
 14 working these past searches to kind of bring him on as a  
 15 county vendor so we can pay him. He's volunteered his time.  
 16 COMMISSIONER VARES: Is that -- I'm sorry.  
 17 CHIEF THYNE: I'm sorry. Go ahead.  
 18 COMMISSIONER VARES: Is that just a handheld item?  
 19 CHIEF THYNE: Yes.  
 20 COMMISSIONER VARES: Okay.  
 21 CHAIR MISAKI: There's all different kinds --  
 22 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah.  
 23 CHAIR MISAKI: -- and all different costs.  
 24 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah.  
 25 CHAIR MISAKI: You can get a hand-held unit fro

1 \$10,000 or you can get the luxury model which the military  
 2 uses for \$100,000, so it's very --  
 3 COMMISSIONER VARES: And you can have them mounted  
 4 to drones as well.  
 5 CHAIR MISAKI: You can get both mounted or a  
 6 handheld one.  
 7 COMMISSIONER VARES: Thank you.  
 8 CHIEF THYNE: And drones are -- you know, kind of as  
 9 a takeoff from this FLIR, we are -- that was another  
 10 recommendation, and the police department does have an Alpha  
 11 Grant and we've had our battalion chiefs meet with them prior  
 12 to these even -- these two searches happening. They have a  
 13 limited capability. As you know, you have to be a licensed  
 14 pilot and, of course, it's frequency of use and --  
 15 COMMISSIONER VARES: Like in my --  
 16 CHIEF THYNE: -- there are limitations on distance  
 17 they can fly, battery, all of those different things. So I  
 18 think they're learning as they go, as we are, but we may  
 19 approach that as a project as well. But, again, we're gonna  
 20 do our research. We're gonna find out what the industry is  
 21 using, what works for us, those types of things, before we  
 22 move any project forward to a propose to the mayor and so on  
 23 and so forth.  
 24 We did about three years ago -- four years ago, I'm  
 25 sorry, when I was chief of operations, approach our helicopter

1 contractor about night vision and things like that, we had a  
 2 whole workup. One of his pilots at the time, he's no longer  
 3 there, had done that in California for many, many years. The  
 4 concerns with night vision and those types of things is, they  
 5 don't have a visual reference when they fly because it's dark.  
 6 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah.  
 7 CHIEF THYNE: You know, so normally they're looking  
 8 at treetops, they're looking at the ocean, you know, moving  
 9 and all of those types of things, so he said it's very  
 10 problematic. He had done it, our chief pilot Don Sheer, had  
 11 done it in his youth and he's one of the people I'd like to  
 12 put before you, the commission, as well as we talk about guest  
 13 presenters, to talk about his helicopter program.  
 14 COMMISSIONER VARES: He's a cool guy.  
 15 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah. Don's been a very valuable  
 16 resource to us -- and his -- and his personnel and we love  
 17 working with him, but -- and so he may have some thoughts on  
 18 that as far as night vision and stuff, but we are not moving  
 19 that project forward based on our safety concerns.  
 20 Yeah. And so we'll look at drones, look at other  
 21 ways to make this work as far as, you know, our night  
 22 capabilities, but we want to make sure it's the safest for  
 23 everybody involved, including our pilots and our firefighters  
 24 as well.  
 25 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Chief, do you folks have any

1 drones?  
 2 CHIEF THYNE: So, no, we work with the police. The  
 3 police have, I believe, three.  
 4 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Oh, okay.  
 5 CHIEF THYNE: So Jason Kohama is one of our folks we  
 6 coordinate with from MPD, kind of the techno side of the  
 7 police department. And so we've used them in scenarios with  
 8 our TFP exercises, our annual exercises with civil support  
 9 teams and whatnot, but -- and I believe -- Chief Kawasaki, you  
 10 can chime in if you recall, but I believe they were helping on  
 11 the Amanda Eller search, were they not?  
 12 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yes.  
 13 CHIEF THYNE: So they were engaged and we do bring  
 14 them in, but it's just, again, what limitations they have  
 15 is --  
 16 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: I don't think their unit  
 17 is one of those like really expensive, high tech ones, I think  
 18 it's more of a lower end model, so it wasn't that effective.  
 19 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: And the reason why I asked  
 20 was when the mayor showed this morning, he said that  
 21 they're -- he said we were using drones to follow the fire and  
 22 stuff.  
 23 CHIEF THYNE: Okay. I'm unaware of that, but  
 24 perhaps I --  
 25 COMMISSIONER STERLING: I heard that too.

1 CHIEF THYNE: -- I wasn't in that loop.  
 2 COMMISSIONER VARES: The Kealia Pond National  
 3 Wildlife Refuge and the state are working together in one  
 4 specific area.  
 5 CHIEF THYNE: Correct.  
 6 COMMISSIONER VARES: 'Cause we're back there too.  
 7 CHIEF THYNE: Correct.  
 8 COMMISSIONER VARES: And they're bringing -- anyway,  
 9 that's what Calvin said, we're bringing in a FLIR drone  
 10 today --  
 11 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Okay.  
 12 COMMISSIONER VARES: -- to try to keep track of the  
 13 hot spots. Because there's -- I mean, we're just contractors,  
 14 we're putting out five fires a day --  
 15 CHIEF THYNE: Right.  
 16 COMMISSIONER VARES: -- but also the people starting  
 17 about three or four of them.  
 18 (Laughter.)  
 19 COMMISSIONER VARES: Just kidding. I'm just  
 20 kidding.  
 21 CHIEF THYNE: Okay. So -- I'm sorry, Lisa, were you  
 22 pau? Should I --  
 23 COMMISSIONER VARES: No. I didn't mean to  
 24 interrupt.  
 25 CHIEF THYNE: So, yeah, we went through (inaudible)

1 that was worked in consultation.  
 2 And I believe that's all Chief Ventura has at this  
 3 point in time, so I'll answer any questions if you have any  
 4 chair.  
 5 CHAIR MISAKI: One final question, I couldn't help  
 6 hearing on the radio --  
 7 CHIEF THYNE: Okay.  
 8 CHAIR MISAKI: -- that there was somebody caught.  
 9 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah.  
 10 CHAIR MISAKI: An arson.  
 11 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah. So it'll come out, I'm sure, on  
 12 social media it came out that, apparently -- what I read from  
 13 social media and what I heard back channel through our fire  
 14 prevention folks that were assisting the police department, I  
 15 believe what happened was the gentleman stole a vehicle and  
 16 whether it started on fire or he started it on fire, it's  
 17 what's been determined to have caused the fire. He admitted  
 18 that he stole the vehicle, I don't -- I'm not sure if he  
 19 admitted that he started the fire or if it's just that he was  
 20 running away when it started on fire, but... He was actually  
 21 caught in another stolen vehicle and admitted that he had  
 22 stolen that vehicle that he was in as well as the one that  
 23 caused the fire, so... I mean, I'm sure we'll all read about  
 24 it as it comes through its paces, but... But, yeah, he -- a  
 25 gentleman was caught.

1 The second fire that it was suspected that I believe  
2 it was a purple-colored dually vehicle that was seen leaving  
3 the area, apparently it was determined that that person wasn't  
4 at fault as far as -- that's the knowledge that I have so far,  
5 so...

6 CHAIR MISAKI: Thank you.

7 CHIEF THYNE: Absolutely.

8 CHAIR MISAKI: Chief Kawasaki.

9 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Okay. So you guys have  
10 the attachment. Last month we kind of -- I kind of reported  
11 that, you know, we're starting to have some small fires and --  
12 leading up into summer, you know, as it got hotter and drier.  
13 So the month of June we did have a whole bunch of smaller  
14 fires, we did some on Molokai and -- which leads us to this  
15 fire that we just had. I'll talk about that a little bit  
16 later.

17 Some of the other updates with standard operating  
18 guidelines committee, we should be done with that by the end  
19 of the month, so we're a little bit behind with our -- the  
20 fire chief's secretaries are kind of doing the final  
21 revisions, editing.

22 This week we do have three of our personnel, two  
23 mechanics, one captain, that is -- that are up in Wisconsin  
24 doing the preconstruction meeting with Pierce for our fire  
25 trucks. Actually, this one is for just the three trucks, the

1 started three houses on fire. Along the course of the fire-  
2 fighting efforts, the firefighter was injured, so a -- so I'm  
3 not saying that he filed it, but regarding that incident, a  
4 HIOSH complaint was filed about maybe some safety concerns  
5 regarding the ladder truck that -- what they basically did and  
6 what we do is we snub the hydrant, we call it, which is you  
7 wrap a hose around the closest fire hydrant and send the  
8 vehicle. For some reason or another, it was believed that the  
9 hose either snagged or hung up, which caused him to get thrown  
10 in the air and he suffered some injuries. Okay? And, again,  
11 I'm not saying that he's the one who filed the complaint, but  
12 a complaint was filed regarding a potential safety concern  
13 regarding that Relief Ladder 3.

14 So Chief Kawasaki and Mike McDonald will be able to  
15 answer questions that you may have, but we did an extensive  
16 investigation, we submitted all of the paperwork to HIOSH, we  
17 sent some learning/training videos to our personnel to make  
18 sure it doesn't happen again, and my understanding is HIOSH  
19 approved that and it's behind us. But I did want to let you  
20 folks know in case somebody catches you in the hallway and  
21 says, "Hey, whatever happened to that HIOSH complaint for the  
22 fire department? Aren't you a commissioner?" So if you have  
23 any questions, these two gentlemen did yeomen's work making  
24 sure our firefighters won't have that happen again, but I did  
25 want to make sure that you guys had that. So if you have any

1 two pumpers and the ladder.

2 As you can see on our training bureau, the chief did  
3 mention we are starting Recruit Class 35 scheduled to start  
4 August 1st.

5 And ocean safety, we do have a temporary assigned  
6 BC -- captain to BC for BC7, which is Jeff Geise. I think I  
7 reported that last month. So he's working on a bunch of  
8 projects for us, all kind of policy writing and  
9 administrative, so he's -- that's his strong point there, so  
10 he'll be really good at that. We did open up that recruitment  
11 to -- for that BC spot and he was the only applicant, so...  
12 We haven't scheduled an interview yet, but it's upcoming.

13 That's all I've got for this. If you guys have any  
14 questions?

15 (No response.)

16 CHIEF KAWASAKI: None? And then --

17 CHIEF THYNE: I would like to add, before you get  
18 into that, Chief, and leave the floor, I just want to talk  
19 about the fire. I was supposed to have that in my spiel,  
20 but... So we did -- and I believe the commission should know  
21 this. We did receive a HIOSH complaint that was filed. It  
22 doesn't say who files it, that's the privacy thing, and our  
23 attorney can speak to that, but... So there was a complaint  
24 regarding there was a firefighter injured last 4th of July,  
25 there was three houses -- well, it was a brush fire that

1 questions for Chief or Mike, please feel free.

2 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: So basically what we  
3 determined was the hose needs to be loaded a certain way to  
4 prevent the thing from getting stuck. The way that ladder  
5 truck is designed, the hose bed is not your conventional just  
6 rectangular, it kind of goes through a chute before it comes  
7 out, so the coupling probably -- maybe got stuck on  
8 deployment, which we fixed that by testing. We did a whole  
9 bunch of tests with all different crews out there, the testing  
10 served as testing and training for the crews, so we determined  
11 a certain load and after, I don't know what, ten tries, it  
12 did -- it never hung up during our tries. And then also  
13 driving away from the hydrants at a slow pace under 10 miles  
14 an hour.

15 Is there anything else that was in that?

16 CAPTAIN McDONALD: That was the main stuff, yeah,  
17 just -- we also talked about just having communications with  
18 the driver in case that thing does get snagged. What we  
19 learned from interviewing witnesses was not only did the hose  
20 injure a firefighter, but it hit a truck and it was swinging  
21 around that neighborhood and it could've hurt somebody else,  
22 so we wanted to add communications between the driver and --  
23 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: So we took pictures and  
24 videos and sent it to the crews and instructions how to load  
25 it, how -- you know, what they need to do and we think it's

1 very safe now and, hopefully, you know -- so that would be our  
 2 relief truck eventually when we get the new ladder that's  
 3 being built right now.  
 4 Any questions on that?  
 5 CHAIR MISAKI: No.  
 6 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: I don't know if you guys  
 7 can see, but this is a map that we were using during the fire.  
 8 The yellow outline is the final outcome of where it ended up  
 9 burning, so all in here. The start was right over here on the  
 10 side between Waiko Road and the Cane Haul Road, there's a  
 11 small little dead end road that comes up over here.  
 12 So it started up here. The initial dispatch was  
 13 Engine 10, Tanker 10, and our battalion chief. So I was at  
 14 work, you know, it was 10:42, I believe, in the morning. The  
 15 winds were not that strong at the time, the smoke column was  
 16 going straight up, so, you know, I wasn't that concerned, but  
 17 because it's so dry and stuff, our BC, battalion chief went  
 18 with them and, you know, and after -- I don't know the exact  
 19 time frame, but, you know, within a few minutes of them being  
 20 on scene, I could see it was escalating and so I eventually  
 21 caught -- had somebody bring me out to go jump in with the  
 22 battalion chief so assisting with the incident.  
 23 Our on duty and personnel -- well, MFD resources  
 24 that eventually ended up at the fire was Engine 1, Engine 14,  
 25 Tanker 14, Engine 6, Engine 3, Tanker 3, Engine 5, Haz. Mat.

1 10, and I believe we had about 23 call-back off-duty personnel  
 2 that came out during the day. And we also put together a  
 3 firing crew, which is a crew that uses a drip torch to burn  
 4 out fuels in hopes to catch the fire, you know, ahead of the  
 5 fire so we can catch it at that point, or also to -- we used  
 6 it extensively around this subdivision to burn out the fuels.  
 7 Travis is very familiar with that type of operation. So right  
 8 now this subdivision is very safe, you know, there's no fuel  
 9 for any fire to come and, you know, so they're protected  
 10 there.  
 11 Other resources that we had, we had Windward  
 12 Aviation, which was they had three helicopters; public works,  
 13 Mahi Pono, Goodfellow Brothers, TJ Gomes, Hawaiian Dredging,  
 14 C. Hayes Excavations, Vares Private -- I don't know if it's  
 15 Vares Private Service or Vares Contracting.  
 16 COMMISSIONER VARES: Vares Contracting.  
 17 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Okay. Thank you. Also  
 18 Alan Vares -- is that a relative to you?  
 19 COMMISSIONER VARES: Probably, but...  
 20 (Laughter.)  
 21 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: He was a dozer operator  
 22 for Mahi Pono.  
 23 Rojac, Rodney Akau, West Maui Land, and we did have  
 24 a crew from the National Parks, which you mentioned earlier,  
 25 and DOFAW, National Guard sent a Chinook helicopter, and we

1 also had the state airport fire. So a lot of resources, we  
 2 pretty much threw everything we could possibly muster.  
 3 Without the help of the -- all these other agencies -- you  
 4 know, we're not equipped to fight that kind of fire just  
 5 because of the off-road capabilities, you know, our trucks are  
 6 mostly meant for the pavement. When we get our wildland  
 7 trucks, we'll be a little better, but we're still way under  
 8 gunned for anything off, you know, in the -- in all these  
 9 fallow cane fields.  
 10 So the fire was eventually contained through, you  
 11 know, our hand lines off of our engines, air support, water  
 12 tankers, dozer lines, other heavy equipment, and our firing  
 13 operations, but the biggest thing was by the time it got here,  
 14 we had a change in weather conditions. So the fire -- we were  
 15 greatly assisted by the drop in wind speed and then also the  
 16 wind switched from going this direction, to back into where  
 17 it'd already burned, so it kind of slowed it down. And then  
 18 we were eventually able to cut a dozer line around the  
 19 whole -- almost the whole perimeter. We also had a  
 20 contingency dozer line at the new high school. I don't know  
 21 if you guys are all familiar, it's a huge property that's  
 22 already excavated, so they had a line cut out here in case we  
 23 lost it on that end.  
 24 Yeah. So some of our challenges are right now the  
 25 fallow cane fields with all the unburned fuel, it's super dry,

1 you know, the fields are pretty high, strong winds, changing  
 2 winds -- wind directions, and, like I said, our off-road  
 3 capabilities are, you know, limited.  
 4 Some of the other -- the other issue we had back  
 5 when it was over on this side was some of the gates that we  
 6 normally could access or dirt roads we could access are all  
 7 blocked off with boulders, so I have a meeting next week with  
 8 Mahi Pono personnel and we'll -- you know, we'll talk about  
 9 that, so if they -- I'm going to recommend that they install  
 10 gates instead of boulders and that way if we have the key, we  
 11 could at least get in there.  
 12 Another thing that was an issue was communications  
 13 with the private resources. You know, being that there were  
 14 so many, we only have limited amounts of radios that we can  
 15 provide to them, so a lot of communication had to go through  
 16 telephone and, you know, they don't hear the -- what's going  
 17 on on our radio. And also the capabilities of our other  
 18 resources, so, you know, like when we're working with our  
 19 personnel, we know what we all can do. When you have another  
 20 operator from whatever agency, you know, that person may have  
 21 never been on a fire or, you know, it's somebody new that's  
 22 not that, you know, seasoned with their -- with their  
 23 apparatus, so there were a couple times we assigned somebody  
 24 something and we quickly realized that, Oh, maybe we need  
 25 somebody else, somebody with more experience.

1 Yeah, so basically it started there. We attempted  
 2 to do a burnout of the fuels in front of the fire when it was  
 3 back on this road, I believe, we tried to catch it between  
 4 this drainage -- these two streambeds and it crowned up into  
 5 the -- along the treeline there -- at the stream, the trees  
 6 are 50-60 feet tall, so once it got into that, it just -- you  
 7 know, it flew -- threw embers way downwind and then we're off  
 8 and running. Then it -- you know, what was unusual, it  
 9 crossed this highway with such a wide break and the winds at  
 10 that time weren't that strong. By the time it got to  
 11 Mokulele, it was strong, the power lines were just, you know,  
 12 shaking and so it -- so our only hope on Mokulele or the  
 13 Veterans Highway now, is that it was kind of running parallel  
 14 with the highway, but at some point the wind direction changed  
 15 and it crossed. So, you know, we were holding it for a while  
 16 with some tankers, at that point the dozers were not in  
 17 position, they'd just got there, so it was a little bit too  
 18 late for us to cut a break and burn for that. Yeah.

19 So other than that, you know, throughout the night  
 20 we stopped it along this dozer line, the existing road and  
 21 they widened the road with a dozer line, we had a bunch of  
 22 water tankers and then we burnt out the fuels here and we  
 23 stopped it, you know, from jumping that. And then the next  
 24 morning I had the crews come in and burn out all of this grass  
 25 and brush upwind of all these houses here. So these guys

1 are -- they were out there cheering, they were very excited,  
 2 you know, when we were burning.  
 3 I think that's about all I have. Does anybody have  
 4 any questions?  
 5 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: You ready?  
 6 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Go, go, go.  
 7 (Laughter.)  
 8 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Chief, if you don't mind, I'm  
 9 trying to -- I didn't receive a lot of information, just from  
 10 the news, so it was -- I was just wondering what it was like  
 11 because when that was my district, this was something I was  
 12 always worried about happening.  
 13 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yeah. In the past, you  
 14 know, we would have these fires in the cane fields, but we --  
 15 you know, we would show up and, you know, do what we could and  
 16 just turn it over to HC&S at the time, you know, they had all  
 17 their equipment and so they would surround the fire and deal  
 18 with it. We would just, you know, leave after that. But now  
 19 it's left on us and, you know, whatever people that come out  
 20 and help.  
 21 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Right. And, you know, there  
 22 was a lot of questions -- and I hope you don't mind. So the  
 23 initial fuels above Kihei where you showed where they  
 24 started -- you guys started doing the firebreaks --  
 25 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Here.

1 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Yeah, around there. So  
 2 just -- was it north of that, I mean, mauka?  
 3 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: This.  
 4 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Yeah, around there. From the  
 5 ground the ground looks, was that place -- did it have cattle  
 6 on it --  
 7 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yeah.  
 8 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: -- at one time or something?  
 9 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: So you remember Brandon,  
 10 yeah?  
 11 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Yeah, of course.  
 12 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: So he leases one of these  
 13 paddocks here, he was actually on scene trying to get his  
 14 dozer out of there, it was -- you know, it was in repair, so  
 15 it wasn't movable, so... He has this paddock and there are  
 16 cattle in here, so the fuels were lower, much lower than back  
 17 here, so that also helped us. But throughout this whole --  
 18 you know, the rest of it, you know how you look over here and  
 19 that's the same stuff.  
 20 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: What was the average height  
 21 of the cane? Ten feet? Twelve feet?  
 22 CHIEF THYNE: No. More like six, seven feet. So a  
 23 lot of it is kind of just regrowth or fields that got  
 24 abandoned, but it's not like your -- like the normal fully  
 25 grown, they're all kind of died off and, you know, a lot of

1 brush and weeds and stuff in between.  
 2 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: So going back to the  
 3 beginning, Chief, as the fire started, as it started to  
 4 escalate, was there a point when you -- where command was  
 5 initiated, but -- did you guys stand up the emergency -- MEMA?  
 6 Did you guys --  
 7 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yeah, I don't know. Val  
 8 could probably answer when that -- we did set up our MT,  
 9 though, our Maui Incident Management Team, we used that to  
 10 assist in managing the incident. But the EOC, I don't know  
 11 when that came.  
 12 ASSISTANT CHIEF MARTIN: I would say about 1:00 p.m.  
 13 So the fire started at 10:42 and as it escalated, we started  
 14 talking with MEMA around noon already, and then they decided  
 15 to go full activation and I think Chief Yatsushiro went up  
 16 there about one something and he was the first one to  
 17 represent fire up at the EOC. But we had spoken -- our  
 18 initial conversations with MEMA centered around evacuation and  
 19 shelters, that's one of the first things we did, was to get a  
 20 shelter. They wanted the Kihei Community Center, but it  
 21 wasn't available, so that's why we ended up at Kamalii.  
 22 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: And also when it first  
 23 started, I didn't anticipate it to go this way, I -- you know,  
 24 just based on, you know, our --  
 25 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Past.



1 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: -- past history, I  
 2 thought, you know, the winds normally come through here like  
 3 this and so I was thinking, you know, Maalaea area, so my  
 4 initial thing was, you know, the MECO powerplant, that was one  
 5 of the things that I thought was, you know, critical  
 6 infrastructure that needed to be protected, and then  
 7 eventually it -- you know, it started that way and then it  
 8 started -- and then the wind kind of came out of the west,  
 9 which is kind of weird, we normally don't get winds out of the  
 10 west, and then once it got to here, then it kind of just  
 11 progressed this way.

12 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: So I guess up to Air 3, was  
 13 it -- they were there within an hour or so?

14 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Air 3 didn't get there  
 15 until about 3:00 p.m., I believe.

16 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: So initially Air 1 and 2 --

17 CHIEF THYNE: Well, concurrently -- concurrently we  
 18 also had a rescue in Kaupo.

19 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yeah, 2 had to leave -- I  
 20 think when we had the 3, we had the Kaupo rescue, so then we  
 21 had -- we were left with two. But Air 3 did not get there  
 22 until 3:00 because Don was on the Big Island, so he had to fly  
 23 back. He was there doing a job there, he flew back here and,  
 24 you know, worked -- helped us work the fire.

25 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: So the initial air support

1 was within the first ten to 15 minutes.

2 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: When it was still here,  
 3 yeah, that's -- Air 1 was probably on scene once -- as soon as  
 4 they decided and did their initial attack.

5 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: And it was flying by itself  
 6 for?

7 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: For about an hour.

8 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: About an hour. And was it  
 9 effective on that tall grass or was it struggling to make any  
 10 way?

11 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Once it got -- you know,  
 12 once the fire got big, the bucket drops are not that effective  
 13 on ahead, so they kind of concentrate on, you know, keeping  
 14 the --

15 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Protection, yeah.

16 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yeah, the perimeter.

17 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: And then I guess my final  
 18 question is: All the agencies, there's a lot of names that I  
 19 didn't hear before that are now vendors, I guess, the dozer  
 20 operators?

21 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yeah. So I don't know if  
 22 all of these guys are actual vendors.

23 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Okay.

24 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: But I know we did receive  
 25 some bills --

1 (Laughter.)

2 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: -- from people that I'm  
 3 not sure they're --

4 CHIEF THYNE: Especially from Vares.

5 (Laughter.)

6 COMMISSIONER VARES: I'm gonna get me a tanker out  
 7 of this one.

8 (Laughter.)

9 COMMISSIONER VARES: No.

10 CHIEF THYNE: What our initiative is, just so you  
 11 know as a commission, is we ask our folks that help us to get  
 12 an MOA or MOU with us, whatever works for their agency,

13 because what that means is we identify what happens if their  
 14 machine gets damaged, what happens if -- I mean, who's  
 15 covering their medical? We don't want to think about those

16 things, but if we don't have an agreement, that's all subject  
 17 to court, which we -- none of us like. Right? So we identify  
 18 through Goodfellow's, through West Maui Land, some of our

19 folks we work with a lot, we approached them -- they didn't  
 20 approach us, we approached them and said, Hey, we need you,  
 21 but we want to make sure we're all on the same page of what  
 22 you're getting paid, who's covering what, who's covering the  
 23 maintenance of your vehicles, all those types of things.

24 Because if we don't think about that and something bad

25 happens, it's all gonna become lawsuits and all those things

1 and none of us want to go through that. Right?

2 COMMISSIONER VARES: What was that again that I need  
 3 to set up? What is it, MO what?

4 CHIEF THYNE: It's MOU or MOA, either a memorandum  
 5 of agreement or memorandum of understanding, whatever works  
 6 for your particular -- 'cause it's something that is  
 7 structured differently as far as a corporation or whatever.

8 COMMISSIONER VARES: Okay.

9 CHAIR MISAKI: Usually an MOA is stronger than an  
 10 MOU, though.

11 CHIEF THYNE: Agreements usually talk about money  
 12 and all of those types of things, a memorandum of  
 13 understanding is a little --

14 CHAIR MISAKI: Is cooperation.

15 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah, exactly, cooperation.

16 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: So, Chief, as far as the --  
 17 when the heavy equipment started arriving, what size dozer or  
 18 heavy equipment was effective going through there? Was it  
 19 like D9s that were showing up or D8s?

20 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: We had all the way from  
 21 the 5 --

22 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: D5.

23 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: -- and I believe the 10  
 24 was cutting the contingency line, because we couldn't just  
 25 keep it there in case it jumped, so we didn't want to have

1 nothing, you know, on that side. And I think in the fields,  
 2 I'm not sure if it was an 8 or a 9 that was --  
 3 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Were they working tandem or  
 4 they were kind of spread out?  
 5 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: They were all over the  
 6 place. You know, we had some protecting the powerplant and  
 7 then we had some here, you know, around -- we were just trying  
 8 to surround -- get everything surrounded.  
 9 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: This was like in advance that  
 10 these guys were out there working --  
 11 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah, yeah.  
 12 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: -- before the front line  
 13 reached it.  
 14 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah. So for you folks, there's a  
 15 couple of things, one -- this is what these guys are dealing  
 16 with and battalion chief's initial attack with the commanders  
 17 when they roll up on something like that. There's a couple of  
 18 different things that's important for you to understand as our  
 19 commission. So one of the things is we don't always commit  
 20 all of our efforts to the primary, because that's foolish,  
 21 right, if we just all in. We've gotta look at alternate  
 22 strategy as well. Right? We've gotta look at contingency  
 23 strategies. Well, they call pace planning, so we have a  
 24 primary effort that we're putting forth and definitely most of  
 25 the force is on the primary effort, we're gonna stop it here

1 we've gotta factor that in as well. You know, the same thing  
 2 when we were in Kahikinui.  
 3 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yep.  
 4 CHIEF THYNE: It's gonna take -- there's 13 homes in  
 5 there, it's gonna take some time for people to get out of  
 6 their roads and get moving, so we can't wait till last minute  
 7 and go, "Run!"  
 8 (Laughter.)  
 9 CHIEF THYNE: Right? We can't do that. So we have  
 10 those two things in our minds, okay, This is our primary, this  
 11 is what he's thinking of, and our battalion chiefs are  
 12 thinking, Where are those lines in our minds to say this is  
 13 where we're putting our primary efforts, this is where we're  
 14 falling back to and this is our second fall back, which is  
 15 when we talk about when contingencies. Right? And another  
 16 thing is those management action points, what triggers get  
 17 people moving out of their homes and businesses and closing  
 18 doors and locking up and grabbing their pictures and  
 19 prescriptions and getting out of that area, because it takes  
 20 some time, so...  
 21 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: The other thing too we  
 22 have to deal with is still managing the rest of Maui. We  
 23 cannot throw everything at this and leave everything  
 24 unprotected, so... We actually had a bunch of calls -- I  
 25 think pretty much all of our BCs were working, other than one

1 at this road, at this drainage, at this secondary road, but  
 2 we're also looking at alternate strategies like what if it  
 3 jumps. And in this case it jumped several times, so we have  
 4 to think ahead and play a little chess and say let's put an  
 5 alternate line here, let's have this fallback. So that's one  
 6 of the things they're thinking about.  
 7 Another thing they're thinking about as Chief Val  
 8 focused on a little bit is what we call management action  
 9 points. Right? They used to call them trigger points, then  
 10 it got touchy with everybody shooting everybody, so --  
 11 (Laughter.)  
 12 CHIEF THYNE: -- we changed it to management action  
 13 points. What that means to us is that we determine that if  
 14 the fire gets to here, we need to evacuate this area, we need  
 15 to make notifications, or we need to talk to the EOC about  
 16 making a recommendation to evacuate the powerplant, to  
 17 evacuate Maalaea, the shops and whatnot at the wharf. So we  
 18 have these management action points that we have usually in  
 19 our heads, which later on when we get mapping, we start  
 20 drawing on a map and saying, If the fire gets to here, we  
 21 gotta make notifications in North Kihei, we're gonna make a  
 22 recommendation to Val and the folks at the EOC to have them  
 23 make notifications to get people moving out of that area.  
 24 Because when you think about systemically evacuating Hale  
 25 Piilani subdivision or on Kamalani, that takes some time, so

1 that was on vacation and not here. So we bring in a BC to run  
 2 the rest of the 911 and as -- I don't know if you guys know or  
 3 not, but we did have a couple of fires, one in Lahaina and one  
 4 in --  
 5 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Poelai.  
 6 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: -- Poelai at the same  
 7 time, so, you know, that's the reason for keeping the -- some  
 8 capabilities left.  
 9 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Sorry. One additional  
 10 question. As far as the backup trucks, did they --  
 11 CHIEF THYNE: They were there.  
 12 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: How many? Three? Four?  
 13 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: On the relief?  
 14 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Yeah.  
 15 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: We had more personnel  
 16 than we had vehicles, so some of them were -- had some extra.  
 17 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: But some of these guys went  
 18 out there? I don't know where you guys are keeping them right  
 19 now as far as the apparatus.  
 20 CHIEF THYNE: At the station.  
 21 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yeah, we had -- I believe  
 22 we had three relief pumpers, an extra tanker, and some -- you  
 23 know, the MCC2 and pickup truck and stuff.  
 24 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Thank you. Awesome. Awesome  
 25 job, Chiefs.

1 CHAIR MISAKI: I have a question and after the  
 2 question, I have a comment. So is this the largest fire that  
 3 happened in Central Maui before?  
 4 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: It's the largest one I've  
 5 been on. I think Molokai was -- probably had some 10,000 --  
 6 CHIEF THYNE: Do you consider Central Maui like  
 7 Maalaea as well?  
 8 CHAIR MISAKI: Just between the two mountain ranges.  
 9 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yeah, I think so.  
 10 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah. I know we've had 10,000 acre  
 11 ones in Maalaea going along the Pali and all of that, but I  
 12 think as far as this, it's been my recollection being here 32  
 13 years, yes, that's correct.  
 14 CHAIR MISAKI: So this reminds me of the 1988  
 15 Molokai fire --  
 16 CHIEF THYNE: Correct.  
 17 CHAIR MISAKI: -- where it was like 12,000 acres, so  
 18 a little bit bigger than this, but it was all slope, it wasn't  
 19 flat. And like you say, you learn. You don't know all the  
 20 answers, but eventually we learned that Molokai, you gotta  
 21 think ahead and figure out where you're gonna put your breaks.  
 22 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah.  
 23 CHAIR MISAKI: And so my comment would be this is a  
 24 really good time to go to all the landowners in Central Maui  
 25 and say, Fix up your roads, widen it, and make fire breaks.

1 And that's what eventually happened on Molokai where we --  
 2 where we got grants and stuff to widen our mountain roads, fix  
 3 our mountain roads, and that greatly helped in the 2009 fire.  
 4 CHIEF THYNE: Correct.  
 5 CHAIR MISAKI: Yeah. So just a comment and just an  
 6 observation.  
 7 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yeah. Like I say, I have  
 8 a meeting with Mahi Pono on Thursday next week.  
 9 CHAIR MISAKI: Right on.  
 10 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Just -- it would've been  
 11 sooner, but just scheduling.  
 12 CHAIR MISAKI: 'Cause this is a good leverage right  
 13 now.  
 14 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yeah.  
 15 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Oh, they're really open  
 16 to it, you know. They have equipment now, last time I met  
 17 them, they didn't have anything, so -- they have a bunch of  
 18 farm equipment.  
 19 CHAIR MISAKI: So -- and the final point I'll make,  
 20 one of the guys, not even with the fire department, he was  
 21 with public works, he took it upon himself to do something  
 22 about it and what he did was he created a bulldozer training  
 23 program for his personnel on Molokai and he did so much fire  
 24 breaks and that really helped, so maybe public works can help.  
 25 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah. What we find is our contractors

1 like Goodfellow's and those folks, they spend a lot of time  
 2 pushing dirt --  
 3 CHAIR MISAKI: Yeah.  
 4 CHIEF THYNE: -- and that's, you know, basically  
 5 what they do as their occupation, so we rely on them for their  
 6 expertise. You know, Joe Dixon, Maury Sami, and those types  
 7 of folks, Riki Purdy. And ironically, those people just  
 8 before my vacation we had just engaged them about talking  
 9 about a dozer class, you know.  
 10 CHAIR MISAKI: Yeah.  
 11 CHIEF THYNE: So we're gonna capitalize on that,  
 12 obviously, because any time we can get all on the same page of  
 13 how we operate and how we say things as the fire department  
 14 and what we may ask them to do, it's all --  
 15 CHAIR MISAKI: Can you go on the land and train, the  
 16 dozer training?  
 17 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah, absolutely.  
 18 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Oh.  
 19 COMMISSIONER VARES: Go ahead.  
 20 COMMISSIONER STERLING: I have a question about  
 21 addressing the fire department, you folks here at commission  
 22 meetings, everybody's a chief and I don't know when I call  
 23 anybody a chief and -- can you explain the protocol for when I  
 24 want to address someone? 'Cause I didn't -- he's a chief,  
 25 everybody's a chief.

1 MS. OANA: I need to know that too.  
 2 CHIEF THYNE: In my opinion, you can call me  
 3 whatever you want, Chief or Dave.  
 4 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Just our personnel need  
 5 to know that, you don't really need to know that.  
 6 CHIEF THYNE: If you want to say Rick or Dave, I  
 7 don't take offense.  
 8 COMMISSIONER STERLING: It's hard for me to remember  
 9 names sometimes, but chiefs are really good.  
 10 CHIEF THYNE: You can even call Mike chief, he'll be  
 11 a chief one day, so...  
 12 (Laughter.)  
 13 CHAIR MISAKI: Put it this way: If they have a  
 14 white shirt, call them chief.  
 15 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Oh, that's a good one.  
 16 MS. OANA: Good idea.  
 17 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Thank you.  
 18 CHIEF THYNE: Whatever you're comfortable with,  
 19 Donna, there's no quarrel in our world as far as that goes.  
 20 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Thank you, Chiefs.  
 21 I have a question, I have several questions. Just  
 22 to let this commission know, when the fire happened, I tend to  
 23 listen to the scanner only because it's a habit of eight  
 24 fires, you know, Rick, so I'm -- I listen to the fire. I  
 25 wasn't in Kihei where my mom lives in South Point, but I'll

1 get to that. My question was I heard about the gates and we  
 2 have the same issue at Kahikinui, the gates. So there was a  
 3 lot of chatter about go here, go right, over, under, and there  
 4 was -- the coms was really good, but you addressed that, that  
 5 was one of my concerns, was the gates, unlocking the gates or  
 6 cut them and --  
 7 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: (Gesturing.)  
 8 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Because I have no idea  
 9 where --  
 10 CHIEF THYNE: That's the problem, though, because a  
 11 lot of guys do the (gesturing).  
 12 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yeah. So we have applied a  
 13 case Brendan Balthazar made for us, the iron, you cannot --  
 14 you have to get the -- so, anyway, it's a process, so we know  
 15 how to cut it, but -- so you answered my question.  
 16 Let's see. You know we have a big population coming  
 17 in Kihei, my mother could not get out. She's 95 with my  
 18 brother living there, she couldn't get out of South Point.  
 19 The roads were blocked South Point turned right -- so  
 20 everything upwind where the fire, the roads were blocked. You  
 21 couldn't move, go to evacuate towards Makena, so they stayed.  
 22 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: So I had a call from the  
 23 ranch, Sumner Erdman, they have their ranch road and he  
 24 offered to have it open, but they needed a declaration, an  
 25 emergency declaration coming from the EOC to put that out so

1 that it takes the liability off of him, is what I understood.  
 2 I don't know if that ever got out there, but he said he ended  
 3 up opening it anyway and allowing certain vehicles with four-  
 4 wheel drive.  
 5 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Papakea, yeah. Okay. That  
 6 was a concern, that's a big concern, was getting the people  
 7 out of Kihei. And now we have Maui High School, Kihei, we  
 8 have two other developments Goodfellow's doing, the Maui Nui,  
 9 we have -- the population's gonna increase and the ingress and  
 10 egress out of there -- 'cause the fire was coming towards the  
 11 population -- was Ulupalakua, we would have to take -- I would  
 12 take my mother up that way. But how do you move those people?  
 13 So that was a concern.  
 14 Because you're having this meeting Thursday with  
 15 Mahi Pono, I would really encourage something in -- because  
 16 this is gonna happen again, it's just the way the winds are --  
 17 and, besides, the Hawaiians never had people living that way,  
 18 we never had agricultural, they knew the winds would always be  
 19 there. But develop something, a fire plan like we -- you  
 20 know, we did in Kahikinui, 'cause it's gonna happen.  
 21 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yeah, yeah. Actually,  
 22 during -- during earlier in the day, I didn't think we were  
 23 gonna catch it there, I thought we were gonna be further  
 24 toward Maui Meadows and -- you know, at one point I had  
 25 reports that the thing was almost to Hawaiian Homes up in Kula

1 and we couldn't see what was going on, you know --  
 2 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yeah.  
 3 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: -- because of no  
 4 visibility.  
 5 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yeah. And the fire too,  
 6 that was one -- it's a pocket. When the smoke comes from down  
 7 below, it sits in Kula, so we had upper respiratory in Kula,  
 8 ER was receiving patients, so -- I used to work there.  
 9 Anyway, yeah, so good, good takes on the fire.  
 10 Thank you very much. And it's just the traffic getting out of  
 11 Kenolio was -- I kept -- I got tired of yelling at my mother,  
 12 she's deaf.  
 13 CHAIR MISAKI: Thank you.  
 14 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yeah.  
 15 CHAIR MISAKI: Lisa, you had a question?  
 16 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah. I was wondering if you  
 17 all have a recommendation for how wide a fire break should be  
 18 to be able to stop something like this?  
 19 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: The wider the better.  
 20 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah.  
 21 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: I'm gonna say that, you  
 22 know, it all depends on the fuel --  
 23 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah, what's around it.  
 24 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: -- and the wind, those  
 25 are the two basic things. And, you know, also topography.

1 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah.  
 2 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: So that's all the things  
 3 that contributes to how fast the fire's gonna run, so -- you  
 4 know, imagine this Kuhlana --  
 5 COMMISSIONER VARES: Right.  
 6 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: -- it's -- you have  
 7 shareholder, two lanes, median, and two more lanes and a  
 8 shoulder and it still crossed that.  
 9 COMMISSIONER VARES: It still got --  
 10 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: The same thing for  
 11 Mokulele.  
 12 COMMISSIONER VARES: Okay.  
 13 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: So that's probably 80 to  
 14 100, maybe.  
 15 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: A hundred something.  
 16 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Over a hundred feet wide.  
 17 CHAIR MISAKI: I mean, there's a lot of answers to  
 18 that. I've been involved with five big fires on Molokai, it's  
 19 never wide enough. And in the early years back burning was  
 20 very tentative to do, but today, to me, that's the best tool.  
 21 COMMISSIONER VARES: Okay.  
 22 CHAIR MISAKI: To eliminate that fuel, but you  
 23 always got to be down -- but we don't have to get into that.  
 24 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah.  
 25 CHAIR MISAKI: But you never know how wide you need

1 it.

2 COMMISSIONER VARES: Every client we've got has

3 called me in the last 24 hours and it's like, "Hey, we need to

4 widen this thing." And we're just more -- we start 30, we

5 usually go 30 wide and 30 high, because that's what the feds

6 have always asked for and now they just -- they increased it

7 to a hundred, so we're doing a hundred down at Kaalea and -- I

8 don't wanna talk about Mahi Pono.

9 CHAIR MISAKI: Jack, you had a question?

10 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Yeah. How do you folks keep

11 in communication with the bulldozer drivers? You can't any

12 way -- do they have walkie-talkies.

13 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: We do work with a lot, so

14 they know to come get a radio from us.

15 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Oh, so do you have

16 communication?

17 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: We do have some extra

18 radios, but we don't -- with that many resources, I don't have

19 enough to give everybody. So in that case I'll give like a

20 supervisor for the -- whatever --

21 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: The operator.

22 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yeah. And they can talk

23 to their people and then get back to us. But when you're not

24 going directly, it's hard sometimes.

25 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Yeah, that's what I was --

1 want to do is stop and do all of this stuff. We're like, no,

2 it's not gonna be that, it's gonna be quick. We need you to

3 report somewhere, we need accountability for you, we need

4 communication with you, and then drop your dozer and go, you

5 know, kind of thing, so...

6 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Yeah. Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER STERLING: I had one more question.

8 Two, actually. So we've discussed the ingress and egress of

9 the population to get them out, is that you or is that the

10 police department?

11 CHIEF THYNE: Police.

12 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Oh, it is.

13 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah. We make a recommendation, like

14 we said earlier, to -- it's folks like Val is our

15 representation in the EOC -- I just use Val as an example, it

16 might be Ryland, it might be one of our other personnel. We

17 make a recommendation, police have the statutory authority to

18 enforce those laws and shut roads and do all those. We don't

19 have the statutory authority, we just make a recommendation.

20 COMMISSIONER STERLING: And my second-to-last

21 question is Oprah Winfrey, will you include her in the

22 discussion at some point to help, since her road is an access

23 road?

24 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: That's a possibility. I

25 don't have her number.

1 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yeah.

2 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah, we're working on it. That's one

3 of the takeaways, Jack, it's good you brought that up, because

4 we -- you know, a lot of times they'll -- whether it's

5 Goodfellow's or C. Hayes or whomever, it's just, Hey, they're

6 coming to assist and, boom, we assigned to Travis if he's a

7 division or whatever, and Travis says, you know, Go along this

8 line and do this. Well, once he's done with that, then what?

9 Right?

10 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Yeah.

11 CHIEF THYNE: So we want to develop a process where

12 they check in, they get a radio -- even if it's VHF and

13 they've gotta amongst their men on VHF and the supervisor,

14 like chief said, is on 800 radios, which is our normal fire

15 radios.

16 All the county guys have our channels in their

17 radios, so we don't have to give them radios. When we're

18 talking West Maui Land, Goodfellow's -- and in a fire of this

19 magnitude, everybody came to help, we gotta create a process

20 where they check in, they get an assignment, they know who

21 they're reporting to and they have communications.

22 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Thank you.

23 CHIEF THYNE: You know, so that's a -- that's a

24 takeaway, we've just gotta make sure we can make that happen.

25 'Cause in the heat of the battle, it's like the last thing we

1 (Laughter.)

2 CHIEF THYNE: I actually was in Fairbanks, Alaska

3 and got a call from Sumner, which I forwarded to these guys

4 'cause they had a way back with Sumner, so he was offering.

5 The concern was, I believe, from what I heard on the back

6 channel, was that you'll need four-wheel drive, those types of

7 things, and I don't think police or -- I don't want to throw

8 police under the bus, but my understanding was there was some

9 concerns about who could travel that road, where liability was

10 at. So Sumner, to his credit, was letting some folks through,

11 my daughter included that was working at the Grand Wailea, but

12 I don't know if he kind of said, Hey, if you're comfortable,

13 you can drive on the road, but be careful. I don't know what

14 he did, but we should definitely look at that as an

15 alternative.

16 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Unpaved, four wheel --

17 CHIEF THYNE: If they're willing to, of course.

18 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yeah, definitely.

19 CHIEF THYNE: Then I believe that that's --

20 Sumner --

21 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Ingress and egress, so --

22 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: 'Cause another thing too

23 is it's not always like you want to a hundred percent

24 evacuate, sometimes it's better to shelter in place and not

25 have to deal with all of that, people on the road, you know.

1 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Walk to the ocean.  
 2 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yeah. My mother was going  
 3 to.  
 4 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: No. Sometimes everybody is  
 5 too excited, park the car, walk to the ocean.  
 6 CHAIR MISAKI: Yeah.  
 7 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Really simple.  
 8 CHAIR MISAKI: So I just -- we can go on and on  
 9 about access and I just wanna say that this -- planning for  
 10 access goes way beyond the fire department, it's something  
 11 that the whole county has gotta get together and talk it  
 12 through with the landowners, with the attorneys, with whoever  
 13 to do a contingency plan for access. But I don't think it's  
 14 something the department can solve, yeah.  
 15 So if there's not any more questions, can we move  
 16 on?  
 17 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yep.  
 18 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay. Thank you.  
 19 Thank you, Chief.  
 20 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yep.  
 21 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Thank you, Chief.  
 22 CHAIR MISAKI: And thank you for this great map.  
 23 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yeah.  
 24 CHAIR MISAKI: It really helps us visualize.  
 25 Chief Val.

1 ASSISTANT CHIEF MARTIN: I'll try and be brief, not  
 2 too long, but I just wanted to touch on some of that  
 3 prediction thing that Chief Thyne was talking about.  
 4 Emergency management is such a difficult and nearly  
 5 impossible -- not impossible, but it's difficult to make a  
 6 decision when you can't predict the future, you know, you just  
 7 go with experience and stuff. And, you know, one of the  
 8 examples is like the tsunami, if you guys remember on Waikiki  
 9 they evacuated everybody and the wave never came, yeah. I  
 10 mean, that's huge and now you crying wolf and what's gonna  
 11 happen when the tsunami really does come, nobody's gonna leave  
 12 now the next time. And it's kind of that with this fire  
 13 approaching Kihei, you know, it's like, Okay, we're gonna  
 14 evacuate? Well, are they gonna evacuate or are they gonna  
 15 come and gonna stop it? So we don't want to do all of this  
 16 work and open up one shelter and nobody comes, but it goes  
 17 back to we'd rather open up the shelter and nobody come than  
 18 not have the shelter at all.  
 19 So it's just all of us being that advocate and  
 20 sharing that with people. So if you hear people say, Hey, why  
 21 you did that for, we never need 'em, or, Why do you ever do  
 22 this? Well, it's easy when you know what eventually happened,  
 23 but in emergency management, you make decisions and sometimes  
 24 it costs a lot of money and we wasted the money, you know. Or  
 25 did we really waste it, though? So this is kind of some of

1 the things that we go through.  
 2 In your packet there's one like this that says  
 3 emergency services on it.  
 4 CHAIR MISAKI: Chief, can I make a comment from that  
 5 real quick, because if you look at this map, what is the fire  
 6 department's first line of duty? Life and property; right?  
 7 So when you look at this fire burning, let me tell you, I know  
 8 the fire department is really good about this, they're gonna  
 9 make sure they're protecting all the life and property first,  
 10 so just be assured of that. That's their number one goal,  
 11 yeah. So even if there's a big fire there, they're already  
 12 thinking about how to protect life and property, that you can  
 13 be assured. Thank you.  
 14 ASSISTANT CHIEF MARTIN: So you have one like this,  
 15 it says AC of Admin. Support Services, and then reflecting on  
 16 the agenda -- I'm gonna try and speak to the agenda, but I am  
 17 gonna skip over the health and safety, because we have Captain  
 18 McDonald today that's gonna talk about that, so I'll touch a  
 19 little bit on fire department and fire prevention.  
 20 We don't have anybody right now on what we call  
 21 modified special assignment or what we call light duty. We  
 22 take a lot of our firefighters who are hurt, whether it's on  
 23 the job or not, we want to use their skills and be productive  
 24 in working with us. But in ocean safety, we have several that  
 25 have gotten hurt on and off the job, but we still bring them

1 in and they can help us deliver stuff, do administrative work,  
 2 but they're not fit to do their regular job which requires  
 3 them to be physically fit, so the doctor hasn't cleared them.  
 4 We don't have a lot right now. Usually we've got about two or  
 5 three personnel. We've gotten as high as like four or five,  
 6 yeah.  
 7 So Workday software, that's the big multimillion  
 8 dollar project that the county purchased human resource  
 9 software. It's taking up a lot of our training days right now  
 10 with our fire companies. In fact, one of our fire companies  
 11 are -- they're down at the training classroom right now  
 12 learning how to input all of our human resource, payroll, the  
 13 benefits and stuff like that. This is that multimillion  
 14 dollar project that the county purchased for everyone. The  
 15 goal is to have the employees do a lot of the work, you know.  
 16 You can change your tax exemptions and, you know, change your  
 17 medical and stuff like that. It is a big project.  
 18 Kaunakakai air fill station should be getting  
 19 installed, the cascade system to fill up our CBA tanks -- I  
 20 don't wanna say any day now and it doesn't happen till a  
 21 couple months, but -- you know, it's all dependent on the  
 22 contractor getting in there, but we're well on our way. I did  
 23 get a call from DLNR and we are working on the property lines  
 24 and executive order process for our possibly new East Molokai  
 25 fire station location. Far from being the selected site,

1 but -- I want to make sure that that's clear, but there are  
2 some things that we need to clean up with the property lines  
3 on that -- the two properties next to Kilohana School, so  
4 that's good.

5 Fire prevention did some portable extinguisher  
6 training with the department of health.

7 And we're working closely with our risk management  
8 division out of the mayor's office and corp counsel with  
9 trying to reduce our injuries and minimize firefighter  
10 injuries and ocean safety officer injuries, so we have a great  
11 working relationship with them.

12 And our health and safety branch lead by Captain  
13 McDonald did participate with a couple of rehabs with the  
14 Holomua fire and a brush fire on Molokai recently.

15 So that is a little bit of AC admin. and then what  
16 I'll do is I'll touch on a few more projects. So when we do a  
17 fire investigation, there's two types of fire investigations  
18 in the fire department. There's smaller, simpler ones where,  
19 let's say, a fire company went to a dumpster fire, they went  
20 to a small fire on the side of the road, and the captain of  
21 that engine company comes out, he is the fire investigator.  
22 He is the person that's responsible to go and look at it and  
23 see what caused it and stuff, you know. Sometimes it's  
24 undetermined, sometimes you might find fireworks over there,  
25 sometimes they might find -- whatever they can come up with,

1 yeah. The other type is when they need help and they'll call  
2 the fire prevention bureau and say, you know, we need a little  
3 bit more expertise, somebody to kind of dig into this and look  
4 at it, that's when our fire prevention bureau goes.

5 This fire that started off of Waiko Road, early on  
6 we had called our fire prevention bureau already and said, You  
7 know what, just go. You know, we've got these fire companies  
8 going out there fighting this fire, we don't know how long  
9 it's gonna last, but we want somebody already looking at this  
10 stuff. We don't want evidence to disappear, we don't want  
11 people that we can interview, you know, leave the scene and  
12 stuff like that. So a lot of times with fires of notoriety or  
13 something, we know we're gonna get calls from the media, you  
14 know, we want to send it early and then go and then -- and see  
15 what they can find. So that happened on that one.

16 And also fire prevention is working on a new system,  
17 again, it's an over \$10 million project that the County of  
18 Maui is spending to improve the permitting system, getting a  
19 building permit, an electrical permit, a plumbing permit, a  
20 fire inspection review. They're trying to get the whole  
21 county on this one system. They traveled across the country,  
22 looked at different systems, and finally came up with this one  
23 particular one. And our fire prevention bureau spends a lot  
24 of time trying to revamp that and working with them. And the  
25 project gets pushed back and pushed back, they're like a year

1 or year and a half behind schedule now because of new issues  
2 that have come up. So I guess my point is they're spending a  
3 lot of time working with the various departments in the county  
4 to fire all of that up. It'll be a great -- the system that  
5 they're using out now is over 20 years old, the manufacturer  
6 of the software company that invented it, they no longer even  
7 support it. It's just our IT people here that is just keeping  
8 it afloat. And any day now, you know, something could happen  
9 to the whole county's permitting system and we'd be stuck and  
10 that's why this was a big project that the county needed to  
11 tackle. But I think we're in good hands, hopefully we'll get  
12 that, get that done soon.

13 In FY '19 our fire prevention bureau reviewed 2,024  
14 permits and plans that have come through from hotels to  
15 subdivisions to whatever needed to come in and get reviewed,  
16 so it's just over 2,000.

17 I'd also like to point out kind of what was touched  
18 on with the vehicles that was asked about our relief  
19 apparatus, so our fire mechanics, every Friday afternoon  
20 before they go home, we have a -- we have 197 pieces of  
21 vehicles or equipment, that's a lot, yeah. I didn't realize  
22 we had that much. But, you know, a trailer can be -- is one.  
23 It might not be a vehicle, but it's a trailer, we call it as a  
24 vehicle, so we have 197 in our department. You can imagine  
25 how much we have out of service at any given time. So every

1 Friday they update it and they tell us what's in the shop  
2 being repaired, what's available, what's on line in the fire  
3 stations, and then what is on the side that we can grab and  
4 use if we get another big fire and what's one that is totally  
5 out of commission and need to dispose of it. So that gets  
6 updated every Friday and it really helps out when we get  
7 something like this and we know what we can -- what we can  
8 grab, so that seems to have been working out.

9 And then I'll finish up with some of the projects  
10 that Chief Thyne was touching on. We did get our budget that  
11 started July 1st. I really appreciate the council members and  
12 the mayor for giving us a lot of -- a lot of money to get some  
13 stuff done, more money than I've seen in the past, so that  
14 means it's a lot of work for us too to get stuff done. So we  
15 have some money to paint some of the stations, so that's  
16 projects -- contracts that's gotta go out to bid. We have to  
17 fill a few positions, we've got three new positions that we've  
18 gotta hire with this budget, yeah, the ICBA tech, an IT  
19 person, information IT person, and then an administrative  
20 assistant to help us in the office, to help the chiefs and  
21 battalion chiefs in the office. And along with that, 15 ocean  
22 safety lifeguards, so five full-time and ten half-time ocean  
23 lifeguards. So that's a lot of work that kind of goes into  
24 doing that, so --

25 And then another project that we're working on is

1 the Haiku -- some of you might be wondering about the Haiku  
2 property, but we have \$250,000 in this budget to possibly get  
3 a consultant to look at what we as the county want to do with  
4 that site in Haiku that was selected. Are we gonna build a  
5 fire station there? Are we not gonna build a fire station  
6 there? And so we thank Councilmember Molina for putting that  
7 money in there, that's one of the main projects I know many  
8 people would like to see either find another property or build  
9 it or something. Hopefully with that, we'll get it done.

10 I'll end it there. Does anybody have any questions?

11 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay. Thank you, Chief.

12 We'll take a five-minute break, be back in five  
13 minutes because Mike --

14 CHIEF THYNE: Captain McDonald.

15 CHAIR MISAKI: Yeah, Captain McDonald. And you guys  
16 be back on time because Gregg is gonna leave us at 11:30, so I  
17 want him to get the full presentation.

18 (Pause in Proceedings: 11:08 a.m.-11:14 a.m.)

19 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay. I would like to call the  
20 meeting back to order and by popular request, we have Captain  
21 Michael McDonald. Just so you know, we have two more things  
22 on the agenda, we have his presentation and then we have one  
23 item under New Business, yeah.

24 Okay. Take it away.

25 CAPTAIN McDONALD: Okay. Great. So I did put on a

1 PowerPoint just because I thought it's a lot more fun to have  
2 some images. And of course now that I've made it, there's a  
3 lot better images.

4 (Setting up PowerPoint presentation.)

5 CAPTAIN McDONALD: So just to give you a guys an  
6 idea of my experience so far in the fire department and how I  
7 ended up here, 14 years career. I started out as a  
8 firefighter in Lahaina for about five years and then went to  
9 Paia for four years, five years, got promoted to driver and  
10 ended up in health and safety bureau. Started as a  
11 firefighter 3, our bureau has a captain and two firefighter  
12 3s. So I spent two and a half years there and then I went out  
13 on the line and was a driver on the ladder in Wailea for a  
14 couple years and then some of the fine gentlemen in this room  
15 were instrumental in me getting promoted to this position back  
16 in December, so I've had about a little bit over six months  
17 running this post.

18 It doesn't seem to be wanting to connect now.

19 CHIEF THYNE: So we all make mistakes, so sorry.

20 (Laughter.)

21 (Setting up PowerPoint presentation.)

22 CHIEF THYNE: While he's fooling with that, kind of  
23 off the record, more of a side conversation, but it's really  
24 hard to get -- Travis knows this -- people that work a normal  
25 fire schedule, you know, ten days a month, all the days off to

1 work a side job or be with their family, to come in and do  
2 Monday through Friday. So having somebody like Mike, Captain  
3 Haake, who you met, to have these guys come in in these staff  
4 positions and just go all in and, you know, every day chipping  
5 away at projects, it's just really we're blessed with having  
6 those types of folks. So I joked by saying we promoted the  
7 wrong guy, but, you know, he's in there, he's digging it every  
8 day. The guys he's working with, they're improving our rehab  
9 policies, our support of our firefighters, it's huge, you  
10 know. We're really blessed with guys like Michael.

11 Other than, you know, obviously he didn't take an IT  
12 class in college.

13 (Laughter.)

14 CAPTAIN McDONALD: The handout you have in front of  
15 you, the handout that we gave, this is kind of a flowchart,  
16 flow sheet sort of thing of the health and safety bureau.  
17 It's not something I made, it's something somebody else had  
18 made, but does include a lot of the things we do.

19 CHAIR MISAKI: There you go.

20 CHIEF THYNE: Thank goodness.

21 CAPTAIN McDONALD: We got it, Parish. False alarm.

22 COMMISSIONER VARES: Well done.

23 CAPTAIN McDONALD: Hey, it does work. All right.

24 So I -- so, yeah, so that's how I ended up in here.

25 Incidentally, during the same time I was doing that fire I

1 also worked with the AMR, the ambulance for about ten years.  
2 I started about three years after I got in the fire  
3 department, we were doing so many medical calls that I thought  
4 it would be great to have that training and it turned into a  
5 part-time which turned into a double full-time job until about  
6 a year ago. So you know how it goes, our cost of living.

7 So that experience actually has been really helpful  
8 too, because a couple of years ago I started as our EMS  
9 program coordinator and so I started handling that and  
10 that's -- you know, being that that's about 70 percent of our  
11 call volume, somewhere 60-70 percent in a given year, that's  
12 been a good experience I've had in teaching EMS and things  
13 like that. So that played into this too, just kind of giving  
14 a background for understanding some of these things.

15 Now I just gotta make the -- there we go.

16 So there's that flow sheet that I gave you guys. So  
17 just so you have an idea of how everything maps out with  
18 health and safety, this is actually helpful for us when we  
19 have so many responsibilities to be able to have something up  
20 on a wall and you can see how it maps out. You can see the  
21 two firefighter 3 positions, we have different  
22 responsibilities 'cause we all share, but Tony Twarowski and  
23 John Teves both kind of have an interest in each area.

24 So as we go, there's some pictures and things, so  
25 just the equipment. I don't know if you guys get to see kind



1 of everything that we work with, you know, or if you're aware  
 2 of. I mean, obviously some of it looks pretty obvious, but  
 3 we're talking about \$2,000 there with those pants and jacket  
 4 on the top, our turnout jacket and pants. The boots are  
 5 about, you know, 350, helmets about \$300. That SCBA pack that  
 6 you see is about 4,500, the cylinder is a thousand, so there's  
 7 5,500. The SCBA mask we have to wear is another 400 bucks.  
 8 So the things that we deal with are not only technical,  
 9 they're expensive. So when we get into this, you know,  
 10 managing these programs, there's a lot of things that go with  
 11 it. Respiratory protection and PPE gear and all this stuff,  
 12 there's all of these standards and requirements, things that  
 13 we have to do to maintain this equipment and get it.

14 On the bottom this is more stuff for wildland.  
 15 That's a Nomex, you know, brush gear, what you would have seen  
 16 people wearing in the fires we recently had. Separate helmet  
 17 for that, you know, there's -- there's just so much equipment  
 18 things. He did put a -- that device you see on the bottom  
 19 left is a chest roll pack, weather sort of kit there, so that  
 20 will give you like relative humidity and wind speeds and  
 21 things like that. So on the safety component and for  
 22 planning, we like to be able to get that stuff real time and  
 23 that can really help us as well.

24 You see on the right there's an N95 mask that's with  
 25 a hot shield, that's kind of the wildland version of

1 respiratory protection. It doesn't do anything when you mix,  
 2 you know, bad stuff burning, but -- it's great for natural  
 3 grass fires and things like that, but if we get into  
 4 baseyards, like I know you guys were talking a little bit  
 5 about, thank God the baseyard didn't start burning, that's  
 6 really tough 'cause now you've got really toxic, nasty stuff  
 7 burning and you'd have to have a SCBA tank on instead. So  
 8 this is an example of that respiratory protection.

9 We have a fit-testing program which we have to do  
 10 annually to meet OSHA compliance and so, you know, you put on  
 11 the mask and we have this thing that checks the seal. And,  
 12 also, there's a medical component to that too, they have to  
 13 medical and physical because it is demanding just to work  
 14 wearing a respirator like that, so a lot of requirements.

15 This is a fill station. This one's a mobile fill  
 16 station that we have. We have an air and light truck that  
 17 health and safety has, it's -- actually, right now it's our  
 18 only apparatus that has lights and sirens. So actually just  
 19 getting to those fires that we had last week, this was a huge  
 20 help. We didn't really need the vehicle for much else  
 21 specific to that fire, but just to get through traffic, we  
 22 pretty much had to use this to caravan and get where we needed  
 23 to go. On structure fires, this thing is instrumental because  
 24 we can refill the air tanks. Other rehabs it also carries,  
 25 light -- air and light, so there's the air, we also have the

1 light and we keep, you know, everything from rehab equipment,  
 2 chairs, tents to offer shade, and things like that, so there's  
 3 all kinds of stuff on here. That's another important thing.

4 Just talking about rehab, here's what maybe a rehab  
 5 might look like at a fire after it's a little bit more under  
 6 control. You have a place set up where people can come and  
 7 get out of their equipment, cool off, hydrate, drink, get  
 8 medical monitoring and we meet all the recommendations that  
 9 are out there from organizations like the NFPA and it's really  
 10 important.

11 Incidentally, the fire that we just had, this was  
 12 damn near impossible because you have resources moving in real  
 13 time all over the place, just finding where everybody is -- so  
 14 we were mobile, we were bringing our trucks around, trying to  
 15 find people, drop meals, drop drinks, check on people, you  
 16 know, so it can be quite challenging sometimes. You know,  
 17 this fire was fought more with helicopters and bulldozers than  
 18 boots on the ground, but there was some of that too. So we  
 19 didn't have -- we didn't have any medical issues among our  
 20 firefighters with this, 'cause they weren't really dragging  
 21 long hose lines, 'cause it was just on such a scale that it --  
 22 you know, I think our ignition team probably was the most  
 23 exhausted out of everybody. So we have all these requirements  
 24 we have to keep up with with that.

25 Safety officer, this is another one. This was our

1 training this spring. As we were coming into wildland season,  
 2 we were doing some trainings and things that were about  
 3 ignition operations and burning out, so this is a picture from  
 4 that. So just having that safety component, that's part of  
 5 the health and safety bureau, is to have people present that  
 6 can look at the, you know, 10,000-foot view, the overview, not  
 7 be engaged and start looking for safety concerns. When we get  
 8 in a hurry to save things, sometimes, you know, things can get  
 9 missed, so we try to fulfill that role as well.

10 Post-incident analysis, that's, you know, something  
 11 we'll be -- even today as we're talking about this, but with  
 12 our crews, the battalion chiefs, the crews on scene, it's just  
 13 so important to get everybody in a room and have a chance to  
 14 discuss what's happening, what we can do better and things  
 15 that get updated, so we are involved in that as well.

16 We also do the supply for all medicals and things  
 17 like that and infection control is big both for NFPA and just  
 18 as part of our operations, it's important. We -- this staged  
 19 photo here shows the latex -- well, actually, nitro glove, it  
 20 used to be latex gloves, but latex allergies. An N95 mask, if  
 21 there some kind of tuberculosis or, you know, things like  
 22 that, if we had concerns about that, wear the N95 mask that we  
 23 have to fit test annually as well. And then the eye  
 24 protection.

25 So when you talk about things like what we had a few

1 years ago and it sounds like it's recurring, but the Ebola  
2 outbreak that everybody's talking about in the media a couple  
3 years back, that's a whole different level of things. So if  
4 we end up, you know, having exposure to that, then we have to  
5 even go deeper.

6 This is a pretty good photo of a lot of the things  
7 that we stock in terms of the medical supply. And you can --  
8 you can see that we have about a four-piece kit, you know,  
9 including the oxygen cylinder, we have a first-out box that  
10 contains a lot of those -- it has tourniquets, it has the  
11 dressings, the bandages, you know. We have another kit with a  
12 pulse ox for -- so we can get oxygen saturation, take blood  
13 pressures, you know, it's a pretty extensive kit, so we're  
14 constantly supplying those. The ambulances are contracted to  
15 do that stuff, so they -- we do try to swap out equipment with  
16 them. Since they're under contract, the public's already  
17 paying them to do it, we do try to get equipment from them,  
18 but there's a certain amount of stuff that we have to stock  
19 and keep ready to back stock.

20 Another element of our health and safety program is  
21 just taking care of our people, that's our number one  
22 resource. We've invested a ton of money in our people and in  
23 the training. The amount of training that our guys go through  
24 annually and over the course of their career is tremendous and  
25 then, you know, we send -- we send our crews out and they see

1 some pretty awful stuff, they're aware of, you know, a lot of  
2 the very bad things that happen and then, you know, just like  
3 all of us, we all have stress in our lives, it can be hard.

4 You know, some of our people are just gonna take  
5 stuff home with them and then, you know, you have the usual  
6 stresses at home and you have a high stress job and so  
7 that's -- that's one challenge for us, is trying to engage  
8 with everybody about how do we deal as men and women, but  
9 predominantly men, obviously, with a lot of machoism. Like  
10 how do we deal with the really real feelings of seeing some  
11 just God-awful stuff and being able to deal with it, but still  
12 stay current in your job, 'cause, you know, the things you  
13 don't deal with, they do crop up over time. And so we're  
14 trying to learn more and get better at supporting our people  
15 as far as that stuff. We have, you know, personnel with  
16 substance-abuse issues, we've -- you know, we've had all  
17 these -- all these things, depression, and sometimes you don't  
18 know, was it the job that had a big factor in leading to some  
19 of those things. We're just a cross-section of society, so  
20 we're going to have every different thing.

21 This is kind of what I'm finishing up with for you  
22 guys and it was something when I -- when I made the  
23 PowerPoint, it was really in the front of my mind and for, I  
24 think, fire services everywhere, just there's a lot across the  
25 country about just the contamination hazards that we have with

1 fire. So every time we go to a fire, it's also haz. mat. and  
2 we really have to think of it that way. And it used to be  
3 that having salted gear, having charged equipment, that that  
4 stuff was thought of as, you know, you have a lot of pride in  
5 that, that you've been there, done that, that you've taken  
6 care of fires, and we've found that people are getting awfully  
7 high rates of cancer by wearing around, you know, gear that  
8 needs to be cleaned. Just realizing the hazards, that we have  
9 more synthetics, more chemicals out there, the fires now are  
10 just a lot more -- they have a lot more contaminants, a lot of  
11 more carcinogen things, so we're trying to get more -- get a  
12 stronger program towards mitigating cancer risks, so that's  
13 something we're really trying to build on right now.

14 So this picture right here is just showing a post-  
15 fire decontamination. He actually should have his face mask  
16 on still and be washing down. So we're trying to get this  
17 implemented in our department and we're working on having two  
18 sets of turnouts as well.

19 So it's hard for you to see, but that's the --  
20 that's the -- how much higher firefighter's rates of cancer  
21 are than the general population. The first one is testicular  
22 cancer, multiple myeloma, from left to right, non-Hodgkins  
23 lymphoma, skin cancer, brain cancer, prostate cancer, stomach  
24 cancer, and colon cancer. Well, I've seen in our department  
25 the testicular cancer and the colon cancer very recently

1 amongst some of our personnel and there's -- you know, there's  
2 a high likelihood that their job exposure lead to that, that's  
3 why there is presumptive cancer laws that have been passed in  
4 the state of Hawaii and across the country where they're  
5 saying if firefighters get cancer, it probably came from the  
6 job. You've got really young people getting really weird  
7 types of cancer and it's the exposure. And so from my  
8 position, it's something I'm very passionate about that we  
9 need to get out in front of this, we need to make sure that  
10 we're supporting our people as well as we can by our  
11 procedures and by the equipment, by the way we decon. I'm  
12 very passionate to tell you guys about this.

13 So there is -- there is the complacency,  
14 everybody -- again, I told you, if they had salty gear, people  
15 used to keep those blackened helmets that they had from fires  
16 and burn boxes and they'd wear them, they wouldn't want to  
17 wash them, but we've gotta change that.

18 CHAIR MISAki: The guy's got a white shirt.  
19 (Laughter.)

20 COMMISSIONER STERLING: A chief.

21 CHIEF THYNE: Chair, that's not me. I know it looks  
22 like me, a blockhead, but --

23 (Laughter.)

24 CAPTAIN McDONALD: So just some -- give you an idea  
25 of some things that we could implement -- well, that we have

1 implemented some of these, but we want to continue to build  
 2 on, things that you can do. So just wear -- getting our  
 3 personnel to wear that SCBA respiratory protection through the  
 4 whole call, that can be a challenge, 'cause sometimes you  
 5 feel -- you get -- what is it? Like nose blind; right? Like  
 6 after you've been in it for a while, so come out -- well,  
 7 they've done studies now and they're realizing that the air  
 8 that people are breathing 50 yards away from the house is  
 9 sometimes just as bad as the air in the house and people  
 10 didn't realize that for a long time, we're still not really  
 11 fully realizing that, so doing -- we have air monitors to kind  
 12 of see what kinds of chemicals are in the air, so we're  
 13 getting more of that.

14 We have these baby wipes so when we come out of  
 15 fires -- it's not a baby wipe, but -- it's called a fire wipe,  
 16 but it's kind of like that, but they remove heavy metals, they  
 17 remove carcinogens from your skin. So we're trying to get  
 18 people to wipe down the real areas where you can get it  
 19 exposure. Through your neck, the back of your neck, your  
 20 face, like around the face seal, all of that, just wiping off.  
 21 The groin area is a real common area to get exposed, so -- so  
 22 just doing a better job of wiping off, getting those  
 23 firefighters back to station where they can take showers  
 24 before they're back in service. And ideally change out their  
 25 gear, that's why we'd like to get a second set of turnout

1 equipment for our firefighters. It's 600,000 bucks, but  
 2 that's two cancer cases, maybe, at the most, maybe just one  
 3 that you would recoup that money, so it's so important.  
 4 So there we were just talking about, You look  
 5 ridiculous wearing that -- you know, wearing your SCBA, that's  
 6 how it was. Like when we first got those packs, you know, it  
 7 seemed ridiculous to people, We've been breathing smoke for  
 8 forever. Well, yeah, but that smoke was a lot cleaner than  
 9 the smoke we've got now. The stuff we have not is just  
 10 getting worse.  
 11 So just -- I already told you there's higher rates  
 12 of cancer for us. When we go into the fires, you can imagine  
 13 we're sweating, we're working hard, your skin absorbs 400  
 14 times more through your skin when your pores open like that,  
 15 so all those toxins are in the area and you're just soaking  
 16 them like in a sponge. So I think I've beat this drum enough,  
 17 but I wanted to emphasize something to you today and today was  
 18 the cancer topic.  
 19 Thanks for your support, guys. Appreciate it.  
 20 COMMISSIONERS: Thank you.  
 21 CHAIR MISAKI: Yeah. Thank you.  
 22 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: I've got a question.  
 23 CAPTAIN McDONALD: Yeah.  
 24 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: How do you guys wash the  
 25 turnouts? Do you folks send them to a cleaners or --

1 CHIEF THYNE: We have extractors.  
 2 CAPTAIN McDONALD: We have extractors that -- I  
 3 believe we have eight extractors, off the top of my head, at  
 4 various stations. So not every single station has them, but  
 5 after they've been to a fire or, you know, anything that's  
 6 going to expose the turnouts where they need advanced  
 7 cleaning, we put them through an extractor and it cleans them  
 8 to a level where we can reuse them then.  
 9 CHIEF THYNE: It's made for fire clothing. It's  
 10 specially made. It's basically a glorified washing machine,  
 11 like the stainless steel ones like you'd see in a laundromat,  
 12 but it has certain cycles and it's made specifically --  
 13 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Specifically, oh.  
 14 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: I see.  
 15 CHIEF THYNE: -- for fire apparel.  
 16 CAPTAIN McDONALD: And we have to do a couple  
 17 different cycles, the shells, the outer shells do one, the  
 18 inner liners do one, and the hood that you're wearing,  
 19 that's -- so, yeah, it's a pretty comprehensive process. And  
 20 so if we don't let -- make it easy and build in the  
 21 procedures, then people don't do it, so we've gotta -- we're  
 22 really pushing to make sure everybody --  
 23 CHIEF THYNE: 'Cause all firemen are macho; right?  
 24 Even female firefighters, they're macho too, they're tough;  
 25 right? They're tough.

1 (Laughter.)  
 2 COMMISSIONER VARES: I don't do laundry every day.  
 3 (Laughter.)  
 4 CAPTAIN McDONALD: Nobody wants to do it.  
 5 COMMISSIONER VARES: No, no.  
 6 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: I have another question. On  
 7 your refuel station, do you -- you folks have a backup one you  
 8 take to a big structure fire, but if it goes dead, do you have  
 9 another one?  
 10 CAPTAIN McDONALD: We have that one mobile one and  
 11 then we have Wailea, we have Paia, and we have Lahaina. And  
 12 then we're just getting one for Molokai, we just got one  
 13 that's gonna be installed within the next four months, I would  
 14 say.  
 15 CHIEF THYNE: An air pump.  
 16 CAPTAIN McDONALD: And then we have one --  
 17 CHIEF THYNE: In Kahului.  
 18 CAPTAIN McDONALD: Yeah. And then we have one  
 19 coming in this budget for Kahului. So only one mobile, but  
 20 it's kind of nice that we have them strategically across the  
 21 island so we can go and fill air cylinders when we need to.  
 22 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: One more quick question. How  
 23 long does the air cylinder last?  
 24 CAPTAIN McDONALD: We have 60-minute cylinders.  
 25 That's actually a really great question. And I think the

1 reason we went for 60 minutes is just 'cause we have some  
 2 rural places where crews might have to work longer. That's  
 3 kind of atypical, a lot of departments are 45 minutes. But  
 4 does it last that long in a real fire? No, it doesn't.  
 5 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: No, 'cause you're breathing  
 6 heavier.  
 7 CAPTAIN McDONALD: Yeah. And that's --  
 8 CHAIR MISAKI: It's a one hour for normal breathing.  
 9 CAPTAIN McDONALD: Yeah, exactly. Yeah, yeah. So  
 10 it's about a half hour in reality, yeah.  
 11 CHIEF THYNE: A lot of huffing and puffing, it's  
 12 probably -- definitely closer to 45 minutes, possibly closer  
 13 to 30 minutes in reality, 'cause you need your extraction  
 14 time.  
 15 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Sure.  
 16 CHIEF THYNE: 'Cause you're inside the structure, so  
 17 you want to be able to bail out, not to run out of air and  
 18 you're still not out of the building.  
 19 CAPTAIN McDONALD: That's right. They build in a  
 20 third so that thing starts alarming us. When you get down to  
 21 a third of the tank, it starts alarming and you can't ignore  
 22 it.  
 23 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Thank you.  
 24 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Do the firemen have -- how  
 25 do they communicate?

1 CAPTAIN McDONALD: So right now it's just the radio,  
 2 but our new SCBAs have a built-in like --  
 3 CHIEF THYNE: Voice amp.  
 4 CAPTAIN McDONALD: Voice amp, yeah, so it's a lot  
 5 cleaner, it's gotten a lot better. Our last SCBA packs were  
 6 not as good on that front, but, yeah, coms are getting better.  
 7 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Thank you.  
 8 CAPTAIN McDONALD: And you can actually integrate it  
 9 in. We haven't gotten to that point yet, but you can actually  
 10 integrate it too to speak straight.  
 11 CHIEF THYNE: You used to sound like Darth Vader,  
 12 but now it's like a storm trooper-Darth Vader mix. Now it's a  
 13 lot clearer.  
 14 (Laughter.)  
 15 CHAIR MISAKI: Thank you. Never knew that about the  
 16 cancer rate, that's really important.  
 17 CAPTAIN McDONALD: Yeah, yeah. I think that's  
 18 something that's become more and more aware of in our  
 19 personnel and the public.  
 20 CHAIR MISAKI: All right. Any more questions?  
 21 CAPTAIN McDONALD: I really appreciate your guys'  
 22 support. I know -- I do understand you guys are all  
 23 volunteering your time to be here and I couldn't thank you  
 24 enough, you know, for doing that and for really being an  
 25 advocate for things that I'm involved with on the safety side

1 and everything, really. You know, I do worry about that and I  
 2 know that we have a higher risk for, you know, my friends and  
 3 coworkers to get cancer in the next five to 20 years if we  
 4 don't take steps now. That really drives me to come to you  
 5 guys and say, Hey, we need a second set of turnouts, we need  
 6 this and we need that. And it's all budgetable, we just have  
 7 to do it.  
 8 COMMISSIONERS: Thank you.  
 9 CHIEF THYNE: And he's putting in for fire chief  
 10 when I retire, so I'll just throw that in there.  
 11 (Laughter.)  
 12 COMMISSIONER STERLING: All right. A white shirt.  
 13 (Laughter.)  
 14 CHIEF THYNE: All joking aside, thank you so much,  
 15 Mike. We're so blessed to have folks like Mike that are so  
 16 passionate about what they do, so -- all joking aside, you  
 17 know, these folks, they come in on a 40-hour week, you know,  
 18 they could be out a station making more money, working a  
 19 better schedule, and they jump in and just -- you obviously  
 20 see the passion and we're so very blessed to have folks like  
 21 that.  
 22 COMMISSIONER STERLING: So thank you for there being  
 23 for us and we'll help each other.  
 24 CAPTAIN McDONALD: Thank you.  
 25 CHAIR MISAKI: So with that, I just want to make one

1 final comment and that is to thank the chief for doing stuff  
 2 like this, because we're really getting a good idea of what  
 3 the fire department does, so thank you.  
 4 COMMISSIONERS: Thank you.  
 5 CAPTAIN McDONALD: My pleasure.  
 6 CHIEF THYNE: Thank you.  
 7 CHAIR MISAKI: We have one more item on our agenda  
 8 and this is Donna requested this be put on the agenda.  
 9 CHIEF THYNE: Lisa.  
 10 CHAIR MISAKI: Oh, sorry.  
 11 COMMISSIONER VARES: Good enough. Good enough.  
 12 CHAIR MISAKI: I thought it was -- it was Lisa,  
 13 okay. Thank you.  
 14 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah.  
 15 CHAIR MISAKI: So the feasibility of creating a  
 16 public safety video, so...  
 17 COMMISSIONER VARES: Well, we -- I know that there  
 18 used to be one on the Visitor Channel, now I don't believe the  
 19 Visitor Channel is even around anymore.  
 20 I actually was planning on doing a really nice  
 21 little presentation, but it's been kind of a heck of a week,  
 22 so I'm just going to read to you what I sent over to Ed and  
 23 that way it kind of sums everything up. So sorry if it's not  
 24 as charismatic as it could be.  
 25 (Commissioner Lundberg left the room.)

1 COMMISSIONER VARES: I'm interested in proposing to  
 2 the commission that we begin investigating the feasibility of  
 3 creating and/or collaborating on the creation of a Hawaiian  
 4 Islands public safety video to be shown on incoming flights.  
 5 The timing of this proposed in-flight video is advantageous  
 6 with the recent high profile lost hiker rescues and ocean and  
 7 stream near drownings and deaths. With the current popularity  
 8 of social media and hike guide books leading the public into  
 9 more remote and dangerous areas, a Hawaiian Islands public  
 10 safety video may give pause to an otherwise level-headed  
 11 visitor who may have made a dangerous and costly error while  
 12 wanting to explore Maui's natural beauty.

13 The in-flight video would highlight common safety  
 14 measures as seen in previous safety videos that previously ran  
 15 on the Visitor Channel, such as ocean safety, like:

16 Never turn your back on the waves and the ocean.

17 Shore break dangers at Big Beach.

18 Overtaxing oneself while snorkeling, because for  
 19 some reason we've got a spate of 50-, 60-, and 70-year-old  
 20 snorkeling drownings.

21 Staying away from blow holes, it seems to be  
 22 20-year-olds doing that.

23 And shoreline wave safety.

24 And then what I would consider exploring or hiking  
 25 safety, which is never hike alone, take water, bring -- or

1 take a phone, stay away from the edge of the trails and  
 2 cliffs.

3 Waterfall dangers, which is much more than just  
 4 tourists. This is also, of course, everybody. Falling rocks,  
 5 jumping into pools, private property notice, and knowing our  
 6 limits for both of these whether it's in the water or on the  
 7 trails.

8 These all seem like common sense safety measures,  
 9 but after years in the visitor industry, both at Haleakala  
 10 National Park and Air Maui Helicopters and just a bunch of  
 11 outdoor stuff, I know how distracted otherwise level-headed  
 12 visitors can become when experiencing Maui's natural beauty.  
 13 I've also known quite a few Maui residents to whom these  
 14 safety measures would be beneficial.

15 If this process has already begun with another  
 16 agency or group and has stalled out for one reason or another,  
 17 I'd like to see if the commissioners' assistance could move  
 18 this matter forward. I anticipate that it would require  
 19 collaboration between other concerned agencies and groups like  
 20 the Hawaii Visitors Authority and that kind of thing, which is  
 21 probably gonna be the biggest hurdle, but I believe that if it  
 22 can be done, we could be heavily involved in getting it done.

23 I'm assuming this isn't the first time this idea has  
 24 been bantered around and want to take the most realistic  
 25 approach as possible. I'm also anticipating that this will

1 not be a short-term, quickly established program -- project,  
 2 but I've got five years of the term to work on it, so I'm not  
 3 in a hurry. If this is indeed feasible, it's a project that  
 4 deserves long-time attention that it will require and I'm  
 5 pretty good at patient persistence.

6 I'm really looking forward to getting feedback from  
 7 the commission, but also if anybody -- if this has been worked  
 8 on before and shot down, why and can we get it worked around?  
 9 Are there any interagency resources and contributions that  
 10 anybody on the board has that we could then find the right  
 11 person to discuss with? And if it's done, how do you pay for  
 12 it?

13 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay. Before we start this  
 14 discussion, I just had a short discussion with Jennifer and I  
 15 just want to make sure that you let us know what role can the  
 16 commission play in something like this.

17 MS. OANA: So your idea is a good -- a great one and  
 18 I think it might've been discussed before. I talked to Jeff  
 19 Ueoka, who had my position before me, and he said I think this  
 20 commission did discuss it, I don't know if any one of you were  
 21 on at the time.

22 CHAIR MISAKI: I don't remember discussing this in  
 23 my time on the commission.

24 MS. OANA: It might've been a long time ago, but  
 25 from what I understand, maybe it was the Maui Visitors Bureau

1 who didn't want to go forward with it, I'm not really sure  
 2 why.

3 COMMISSIONER VARES: I can see that.

4 MS. OANA: So, okay, let's start with the first  
 5 thing. What is your powers, duties, and functions? And that  
 6 is coming from the charter and from your rules of practice and  
 7 procedure. So if you look at it, and I did and I -- a lot of  
 8 it is, you know, to do with budget and all that kind of thing.

9 The one thing that I see is maybe No. 3, "Review the  
 10 operations of the Department of Fire and Public Safety and the  
 11 Civil Defense Agency and make recommendations for changes that  
 12 may be desirable to improve the performance of emergency  
 13 functions and provision of public safety services." And feel  
 14 free to look at the charter to see if, you know, this project  
 15 can fit into any other section, but that's the one I see to me  
 16 that fits more closely with it. So if you want to go forward  
 17 with this, just kind of keep that in mind.

18 COMMISSIONER VARES: And keep it within those  
 19 parameters.

20 MS. OANA: Keep within that parameter, your -- one  
 21 other thing is that we don't have a budget for this  
 22 commission, so we can't do it, but it would be kind of  
 23 investigating, coming up with a plan --

24 COMMISSIONER VARES: And then finding somebody to --

25 MS. OANA: -- talking with the Maui Visitors

1 Bureau --

2 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah.

3 MS. OANA: -- talking to the other people, coming

4 with a plan to recommend to fire and recommend to MEMA if they

5 should do it or if the county should do it.

6 COMMISSIONER VARES: Okay.

7 MS. OANA: So you can kind of create something like

8 a proposal --

9 COMMISSIONER VARES: Okay.

10 MS. OANA: -- it doesn't mean that they'll ever do

11 it, but you can -- I mean, that's what I see you being able to

12 maybe do, so it would be just like a recommendation to them --

13 COMMISSIONER VARES: That's great.

14 MS. OANA: -- and to MEMA.

15 COMMISSIONER VARES: That's not a no.

16 MS. OANA: No, that's not a no. So, yeah, just keep

17 in mind with the charter what your roles are, you want to --

18 did you want to form a temporary investigative group or a

19 permitted interaction group to look into it?

20 COMMISSIONER VARES: I would love to, if anybody

21 else is interested.

22 MS. OANA: We can discuss that at the next meeting,

23 because we need to agendize the creation --

24 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah.

25 MS. OANA: -- of a TIG or a PIG, so, you know --

1 COMMISSIONER VARES: Something to discuss.

2 MS. OANA: -- the public can come and talk to you

3 about it or something. So, remember, with the TIG or PIG,

4 though, it takes three meetings for action. And like you

5 said, you have five years, so --

6 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah.

7 MS. OANA: The three meetings that, you know, we

8 have could really end up to be ten. The first meeting is

9 creating the TIG, defining what the --

10 CHAIR MISAKI: Creating what?

11 MS. OANA: The TIG, temporary investigative group or

12 it's called a permitted interaction group, either way.

13 CHAIR MISAKI: Can you call it just a subcommittee?

14 MS. OANA: I don't like to use that --

15 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay.

16 MS. OANA: -- because then you have to meet with an

17 agenda, you have to post it six days in advance. This does

18 not make you have to do that.

19 COMMISSIONER VARES: Oy.

20 MS. OANA: So a subcommittee would be a meeting like

21 this, you need quorum, you need an agenda.

22 CHAIR MISAKI: An agenda.

23 MS. OANA: A TIG or a PIG, you guys can meet

24 outside, you don't need an agenda, but --

25 COMMISSIONER STERLING: No Sunshine Law? We

1 wouldn't be violating --

2 MS. OANA: No, but there are rules.

3 COMMISSIONER VARES: Okay.

4 MS. OANA: So two -- at least two, but not more

5 than --

6 COMMISSIONER VARES: But not quorum.

7 CHAIR MISAKI: Yeah, so it's gotta be less than

8 five.

9 COMMISSIONER VARES: Okay. At least two, but less

10 than five.

11 CHAIR MISAKI: It's gotta be less than five.

12 MS. OANA: This is a nine member, so four, two to

13 four can be on this TIG.

14 CHAIR MISAKI: So you call it a temporary

15 investigating group?

16 COMMISSIONER VARES: Group. Or a PIG is?

17 MS. OANA: Permitted interaction group.

18 COMMISSIONER VARES: Oh, God.

19 CHAIR MISAKI: So temporary --

20 MS. OANA: It means the same thing, it comes from

21 HRS 92-5.

22 CHIEF THYNE: I think I like TIG, not a PIG.

23 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah, I don't want to be a PIG.

24 CHIEF THYNE: But that's just me.

25 (Laughter.)

1 COMMISSIONER VARES: You like join my PIG?

2 MS. OANA: So the first meeting will be at the next

3 meeting we do an agenda item called creation of this TIG or

4 PIG.

5 COMMISSIONER VARES: Okay.

6 MS. OANA: And at that meeting you guys decide who

7 you want, two to four members. Set the scope, what are you

8 guys going to be doing outside of this commission meeting?

9 Investigate, contact other agencies, and then come back to --

10 maybe like make a report and come back to the commission.

11 COMMISSIONER VARES: Okay.

12 MS. OANA: That really can take however long you

13 want.

14 COMMISSIONER VARES: A year.

15 MS. OANA: When you're ready, when you guys have a

16 report done that you want to bring to the full commission, we

17 just put it on the agenda for findings.

18 COMMISSIONER VARES: Okay.

19 MS. OANA: And then after that there'd be another

20 meeting to vote on it, I think, but --

21 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay. So just so I'm understanding,

22 because this is the first time we're doing something -- the

23 last time we did something like this was hiring the fire

24 chief; right?

25 MS. OANA: And that is totally within the charter.

1 You know, you gotta kind of fit it in.  
 2 CHAIR MISAKI: So the next meeting would be to put  
 3 it on the agenda as an item to form this --  
 4 MS. OANA: Create.  
 5 CHAIR MISAKI: -- to form this TIG and I guess  
 6 people can volunteer at the time who wants to be on it. And  
 7 then --  
 8 MS. OANA: And then define the scope, what you guys  
 9 are gonna do.  
 10 COMMISSIONER VARES: Okay.  
 11 CHAIR MISAKI: Define scope and what they're  
 12 actually gonna do and then they can actually call their first  
 13 meeting, yeah.  
 14 MS. OANA: Not at that meeting, but, you know, you  
 15 guys can go out and do whatever you want to.  
 16 COMMISSIONER VARES: Start up the TIG.  
 17 MS. OANA: Okay? So it's basically whoever is  
 18 chosen for the TIG or the PI, are, you know --  
 19 CHAIR MISAKI: Whoever volunteers for it.  
 20 MS. OANA: Like if Kyle is not on the PIG, don't  
 21 call him. He will find out what you're doing at the meeting,  
 22 at our full commission meeting.  
 23 COMMISSIONER VARES: All right.  
 24 CHAIR MISAKI: So I guess at the next meeting people  
 25 can think of -- about who wants to -- if you want to volunteer

1 for this group or not; right?  
 2 COMMISSIONER VARES: And I was really just putting  
 3 it to the committee here to make sure that it wasn't like  
 4 already just something that's not even worth discussing  
 5 anymore, that it had already been ruled out as something  
 6 feasible, but if it hasn't really been investigated recently,  
 7 then I'd love to look into it some more.  
 8 MS. OANA: And maybe, Lisa, if you want to kind of  
 9 prepare a scope and something --  
 10 COMMISSIONER VARES: Okay.  
 11 MS. OANA: -- and read it into the record and  
 12 then --  
 13 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah.  
 14 CHAIR MISAKI: So I guess, then, the end product is  
 15 they would come with a recommendation and we as the commission  
 16 would either vote yes or no, correct, and then it moves  
 17 forward as a -- it moves forward or not as a recommendation.  
 18 MS. OANA: As a recommendation to the chief and to  
 19 Herman.  
 20 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay. I'm just trying to understand  
 21 the process.  
 22 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Lisa and Chair?  
 23 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yes, please.  
 24 COMMISSIONER STERLING: I think this is a wonderful  
 25 idea. It's needed in, you know, all of the County of Maui,

1 all three islands, and I'd be more than happy to support  
 2 and -- and I'll give you my number.  
 3 COMMISSIONER VARES: Sweet.  
 4 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: See, you've got a volunteer  
 5 already.  
 6 CHAIR MISAKI: So we'll put it on an agenda item.  
 7 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah, that's good.  
 8 CHAIR MISAKI: And when Jill puts it together --  
 9 COMMISSIONER VARES: Great.  
 10 CHAIR MISAKI: -- we'll make sure we consult with  
 11 her as to the proper agenda and then it'll be in the next  
 12 meeting.  
 13 COMMISSIONER VARES: Wonderful. All right. Thank  
 14 you.  
 15 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay.  
 16 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: I learned in the military you  
 17 don't volunteer for nothing.  
 18 CHAIR MISAKI: So thank you for that.  
 19 COMMISSIONER VARES: Thank you guys.  
 20 CHAIR MISAKI: And the next meeting, remember now  
 21 that's the meeting we changed to August 22nd. Please, please  
 22 be kind to Jill and answer her emails.  
 23 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yes or no. Yes?  
 24 MS. PETERSON: Yes.  
 25 CHAIR MISAKI: Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Everybody showed up today.  
 2 CHAIR MISAKI: Yeah, full commission.  
 3 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Okay. Oh, I need to find  
 4 out --  
 5 Oh, are we adjourned, Chair?  
 6 CHAIR MISAKI: Yes. Meeting is adjourned.  
 7 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Move to adjourn.  
 8 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Second. Yeah. You got it.  
 9 (The proceedings were adjourned at 11:51 a.m.)  
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1                                    C E R T I F I C A T E

2    STATE OF HAWAII                    )  
3    COUNTY OF MAUI                    )    SS.

4  
5                    I, Sandra J. Gran, Certified Shorthand Reporter for  
6    the State of Hawaii, hereby certify that on July 18th, 2019,  
7    at 10:01 a.m. the proceedings was taken down by me in machine  
8    shorthand and was thereafter reduced to typewritten form under  
9    my supervision; that the foregoing represents, to the best of  
10   my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings  
11   had in the foregoing matter.

12  
13                    I further certify that I am not an attorney for any  
14   of the parties hereto, nor in any way concerned with the  
15   cause.

16  
17                    DATED this 31st day of July, 2019, in Maui, Hawaii.

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21  
22                    \_\_\_\_\_  
23                    Sandra J. Gran, RPR  
24                    Hawaii CSR 424

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