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2 FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
3 COUNTY OF MAUI
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8 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
9 REGULAR MEETING
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14 Held at Maui Fire Department Prevention Bureau, 313
15 Manea Place, Wailuku, Hawaii, commencing at 10:00 a.m., on
16 February 20, 2020.
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21 REPORTED BY: SANDRA J. GRAN, RPR/CSR #424
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1 (February 20, 2020, 10:00 a.m.)
2 * * *
3 CHAIR MISAKI: I would like to call the
4 February 20th meeting to order. I'm going to take roll call.
5 Kyle Ginoza.
6 COMMISSIONER GINOZA: Here.
7 CHAIR MISAKI: Linda Fernandez.
8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Here.
9 CHAIR MISAKI: Jack Freitas.
10 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Here.
11 CHAIR MISAKI: Travis Tancayo.
12 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Here.
13 CHAIR MISAKI: Gregg Lundberg.
14 COMMISSIONER: Not here yet.
15 CHAIR MISAKI: Dwight Burns.
16 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Here.
17 CHAIR MISAKI: Lisa Vares.
18 (Commissioner Vares entered the room.)
19 COMMISSIONER VARES: Here.
20 (Laughter.)
21 CHAIR MISAKI: And Donna Sterling.
22 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Here.
23 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay. Thank you.
24 Would you guys like to review the minutes or
25 anybody -- would anybody like to make a motion to approve the

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1 ATTENDANCE
2 COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:
3 Edwin Misaki, Chair
4 Kyle Ginoza, Vice-Chair
5 Linda Fernandez, Member
6 Jack Freitas, Member
7 Travis Tancayo, Member
8 Dwight Burns, Member
9 Lisa Vares, Member
10 Donna Sterling, Member
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13 FIRE STAFF:
14 David Thyne, Fire Chief
15 Bradford Ventura, Deputy Fire Chief
16 Richard Kawasaki, Assistant Fire Chief
17 Michael Werner, Assistant Fire Chief
18 Richelle Wakamatsu, Commission Assistant
19 Jeffrey Geisea, Battalion Chief
20
21 COUNTY STAFF:
22 Jennifer Oana, Deputy Corporation Counsel
23 Herman Andaya, Maui Emergency Management Agency
24
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1 minutes?
2 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: So moved.
3 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay. Jack Freitas moved.
4 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Second.
5 CHAIR MISAKI: And Dwight seconded.
6 All those in favor?
7 (Response.)
8 CHAIR MISAKI: Anybody opposed?
9 (No response.)
10 CHAIR MISAKI: Motion carried.
11 Is there any public testimony today?
12 (No response.)
13 CHAIR MISAKI: It looks like there is not.
14 And then announcements. Just so you guys know, at
15 the next meeting -- so start thinking about it, you guys might
16 want to talk story with each other who's willing to serve as
17 chair and vice chair, but at the next meeting we are going to
18 elect the new chair and vice chair. Okay? Just wanted to
19 make you guys -- make sure you guys are aware that I will
20 still be the chair of the meeting, but it's my last meeting in
21 next -- in March, so...
22 Okay. Herman, you're up.
23 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Mr. Chair, Commissioners, you
24 have my report in front of you. The big thing that's happened
25 lately is the coronavirus and so our office has been having

1 VTCs, video teleconferences, with the state, with the
 2 governor's office every -- every two or three days now and so
 3 we're -- we're preparing for that. Right now there are no
 4 cases in Hawaii and, in fact, there are no, what they say,
 5 persons under investigation, PUIs. Even that, you know, we
 6 don't have any of that and so -- we did have a Japanese
 7 tourist that was on Maui, but that was over two weeks ago
 8 that -- when he was last on Maui, so -- so incubation is
 9 already -- we're past the incubation and no one -- no one has
 10 gotten sick here on Maui as a result, so -- so it looks like,
 11 you know, we're still at that point where we remain vigilant,
 12 we're still, you know, keeping an eye on, like, if anyone gets
 13 sick.

14 But the guidance is from -- from department of
 15 health -- and this is very important, you know -- continue
 16 washing our hands, washing our hands, not touching our eyes,
 17 nose, and mouth before washing our hands, and not coming to
 18 work if you're sick, it's important that you stay at home. So
 19 that's something that we're continuing to amplify with the
 20 public to do all of that.

21 My report, I included on --

22 CHAIR MISAKI: So, Herman, this is Ed. So I
 23 understand he rented from Alamo.

24 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yes.

25 CHAIR MISAKI: Do you know what hotel he stayed at?

1 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: They stayed at the KOR, the --

2 CHAIR MISAKI: Where is that?

3 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: In Kaanapali.

4 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Kaanapali Ocean Resort.

5 COMMISSIONER VARES: Kaanapali Beach.

6 CHAIR MISAKI: Kaanapali.

7 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yeah.

8 CHAIR MISAKI: So that -- they must be monitoring
 9 the workers, then --

10 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yes.

11 CHAIR MISAKI: -- just in case.

12 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yeah.

13 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay.

14 MR. ANDAYA: So, again, we're beyond the
 15 incubation period --

16 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: It's over with.

17 CHAIR MISAKI: Yeah.

18 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: -- the 14 days, so --

19 CHAIR MISAKI: But you never know; right?

20 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Right. Department of health
 21 went and did their inquiries, they're asking, you know,
 22 employees, if they're exhibiting any signs of the flu or --

23 CHAIR MISAKI: And they flew Hawaiian Airlines
 24 between islands?

25 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yes.

1 CHAIR MISAKI: And then on Japan Airlines back?

2 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yes. And he was wearing his
 3 mask.

4 CHAIR MISAKI: So -- so why did they let him go on
 5 the plane going back and not quarantine him?

6 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Well, because he wasn't
 7 exhibiting any -- any symptoms, you know. He was -- he was --

8 CHAIR MISAKI: Oh, oh. So he got sick after he got
 9 back to Japan?

10 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yeah, back to Japan,
 11 eventually he got sick.

12 CHAIR MISAKI: Oh, oh. Okay. Got it.

13 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: And so department of health,
 14 they advised us that -- that you're not contagious until
 15 you -- you start exhibiting symptoms.

16 CHAIR MISAKI: Right.

17 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Until you become symptomatic
 18 and so he -- he didn't have any of that. He didn't have a
 19 fever, he didn't have, you know -- while he was here. But,
 20 nonetheless, they did go check with the hotel workers, make
 21 sure, you know, is anyone sick, is anyone -- and none of that.

22 So no one has come forward and said, Hey, I'm, you know --

23 CHAIR MISAKI: So, I mean, I also understand from
 24 the news, of course, that Japan is starting to get a lot of
 25 cases, so they're going to have to quarantine a lot of people

1 coming into Hawaii, yeah.

2 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yeah, yeah. So I'm not sure
 3 what -- what their plans -- I know with respect to China -- so
 4 there are people who have self-reported themselves, like, you
 5 know, they were in the China and so they're quarantined here
 6 on Maui. And we're nearing that two week -- two-week period
 7 as well.

8 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay.

9 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: So I assume they're no longer
 10 being quarantined. With respect to Japan -- I'm not sure
 11 what -- what their -- what the plan is for them, yeah.

12 CHAIR MISAKI: Yeah.

13 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: But we're -- we're here to
 14 support the department of health and so department of health
 15 takes -- they take the lead on this, much as like, let's say,
 16 a brush fire, yeah, we're -- of course, the fire department
 17 takes the lead on it, on that incident, but we serve to -- to
 18 support them, yeah, so --

19 CHAIR MISAKI: Thank you.

20 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Uh-huh. The next couple of --
 21 sorry.

22 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Yeah, just -- so mainly it's
 23 department of health and because we're tourist based here in
 24 Hawaii and then the department of transportation plays a big
 25 role in the decision making?

1 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Because of our -- the airports
 2 and --
 3 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: The airports.
 4 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yeah.
 5 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: So that includes the harbors
 6 division and all of that?
 7 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yes.
 8 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: My concern is like the cruise
 9 ship that's out there, we get a lot of cruise ships come
 10 through and I know sometimes they skip Oahu and they just do
 11 Big Island, Kauai, and they skip --
 12 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: So the cruise ships on Maui is
 13 all -- like they're all domestic.
 14 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Oh.
 15 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: You know, there's no
 16 international cruise ships that -- if there are any, then
 17 they're -- they -- I mean, they're in Oahu first, you know,
 18 but -- but there's no, you know, international cruise ships
 19 that we know of.
 20 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: I think some come in straight
 21 from Mexico.
 22 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Then we would --
 23 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: I seen itineraries that they
 24 show that they come through Mexico.
 25 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yeah.

1 like, say, for instance, you were in China in the last 14 days
 2 or so, then -- then that's when, you know, either they're not
 3 allowed to travel to Hawaii or if they're here, they're
 4 quarantined. They're quarantined.
 5 COMMISSIONER STERLING: I have a question. On the
 6 news the lieutenant governor had mentioned that the test kits,
 7 the CDC had given us the wrong -- and when it did come, it was
 8 broken. CDC, the test kit for corona, is that something we
 9 have here on the island? It's -- how is it distributed and
 10 who mans the test kits? Because you can get hundreds of tests
 11 on that one vial.
 12 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: So the test kits, they're --
 13 they are -- they found something, I guess, they may have had
 14 some false negatives or false positives, so because of that
 15 they're -- they're -- the CDC is trying to create, you know,
 16 more -- I mean, or trying to create a test that's more
 17 accurate, you know, so that's -- that's one -- I think it's
 18 the false negatives, so it comes in -- you know, it -- it'll
 19 show a negative result, but you may -- it may be -- you may
 20 still have the virus.
 21 COMMISSIONER STERLING: So in the -- in the window
 22 of time of two weeks, that's the -- the waiting period to see
 23 if it shows positive, but it could be negative, right,
 24 until --
 25 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: No. The test is -- I mean,

1 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: So I'm just wondering what --
 2 well, first of all, what safeguard do we have in place from
 3 something that comes from that country and then if anybody's
 4 paying attention to -- to that. Because I think -- I think
 5 they do carry itineraries that come straight from Mexico and
 6 Canada.
 7 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Okay.
 8 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: So --
 9 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yeah, I --
 10 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Yeah, I've seen it.
 11 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Okay.
 12 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: I mean, I (inaudible) things,
 13 so it is a -- a possible door and I hope people are --
 14 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Right. So the mayor --
 15 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: -- paying attention.
 16 MR. ANDAYA: The mayor did want to know if there was
 17 any international cruise ships coming in, so -- I'm not sure
 18 if that's -- if it's a threat, I'm not sure, you know, because
 19 Mexico is not one of those areas where, you know, they have
 20 the coronavirus or anything like that, so we're not closing
 21 our ports. Right?
 22 CHAIR MISAKI: (Inaudible.)
 23 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: That's true. We are -- we are
 24 taking visitors from the mainland, we continue to do that to
 25 this day, so -- but I know that what they're doing on Oahu is

1 it's like a -- like a day or two. I think it's a day, from
 2 what I'm told. So what we do -- the procedure is that we get
 3 the sample here on Maui and then we send -- we send it off to
 4 Honolulu and, like, they told us it's like a matter of hours,
 5 like six hours.
 6 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Right.
 7 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: And they can tell us at that
 8 point whether the person has the coronavirus or not.
 9 COMMISSIONER STERLING: But we don't have the kit
 10 here --
 11 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: No.
 12 COMMISSIONER STERLING: -- on island?
 13 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: No. We don't have the -- we
 14 don't -- as of right now, we don't have the training for it,
 15 so that -- to do the test, I guess it's a little bit more
 16 complex then -- you know, and you need certain equipment and
 17 whatnot. And so they explained to us, like, you know, what
 18 they -- I -- there's all this technical jargon and all of
 19 that, but right now who does it is on Oahu, they do the test,
 20 but they can do it very quickly, you know.
 21 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Okay.
 22 CHAIR MISAKI: Please remember when you ask a
 23 question to say your name so -- you know, Richelle will know
 24 you.
 25 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: But, again, as I've mentioned,

1 there are no -- there's nobody right now on Maui that's under
2 investigation, so, you know, they're not even exhibiting any
3 symptoms that would tell us that, you know, this might be the
4 coronavirus, so we're not even at that point.

5 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Okay. Thank you.

6 MR. ANDAYA: Yeah.

7 CHAIR MISAKI: I have one more on this. This is Ed.

8 For those of you who are planning to travel to Asia and you
9 cannot find the masks, go to Fastenal, 'cause they have it.

10 (Laughter.)

11 CHAIR MISAKI: Yeah. We, Travis and I just was --
12 'cause we just went there and we were surprised, the shelves
13 were still full, so -- I know they had on the news Marmac was
14 all out already.

15 COMMISSIONER: Oh, boy.

16 CHAIR MISAKI: Yeah. Okay. Thank you. Any --
17 anything else, Herman?

18 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yes. You know, with respect
19 to the masks, though, however, so the mask is good if you have
20 it. If you have the coronavirus, if you have the virus, you
21 know, then the mask is good to stop the spread of it.

22 CHAIR MISAKI: Right.

23 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: You know, by coughing and
24 whatnot. But by having the mask, it doesn't sort of mean that
25 you have -- you would be protected from the virus.

1 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: No.

2 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: You know, there's still other
3 ways that you could get the virus.

4 CHAIR MISAKI: Mm-hmm.

5 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: And so that's the reason why
6 the more important thing to do is --

7 COMMISSIONER: Wash your hands.

8 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: -- to just wash your hands,
9 yeah, exactly, Commissioner. Anything you touch, make sure
10 you wash your hands and then, you know --

11 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay. Thank you.

12 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: With respect to the other
13 attached reports that I have on here, this -- this next page
14 are all the advisories that we've put out for the month of
15 January, so as you can see, it was a pretty busy month for us.
16 And, you know, I hope all of you signed up for Maka'ala,
17 that's the county emergency alert system. And so each time
18 you see -- you see this alert, it's someone from our office
19 putting it out, pushing it out, and so sometimes you can see
20 that some of these alerts come in early morning, two or three
21 o'clock in the morning, that's actually someone --

22 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Working.

23 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: -- yeah, at the office pushing
24 it out. Not in the office, but they're at home, but pushing
25 it out.

1 And then, finally, the last page -- or the last
2 report on here is the siren report. So you asked -- you asked
3 for a monthly -- a monthly report that's showing specifically
4 each siren, so that's what -- that's the report that we have
5 here today.

6 And so if I may, Mr. Chair, if I may be excused a
7 little early, I have -- I have to go back and -- we have EOC
8 training going on right now and so I stepped out to come here.

9 CHAIR MISAKI: So you have to go back.

10 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: If there's no other questions.

11 CHAIR MISAKI: Thank you, Herman.

12 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13 COMMISSIONERS: Thank you.

14 MR. ANDAYA: Thank you, Commissioners.

15 CHAIR MISAKI: Just for the record, Misty, I'm just
16 going to say Herman had to leave.

17 (Mr. Andaya left the room.)

18 CHAIR MISAKI: Chief, you're up.

19 CHIEF THYNE: Thank you, Chair and all commission
20 members. I do want to -- Herman left, but I'll talk about him
21 even though he left. They do do a really good job of keeping
22 the county agencies apprised of the situation. They have
23 regular teleconferences and meetings up at the EOC, so just
24 for you folks knowing, they do continuously, two or three
25 times a week, provide information that they get from the state

1 level or department of health, Dr. Pang comes in, so it's --
2 it's pretty -- it's taken really seriously, just so you folks
3 know. I mean, I know that you know that, but I'm just kind of
4 letting you know from a department perspective, they do get a
5 lot of information to us, so -- and then we, consequently, can
6 get it out to our firefighters and responders, so I do want to
7 say that to -- even though Herman's not here to accept that,
8 but...

9 For us, you know, your report as far as the
10 incidents, it's -- Richelle started it in January, so you
11 won't have any comparative analysis unless you look back in
12 your packet from the previous meeting, but, again, we'll trend
13 typically in the winter months towards more ocean rescues,
14 ocean-related type of activity as opposed to, you know, fires,
15 obviously, with the rains and whatnot. So I know you folks
16 are aware of that, so I won't beat that too hard.

17 But, you know, we do consider ourselves a training
18 department, we just try to always maintain our training
19 levels, and so you'll see highlighted on the first page there
20 the various different technicalities that we deal with as far
21 as ongoing training with our crew. Some of it is compliance
22 related, like you'll see the confined space technician, there
23 are, what's regulated by OSHA, confined spaces in our county,
24 whether that be electrical vaults, well shafts, things of that
25 nature, and we are the rescue unit that's identified. They

1 have to have a (inaudible) from OSHA of responding to these
 2 types of areas. Island Energy is another company that
 3 typically deals with confined spaces with their various
 4 systems and infrastructure, so we are, as firefighters, the
 5 response agency, there's nobody outside of that. They may
 6 come from Honolulu down the road or later on, but the primary
 7 responders is our firefighters, your firefighters, and so we
 8 maintain a constant vigilance with their refresher training
 9 and making sure they're always ready to perform when needed,
 10 because, obviously, that's an atmosphere -- what's called
 11 IDLH, which is immediately dangerous to life and health,
 12 people can die, so we take that very seriously.

13 Another kudos to now Battalion Chief Jeff Giese, a
 14 but in his previous role as our haz. mat. captain, this tanker
 15 roll-over training -- obviously, we all travel on the
 16 roadways, we see the big tanker trucks and vehicles with
 17 everything from diesel fuel to gasoline to whatever else, so
 18 Chief -- now Chief Giese and formerly Haz. Mat. Captain
 19 Giese brought this training along, got the vendor compliant.
 20 We just held this training, it was well received by both
 21 industry, Maui Oil folks and whatnot were in the class, as
 22 well as our responders as well. So thanks to Chief Giese for
 23 that.

24 We have ongoing right now live fire training and
 25 what that training is comprised of, in a short summary, is

1 it's how we train our firefighters to respond to residential
 2 and large fires in a -- in a structure fire atmosphere. And
 3 so we have to have these folks trained to a standard that's
 4 listed there as NFPA 1403 and that's just to make sure that
 5 when we do the training, it's conducted in a safe manner and
 6 that the safety plans are in place and that our firefighters
 7 are being trained to the standard that's nationally
 8 acceptable, industry best practice.

9 So that's ongoing right now and as well as our UTV
 10 class and that's for training some of our personnel that are
 11 going to be utilizing ATVs and UTVs. We haven't done a good
 12 job of that in the past, we're doing a much better job now.
 13 It is, again, a regulation that we should be adhering to,
 14 that, for lack of a better reason or description, we weren't
 15 aware of. And so when we were made aware of it, we now are
 16 making the effort, we have certified trainers, one from ocean
 17 safety as well as one from our fire department side, and we
 18 will basically implement that training plan and continue to
 19 move it forward. So that is enough on the training.

20 I've been up to council three times, so this is kind
 21 of that time when we start figuring out budget amendments and
 22 changes to the council budget that was approved for this
 23 fiscal year, adjustments related to our, you know, our large
 24 volume of wild fire calls and the expenses for heavy
 25 equipment, helicopter operations, things of that nature, that

1 was one of them. Another one was related to, you know, just
 2 some positions and funding that was awarded in our budget that
 3 we had to clarify. And then, of course, the ocean safety
 4 lifeguards you see referenced there, we need the mayor to --
 5 the council to approve the mayor to sign the agreement for our
 6 Makena operation. So those were, knock on wood, approved,
 7 we're just waiting for the official -- and thanks to Jen. So
 8 just so you folks know, on the -- on the other side of Jen's
 9 job, she's our department corporation counsel and what that
 10 means is any budget amendments, any legal matters, Jen takes
 11 care of for us and she does a great job. And we've been
 12 working her pretty hard and we thank her for her efforts,
 13 because everything has been well received on the other side of
 14 it by the council members, it hasn't been scrutinized or this
 15 wasn't included or should have said this or whatever have you.
 16 So she's good at what she does and we appreciate her.

17 MS. OANA: Thank you.

18 CHIEF THYNE: Thank you so much.

19 So just some other things related to my report, we
 20 also submit a lot -- state legislature is in session right
 21 now, so I -- I just jotted down a few, that's just a few
 22 examples. When it comes out the other side and the bills are
 23 approved, I'll hope to give you guys a report on what was
 24 approved. There's stuff related to fireworks, things we're
 25 all aware of, but I need to just let you know of all of these

1 transmittals that are sent out. I just wanted to let you know
 2 that we do provide testimony and we are -- we stand in support
 3 of a lot of the bills that are produced because they're
 4 produced, typically, by various committees and then they're
 5 heard and when we give testimony, that helps to move it along
 6 in the process. So I just jotted a few of those down, there's
 7 a few more that were added, but I'm not going to go outside of
 8 the agenda and talk about those. But you'll see there's,
 9 obviously, some there that you may or may not recognize being
 10 heard about on the news or whatnot. So once they give the
 11 final approvals, then I'll update you folks on what those are.

12 This research and development committee, just
 13 real -- touching on that real briefly, what -- what that
 14 committee is, is we used to just kind of, more or less, lock
 15 into what we utilize on the fire ground or in -- in our
 16 operations -- and by that I mean if somebody went to a
 17 conference or to the fire academy and heard about a new tool
 18 or operation or type of personal protective equipment, they
 19 would bring it back, kind of sell our chiefs on it, and then
 20 we'd end up with all of this new stuff, for lack of a
 21 better -- whether it be a certain type of gloves or a helmet
 22 or whatever have you. We recognized a few years ago that
 23 that's not a very good way to do things, you know, we don't
 24 want to lock into deciding on what we use in our job.

25 And so we formed this committee and we've had a few

1 personnel change and retire and whatnot, so we're kind of
 2 resurrecting the committee. And what that committee does is
 3 we ask our line, our firefighters and our ocean safety
 4 personnel that are out there in the trenches to request what
 5 they think needs to be changed or improved upon, whether it be
 6 a certain, again, type of tool or piece of equipment or
 7 protective equipment, and then we're going to go ahead and
 8 take four or five samples of that and field-test it and
 9 determine what is the best product for our personnel. So we
 10 ask our personnel to test it in the line of battle; right? In
 11 a training environment, not in an actual physical setting
 12 because we don't want to make that mistake, Oh, shucks, it
 13 doesn't protect us as well as we thought. And we can't turn
 14 off the flame; right?

15 So we do that in a training environment and then we
 16 evaluate its fit, its wear and tear, its comfortability, all
 17 those types of things, depending on the product, and that's
 18 the product we purchase from -- and then we keep a record of
 19 that so down the road people want to say, Hey, how'd we wind
 20 up with this set of gloves, or whatever have you, we have a
 21 record of that. So that's where we see records in the
 22 research and development committee, we feel that's very
 23 important, and that's doing our due diligence to make sure our
 24 firefighters and responders have what they need on the -- in
 25 the trenches, if you will.

1 So a couple of grants I mentioned here, as well as
 2 we have a new fill station for our oxygen tanks, we call them
 3 SCBA's, self-contained breathing apparatus. That was
 4 installed recently at Kahului Station, which is our main
 5 headquarters, as you know, so that's a -- a great addition to
 6 our department.
 7 AMR, just referencing that real quick for you folks,
 8 Jen helped with us this as well, it's a memorandum of
 9 understanding. Occasionally, more so on Ed and Commissioner
 10 Tancayo's island, we do operate the ambulance from time to
 11 time. It also happens up in Kula, for instance, the Kula
 12 ambulance goes to Hosmer's Grove, you know, for a rescue, now
 13 they bring in an air resource to life flight somebody back,
 14 now the ambulance is sitting down on the side of the road,
 15 basically, because they jumped on the aircraft to work with
 16 the patient en route to the hospital; right? So what they
 17 asked us to do is: Can you bring it back to our quarters? So
 18 we'll have our firefighters jump in. Well, we never had any
 19 liability coverage for that, it was one of those things, Well,
 20 what's going to happen, until something happens. So we took
 21 the initiative to work with Jen folks and AMR to, you know,
 22 basically develop a memorandum of understanding and agreement
 23 so liability is covered and we don't have to worry about, you
 24 know, that coming down later on in a lawsuit or that type of
 25 thing, so... And it happens on Molokai from time to time as

1 well when they have to have a firefighter -- I'm sure Travis
 2 probably himself has jumped in the rig from time to time,
 3 so -- so we've cleaned that up and we thank Jen for that as
 4 well.

5 And then kind of coming down the homestretch on my
 6 report, to summarize, our incident management team, we do send
 7 people over to Oahu. Typically what happens is there will be
 8 classes hosted, we host some of them here on Maui, but then we
 9 share seats with the other islands as well. It's kind of the
 10 way it's always done and the way it should go and so we'll
 11 offer seats to Kauai, Big Island, and Oahu to participate in
 12 our courses and then the reciprocal comes back to us. So
 13 you'll see some personnel listed there that took the training
 14 on Oahu and I just wanted to make sure that you folks were
 15 aware of that.

16 So unless you have any questions, that's the end of
 17 my report, Chair.

18 CHAIR MISAKI: Can you mention about Hanalei?

19 CHIEF THYNE: Oh. Well, we have two new battalion
 20 chiefs soon to be minted, if you will, they're both veterans
 21 of our department, 20 years plus in the fire service. One of
 22 them is Battalion Chief -- soon-to-be Battalion Chief Ka'aihue
 23 Henry Lindo, Jr.; Hanalei, as we call him. He's been a great
 24 resource for us in the department for years. He worked as
 25 a -- as a firefighter here on Maui as well as on Molokai, he

1 worked as a fire prevention officer on Molokai as well, he's
 2 been a captain at both Kaunakakai and Hoolehua Station, and
 3 now he's decided to drink the Kool-Aid, if you will, and come
 4 and join us in the --

5 (Laughter.)

6 CHIEF THYNE: And he's going to take former Chief
 7 Tancayo's spot on the West Maui battalion on second watch, so
 8 we're happy for that, we're excited.

9 And then Captain, soon-to-be Chief Sakamoto has
 10 spent many years at Kahului Station, so he was -- basically
 11 had his finger on the pulse, if you will. He's worked on
 12 rescue, he's worked on haz. mat., and he's currently assigned
 13 to haz. mat., and he's also worked in the suppression
 14 companies as well, so he's worked all, basically, three
 15 disciplines, I guess, of our fire side as well as being
 16 involved in our -- he's our primary confined space instructor
 17 as well and been involved in several other cadres including
 18 our boat operations, he's one of our program directors for our
 19 rescue boat operations as well. He's a fisherman as a hobby,
 20 also a jiu jitsu black belt, if that means anything.

21 (Laughter.)

22 CHIEF THYNE: But a great guy, well respected, he's
 23 got probably another ten or 15 years of service to you and us
 24 as a county and so we're excited to have him on board as well.
 25 So they're going to be getting pinned very shortly, I think

1 it's on the 28th, Chief?
 2 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah, yeah.
 3 CHIEF THYNE: So you're all invited. I know you
 4 folks are busy, but you're also always welcome, so we'd
 5 appreciate it if you'd join us in our excitement to have them
 6 on board.
 7 CHAIR MISAKI: So if you don't mind, Hanalei also --
 8 when Travis retired, Hanalei kept the Molokai Fire Task Force
 9 going, he took the lead on that on the fire department side.
 10 He also is the -- kind of the lead person for emergencies on
 11 Molokai in MEMA. He does that voluntarily, you know, help
 12 keep that going, get key community people to help Herman when
 13 they need help on Molokai. And then, finally, his dad was a
 14 former assistant chief, yeah.
 15 CHIEF THYNE: Definitely.
 16 CHAIR MISAKI: Yeah. So thank you.
 17 Chief Ventura.
 18 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: All right. Good morning,
 19 everybody.
 20 COMMISSIONERS: Good morning.
 21 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Chief Ventura here. So at
 22 the end of the year we always have lots of retirements, so as
 23 you'll see on my report, we start off with kind of a rash of
 24 promotions and interviews going on. And since this document
 25 was created, of course, there's, you know, weekly decisions

1 that have been made and more people have been promoted. So
 2 recruits have been interviewed and we have a small pool to
 3 start with, we have another agility coming up on the 29th,
 4 which will hopefully get a few more candidates to interview
 5 and then we can start our class potentially in May for our
 6 recruit level.
 7 We completed the battalion chief interviews and you
 8 guys heard who got promoted there.
 9 We also are recruiting right now for our ocean
 10 safety 1 officers and they are the five full-time positions
 11 and ten half-time positions that we received from council last
 12 year. And with Chief Giese, who's here today, he did a
 13 pretty aggressive advertising campaign for it to try to make
 14 sure we got applicants for this, so we've received over a
 15 hundred applicants for those positions. Kind of a surprise to
 16 us just because we didn't know how many people would be, you
 17 know, interested in half-time positions. We didn't know if it
 18 would -- you know, how it would turn out. So they had a great
 19 campaign, they reached out both on social media, radio, and
 20 whatnot, and so we're off to a good start. Applicants mean at
 21 least we have people who want the job, now if they qualify and
 22 pass all the tests, that's a different story, but that's
 23 step 2, 3, and 4.
 24 Anything you want to add to that?
 25 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Sure. So because we have

1 so many openings now with the new expansion positions the
 2 chief mentioned, we also have a few vacancies, we have some
 3 folks positioned to retire, we have some folks who are -- may
 4 or may not come back from injury; in other words, lots of
 5 pukas. In part because of that and because of, you know, the
 6 last couple times we recruited, we didn't have as much
 7 interest as we wanted, we decided to actually take a look at
 8 the exams we're giving and see if that might be part of the
 9 problem. And so I went with my operations manager and
 10 reviewed the exam and we realize, yep, that was part of the
 11 problem. And so we redid the entrance exam and we're
 12 redoing -- actually, both, both parts of it, there's a written
 13 exam and a physical exam, similar to the firefighters. And
 14 changing the way we're doing the scoring and changing the exam
 15 to be more appropriate for entry-level folks with the idea
 16 that we still want the exam to eliminate people that have very
 17 little chance of success, but make sure we're not eliminating
 18 people that really could be good ocean safety officers just
 19 because there's things they don't know yet that we're -- you
 20 know, they have no reason to know yet, for example.
 21 So we basically did a whole rewrite of the test bank
 22 that personnel uses for their written entrance exam and right
 23 before I came over here, I was working on -- we have some new
 24 descriptions for doing our physical agility test and, you
 25 know, safety protocols and things of that nature, so that's

1 looking good.
 2 And the other thing that we decided is instead of
 3 making the written exam a pass/fail, you know, establishing
 4 some arbitrary point below which you're not eligible, it's --
 5 it's basically going to be graded on a curve. So somebody who
 6 happens to get 68 instead of 70, but is great in the water,
 7 great work ethic and all that, isn't automatically eliminated
 8 because they missed one -- you know, questions on one exam;
 9 right? So, you know, we'll see how it turns out. So far so
 10 good, we have lots of applicants, we're going to have lots of
 11 people to test, and, you know, that's a good problem to have.
 12 So we're optimistic we'll be able to fill those positions and
 13 get some increased staffing up there. I'll say a little bit
 14 more about that when it's my turn.
 15 CHAIR MISAKI: And for the new commissioners, that's
 16 Battalion Chief Jeffrey Giese.
 17 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Giese. Yes, sorry, I --
 18 CHAIR MISAKI: The battalion chief from ocean
 19 safety.
 20 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah. Thanks, Chief Giese.
 21 So moving on to our department improvement
 22 committee, so just 'cause we have nothing to report there,
 23 that basically means that nobody put in a formal request to,
 24 Hey, chief, we should do this or we should fix this problem or
 25 we should, you know, improve this situation. That's how the

1 committee will look at requests that come in formally, but
2 things are always being improved in the department. You know,
3 like Chief Thyne mentioned earlier, we have a new cascade
4 system, we just met with our safety committee yesterday to
5 look at, you know, any issues we have in the department to
6 make the safety and health of firefighters and ocean safety
7 officers better, so we're constantly looking at ways to make
8 things, you know, better and improve them.

9 Moving on, Union Interactions, so it's the end of
10 the year for them. They're a two-year term, so lots of
11 changes. I'm not sure if you recognize any of those names,
12 but the Hawaii Firefighters Association that represents our --
13 about 300 members, they are -- the chair is Jeremy Irvine, the
14 executive is going to be Kaunoa Shannon and that's how they
15 were voted in. There's going to be some shuffling going on
16 because the third -- nobody ran for the third position, so
17 they have to appoint somebody, so the new -- the third person
18 is potentially going to be Captain Jay Fujita, I'm not sure if
19 any of you know him.

20 And then HGEA did the same thing, their main person
21 who works for HGEA has left and then within the Ocean Safety
22 Bureau, their kind of leadership is shuffled a little bit as
23 well. So there's been -- as I mentioned last month, HGEA on
24 the ocean safety are in arbitration and kind of finalizing
25 contract right now, so we'll see once that thing comes out the

1 other end where everybody settles.

2 And then transmittals from the public, it's been
3 pretty quiet month. You know, like Chief Thyne says and Chief
4 Rick will probably report, no huge incidents, so not a lot of,
5 you know, conversation with the community right now as far as
6 the activities we're involved in. But, you know, we're out
7 there every week doing something, whether it's a first aid
8 stand-by or helping out some sort of community event to make
9 sure that the people that are attending are safe. Also
10 education stuff, whether it's fire prevention or ocean safety
11 teaching opportunities to be out there at career days and
12 whatnot, we've done a bunch of those lately, so our, you know,
13 staff has been out there working with the community and
14 getting, you know, kids and adults as well educated.

15 So that's what I have for the month.

16 CHAIR MISAKI: I have one final question, because I
17 have been following that bill in the legislature about pay for
18 rescue, are you guys involved with that issue, that bill or
19 that concept?

20 CHIEF THYNE: So, you know, this has been a point of
21 contention and, in fact, when I talked to -- in your future
22 role, salary commission and it came up -- or, excuse me, it
23 was cost of government commission, actually, and they
24 basically also -- we don't want to -- our concern is that
25 people aren't going to call because they don't want to get

1 charged, you know, and so you walk that fine line between, you
2 know, charging for service -- and, definitely, we'd all feel
3 that negligence or jumping off a marked trail or going out of
4 bounds on somebody's private property just should not happen,
5 it should not happen and it puts our responders in danger.
6 Any time they jump in an aircraft, that aircraft isn't meant
7 to float away, it can crash, so we don't just use it
8 willy-nilly, it's always a risk. And so we walk that fine
9 line. So we are in support of it, but more so on the
10 enforcement side. You know, I would like to see more
11 enforcement in the sense of, you know, people getting --
12 'cause we know that there's these -- I mean, I live in Peahi,
13 I see these trails that go off and I know that's private
14 property and you can see people parked on the side of the road
15 going on the trail and you telling me that DLNR and folks
16 aren't going by on the same road I'm going on?

17 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Yeah.

18 CHIEF THYNE: You know, but, yet, they don't enforce
19 it. They could literally park at the trailhead and probably
20 fine people hourly in a lot of these places. And so when I
21 was talking to Chairperson Case, my -- my support was for, you
22 know, them in a sense that, yes, we should find a way to limit
23 folks from going, but I'm very concerned from the response
24 side of it that people aren't going to call and then we're
25 going to lose lives and potentially put our rescuers in even

1 more danger because it's going to be -- I don't want to say
2 too late, but even further into the spectrum of -- of
3 potential fatality. So that's a tough one. Thank you, Chair,
4 for putting me on the hot seat.

5 (Laughter.)

6 CHIEF THYNE: You know, so it's really a fine line
7 and I know that's kind of a gray area answer, but I'm going to
8 answer it in the sense at the leg. that, you know, I'm in
9 support, but I would prefer that it's more on the enforcement
10 side versus -- you know, pre- -- in other words, pre-event.

11 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah.

12 CHIEF THYNE: You know, signage and --

13 COMMISSIONERS: Yes.

14 CHIEF THYNE: And we talked about videos and
15 different -- getting the message out there and hoping that
16 people comply and the folks that don't, then, guess what, you
17 know, you're going to get arrested or whatever have you. And
18 then we'll also have those ones --

19 CHAIR MISAKI: So that's always been a point of
20 contention with me with the marine side of things where T&C
21 would go to the legislature to try to change fishing rules and
22 I was always against it, not because it made sense, but
23 because I didn't want them to pass new laws if they didn't
24 have the enforcement. And so I've always been an advocate of
25 we've gotta beef up on enforcement. It's gotta be like

1 Alaska, when you go fishing there, your friends tell you,
 2 Don't do anything illegal, because you're gonna get caught.
 3 Hawaii is like, Oh, if I don't do it, the next guy gonna do
 4 it; right? So I would -- to support it, I would also say to
 5 give to the state legislature, beef up your enforcement.
 6 CHIEF THYNE: Absolutely.
 7 CHAIR MISAKI: So get less incidents.
 8 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah. 'Cause we don't have -- we
 9 don't have administrative authority. We don't have the
 10 statutory authority to arrest anybody or to fine anybody and
 11 we don't have the mechanism in place to do cost recovery. You
 12 know, Lisa decides to do something silly and now we've gotta
 13 fine you, we don't have anybody to do that currently. And
 14 then Lisa moves to Montana with her family and we don't have a
 15 chance to go get her and she may have these fines that are
 16 accumulating and growing -- and I'm sorry using you as an
 17 example.
 18 (Laughter.)
 19 (Multiple speakers.)
 20 COMMISSIONER VARES: It's pretty fair.
 21 (Laughter.)
 22 CHIEF THYNE: But, you know what I'm saying, we
 23 don't have any of those mechanisms that are in place. So it's
 24 easy just to pass along and say, Yeah, we're gonna do this,
 25 but it's like who's gonna do all that cost recovery and all

1 those things.
 2 CHAIR MISAKI: I mean, if you do the simple math,
 3 Molokai, two personnel has to enforce the natural resources
 4 both on the land and the ocean 24/7, two personnel. You gotta
 5 have at least ten personnel if you want to be effective.
 6 CHIEF THYNE: Exactly.
 7 CHAIR MISAKI: You know, so -- anyway, that's
 8 just -- I just wanted to -- Thank you, Chief.
 9 CHIEF THYNE: And, again, thanks for putting me on
 10 the hot seat, Chair, I really appreciate that.
 11 COMMISSIONER VARES: And thank you for (inaudible).
 12 (Multiple speakers.)
 13 CHAIR MISAKI: Yeah. So any more questions for
 14 Chief Ventura?
 15 (No response.)
 16 CHAIR MISAKI: If not, Chief Kawasaki.
 17 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Good morning, everybody.
 18 Chief Kawasaki. So if you guys have my handout, not much to
 19 really add on top of -- Chief Thyne touched a little bit on
 20 our call volume, types of calls and stuff.
 21 Just a little bit of more detailed information on
 22 our trucks that are being built. So we, Chief Ventura and I
 23 just came back from Wisconsin from an inspection trip for
 24 three of our trucks, so we spent the week there with a couple
 25 of mechanics and one of the guys who writes our specs, so we

1 did that. And I'm going to go back up next month to do a
 2 final inspection on the ladder truck and then we've got all
 3 these other trucks that are gonna be all done about the same
 4 time, so I'll be going back and forth. We have the two
 5 engines will be done shortly after and then the two wildland
 6 trucks that are in Texas being built, so that'll all happen
 7 probably April/May kind of timeline. And then we finally got
 8 out our last spec for bid, it'll go out probably today or
 9 tomorrow, for the last truck that we were awarded on the -- on
 10 our last budget contract and that's for Mini 1. So the rest
 11 of them have all been out, some of them are being, you know,
 12 worked on already. And so with that for our apparatus.
 13 Just a little bit on the last recruit class. We did
 14 have to run two agility tests because it rained. All of the
 15 people who failed, once it -- it poured rain and, you know,
 16 they all failed because of the rain, so we gave them an
 17 opportunity to redo it. Unfortunately, the grass was still
 18 wet and they all failed again.
 19 (Laughter.)
 20 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: That second one was, you
 21 know, due to the moisture where it just -- they were, you
 22 know, not able to do it, but -- anyway, so we're -- because of
 23 that, we ended up with two little bit a pool of not enough
 24 people that we wanted to hire, so we're gonna do another one
 25 this next week Saturday so that we can hopefully interview

1 more people and fill our 14 spots that we have open.
 2 That's all I have unless you have any questions on
 3 this.
 4 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Chief, which trucks are being
 5 replaced?
 6 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: So right now the ones
 7 that are almost done is Ladder 14, Engine 11, Engine 6, and
 8 two new trucks that are wildland trucks gonna be for Lahaina
 9 and Kahului.
 10 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Wildland?
 11 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yeah. So it's a Skeeter
 12 brand, the big lifted tires and whatnot, yeah.
 13 (Laughter.)
 14 CHIEF THYNE: So just for clarity's sake, Ladder 14
 15 is in Wailea, yeah, Engine 11 is in Napili, and Engine 6 is in
 16 Kihei, 'cause I know we -- we're so familiar with the terms,
 17 we throw them out there, but just so you folks know.
 18 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Are they still on that tall
 19 UWI truck yet, 11 or whatever it is?
 20 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: 11 still is --
 21 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: That's their current
 22 truck right now.
 23 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: That's what's being replaced.
 24 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: So that now has been in
 25 service for a long time and -- okay.

1 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: And then the ones that
2 are out for bid right now, where we just awarded a bid is for
3 Wailuku and Lahaina. And then the mini truck for Wailuku is
4 going to be sent out today or tomorrow for invitation for
5 bids.

6 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: And then the wildland truck
7 that's going to be stationed in Kahului, who is that going to
8 fall under as far as responsibility?

9 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Probably Engine 10 and
10 maybe Haz. Mat. 10, just because a lot of times we do use haz.
11 mat. -- you know, initial dispatch and then haz. mat. is still
12 at the station where they can bring the truck out. And
13 because of the size of the tires and the big lift kit on it,
14 we kind of don't want it driving every day, so that's why our
15 main trucks are -- we scaled it down a little bit, not such a
16 big lift and more user friendly to drive, you know.

17 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Thank you.

18 CHAIR MISAKI: Thank you, Chief.

19 CHIEF THYNE: And that's our report, Chair. And so
20 Chief Kawasaki also mentioned -- or he didn't mention, but
21 what is listed in his report -- so for whatever reason, and I
22 don't know which committees, other committees you folks and/or
23 who you influence in your roles, but for some reason or
24 another, Molokai has fell off the CDBG criteria. So, you
25 know, Trav, how much stuff -- excuse me, Commissioner Tancayo,

1 how much stuff we've got through CDBG.

2 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Yeah.

3 CHIEF THYNE: And for those -- for those of you who
4 don't know, CDBG is a Community Development Block Grant, and
5 what it -- what it typically has done for us in the past is --
6 so for areas that don't have a large tax base or when they do
7 the census figures, they don't have as much revenue coming
8 in -- so for those areas for us in our county would typically
9 be Molokai, Lanai, and Hana. And so what CDBG does, the
10 Community Development Block Grant, is that it allows them to
11 get these grant monies that come in to buy things like fire
12 trucks and help out with nurse's quarters and, you know, some
13 other things that fit the criteria. So the federal government
14 sets that, I'm not sure which agency, and the reason I'm
15 sharing this is, like I said, I don't know where you folks
16 other influences are, but for some reason or another, CDBG,
17 Molokai has fell off the criteria, so we won't be able to
18 get -- or is it -- is it Lanai?

19 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Lanai.

20 CHIEF THYNE: I'm sorry. It's not Molokai, it's
21 Lanai.

22 (Laughter.)

23 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah. So we won't be able to now
24 replace that equipment through that grant and it's been -- I
25 mean, almost all of the things in Molokai has been CDBG, in

1 Hana as well, and on Lanai. So we're now we're gonna for the
2 first time as long as I can remember, gonna have to put on for
3 the replacement of the Lanai fire engine through county funds
4 now. But --

5 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: I don't think it's a matter of
6 the county -- it's not the county.

7 CHIEF THYNE: No, it's not the county.

8 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: So it's not really anything that
9 can be influenced, yeah, so they -- the federal government
10 establishes these low and moderate income areas and that's the
11 areas that you can use CDBG funds for, so --

12 (Multiple speakers.)

13 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah, so Lanai is doing much better,
14 so they dropped off of the low mod and --

15 CHAIR MISAKI: Because I'm resident on Lanai.

16 COMMISSIONERS: Yeah.

17 (Laughter.)

18 (Multiple speakers.)

19 CHIEF THYNE: Well, it --

20 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: One of the reasons it could
21 be is because it's predominantly private owned now, that
22 probably could be the reason.

23 CHAIR MISAKI: That could be another -- yeah.

24 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: You know, that's the only --
25 because the population is --

1 CHAIR MISAKI: Small.

2 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Yeah, to receive the grants.

3 CHAIR MISAKI: And there's no federal lands on
4 lanai, yeah.

5 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: No.

6 CHAIR MISAKI: Interesting.

7 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: So if I can just add
8 something -- this is Brad Ventura -- to what Chief Kawasaki
9 was saying, there was a third-party audit done a couple of
10 years back and one of the things that they emphasized is our
11 fleet of equipment and how much we need to stay on top of it,
12 because once we start falling behind, then it's just gonna
13 snowball. So we have to spend about -- just over \$2.5 million
14 a year on apparatus, equipment, vehicles to stay on point. If
15 we -- if we -- if for some reason we're not able to justify it
16 and we don't get that support from the council and the mayor's
17 office, then we're gonna start having trucks on the line that
18 are gonna eventually be 17-18 years old and then it's going to
19 be less, you know, reliable. So that was the number in the
20 audit based on the amount of apparatus, utility trucks,
21 response vehicles, boats, and all that kind of stuff that we
22 have that we need to kind of stay on top of.

23 And so that's why, you know, when we talk about the
24 trucks that are being built this moment, Engine 6 and 11,
25 Ladder 14, and the two brush trucks, that came from FY 2018

1 budget, you know, and so we're still in the process of
2 building it. '18 is when we wanted to replace that ladder,
3 but it got deferred to '19 and so that's how we end up kind of
4 falling behind. So that's why we have so many apparatus and
5 utility vehicles and this year in our request we made another
6 about the same push, about \$2.5 million worth of vehicles to
7 be replaced.

8 CHIEF THYNE: We like to use them for a few years
9 before they wind up in Jack's baseyard.

10 (Laughter.)

11 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay. Thanks, Chief Kawasaki.
12 Chief Werner.

13 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Good morning, Chief
14 Werner. Since we're talking about the grants, I'll just drop
15 down to that section. One thing that was not on my report is
16 that we did apply for a CDBG grant for Hana, so we put in for
17 a new engine there and also a new minivan. We also submitted
18 grants, an AFG grant requesting three turnout extractors and
19 three turnout dryers. And we've completed our DOT grant
20 requesting ten air lifting bags. We use those to -- if
21 there's an accident or something's fallen on somebody, we use
22 those bags for lifting.

23 Moving back up to the top, one of the things that
24 had got pushed back was the painting of the stations and
25 public works had brought in a consultant to make sure that

1 they were in compliance with MS4. And so we met them and now
2 we're rewriting our specs to make sure that we are compliant
3 with MS4. And so that's been done and so we've moved the
4 vehicle paint schedule now from the 5th to the 26th, so
5 that'll be happening.

6 One other thing that did happen, we did have a
7 firefighter that was injured during routine training on one of
8 the jet skis and we were contacted by HIOSH to do an
9 investigation. We gathered all of the information that they
10 had requested and I had a meeting with them, we went over it
11 with them, they met with the firefighter and the captain that
12 was on duty that day, and then they met with the chiefs
13 afterwards. And the impression that I got was they were very
14 satisfied with everything that we had provided and that
15 they're going to be putting out some suggestions to us in the
16 near future.

17 All of the documents for the FEMA grant for the
18 Kahana Ridge Fire have been submitted. And we had an audit of
19 our 2015 AFG grant and all of those documents have been
20 submitted.

21 So that's pretty much everything I have for you
22 unless you have any questions.

23 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Chief, what is MS4?

24 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: That is municipal separate
25 storm sewer system. So, basically, what that means is -- what

1 they're concerned about is the runoff from the work that's
2 being done during the painting going into our storm systems,
3 so what they put in the specs is language making the painting
4 company responsible for compliance with MS4.

5 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: And the bags that you guys
6 are getting, is that like high-pressure or low-pressure
7 airbags?

8 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: You know, I didn't --
9 they're high-pressure ones.

10 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: We're going back to high
11 pressure now? Because it was high and then they did the
12 bigger low and now we're gonna go back to the high.

13 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Yeah. Our haz. mat.
14 company is the only one that received the low-pressure
15 airbags, so a lot of our high-pressure airbags are expiring,
16 so that's what it is, it's just time to replace.

17 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: On the airbags, do you have a
18 separate unit to run it or --

19 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Yeah. They're run off of
20 our --

21 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: The air compressor on the
22 truck?

23 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Yeah, yeah.

24 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: And what is the lifting
25 capacity?

1 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: I --

2 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: About 20 tons.

3 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Is it 20 tons?

4 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Twenty ton? Oh.

5 CHAIR MISAKI: Twenty?

6 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah.

7 (Multiple speakers.)

8 COMMISSIONER VARES: That's a building.

9 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: It lifts up a truck, right,
10 if it flips over, somebody's stuck underneath, so they can --

11 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Yeah, what happens --
12 (Multiple speakers.)

13 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: (Inaudible) rolls over, they
14 can -- they can put these bags underneath and it'll fill,
15 it'll roll over like that.

16 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: I remember the high-pressure
17 one had a short range --

18 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: -- and the low pressure, it
20 has a longer lifting range.

21 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Correct.

22 CHIEF THYNE: So with technology now, Chief -- or,
23 excuse me, Commissioner Tancayo, there's -- so we used to have
24 three separate bags, a typical kit on a fire engine was there
25 was a big one on the bottom, then a kind of midsized one --

1 and they're only about an inch -- only about an inch thick.
 2 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Yeah.
 3 CHIEF THYNE: Hard rubber or plastic -- or rubber,
 4 for description. Air valve comes in, you inflate it, if you
 5 have to go higher, we would've stuck another one in there and
 6 you would inflate that one. The ones we're ordering now, they
 7 come in a three tier -- it's all one. It's basically a big
 8 round bottom one and then a middle one and it's altogether and
 9 it's the same storage, basically, dimensions as those three
 10 bags. And then with all technology and everything, it's even
 11 more -- increased lifting capacity and all of that stuff.
 12 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: It's a hell of a good piece
 13 of equipment.
 14 CHIEF THYNE: It's a good tool, for sure.
 15 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: And we run it off of our air
 16 bottle --
 17 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Yeah?
 18 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: -- that is on our pack, so we
 19 can -- it's mobile.
 20 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Oh.
 21 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: We can take it in a gulch, we
 22 can take it in a house, we can take it anywhere we need.
 23 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Oh, you can run 'em off your
 24 air bottle?
 25 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah. 'Cause the -- our

1 trucks don't all have compressors.
 2 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Sure, right.
 3 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: So we -- we run it off of our
 4 air packs.
 5 CHIEF THYNE: In my 33 years on the fire service,
 6 I've only used one once and it was a pineapple truck that
 7 overturned and pinned the driver in the middle of a field out
 8 at Kapalua at the edge of a gulch. And with our air bottle
 9 and our bags, we were able to lift the truck and recover the
 10 patient.
 11 COMMISSIONER VARES: Wow.
 12 CHIEF THYNE: So muddy, dirty, dusty, you know, and
 13 we slipped it underneath and we were able to lift the
 14 pineapple truck, the cab, off of --
 15 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Yeah.
 16 CHIEF THYNE: -- that particular gentleman.
 17 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Yeah. It's a widely used
 18 tool in the towing industry. It's -- it's amazing.
 19 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Thank you.
 20 CHAIR MISAKI: Thank you, Chief Werner.
 21 So we have a guest presenter from ocean safety,
 22 Jeffrey Giese. **JEFFREY GIESEA:**
 23 **BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA:** Giese. **CHAIR MISAKI:** Giese. So you're -- so you're ocean
 24 safety and you're part of the sea, yeah.

1 **BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA:** Yeah.
 2 (Laughter.)
 3 **BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA:** May I make a request for a
 4 short break.
 5 **CHAIR MISAKI:** Sure.
 6 **BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA:** And then I can get my
 7 technological issues, hopefully, solved.
 8 **CHAIR MISAKI:** Okay. Let's take a five-minute break
 9 and let's all be back at 11:00.
 10 (Pause in Proceedings: 10:56 a.m.-11:00 a.m.)
 11 **CHAIR MISAKI:** Okay. So I would like to call the
 12 meeting back to order and we have our guest speaker from ocean
 13 safety.
 14 **CHIEF THYNE:** Yeah, Jeffrey.
 15 **BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA:** Good morning, everybody.
 16 **COMMISSIONERS:** Good morning.
 17 **BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA:** So as has been mentioned a
 18 few times, I'm Jeff Giese, I'm a battalion chief for ocean
 19 safety. I took over as a matter of actual practice in April
 20 for Chief McAfee. He retired and I was -- I have the
 21 privilege of assuming his -- his position.
 22 So I understand there are some new commissioners and
 23 I was told maybe not everybody is real familiar with how
 24 things happen in the Ocean Safety Bureau and how we're
 25 structured and such, so I thought I'd give an orientation to

1 that and then talk about some things that we've been working
 2 on, some things we have plans on. And, of course, at any time
 3 if you have questions, you want me to elaborate, if there's
 4 anything I'm not talking about that you wish I were, feel free
 5 to ask away.
 6 So '77 is when they're saying we basically started
 7 having ocean lifeguards in Maui. The current -- currently
 8 they're under the HGEA. So that's one of the challenges we
 9 have in Fire & Public Safety, is we have personnel --
 10 operations personnel in two separate unions. Right? That
 11 started in 2015, they joined us in 2016.
 12 We have lifeguard services at eight of our 30 beach
 13 parks for the county and then we also have lifeguard services
 14 at Makena Beach Park, which is our one state beach park. So
 15 the state -- I think they have, if I'm not mistaken, five
 16 beach parks throughout the state of Hawaii where they assist
 17 the counties in providing ocean safety services. The state
 18 does not have an ocean safety bureau, but they provide
 19 assistance so the counties can provide that service at various
 20 state beach parks. The one on Maui is Makena, so we have a
 21 memorandum of agreement with them and they help fund that
 22 operation. So that's the -- essentially where we have our
 23 beach parks -- or, sorry, our lifeguards.
 24 We organized in four districts, so our north
 25 district is Kanaha, Baldwin, and Hookipa. Our south district

1 is the three Kam beaches, Kam I, II, and III. Then we have
2 Makena, which we're treating as its own district. And then
3 the west district, which is Hanakaoo and D. T. Fleming. So
4 that's where we have our lifeguard services here in Maui
5 County. Nothing on Molokai and nothing on Lanai, nothing out
6 in Hana. So those are opportunities, things to consider, but
7 currently we don't offer lifeguard services at any of the
8 beach parks there.

9 Just to kind of give you another quick visual,
10 this -- the stats that this is based on are about a year or so
11 old, but more or less that's kind of what we're looking at.
12 It's where -- you know, we have incidents all along our
13 coastline, especially on, you know, this half of Maui, so you
14 can see where our -- where ocean safety operates.

15 CHAIR MISAKI: So I know there's lifeguards at
16 county swimming pools, that's separate from you guys?

17 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Yeah. So before the ocean
18 safety lifeguards joined the fire department, both they and
19 the pool lifeguards were under parks and recreation.

20 CHAIR MISAKI: Got it.

21 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: So it was the division of
22 aquatics and it was separated into pools and ocean. And then
23 the fire department got the ocean part.

24 Yeah.

25 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: A quick question on that?

1 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Yeah, sure.

2 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: So that can they transfer
3 across or --

4 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: No. So if you are a pool
5 lifeguard under parks and rec., you are welcome to apply to be
6 a beach lifeguard, you'd probably have a leg up on some folks,
7 but it's not just a transfer, they have to go through the same
8 process.

9 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: So it's a test level on a
10 higher level that they need to --

11 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Yeah.

12 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Okay.

13 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Yeah.

14 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: I have a question.

15 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Sure.

16 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: So did you come from folks as a
17 lifeguard and --

18 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: No. So --

19 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Were you a fireman that --

20 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: I have been a firefighter
21 for almost 19 years now, so -- yeah, and that's actually -- so
22 my particular position, the only one who can be in that
23 position as its currently described, is someone from the fire
24 department. That's something we're looking to potentially
25 change so that the next person who can be the kind of person

1 in charge of ocean safety could actually be someone who came
2 up through the Ocean Safety Bureau. And, you know, the reason
3 for that is -- its relatively obvious if you think about it,
4 it's everybody who comes into my position has lots of catching
5 up to do, right, and orienting and such. And so there is an
6 advantage to having someone that's been in ocean safety for a
7 long time, there are advantages to coming from the fire
8 department too, because, you know, there are -- there are ways
9 in which the fire department has progressed that a lot of
10 other fire departments and ocean safety departments maybe
11 haven't made yet. So I -- there's -- there's pros and cons to
12 both, but I think the direction that we're setting is the next
13 person who takes over my position will possibly, at least,
14 come from ocean safety.

15 All right. So currently, if you include myself,
16 we've got 62 positions in the Ocean Safety Bureau. So
17 battalion chief, that's me, I have -- my right-hand man at the
18 moment is Cary Kayama, he's been in ocean safety for a very
19 long time, 20 plus years, so he's called OS1, he's the
20 operations manager. We have one training captain and then
21 each district, as I mentioned, right, west/south/north/Makena
22 has a captain, and then every beach has a lieutenant. And
23 then underneath the lieutenants are our tower lifeguards. So
24 it's a little bit counterintuitive, but the base level
25 lifeguard, once you're actually hired or done with your

1 recruit training, you're on the beach working, it's called an

2 OSO, ocean safety officer, 2. We have three vacancies right
3 now for that, but -- so, you know, obviously, our actual
4 people is a little less than 62, but those are the positions
5 we have right now. We have a staff services assistant, her
6 name is Annie, she's awesome, she works in the office with me.

7 And in order get hired, initially, by ocean safety,
8 you don't have to have been a lifeguard, necessarily, or have
9 any, you know, stringent qualifications. You need to be at
10 least 18, you need to have a driver's license that's on --
11 that's not on there, a high school graduate, a clean record,
12 and then we take care of the rest.

13 So that's -- that's essentially how we're structured
14 right now, but we do have some expansion positions in the
15 works. So as Chief Ventura mentioned, we got funding this
16 year and we're actively recruiting for ten half-time and five
17 full-time positions. I have here OSO2 'cause when they get
18 hired initially in their training, they're an OSO1. Then when
19 they graduate recruit class and through with probation, they
20 just kind of automatically become OSO2s. So we're kind of
21 hiring for both, right, 1s that are gonna end up being 2s.
22 And, yeah, just February 18th, I think, is when the
23 applications were all due and 119 applicants, that's great. I
24 think last time we had fifty-something and even fewer showed
25 up for the test and quite a bit fewer passed, so, you know, we

1 were concerned. Now we're much less concerned. We'll have to
2 see how it goes from here, but it's a good start.

3 We also got funding for and are -- have already
4 accepted applications, in fact, we have interviews scheduled
5 for a training lieutenant position. So if you kind of compare
6 fire and ocean safety, the fire department's training bureau
7 has a captain and three firefighter 3s, we just have a captain
8 in ocean safety and she needs help, for sure. You know, in
9 part because not only are we trying to step up our training,
10 but we do -- in the Ocean Safety Bureau, we do a lot of public
11 education outreach, so there's the Junior Lifeguard Program --
12 I have a slide to describe some of those things, but we do a
13 lot of that and it takes a lot of our training captain's time
14 and so, you know, there's only so much time and so much energy
15 you've got. And she's got a lot of energy, but, you know, she
16 can't do it all on her own, so that's what we have in the
17 works there.

18 Facilities, my office -- in fact, my office, the
19 operations officer, training -- training captain are all at
20 Kinipopo Street, that's basically Wailuku Fire Station, so
21 we're right next door. It used to be the old fire prevention
22 offices from a long, long time ago, then it was health and
23 safety, and now it's ocean safety.

24 We've got 12 towers, so some of our beaches have two
25 towers. So Hookipa has two towers, Makena has two towers, and

1 so if you kind of add it all up, we've got 12 towers. Each
2 district has -- you can call -- you can call it -- kind of
3 depends, I don't know, what you consider (inaudible), but they
4 all have offices that -- where the captains can work with
5 internet access, computers, that sort of thing, storage. We
6 have -- you know, we don't work 24/7, so we need a place to
7 store the jet skis, the rescue boards, and such when we're not
8 on duty, so we have storage facilities. Some are buildings,
9 some are just storage containers at our beach parks. So when
10 the guys are wrapping up for the day, pull the jet ski in,
11 pull the ATVs in and whatever else, lock it up and hope it's
12 still there tomorrow.

13 (Laughter.)

14 (Inaudible comment.)

15 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Yeah. So, you know,
16 keeping stats, we do a lot of stats. We are trying to improve
17 the way that we do stats. Ocean safety's still a paper-and-
18 pen operation right now for our statistics and we have a few
19 issues with some consistency and such. So that's one of our
20 issues now, we're going to really try to bump up our stats
21 taking, but they do take a lot of stats.

22 Just to give you an idea, this is just from the last
23 monthly report. If you're wondering, Well, what do they do
24 all day? Right? Do they just sit in the tower and get on the
25 megaphone every now and then and maybe sometimes get in the

1 water? Well, just last month, 51 -- so they wanted me to make
2 sure you guys understood this. If you get the monthly
3 reports, assists means rescues and as well as other sorts of
4 things where someone's in trouble, they go out. So if you
5 look at some -- you know, like I think this last month had
6 zero drownings or fire had like 20 ocean rescues and it wasn't
7 anything for ocean safety, that's because rescues are included
8 in that category of assists. Yeah. So they are out there
9 rescuing people, of course, that's a big part of what they do.

10 Another huge part, as you can tell -- these are not
11 typos, these numbers are real. They do a tremendous amount of
12 prevention activities. So public safety contact could be
13 anything from, you know, an announcement on the PA system to
14 folks about dangerous conditions, Hey, stay out of this area,
15 etc., or just, you know, talking with people about the, you
16 know, safety issues on the beach. Preventative action is
17 where they do something that they reasonably can say was --
18 you know, reasonably prevented somebody from getting into
19 trouble. So, you know, we always say prevention is better
20 than cure, it's always better to not need to get rescued than
21 to get rescued, so that's a lot of what they're doing. In
22 fact, that's probably their most important function, is all
23 the preventative action, preventative action work that they
24 do.

25 In addition to responding to dispatches through 911

1 and then -- you know, one of the main differences between an
2 ocean officer's typical operation and a firefighter's is,
3 firefighters sometimes, but rarely respond to something that
4 wasn't -- where they weren't asked to go there by dispatch.
5 Every now and then someone comes in the station and -- and
6 needs help. It's kind of the inversion for ocean safety,
7 they're usually the ones spotting the issue and then
8 occasionally they get called by dispatch to go respond to
9 something. So that's essentially kind of the -- you know, the
10 work that they do in just one slide.

11 We've had some shark patrols recently, they get out
12 on skis, you know. There's a shark sighting, we had some
13 aggressive behavior not too long ago on the south and Makena
14 districts. Training, they do a lot of -- a lot of first aid
15 things, you know, people -- you know, minor things that people
16 don't call 911 for, but they're happy to go to a lifeguard
17 tower for. In addition to, of course, serious things that
18 happen at the beach. And then, you know, sign postage when
19 there's hazards and such. So that's kind of a day in the
20 life.

21 Here's some of our community projects. Junior
22 lifeguard is probably our biggest program, it's on all three
23 islands here as well as throughout the state. We participate
24 in DARE. We go to most of the schools on Maui and do, you
25 know, ocean safety and first aid kind of presentations. We

1 help the MPD recruits, so every year, you know, they come to
2 the fire department, they get their haz. mat. training, for
3 example, and basic fire safety, and then they come to ocean
4 safety to get oriented to our ocean safety operations. We
5 always staff some -- a booth at the fair. There's the Public
6 Rescue 2 Project, most of you -- if you're a beach-goer,
7 you've probably seen those out there, that's in conjunction
8 with the rotary club and so we -- you know, we support and
9 participate in that. And then we work with department of
10 health and other agencies on various kind of, you know, public
11 health, public safety, drowning prevention, snorkel safety
12 kind of initiatives.

13 Some things that we are currently working on, we've
14 got some facility upgrades planned for Baldwin. So the
15 storage container there has lots of holes in it and the door's
16 about to fall off, so we're -- actually, we have a new
17 container that's already being built, that's almost done on
18 Oahu, it's going to get shipped over, we're trading those out.
19 At Makena, we're trying to get a roof over the containers
20 there because it's basically like a yoga studio in the office
21 and you can't work in it 'cause it's too hot and so we're
22 trying -- we have a couple of containers, one's an office,
23 one's storage, so we're trying to put a roof over that to make
24 the office livable and protect the containers, because, as you
25 can imagine, they're metal containers out near the ocean,

1 don't last so long.
2 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Chief, are you -- they're
3 just shipping containers, converted --
4 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: They are just shipping
5 containers --
6 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Not the office ones? These
7 are --
8 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Not the office ones. This
9 is an intermodal container inside and out. Yeah, here's --
10 I've got a slide coming up later, but just to kind of clue you
11 in on -- on what we're discovering more and more is it's
12 really hard to do anything in a coastal area, you know. So we
13 just discovered -- hopefully, we have a workaround, but the
14 state has some -- it has a potential workaround. We just
15 discovered just to put a roof on a shipping container, we need
16 a special management area permit, we need an archaeological
17 monitoring plan, we need professional grade, you know, stamped
18 architectural drawings. We're looking at three to six months
19 of permitting and expenses just to put a bit of wood and some
20 paint over a storage container.
21 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: So you know somebody, three
22 to six months; right?
23 (Laughter.)
24 (Inaudible comments.)
25 CHAIR MISAKI: And if you have -- and if it's over

1 500,000, you need a major permit from SMA.
2 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Well, yeah, and that's
3 even -- yeah, we're not going there. We're not anywhere near
4 that, that range, but -- you know, things that we thought, you
5 know, What's the problem? Easy peasy, not easy peasy.
6 Even -- even the Baldwin thing, we got -- the plans department
7 did us a favor by saying, Look, if you're just swapping
8 containers, we'll exempt you. But what we wanted to do was
9 add another container so that we could have two, put a fence
10 in between. They don't have a port-a-potty -- bathroom right
11 there for our ocean safety officers, they have to go next
12 door. Which is nice in a way, it's a nice bathroom and it's
13 private, but, I mean, it's the one at the beach park, do you
14 want to share your bathroom with the folks that live at
15 Baldwin Beach Park? Generally not; right?
16 So it's a simple thing, get another container, fence
17 it in, and we could actually leave it, it's just a port-a-
18 potty, we can secure it, for that, it -- just that, it was
19 going to take, again, three to six plus months of permitting,
20 some -- we have to have an archeologist on site to dig a fence
21 post hole because of where it is. Right? So we're
22 discovering these things as we go, so it's hard to -- it's
23 hard to make progress. Hopefully, we'll get better and better
24 at it, but that's what's happening at Baldwin.
25 At Kam I what we're trying to do is a lot of work.

1 Actually, where we're joining another kind of dual restoration
2 project and alteration project down there, but right now
3 the -- the storage building where our jet ski is, the door's
4 on the wrong side. It should be on the ocean side, right,
5 just go down, flip it, go in. It's on the other side, so we
6 have to haul the jet ski on the -- you know, tow it with an
7 ATV through the shower, through where everybody goes, it's
8 doing this back and forth, and it's just not very functional,
9 so -- so we're working on that as well.
10 One of my big pushes, and this is going to be much
11 easier once we get our training lieutenant, is to try to
12 rebuild our training programs. So it's not that we -- we
13 don't do good training, but if you look at the programs, like
14 if someone really were to scrutinize our training programs,
15 there's lots of kind of -- lots of pukas there. Right? So
16 we're working on kind of redoing our whole recruit training
17 program, getting a more robust rescue water craft training
18 program, that's really important. There was a fatality on
19 Oahu not too long ago from a firefighter, we just had an
20 injury ourselves. And it's not that we haven't trained our
21 folks, but, again, looking at the program, there's -- it
22 really needs to be kind of beefed up and -- and more
23 formalized.
24 OWLG, that's Open Water Lifeguard, that's what --
25 and USLA is the main entity, United States Lifesaving

1 Association is the main entity that sets standards for
 2 lifeguards, essentially. So we're working on -- and we are a
 3 member and we're, you know, accredited by them, but we're --
 4 again, we're just kind of rebuilding and fortifying our open
 5 water lifeguard training to ensure that we're not only meeting
 6 their standards, but documenting effectively that we're
 7 meeting their standards.

8 We're just -- in fact, my big push from this
 9 afternoon all through the weekend is going to be we're doing
 10 instructor training. So one of my roles for many years has
 11 been I teach our instructor training course, so what we
 12 like -- for all of the courses that are taught in the fire
 13 department, we'd like to have them taught by a certified
 14 instructor, so not just someone who's highly trained in the
 15 discipline, but has also been taught how to teach. Right?
 16 And so we have -- we have a course coming up next week as well
 17 as another one at the end of the March and we've never had any
 18 ocean safety officers in that -- in the training, so we're
 19 including that, we're including them in that curriculum as
 20 well.

21 Chief Ventura already talked about our ATV and UTV
 22 training program. We're hoping with the new personnel that we
 23 have, that we can start doing more training out at the
 24 beaches. See, one of the challenges for -- for lifeguards is
 25 when you're at the beach, your job is to have your eyes on the

1 beach and the shoreline the entire time. So it's a little
 2 different from fire, where you're primarily responding to
 3 being toned out. So you could be training at your station,
 4 you could be training somewhere else, you don't even have to
 5 stay at your station, there's more opportunities for training
 6 as a firefighter. It's a little harder at the beach,
 7 especially if you're short staffed, because, you know, how --
 8 let's say you want to get out on the jet ski or take a paddle
 9 board or, you know, whatever it happens to be, well, we've got
 10 to have at least somebody watching the whole beach. Right?
 11 And in some cases, you need more than one even. So we're
 12 hoping with the beefed-up staffing we can do more regular --
 13 call it tower training.

14 And then we've been working on filling some gaps in
 15 some of our training programs that are required by HIOSH in
 16 ocean safety. So we just did a round of what's called haz.
 17 mat. communication training, that's about chemical safety, and
 18 then I've been working on redoing our exposure control program
 19 for, like, bloodborne pathogens and such.

20 Am I already taking more time than I'm supposed to?
 21 (Laughter.)
 22 (Multiple speakers.)

23 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: So that's a short
 24 presentation for me. Again, you guys, this is all for you, so
 25 you stop me if you've had enough.

1 Some things that we're working on are -- you know,
 2 things in addition to -- that I haven't mentioned yet. We're
 3 redoing how we do our staffing and our transfer process and
 4 how we -- how we give assignments. Right now you're assigned
 5 to a district and the captain has to make a schedule every
 6 month to tell you which tower or which beach to go to that
 7 month, so we're going to get away from that. Your position is
 8 going to be a beach and a set of days off and that way we
 9 don't even have to make -- captains don't have to make a
 10 schedule anymore and then remake it when things change and
 11 then re-remake it and then listen to people complaining about
 12 it. You just know where you go to work. Right?

13 Rewrote all of our class specs, the minimum
 14 qualifications and position descriptions. There was just some
 15 language in there that was outdated. Still working with DPS
 16 on finalizing that. I talked about the entrance exam already.
 17 We're working on a new officer's manual to try to kind of
 18 merge the -- just have a little bit more coordination, I
 19 guess, or consistency between the greater department of fire
 20 and public safety and ocean safety. So we knew we needed to
 21 update the manual, we're trying to make it match as closely as
 22 we can to the fire officer's manual as well. Right?

23 We just got tablets. Well, we didn't just get them,
 24 we just finally got them out to all the -- all the towers, so
 25 we have wifi and an iPad for every tower. It seems like no

1 big deal, but this is huge for us because now we can
 2 communicate via email to our ocean safety officers reliably,
 3 they can do their -- I'm not surely if you're familiar with
 4 the Workday. The county has this new program for time entry
 5 and all sorts of other things, training and such called
 6 Workday. Well, when you work at a beach, there's -- there was
 7 no such thing. Now we can -- people can do all that on their
 8 tablets. We're hoping eventually to use those tablets for --
 9 to start doing electronic incident reporting and data
 10 collection instead of just checks in a box and ticks and then
 11 somebody has to count it all up and put it in a spreadsheet
 12 and hope nobody miscounted or mis-entered and then -- you
 13 know. So we're working on that as well. The tablets should
 14 be able to enable us to do that. We put in in next year's
 15 budget, I believe, for that and hopefully we'll get it.

16 There are some big happenings, I just mentioned that
 17 already, but probably the biggest thing that may be around the
 18 corner is a new tower at Puu Kekaha, that's Black Rock,
 19 Kaanapali Beach. It is arguably, but you can make a pretty
 20 good case, the most dangerous place in the state of Hawaii.
 21 Only Hanauma Bay on Oahu has more drownings per year than Puu
 22 Kekaha and they have probably several times the number of
 23 visitors there. Right? It is, without a doubt, the most
 24 dangerous place that does not have lifeguards. So it's kind
 25 of operationally, public safety-wise, it's no-brainer, it just

1 hasn't happened for a variety of political/economic reasons.
2 You've got to get the money; right? But right now the mayor's
3 behind it, we have Tamara Paltin on the council, a former
4 ocean safety officer, of course, she's behind it, and we have
5 some support at the state legislature with DLNR. A lot of the
6 stakeholders, including the private stakeholders there, you
7 know, the Kaanapali Operators Association and the Sheraton and
8 such, they're all behind it as well. Hopefully, that
9 translates into an actual lifeguard tower in the near future,
10 possibly even next fiscal year, so we're working on that.

11 We're hoping to get a new captain for the -- an
12 additional captain for the north district. It's a big area to
13 cover, lots of people, lots of things.

14 And then what's happening statewide in ocean safety,
15 I'm not sure if you followed, but on Oahu they will actually
16 passed a law mandating that ocean safety services are from
17 dawn to dusk. Right now our guys are county workers, they
18 start at 8:00, they're done at 4:45, they get a 45-minute
19 lunch. I mean, we cover each other so there's never a break,
20 but we don't have lifeguards on duty till 8:00 in the morning
21 and they're done at 4:45. And as every firefighter knows, at
22 4:46 is when a lot of the rescues happen. Right?

23 (Laughter.)

24 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: So that's something that's
25 possibly in our future. It's happening on Oahu, this is

1 pretty much a done deal, they're working -- they're moving
2 that way by law on Oahu, and so it's something that we need to
3 consider. There's all sorts of issues, you know, it's gonna
4 cost more money to expand coverage, you've got to deal with
5 the union and the various issues that they may have.

6 What we're hoping to do is with the new tower, if it
7 happens, we can establish that as a ten-hour shift tower.
8 Instead of you work 8 hours, you work four 10-hour shifts a
9 week, instead of five 8-hour shifts. It's easier to do with a
10 new position because you're not changing anyone's schedule.
11 Right? We open it up, Hey, anybody want to work at Puu
12 Kekaha? It's ten-hour shifts. I anticipate most of the
13 department will say yeah. And so we think that that's a good
14 opportunity to start working that schedule. And there's all
15 sort of logistic issues that we don't need to go over, but
16 when you start working out the details, there's things you've
17 gotta figure out, but that is a move statewide.

18 Along those same lines, by the way, the state has a
19 bill -- there's a bill before the state legislature to expand
20 funding for the state beach parks, \$5 million a year. So they
21 want to take \$5 million out of the TAT fund and provide that
22 to our -- the state-funded lifeguard services, so for us that
23 would be Makena, in part because of this recognition that
24 there's this movement to expand coverage.

25 Okay. And I think this is my last slide, but just:

1 Why aren't things happening faster than you would think they
2 should? Anybody who's worked in the county knows spending
3 money is not easy. For good reason, but, nonetheless, there's
4 all sorts of impediments that get thrown in your way and then
5 I talked about the permit requirements that we're becoming
6 clearer on. The good news is that the person who was working
7 with the HGEA kind of representing our lifeguards wasn't the
8 most helpful person, she's gone. We're not sure exactly who's
9 going to take her place, but possibly things will get easier
10 and we'll get, you know, faster turnaround on consultations
11 and such.

12 We're trying our best to integrate to the extent
13 where -- you know, feasible, to the extent that makes sense
14 with the rest of the department. Obviously, there's economies
15 that you can achieve if you're not duplicating effort. So,
16 for example, we're looking to start using the fire warehouse
17 for our routine supplies and instead of they order dish soap
18 and car wash solution and then each of our four captains order
19 for themselves and such, so we're trying to integrate that
20 better.

21 We're integrating our EMS training. In fact, I just
22 wrote the curriculum for that, which has -- has, actually,
23 just started, so we're including lifeguards and fire in the
24 same training. So we're trying to find ways to really become
25 one team and -- which I think is gonna help. And then, of

1 course, I wish I had two more of me and a bunch of other more
2 support staff so we could get all of these things done in a
3 reasonable time period.

4 Any questions?

5 (Laughter.)

6 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Just a simple one.

7 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Okay.

8 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Communications, you guys are
9 still -- you're gonna talk to the engine companies?

10 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Yeah. So we have the same
11 radios as the fire guys. And there is an ocean safety channel
12 that our officers will get dispatched on and then they just
13 quickly, when they're going to something, co-responding with
14 the fire department, they just go to whatever channel the --
15 you know, the fire department is -- the commander, basically,
16 says they want to go to, usually the first backup channel.

17 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: So when a lifeguard gets
18 dispatched with an engine company, say Ladder 3 or something
19 like that, so that's when they would go switch over to --

20 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Yeah.

21 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Okay.

22 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Yeah.

23 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Okay. And are they issued --
24 do they have cellular telephones or their own telephones?

25 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Yeah. Not every officer

1 does, but every tower has a phone and the captains have a
 2 phone, yeah, so we can get in touch with them that way as well
 3 as via the radios.
 4 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: One thing you might consider for
 5 the permit stuff, the SMA, what we did at wastewater was we
 6 made like a short form and coordinated with planning so like
 7 the staff -- so when I was director, I would just sign off on
 8 this short form, send it over, and we could get it rather
 9 quickly.
 10 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Okay. So we might able to
 11 work out with planning --
 12 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: I can get you an example and I
 13 can talk to you about how -- basically, it follows certain
 14 exemptions, that's what we put, that we only had like these
 15 different activities that we did for repair or -- or additions
 16 and we had it all on this form. We checked it, the director
 17 signed off, gave it over and we got it quickly.
 18 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Okay.
 19 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: So I presume your stuff is like,
 20 you know, just changing out certain things or minor --
 21 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Yeah, sometimes it's pretty
 22 minor stuff.
 23 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: How long did it take?
 24 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Yeah.
 25 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Fast.

1 studies still going on? I know there was one a few years back
 2 and it ended, I remember attending a conference where they
 3 showed the results. Is there currently any --
 4 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: The shark studies?
 5 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Yeah.
 6 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: You know, I'm not aware of
 7 anything that we're actively participating in.
 8 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: That's state funded?
 9 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: There's some snorkel safety
 10 studies going on, that's kind of a big thing, you know, with
 11 the new -- the one-piece masks and there's a lot of people
 12 suspecting those are not safe, but, you know, you want to be
 13 confident -- but, anyway, there's some of that going on. I'm
 14 sure there are plenty of people studying sharks, but we're not
 15 actively part of a study.
 16 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Or with the state or anything
 17 like that?
 18 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: No. I do have a meeting
 19 next month to review and update our shark protocol, so what
 20 are we going to do when there's a shark sighting or a shark
 21 bite, etc. We have protocols in place and they work pretty
 22 well, but they've been the same for quite a long time, so
 23 we're going to need to talk about that.
 24 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Thank you.
 25 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Yeah.

1 (Laughter.)
 2 (Multiple speakers.)
 3 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Because we did it -- it was kind
 4 of -- for me, it was director level, I just got -- I reviewed
 5 it and then I basically vouched for it.
 6 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Yeah, yeah.
 7 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: If the chief vouches for it --
 8 (Laughter.)
 9 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: You just gotta go to planning
 10 and go, This is what it is, please sign off that it's
 11 basically his (inaudible).
 12 CHIEF THYNE: But we're fire and that's you guys,
 13 so --
 14 (Laughter.)
 15 CHAIR MISAKI: (Inaudible) can take a while too,
 16 'cause --
 17 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Yeah.
 18 CHAIR MISAKI: -- it's working with the short-
 19 staffed state historic preservation division.
 20 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Right.
 21 CHAIR MISAKI: And so that's -- takes time, too.
 22 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Yeah.
 23 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: My last question.
 24 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Okay.
 25 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Are there currently any shark

1 CHAIR MISAKI: Thank you.
 2 COMMISSIONERS: Thank you very much.
 3 BATTALION CHIEF GIESEA: Thank you folks.
 4 CHAIR MISAKI: So our next meeting date and time is
 5 Thursday, March 19th, I hope you guys can all make it. Please
 6 let Richelle know if you will make it. And we will also have
 7 nominations for new officers for the April meeting at that
 8 time. Both myself and Linda will be -- that will be our last
 9 meeting.
 10 Anybody would like to move for adjournment?
 11 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: So move.
 12 CHAIR MISAKI: Moved by Travis.
 13 COMMISSIONER VARES: Seconded.
 14 CHAIR MISAKI: Second by Lisa. All those in favor?
 15 (Response.)
 16 CHAIR MISAKI: Anybody opposed?
 17 (No response.)
 18 CHAIR MISAKI: Meeting adjourned. Thank you.
 19 (Gavel.)
 20 (The proceedings were adjourned at 11:33 a.m.)
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 22
 23
 24
 25

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 February 20, 2020,
7 at 10:00 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 3rd day of March, 2020, in Maui, Hawaii.

18
19
20
21
22 _____
23 Sandra J. Gran, RPR
24 Hawaii CSR 424
25