

June 18, 2020

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1 FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
2 COUNTY OF MAUI
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7 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
8 REGULAR MEETING
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13 Held at via Blue Jeans video conference, commencing
14 at 10:00 a.m., on June 18, 2020.
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19 REPORTED BY: SANDRA J. GRAN, RPR/CSR #424
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1 (June 18, 2020, 10:00 a.m.)
2 * * *
3 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. I'd like call the fire
4 and public safety commission meeting to order, the June 18th
5 meeting. Let's do roll call first. I'm Kyle Ginoza, the vice
6 chair.
7 Jack Freitas?
8 (No response.)
9 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Travis Tancayo?
10 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Here.
11 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Gregg Lundberg?
12 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Here.
13 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Dwight Burns?
14 (No response.)
15 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Lisa Vares?
16 COMMISSIONER VARES: Here.
17 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Donna Sterling?
18 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Here.
19 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Punahale Alcon?
20 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Here.
21 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Max Kincaid, Jr.?
22 (No response.)
23 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: So we don't have Jack, Dwight,
24 or Max present in the meeting thus far.
25 Has -- I hope everybody has had a chance to review

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1 ATTENDANCE
2 COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:
3 Kyle Ginoza, Vice Chair
4 Jack Freitas, Member
5 Travis Tancayo, Member
6 Gregg Lundberg, Member
7 Dwight Burns, Member
8 Lisa Vares, Member
9 Donna Sterling, Member
10 Punahale Alcon, Member
11 Max Kincaid, Jr.
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14 STAFF:
15 David Thyne, Fire Chief
16 Bradford Ventura, Deputy Fire Chief
17 Michael Werner, Battalion Chief
18 Richard Kawasaki, Assistant Fire Chief
19 Gary Murai, Deputy Corporation Counsel
20 Jill Matsui Peterson, Commission Secretary
21 Herman Andaya, Maui Emergency Management Agency
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1 the minutes from the February meeting. If anybody needs time,
2 please let me know; otherwise, can I have a motion to approve
3 the minutes?
4 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: I'll make the motion to
5 approve the minutes as written.
6 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Is that Gregg? Okay, Gregg.
7 COMMISSIONER VARES: Second.
8 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Who was that? Lisa?
9 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Sorry, Trav.
10 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. All in favor, raise your
11 hand?
12 (Response.)
13 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Approval is -- we
14 approved the minutes. Is there any --
15 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Of February 20th; right?
16 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: February 20th. February 20th,
17 2020, minutes are approved.
18 MR. MURAI: Kyle. Mr. Chair.
19 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Yes. Oh.
20 MR. MURAI: Chair.
21 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Gary.
22 MR. MURAI: Kyle. I'm sorry to interrupt. You
23 know, because we're going to take this recording and then
24 later on transcribe the minutes, maybe we should just do a
25 real quick introduction of staff who are on the -- on this

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1 call. So Gary Murai, deputy --
 2 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, sure.
 3 MR. MURAI: Gary Murai, deputy corporation counsel,
 4 and I'm assigned to the fire and public safety commission. I
 5 just wanted to say hello and introduce myself to the members
 6 that I don't know. Over the years, I've been -- I've advised
 7 the commission off and on in the past, so some of the old-
 8 timers I remember, and some of you folks are new and I haven't
 9 met you yet, so welcome, thank you for serving. Anyway -- and
 10 then I also see Herman, Herman Andaya. I also Chief and his
 11 executive staff, so maybe they can just state their names for
 12 the record. Chief?
 13 CHIEF THYNE: Hi. Good morning, Gary, and
 14 commissioners. Dave Thyne, fire chief.
 15 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Good morning, everybody.
 16 Deputy Fire Chief Brad Ventura.
 17 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: Good morning, everybody.
 18 Henry Lindo, battalion chief.
 19 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Good morning, everybody.
 20 Assistant Fire Chief Mike Werner.
 21 (Inaudible comments.)
 22 MR. MURAI: Okay. Thanks.
 23 Thanks, Kyle.
 24 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you very much, Gary.
 25 So do we have anybody present to testify from the

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1 public?
 2 (No response.)
 3 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: I don't think so.
 4 CHIEF THYNE: (Inaudible comment.)
 5 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: I'm sorry.
 6 CHIEF THYNE: Nobody's here in our office.
 7 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. So seeing none, I'll
 8 close public testimony and we'll go on to the election of the
 9 commission chair and vice chair. And I'll hand it over to
 10 Gary.
 11 MR. MURAI: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair -- Vice
 12 Chair. Okay. So, folks, what we need to do is the charter
 13 requires us to elect new officers annually and I believe this
 14 commission has a chair and a vice chair, so we're going to
 15 hold an election for the chair first and then the vice chair.
 16 The first thing the chair -- that Kyle is going to do is open
 17 up the floor for nominations. Any member, including Kyle, can
 18 make a nomination, the nomination does not need to be
 19 seconded. Once all nominations -- once there has been an
 20 opportunity for nominations, if there's no further
 21 nominations, then Kyle will close the nominations, then the
 22 members can speak for or against a candidate, and once you
 23 folks have had sufficient discussion, then you vote.
 24 Now, it's up to you folks how you want to vote. The
 25 vote can be as simple as a show of hands, all in favor of

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1 So-and-So, raise your hand or say aye. The vote can be by,
 2 you know, by ballot or it can be by roll call, whatever you
 3 want. Most of the time it's just by show of hands, that's the
 4 quickest and easiest. Once we've elected a chair, then we'll
 5 do the same process for a vice chair: Open the floor for
 6 nominations, receive nominations, close nominations,
 7 discussion, then vote.
 8 Any questions about how we're gonna proceed on this?
 9 (No response.)
 10 MR. MURAI: Okay. Great. So in that case, Kyle,
 11 I'll turn it back over to you. And I also see on my screen,
 12 for the record, I just want to note that it appears that
 13 Commissioner Freitas has joined us.
 14 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Yes.
 15 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Good morning, Jack.
 16 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Good morning.
 17 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Jack, we're on the item on
 18 Election of the Commission Chair and Vice Chair, for your
 19 information.
 20 So I'd like to open it up for anybody who want to
 21 nominate a chair of the commission, please raise your hand and
 22 I'll recognize you. Donna.
 23 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Thank you, Chair. Donna
 24 Sterling, commissioner. I would like to nominate Kyle Ginoza
 25 for the chair for the fire and public safety commission.

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1 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.
 2 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: I support that.
 3 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Anybody else want to provide a
 4 nomination?
 5 (No response.)
 6 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. I'll close the
 7 nomination.
 8 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: I move the nominations be
 9 closed.
 10 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: We don't -- Jack, we don't need
 11 any move or second on the -- on the voting.
 12 So is there any discussion that you guys want?
 13 COMMISSIONER VARES: I think it's an excellent
 14 nomination.
 15 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: So let's vote by show of hands
 16 who like to see myself as the chair. Awesome.
 17 Jack, what about you?
 18 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Hand's still up.
 19 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Yeah, my hand's up. Oh, you
 20 can't see it there?
 21 (Inaudible comments.)
 22 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you.
 23 MR. MURAI: Okay. For the record, it appears -- for
 24 the record, it appears the vote was unanimous.
 25 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Yes. Thank you.

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1 So let's move to the vice chair. Do we have any
 2 nominations for vice chair by show of hands? Travis.
 3 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Nominate Lisa Vares.
 4 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Excellent. Is there anyone else
 5 that would like to nominate someone else?
 6 (No response.)
 7 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. I'll close the
 8 nominations. Is there any discussion that anybody wants?
 9 (No response.)
 10 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: No discussion. Let's vote.
 11 Please raise your hand if you vote for Lisa Vares.
 12 (Response.)
 13 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: It looks like it's unanimous as
 14 well. Congratulations, Lisa.
 15 COMMISSIONER: Congratulations.
 16 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. I'd like to move on to
 17 the next agenda item, Attendance Policy, and I believe Gary
 18 will explain that.
 19 MR. MURAI: Thank you, Chair. So, Members, this is
 20 just for your information. What the council has done is
 21 they've created an attendance policy for board and commission
 22 members. Basically, it just wants -- basically, what they
 23 want is just more -- well, I just want to say this: In my
 24 experience with the fire and public safety commission,
 25 attendance has not been a problem. This is really meant for

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1 some boards and commissions that have had attendance problems
 2 and, you know, if you don't have a quorum, you can't have a
 3 meeting, your board or commission cannot do business. This
 4 does impose some burdens upon members; in other words, if
 5 you're not going able to make it, they want you to notify the
 6 commission secretary so that, you know, we know whether -- we
 7 have a quorum or not. And it does place some additional
 8 burdens on support staff in that we have to, you know, do a
 9 better job of keeping track of attendance and -- and also, you
 10 know, reporting when -- when we have a -- a member who's just
 11 not showing up and not communicating. But like I said, this
 12 is just for your information. If you have any questions, I'll
 13 be glad to answer them. Again, it's really not directed at
 14 you guys. In my experience, the fire and public safety
 15 commission has always been able to, you know, to pull its
 16 members together. Thank you.
 17 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Great. Does anybody have any
 18 questions?
 19 (No response.)
 20 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Gary.
 21 MR. MURAI: You're welcome.
 22 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Let's move on to the MEMA
 23 report. Herman, are you there?
 24 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yes, I'm here. Mr. Chair,
 25 Members of the Commission, I apologize, I don't have a written

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1 report for you, I'll submit that in the next couple of days,
 2 but I can give a -- a very quick verbal report. As you know,
 3 we've been dealing with the COVID-19 event. We've been in
 4 partial activation since March and the EOC has been
 5 operational at one point for 75 days straight. Or 80 days,
 6 I'm sorry, 80 days straight. And so -- and we're still --
 7 we're still dealing with -- with this. In fact, today, I just
 8 learned that there were 18 new cases on Oahu and so --
 9 although there are no new cases on Maui and we haven't had a
 10 new case now in almost two weeks. So we're doing pretty good
 11 here on Maui, but our concern is, of course, the possibility
 12 of cases coming in from -- from Honolulu.
 13 For this budget session, the council did approve two
 14 more positions, so -- for a training and public affairs
 15 officer, we'll be recruiting for those two positions. Also,
 16 our plans and operations officer, Andrea Finkelstein, did --
 17 she will be leaving our agency and will be working for a
 18 consultant. And so our preparedness specialist, Shernan
 19 Carroll, will be moving into that position, but, also, she is
 20 slated to retire at the end of the year, too, so there will be
 21 a lot of new faces in our agency in the next few months.
 22 With respect to hurricane, the National Weather
 23 Service predicted that this hurricane season, that there is a
 24 certain percent chance of a lower normal hurricane season and
 25 so it is expected about two to six cyclones. So as I've

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1 mentioned before to the -- to the commission, we're hoping
 2 that we'll move into a La Nina phase. Right now we're kind of
 3 still in the El Nino phase, so it looks like by August or so
 4 we should be moving into what's called the La Nina phase.
 5 We'll continue to do hurricane preparations for --
 6 Excuse me. I'm sorry. (Pause.) I'm sorry.
 7 There's some activity going on.
 8 So we're still going through preparations for
 9 hurricane now, now including COVID and all this, and so we're
 10 looking at getting more supplies and everything. Shelter is
 11 going to be an issue for us because now, you know, we have to
 12 practice social distancing in our shelters and so that's gonna
 13 limit the number of shelters that we can get as well as even
 14 our EOC is going to be an issue. I think I've mentioned to
 15 you guys in the past we have, during an activation, about 60
 16 to 80 people in this -- in this room. If we were to use
 17 American Red Cross guidelines, we can only put six people in
 18 this room, so that is gonna be an issue for us. And, of
 19 course, we're preparing for a second wave and possible surge.
 20 So that's -- that's all I have, Mr. Chair. I'm open
 21 to any questions, if there are any.
 22 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: This is Kyle. I have a
 23 question. So what -- what is the alternative if there is an
 24 activation on the EOC? What is the alternative plan if only
 25 six would be able to be in that room? Just Blue Jeans?

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1 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: So we tried to -- we tried
 2 looking for another -- another site, another location, but
 3 part of the problem is, you know, we have a lot of -- like,
 4 for instance, we have backup generators here, our sat phones,
 5 our communications, our VTCs are all here in this room, so it
 6 would be difficult to just pick up and go to another --
 7 another location. And, Kyle, Mr. Chair, I know that you've
 8 been in this -- in this EOC many times when you were director
 9 and you know how full this room gets, yeah.
 10 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Sure.
 11 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: And so I think what we may end
 12 up having to do is just I think we're going to be forced to
 13 work in this room, we're just going to be very strict about
 14 usage of masks and gloves -- or, I mean, washing our hands,
 15 you know, things like that. So I don't think we're going to
 16 have an option. We're trying to find a new option, but --
 17 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Okay.
 18 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: If worse comes to worse, I
 19 think we're just going to have to all report in here.
 20 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you.
 21 Does any commissioner have a -- any questions?
 22 (No response.)
 23 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you very much,
 24 Herman.
 25 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Mr. Chair, if I -- if I could

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1 be excused, I have some other matters I have to take care of,
 2 so --
 3 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Certainly. Thank you, Herman.
 4 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you very much.
 5 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: I'd like to next go to Chief
 6 Thyne. You have the floor.
 7 CHIEF THYNE: Okay. Good morning. And I was raised
 8 not to be a butt kisser, but to acknowledge those that were
 9 elected or appointed to higher authority, so congratulations,
 10 Chair Ginoza and Vice Chair Vares. So, again, not to be a
 11 butt kisser, just acknowledging you and congratulate you for
 12 being elected.
 13 So moving forward. So I believe we all have a
 14 report or update in front of you or have it in your packet, so
 15 I won't be too -- going through everything point by point, but
 16 just highlighting for especially Punahale, being one of our
 17 new commissioners. And congratulations to you as well.
 18 So I normally like to -- we take pride in the fact
 19 that we're training a department. I do (inaudible) in the
 20 newspaper and out on the ground here in the central plain
 21 we've had ongoing wildland training going on. That's not
 22 included in my report because the update was sent out to you
 23 folks before we started that, but we work with Mahi Pono, our
 24 corporate and county attorneys, as well their corporate
 25 attorneys to allow us a right of entry to do training on their

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1 former fallow fields, HC&S fallow fields, so we've been having
 2 some wildland training. As most of you know, last year was a
 3 pretty robust year for wildland fires, so typically annually
 4 that we do this refresher training anyway, but, obviously,
 5 it's even more important now with the conditions being the way
 6 they are and the way they were, of course, last year. So
 7 you'll also see on there EMR refreshers, which is our standard
 8 first aid training. As you know, 60 percent of our alarms are
 9 medical-related alarms, so we do a lot of those refresher
 10 trainings periodically and at the very least annually for
 11 these particular certifications.
 12 The other one listed there, the other bullet is
 13 rapid intervention team training and that's really related to
 14 rescuing our firefighters. There is an OSHA standard that
 15 states that we have two people in a structure, we have to have
 16 two people -- a minimum of two people out ready to go in and
 17 rescue them if they need to be rescued, that's a standard that
 18 we have to adhere to. So if there's -- therefore, if there's
 19 four people in there, then there has to be four people out.
 20 So that's what we call rapid -- or RIT training and so we take
 21 that very seriously because it's firefighters rescuing
 22 firefighters. So that's an annual refresher we do as well, we
 23 have a great program.
 24 Eventually, as we get through our -- we have a guest
 25 presenter every meeting that we have with you folks and today

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1 it's Chief Lindo, but we'll be getting to our different
 2 training cadres as well and our different discipline specific
 3 training that we do, and this is one -- well, these are two of
 4 them. And so we'll have those committee -- or, excuse me,
 5 training program cadre leads in front of you to explain their
 6 program a little bit more detail, so that's upcoming.
 7 And then you see our mayor interaction. So
 8 typically my report, as you know, is broken down with
 9 interactions with our mayor and his staff and then our county
 10 counsel and then some of the miscellaneous interactions that
 11 we have with community members or in this case you'll see we
 12 have some other things listed there. But just to highlight
 13 real quickly, we do have a -- a directors meeting daily, it's
 14 a Blue Jeans meeting like this with the mayor, his staff.
 15 We've had these since the COVID crisis began. So we have
 16 those at 9:30 daily just to interact and make sure all of the
 17 departments are on the same page with the mayor's directives
 18 and whatnot. That's the important thing listed there.
 19 The second thing that's very important, I think, for
 20 us as a commission as well as department, Chief Ventura and I
 21 also meet with the mayor on a monthly basis person to person.
 22 We just started those after the COVID crisis kind of tapered
 23 off a bit. So we had one last week and we brought to the
 24 mayor's attention our concern about Makena. So Makena State
 25 Park, as you know, we staff that with county lifeguards, that

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1 funding was taken away, basically, at the end of the third
 2 quarter last -- this past -- just a few weeks ago, actually,
 3 and they advised us that they would not be renewing that
 4 contract for now due to lack of funding at the state level.
 5 So we had our conversation, our meeting with the mayor, we
 6 expressed our concerns related to the amount of folks that are
 7 still frequenting Makena State Park. Although we know it's a
 8 state park, it has been staffed with county lifeguards up
 9 until we had to suspend that due to lack of funding, so our
 10 concern was that, you know, people are used to the lifeguards
 11 being there and now that they're not there, if an accident or,
 12 God forbid, fatality was to happen, people are gonna start
 13 questioning why those folks aren't there and -- and that
 14 protective layer of lifeguards isn't there. Now, certainly,
 15 the argument is that it's the state's responsibility, but we
 16 just wanted the mayor to know that, you know, the --
 17 basically, our concerns for the welfare of the general public.
 18 Regardless of whose fault it is, people are going to be upset
 19 when accidents or injuries happen. So we certainly understand
 20 his stance and we're gonna support it.

21 The good news for our personnel is, is that we
 22 didn't have -- or lose any positions. The Councilmember
 23 Tamara Paltin, who some of you may know, was a former
 24 lifeguard, ocean safety officer in West Maui, so she has a --
 25 a passion for that particular agency with -- you know, within

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1 us and so she put in positions, additional positions in the
 2 last fiscal year budget which turned out to be very beneficial
 3 for those folks that were assigned to Makena because we didn't
 4 lose any personnel. Nobody had -- nobody lost their job. We
 5 were able to transition them into the county positions and so
 6 nobody that was formerly assigned to Makena had to lose their
 7 job, so that was a very -- how can I say -- lucky thing, for
 8 lack of a better description, and so -- but then again now, if
 9 we -- once we do open up Makena, if the county decides to
 10 staff it again, we're going to have to go through a
 11 recruitment and hiring and training process to restaff Makena.
 12 So we'll keep you posted on what we hear, but we want to make
 13 sure you're aware, should you get asked, the state basically
 14 stopped the funding for those positions, so that's why there's
 15 no lifeguards there anymore at Makena.

16 Another thing you may see on page 2 of the document,
 17 our highlights, our county council interaction. What we had
 18 was we had -- the short version is we had a HIOSH, which is
 19 Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health office, we had an
 20 investigation related to a firefighter that got injured during
 21 some training off Kihei Boat Ramp. What happened is, is they
 22 had gotten their rescue watercraft back from the shop for some
 23 maintenance and repairs and our -- the way we do things in the
 24 fire department is, typically, we field test it. Even if the
 25 mechanics say it's okay, we fixed it, it's good to go; we want

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1 to verify that because we don't want to find out something's
 2 wrong when an emergency happens, so we'll take it out and test
 3 drive it and do those types of things. If it's a fire truck,
 4 we'll run the pump and make sure it pumps water, those types
 5 of things.

6 So they had gotten the rescue watercraft back, they
 7 took it out for some testing and make sure it was seaworthy
 8 and whatnot, ocean worthy, and at the same time they had a
 9 brand-new firefighter that had been assigned there that when
 10 he was assigned from recruit school, the rescue watercraft was
 11 in the shop, so he never really had a chance to get
 12 familiarized with it. So they figured two birds with one
 13 stone, they took him out for some introductory training and at
 14 the same time ocean test the ski. Unfortunately, when they
 15 were doing some maneuvers, one of the firefighters got
 16 injured, he -- basically, they were doing a simulation of
 17 what -- what Chief Travis may remember in his day was like a
 18 man overboard drill or a bail-out type of maneuver and it
 19 really simulates, you know, a -- typically, our operation is a
 20 driver or operator of the rescue watercraft and then behind on
 21 the rescue sled is what we call a grabber, and so that's the
 22 person that will grab the person that's either struggling in
 23 the wave or -- or facedown in the water, will pull them on the
 24 board and start trying to revive them and those types of
 25 things.

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1 So we do a maneuver which is called a man overboard
 2 maneuver where the operator of the ski will bail off the ski
 3 and then the grabber has to go on, gain control of the ski,
 4 and then go back and pick up that operator. So it's a common
 5 thing we do, but when the operator jumped off the ski, he
 6 landed wrong on the wave, just bad timing-wise, and he bruised
 7 and cracked a couple of his ribs. So as we went through the
 8 process, we found out that there was some things, reporting
 9 and timelines and whatnot, that we had to do better with OSHA.
 10 They had changed a few years back, a couple years back, we
 11 didn't know that, so when we -- when we went through the
 12 internal investigation with OSHA, they found that there was
 13 some violations. So there was some fines that were levied and
 14 whenever we get fined as an agency, we have to go to council
 15 and, basically, get -- make sure they're aware of it and get
 16 their approval for covering the fines. So that was all done,
 17 it was approved, we had lessons learned from our side in
 18 process, but that's what you see listed there as far as the
 19 GET committee meeting. That was done virtually as well.

20 We did cancel our annual conference, our Hawaii Fire
 21 Chiefs Conference. Just due to, again, the COVID,
 22 coronavirus, a lot of national conferences are being
 23 cancelled. We petitioned the Ritz-Carlton, because there was
 24 some very heavy fines related to the contract. 'Cause I'm
 25 sure Commissioner Lundberg is aware, when we book these types

1 of big hotel rooms and blocks of hotel rooms and ballrooms and
2 stuff, whenever you have to cancel that contract, there's some
3 fines and -- and penalties that are, basically, given out. So
4 we had to negotiate with the Ritz to remove those fines and
5 just reschedule for 2021 and they agreed to that due to the
6 extreme conditions that are happening with COVID. So that's
7 been cancelled, we're working on some dates for the future.

8 And then, just briefly, we did an interview with
9 Hana Hou magazine, the Hawaiian Airlines magazine, they're
10 doing a profile piece on our department and our training
11 program and whatnot. So it's always very humbling when --
12 when folks want to do, you know, articles or newspaper
13 articles, that sort of thing, on your department, but we did
14 what we could to represent our department and you folks, as
15 our commission, well and engage the reporter and answer her
16 questions. And I guess we'll see whatever comes out in print
17 if that was a success or not.

18 So that's all I have. If there's any questions,
19 I'll, obviously, be here, but -- it's always hard that I can't
20 see folks in person, but I'm here if you have any questions or
21 need any further explanation. Thank you, Chair.

22 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief.

23 Brad.

24 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Good morning, everybody.

25 Thank you for being here. Nice to see everybody again. It's

1 been a while. It's been some unique times. Congratulations
2 to our new chair and vice chair. And welcome aboard,
3 Punahale, who's here, and we're still missing Max, but
4 Richelle's working with Max as we speak to try and get him
5 logged in.

6 I had sent in and you probably have my report over
7 March, April, May, and June. I don't want to go over four
8 pages of information, so I will additionally, just as Chief
9 Thyne did, kind of skim. One of the things that I report out
10 on are our department interviews and promotions. Fortunately,
11 the mayor did not put any freezes on our department along with
12 police, so we were able to continue both promotions and new
13 hires during this COVID pandemic. We did have some unique
14 interviews because we did some Blue Jeans interviews and so
15 the same challenges we had with you folks in setting up this
16 meeting, we had with all the candidates that we had to set up.
17 Not only were we promoting captains and sworn personnel, but
18 we were also hiring some civilian positions, so we had to work
19 with them and we didn't even know them, we didn't know where
20 they were, where they lived, if they had internet service, and
21 that sort of thing.

22 So just in brief, the last four months, we have
23 hired for the department a new -- and we use titled acronyms,
24 but our SCBA technician, which is our breathing apparatus. We
25 hired a person who's gonna start next month and they're going

1 to be responsible for all of the packs in all the fire trucks
2 and all the bottles and the -- and all of the air-compressor
3 systems that we use to refill all of the tanks at all of the
4 various stations in our department. So that's going to be a
5 great addition to our department. It's going to fall into our
6 health and safety bureau, so they're going to be able to
7 concentrate a little more on the health and safety side of our
8 department and less on the logistics of just getting bottles
9 and tanks repaired and tested. We also promoted 22 drivers,
10 so that was a huge promotion class; we promoted seven
11 captains; and we're about to interview our firefighter 2s,
12 which would be our haz. mat. and rescue personnel, those
13 interviews are next week. So we've had lots of movement, lots
14 of activity going on. And that -- so that kind of summarizes
15 the promotions and interviews.

16 We -- Tamara Paltin, a council member, when she also
17 gave us the ocean safety officer positions to go onto the
18 beach, she also gave us a clerical person, so that person has
19 been put into play and hired. It was a transfer, so she
20 originally worked for Herman in the emergency management
21 agency, she came over to us into our prevention bureau and now
22 she's our personnel assistant working in our HR department so
23 we have a little bit more help in our HR group. So time
24 sheets, you know, the software that we use, Workday, all these
25 movements and promotions take a lot of personnel action in the

1 software that we use, so that's gonna help them be more
2 efficient and get people what they need in a quicker time.

3 So moving on, department improvement committee, we
4 have a -- we have an open recommendation forum for our
5 firefighters and anybody to recommend something to the
6 department like, Hey, I think you guys should do this, and
7 then we look into it, we investigate, and we try to fulfill
8 their wishes. So the -- that committee sometimes is busy,
9 sometimes nothing happens. In the last four months, we've
10 done a variety of things to increase quality of some personal
11 protective equipment. We've also installed a new cascade air
12 system at the Kahului Fire Station, so that one was a big
13 improvement. Normally, they'd have to take the bottles from
14 Kahului and training and either use our (inaudible) to refill
15 bottles or they'd have to take the bottles to Wailea or
16 Lahaina or Paia to refill. So logistics, you can just see how
17 challenging it was. Now we have a Cascade system at Kahului,
18 they can just go to train, come here, fill up their bottles,
19 and be back to work, you know, with a full complement of
20 (inaudible).

21 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Brad, Brad, real quick.

22 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Sure.

23 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: This is Kyle. I just wanted to
24 recognize Max, Max joined our meeting. Welcome, Max.

25 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Thank you.

1 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Hello, Max, welcome. Welcome
 2 to the commission. Thank you for being here, absolutely.
 3 So kind of moving on in my report, along with
 4 what -- improvements, we also have -- right now we have a crew
 5 of people up in Wisconsin doing the final inspection on three
 6 of our apparatus: one ladder for Wailea, one engine for
 7 Napili, and one engine for Kihei. They're -- they've been
 8 combing over these apparatus and kind of sending back little
 9 reports. They -- this is the third trip. We go on a pretrip
 10 to build the truck, we go on a midpoint trip to see how
 11 they're doing when the chassis is kind of done and maybe the
 12 cab is on the truck, and then we go on a final inspection and
 13 we run the truck through tons and tons of testing, flip every
 14 light switch, turn on every machine motor, run every hydraulic
 15 ram, run every pump discharge. And so they're in their final
 16 inspection right now and if they -- unfortunately, but it's
 17 common, they found a plethora of things that need to be
 18 repaired. So they'll go back on the line, get repaired, and
 19 then hopefully get sent out here by the end of summer.
 20 What was unique was we actually had five apparatus,
 21 two of them were wildland apparatus that were being built in
 22 Texas while the three other apparatus were built in Wisconsin.
 23 Because of COVID, those wildland vehicles, being much simpler,
 24 they're just an F550 chassis with a flatbed and a box -- some
 25 boxes and a pump put on the back of it; just to kind of

1 simplify things, we did a video inspection of those apparatus.
 2 So instead of going there, because we couldn't fly, and we
 3 knew we were getting into wildland season, we wanted to really
 4 get those two wildland vehicles on island, we agreed to doing
 5 a video inspection of the apparatus. And then, of course,
 6 when it gets here, if there's anything wrong, they'll have to
 7 warranty it, come and repair it and whatnot. Those trucks
 8 should have been moved from Texas to California already and
 9 are hopefully gonna get on a barge here soon and on its way
 10 out to Hawaii. So that's all sort of the things we've been
 11 working on in our department improvement committee.
 12 Moving on to my next reported item is our union
 13 interactions. During COVID, especially the first two and a
 14 half to three weeks of March, we had to really consult with
 15 our unions like daily, because we were changing procedures, we
 16 were changing policies, we were issuing new and different
 17 protective equipment, we were moving firefighters out of
 18 dorms, putting them in classrooms, so that we could create
 19 social distancing. There was a lot, a lot, a lot of work
 20 going on and a lot of consulting with the union (inaudible)
 21 three weeks or so of the COVID pandemic.
 22 So there's several little bullet points that you can
 23 see along there and then the normal stuff that we're always
 24 working on. We're always working to improve our SOGs, so we
 25 consult with them every time we change an SOG or we want to

1 add something to the policy so that we can, you know, be safer
 2 and be more protective of our firefighters. So, for example,
 3 the HIOSH incident on the jet ski, we had to review our SOG
 4 with our rescue watercraft, we made changes to both the
 5 training program and the SOG, and then we consult with the
 6 union to make sure everybody's happy with it. So those are
 7 the types of things that have gone on recently in union
 8 interactions.
 9 Transmittals from the public is the last thing I
 10 report on. For us, almost a hundred percent of the last three
 11 months has been very positive from the community. They all
 12 know what a stressful time it's been for both the public and
 13 the first responders with this COVID pandemic, so they've been
 14 very grateful (inaudible) all of the activity, work, and
 15 response that we've provided. So almost all the letters that
 16 we've gotten from the community lately have been very positive
 17 and very supportive. Some of them have also been in regards
 18 to some activities with ocean safety, so although the beaches
 19 have been sort of empty, there's still people in the ocean and
 20 people still getting into trouble in near-shore areas. So one
 21 of the things was a shark attack incident back in March, there
 22 was another scuba diver at Kam III who needed help when they
 23 got washed up on some rocks, and then I just received from
 24 Commissioner Vares a letter that was sent through Richelle in
 25 regarding to another ocean safety incident that it appears

1 that it was very positive and the response was topnotch,
 2 according to this person from the public. So all very good
 3 things.
 4 You know, people will be critical during these
 5 times. We've talked to our firefighters and our ocean safety
 6 officers and explained to them how important public perception
 7 is. We're very fortunate that we are working, we are very
 8 fortunate that we are getting paid and we have jobs and we're
 9 essential during these times 'cause we have very well noted
 10 that many, many, many people are out of work and times are
 11 extremely hard for families, especially in the tourism
 12 industry. So the perception that we are allowing people to
 13 see us in the public needs to always be extremely on point
 14 during this pandemic, because we're still gonna receive, you
 15 know, a little bit of pushback. They don't necessarily know
 16 that our procedures have changed, so they might wonder why
 17 there's two firefighters standing at the fire truck when
 18 somebody's, you know, having a medical incident in a home, but
 19 the reason is we're not exposing all of our firefighters to a
 20 potential COVID incident, so we're separating our personnel so
 21 that we only expose two at a time. So those sorts of things,
 22 you know, people might be like, Wow, those guys are just
 23 standing at the truck, but what they're actually doing is
 24 creating social distancing and then they're also going to be
 25 our decon crew. So when the firefighters do come out of the

1 home and they're potentially contaminated, they were issued
 2 spray alcohol, Clorox; gloves, masks, booties, hoods to deacon
 3 our crews when they come out of a potential environment that
 4 was contaminated with COVID. So, you know, public perception
 5 is everything, what they see is what they believe, so we've
 6 been really enforcing with our firefighters that, Hey, we're
 7 working, we're getting paid, not everybody is, make sure that
 8 we're doing excellent customer service and that we're -- we're
 9 giving the right perception out there. So that kind of
 10 alluded to why we've received quite bit of positive support
 11 from the community over the last three or four months, because
 12 our -- our guys are doing very well.

13 That concludes my report. Any questions in regards
 14 to those items?

15 COMMISSIONER VARES: I've got one, Kyle.

16 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Lisa.

17 COMMISSIONER VARES: I really appreciate you
 18 (inaudible). I want -- if you don't mind, it's short, I
 19 wanted to read it real fast. I know you guys are humble and
 20 don't brag on yourselves, but this really said a lot about all
 21 of you guys, actually. So just really quick, this is by our
 22 24/7 website, it actually does a recording on all these
 23 (inaudible) and they wanted put this out there that I thought
 24 was beautifully written. Can? Really?

25 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Yes. Can you -- can you -- for

1 me, it's going in and out, your sound, so maybe just speak up.

2 COMMISSIONER VARES: Okay. If you don't mind, I'll
 3 read this real fast.

4 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Sure.

5 COMMISSIONER VARES: Okay. It says, After hearing
 6 and seeing countless play-by-play rescues happen over the
 7 years, we feel confident to say that we have some of the best
 8 trained fire and rescue crews in the state, if not the
 9 country. We wish you could all hear what we hear and see what
 10 we see. From their organization to their communication to
 11 their execution, these guys and gals are absolutely topnotch,
 12 in all caps. And we are so grateful to current and past MFD
 13 and ocean safety (inaudible) we can call on (inaudible) proud
 14 of. This also goes to the amazing (inaudible) fire fighting
 15 and search techniques (inaudible) with our fire and first
 16 responders. This was a very scary rescue and they pulled it
 17 off before it got unreal. Mahalo, mahalo, mahalo.

18 And I -- I think that summed it up really nicely
 19 because I think it's the coordination part that I like to see
 20 and recognize because there's a lot going on when you guys are
 21 trying to get out there and -- and actually effectively rescue
 22 somebody or fix an incident. So I wanted to make sure that
 23 everybody else heard that and that it would be in the public
 24 record, because that was a very nice summary of how well you
 25 all work together. So thank you.

1 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Lisa. I believe,
 2 Travis, did you have a comment as well?

3 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Yeah. Just a few questions
 4 for the chief. As far as the new trucks, are the engines and
 5 the ladders, are they still being built by Pierce? Did they
 6 win the contract again or --

7 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: This current bid that went
 8 out, Pierce did win the thing, the bid, so that's why we're
 9 back in Wisconsin, yeah.

10 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Okay. I just wanted to check
 11 about that. And those, the companies that are building the
 12 wildland truck, is that a subsidiary or a totally different
 13 company that's doing the wildland trucks?

14 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah. So Councilmember
 15 Hokama asked us when we got this five-truck award in the
 16 council in the budget, to try to package them together and get
 17 one vendor so we could get truck discounts, try and get one
 18 vendor that could do the ladder, the two engines, and the two
 19 wildland trucks. So we were able to find three or four
 20 people -- businesses that were capable of doing that. Pierce
 21 did win the bid and the wildland trucks are being built by
 22 their subsidiary called Skeeter out of Texas. So had E1 or
 23 Rosenbauer or whoever won, won the bid, they would've gotten
 24 all five trucks. And so we were able to get a pretty
 25 substantial discount on the apparatus because we did a five-

1 truck purchase at once and Pierce did win that bid. That bid
 2 was about a year and a half ago and now we're finally gonna
 3 take possessions of the trucks this summer, that's how long
 4 the process takes.

5 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Okay. Thank you. I was -- I
 6 was hoping for something like that, you know, to get a better
 7 pricing. Those equipments are -- are expensive.

8 As far as the jet skis that we just received, are we
 9 still buying jet skis from the local retailers and then out-
 10 fitting them ourselves or have they come up with a -- a
 11 rescue-type ski that we're going with? I know in the past
 12 sometimes we would get some skis that were less friendly to
 13 getting on and off, you know, they were more stylish, so to
 14 speak, more sleek, and sometimes the older models were more
 15 user friendly. And I myself got hurt on the newer one rubbing
 16 my ribs in those conditions because you're used to doing
 17 something the same way and then the new models may have higher
 18 sides, so to speak. And I'm just wondering if a new package
 19 came out that we're going with or we're -- or are we still
 20 buying jet skis off the line and then outfitting, getting the
 21 boards together? That's my question. Thank you.

22 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah. So, unfortunately, the
 23 rescue -- the watercraft industry hasn't come up with a plan
 24 to create a rescue watercraft. So we do take any existing
 25 watercraft and we modify it into a rescue watercraft by adding

1 the sled to the rear of the ski and some other, you know,
2 equipment to make it a rescue ski. We still have to follow
3 the manufacturer guidelines, so we're requiring everybody to
4 read the manual, make sure they understand the lanyard, the
5 personal protective equipment, and all that sort of stuff, and
6 then we work our rescue operations around the requirements of
7 the manufacturer as best as we can. But, yeah, skis have
8 changed a lot, some of the gunnels are eight inches high, some
9 are four inches high, so it makes it easier or more difficult
10 to get on and off the skis. We don't control the designs of
11 the skis, but we try to get what is safe for our firefighters
12 to operate, you know, in the conditions that they need to,
13 Chair.

14 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Okay. And finally, Chief,
15 was the -- as far as getting manpower to Lanai and Molokai, I
16 know it can be challenging, but do you guys have any trouble
17 getting exemptions for the people to travel interisland as far
18 as the rookies were concerned, you know, going back and forth
19 to do their shift and so forth, or -- did the airlines and the
20 state and the county work with you guys or was it -- was it a
21 struggle?

22 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: So, fortunately, it was --
23 from what I could tell, what was reported back to me, it was
24 very easy and very accomplishable. We didn't have any
25 manpower issues because people could not get on a plane or

1 could not get to Lanai. Probably one of the biggest
2 challenges we had was Lanai, they work three days in a row and
3 then they have six days off, they rely on the Lanai
4 Expeditions Ferry to go to and from work. The ferry went from
5 running seven days a week, four trips a day to three days a
6 week. So they took it upon themselves and we consulted with the
7 union, to create a whole new schedule on Lanai for one month.
8 So they were working a very unique schedule, I won't even
9 explain it to you, it's hard to follow, but it matched the
10 ferry schedule which was running Monday, Wednesday, Friday, so
11 that they always had transportation to and from work. And
12 then we worked with the union because some of -- sometimes
13 they were working four days straight, we worked with the union
14 and they would waive the double time and that sort of thing
15 because of the pandemic. So we had to adjust scheduling, but
16 they were able to get all travel taken care of and all
17 exemptions taken care of.

18 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Thank you. I only can
19 imagine how challenging it would have been. Thank you for you
20 guys' efforts and what you guys have accomplished in keeping
21 our county safe. Thank you.

22 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Travis.
23 Does any other commissioner have any questions?
24 Gregg.

25 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Yeah, this is Gregg. Chief,

1 what are the expectations for 4th of July this year? Have
2 they -- have they cancelled Front Street and are you worried
3 about pop-up parties all over? I know Paia is famous for
4 having some pop-up parties for 4th of July. What is your plan
5 of -- plan of attack for handling that holiday?

6 CHIEF THYNE: Well, Commission Lundberg, obviously,
7 we're concerned with the dry fields out there and we always
8 are on July. You know, usually in -- in Hawaii, anyway, we
9 have a drying period towards the middle of June, towards, you
10 know, the rest till the end of August and we are concerned.
11 We do call back resources. We've already sent out -- Chief
12 Lindo may go into that, we've already sent out gang pages to
13 all of our personnel and all staff, relief vehicles
14 accordingly, and then position them around the various
15 districts. Unfortunately, there's not so much we can do as
16 far as ordinances and laws and -- and all of those types of
17 things, but we also message through our Facebook, our
18 county -- or, excuse me, our department Facebook page there,
19 you know, precautions and recommendations. But, obviously,
20 we're concerned and we'll be staffing as appropriate and
21 preparing as best we can.

22 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Chief, have you heard, has
23 Lahaina been cancelled for 4th of July events?

24 CHIEF THYNE: I can't say that I've heard. I
25 haven't seen anything messaged. I, you know, read the

1 newspaper fairly frequently, but I don't know that it has. I
2 haven't heard either way, to be honest with you. But like I
3 said, the pop-up ones and the -- some of you may have seen the
4 recent house fire in Lahaina and you may have seen some of the
5 video with the fireworks going off and there were also some --
6 what wasn't seen, but was in the fire report was there were
7 some ammunition rounds that were located in the house as well.
8 So, you know, there's always gonna be people that are walking
9 on the line of -- of lawful and unlawful. I'm sure Max
10 remembers those days from his previous employment with the
11 police department. So, anyway, yeah. So --

12 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Thank you, Chief.

13 CHIEF THYNE: -- I haven't either way.

14 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you. Any other questions
15 from commissioners?

16 Okay. Before I move on to Chief Werner, I probably
17 should clarify when I said Max joined the meeting, it's our
18 new commissioner, Max Kincaid, Jr. So welcome.

19 Chief Werner.

20 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Welcome, Max.

21 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Aloha. I'd also like to
22 say congratulations to the chair and vice chair. Thanks for
23 everything that you guys do. And welcome to Max, nice to meet
24 you folks.

25 Part of my bureau updates, the highlights for the

1 fire prevention bureau is the mayor made it known that he
 2 really wanted to continue permits to be issued to keep the
 3 construction industry going, so in keeping with COVID-19
 4 precautions, they started taking them just by appointment only
 5 and tried to do most of it through telephone conversations and
 6 or Zoom meetings, that type of thing. We are moving towards
 7 reopening that office, but we are also taking precautions,
 8 making sure that social distancing is kept, people are wearing
 9 masks. We've given a supply of masks to the front office
 10 person so if somebody comes in and doesn't have one, we can
 11 issue it to them.

12 The other thing is we have five new inspectors that
 13 just started. Captain Haake put together a training program
 14 for them and is trying to get them through that as quickly as
 15 possible. You know, there's a lot that goes into doing
 16 inspections, but the reports that I've gotten back so far is
 17 it's a really good group of people and they're learning
 18 quickly and they're already going out and doing inspections
 19 with the guidance of the only other experienced inspector
 20 who's in there.

21 As far as the health and safety bureau, during the
 22 COVID-19, what they did is they followed all of the
 23 recommendations from the department of health and the CDC as
 24 far as protective measures and PPEs. And what happened really
 25 quickly, but they were ahead of the game was PPE started

1 drying up and it was really hard to get, so they were tasked
 2 with staying on it and getting as much PPE as they could, but
 3 we were also trying to figure out what our burn rate was
 4 because this is a new situation for us. So now that things
 5 have died down and we've had a chance to analyze what our burn
 6 rate was for our PPE and the number of cases that we had,
 7 looking towards, you know, ramping up again. And so,
 8 actually, we're doing pretty well as far as being prepared for
 9 that to ramp up as far as that goes. They also work with our
 10 haz. mat. company and put together guidelines as far as
 11 decontaminating stations if somebody turned up positive and,
 12 also, what types of chemicals to use on personnel, on
 13 equipment, those types of things, and they continue to update
 14 those and put out guidelines. And so they did a really,
 15 really good job.

16 As far as the budget, planning, and appropriations
 17 section of my report, our grants team, which is made up of on-
 18 duty firefighters, have been applying for several grants and
 19 we did get a FEMA COVID-19 grant award. We had a meeting on
 20 the 9th with FEMA and it looks like a really good grant in the
 21 beginning, but after the meeting, I don't believe it's gonna
 22 amount to much. What they are going to reimburse is for
 23 overtime, which there wasn't very much overtime related to
 24 COVID-19 for us. And then as far as reimbursing us for PPE,
 25 they're going to reimburse us once all other types of funding

1 have been exhausted, such as the CARES Act and things that we
 2 received from the national stockpile, all of that has to come
 3 out first. So it's not going to amount to as much as we had
 4 hoped as far as reimbursement, but we still will fill out all
 5 of the applications and paperwork and see what we're able to
 6 get. And then our Hawaii Professional Firefighters Foundation
 7 grant, Chief Kawasaki has been working diligently to purchase
 8 all of the items and he's just about completed with all of
 9 that.

10 That's pretty much everything I have for you. If
 11 you have any questions, I'll be happy to answer.

12 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Any commissioners have -- oh,
 13 Lisa.

14 COMMISSIONER VARES: Got one, yeah. Hi. A question
 15 regarding the fire prevention bureau. I know Steve Haake had
 16 a pretty small staff to begin with, I think there were only
 17 two or three inspectors. Is that accurate? How many -- I
 18 know you just added five, is that a total of seven?

19 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: We have a total of six
 20 inspector positions. We had put in for three more inspector
 21 positions, unfortunately, the budget, they got cut in this
 22 next budget. So he does have six inspectors and, as you know,
 23 those are a firefighter 3 position, so they often put in --
 24 after they've been promoted and gone in there for a period of
 25 time, put out and go out on to the line. So there was only

1 one left that was experienced, so we had five new firefighter
 2 3s promoting into those inspector positions and has been, you
 3 know, working diligently to train on those. We did get a -- a
 4 lieutenant's position who did survive the budget cuts and that
 5 person is going to be focusing on fire investigations,
 6 determining causes, that type of. Does that answer your
 7 question?

8 COMMISSIONER VARES: That's it and more. Thank you.

9 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Chief, this is Kyle. So does
 10 that mean that with the new inspector positions, they
 11 primarily concentrate on plans review, so plans will be -- for
 12 building permits and such will be reviewed faster, or it's for
 13 other tasks?

14 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: So, no, they don't do plans
 15 reviews. So there currently are two lieutenant positions and
 16 now we're going to have a third one and they do the plans
 17 review. Now, there are personnel that current -- were in that
 18 position who have gone on line and what we did, and Captain
 19 Haake initiated this, was calling back those people on their
 20 days off, those previous plans reviewers, so that we could
 21 process more plans. But, no, we're -- currently there's only
 22 two and there will be a third person.

23 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Great.

24 Any other -- oh, Travis.

25 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Chief, I think you guys can

1 hear me. Okay. Hey, Chief, as far as, you know, filling the
 2 spots, I know it's always been a transition, you know, guys
 3 come in for the -- for the promotion and then they quickly --
 4 you know, when they can, they try to transfer out, and
 5 understandably. Are you -- is it possible to -- for like a
 6 commitment for so many years, I thought they had that years
 7 ago, or is it wrong to do something like that? It seems like,
 8 you know, it's just hard to fill that transition spot.

9 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: So you're absolutely
 10 correct, what happens is people will get promoted into those
 11 positions and as soon as they can, they'll put in a transfer
 12 to go back on to the line. And I -- in the past, I believe
 13 that they did require a commitment. I think -- and Chief
 14 might be -- have more history on this, I don't think they
 15 actually can do that, so -- but that's a good question. So
 16 it's been -- there's been a lot of discussion about how to
 17 solve that issue and we're currently working on a plan that
 18 might solve that problem, which would be creating a fire
 19 inspector 1 position which could be filled by a firefighter 1
 20 with a number of years, possibly four years. Because you're
 21 not able to even apply for the firefighter 3 exam until you
 22 have six years under your belt. So a firefighter 1 who has
 23 four years under his belt could go into that fire -- that
 24 inspector position, an inspector 1 position, and he would be
 25 making the same pay as a firefighter 3. Now, you would not be

1 able to slide right over on to the line. If a firefighter 3
 2 was promoted into that position, he would be a fire inspector
 3 2 and he would be able to go back and forth via -- so we're
 4 hoping that this would attract some people to be more
 5 committed, because, as you know, it takes a lot of time and
 6 training to be up to the point where you can actually perform
 7 inspections and do the duties of that position. So this would
 8 hopefully -- hopefully, take care of that --

9 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Okay. Well, let me check
 10 with you. I'll get back with you on this number. All right,
 11 man. Take it easy.

12 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief.
 13 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah. Just a quick comment, Chief
 14 Travis, it is --
 15 (Interruption in proceedings.)
 16 CHIEF THYNE: We cannot do that as far as with
 17 commitments, so that was a violation (inaudible) rules.
 18 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Thank you. I know it's
 19 always a struggle and then we were fortunate enough to have,
 20 you know, personnel that stayed a bunch of their career in
 21 there. You know, I was always thankful, because it is a
 22 challenging and difficult position, but much needed.
 23 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Any other questions from
 24 commissioners?
 25 (No response.)

1 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: I think next is Chief Hanalei
 2 Lindo.
 3 (Inaudible comments.)
 4 CHIEF THYNE: Hey, Chair, just quickly, he -- when
 5 he introduced himself, he said his current rank, which is
 6 battalion chief, but he's actually working for the -- for the
 7 next couple of weeks covering for Chief Kawasaki as our TA
 8 assistant chief.

9 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, okay, okay.
 10 CHIEF THYNE: So he's (inaudible).
 11 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Okay. Thank you.
 12 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: So good morning.
 13 Congratulations, Chair Ginoza and Vice Chair Vares.
 14 (Interruption in proceedings.)
 15 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: Welcome to all of the
 16 commissioners, actually. This is my first time here, so I'll
 17 give a little introduction and then I'll cover Chief
 18 Kawasaki's --
 19 (Interruption in proceedings.)
 20 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: -- operational summary and
 21 then I'll talk a little bit (inaudible). So my name is --
 22 and, really, I'm a battalion chief, right now I am temporarily
 23 assigned in the Fire 3 role. They call me Hanalei Lindo
 24 because my dad was a retired deputy fire chief and he's Henry,
 25 so they call me Hanalei.

1 You guys have the chief of operations report in
 2 front of you, so I'll keep it real brief. A lot was already
 3 covered by Fire 1 and Fire 2. So you know with the COVID,
 4 when I began as a battalion chief in early March and once
 5 COVID-19 started, the amount of calls just plummeted, which
 6 was good, it gave me time to relearn the job. As things start
 7 reopening and we're looking at new -- look at the amount of
 8 call volume has definitely increased. The amount of structure
 9 fires and brush fires have also increased. On the structure
 10 fire in Wailea back on May 1st, we did have an injury to a
 11 firefighter, injuring their hand. As we're moving forward and
 12 things are starting to reopen, we've seen more vehicle
 13 accidents, more rescues, a lot more incidents, so just be
 14 aware of that.

15 Standard operating guidelines, Chief talked a little
 16 bit about that, so once we see things that are working, things
 17 that are not working, you know, we've got to take a look into
 18 the standard operating guidelines as -- as well as the rules
 19 and regs and make adjustments to that, so that is being
 20 handled through cadres, through the fire administration, and
 21 also through the battalion chiefs, yeah. Operationally, we
 22 all talk story and we all took different portions of the
 23 standard operating guidelines and checked to see to make sure
 24 that it's something that we're doing; and if we're not doing,
 25 then let's make adjustments to it. So that's currently being

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1 done right now.

2 He went over the apparatus and equipment, Fire 2.

3 In the training bureau, Recruit Class 35 did get

4 through their skills evaluation back in May and what the --

5 this does is as a recruit, when you become a recruit, you do

6 your initial training, as you're come up on your -- your year,

7 there's another evaluation as you're nearing the end of your

8 probation. So this skill test allows the members of training

9 to see if everything that they learned in the beginning,

10 they're still able to do. And if they're able to meet it,

11 they will go ahead and give them the stamp of approval and

12 they get to go through their probation and become current

13 firefighter 1s. Also, there was a new recruit class

14 orientation on May 26 because of the new recruit class that's

15 gonna start on July 1st with 20 recruits. So the Wailuku

16 Armory has been secured because due to this COVID-19, we have

17 to separate the amount of personnel.

18 And then a little bit of ocean safety was also

19 discussed by chief. Again, looking at the different

20 protocols, looking at the different things that's happening in

21 the reopening, and making adjustments to that.

22 So that's pretty much it for the operations report.

23 Do you guys have any questions? Again, I'm just a substitute

24 teacher right now, you know, so being on the (inaudible) do my

25 best or pass it over to them to answer, but any questions?

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1 (No response.)

2 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Commissioners, any questions?

3 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: Okay. Well, seeing none --

4 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

5 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: -- let me go and just tell a

6 little bit about myself, if that's all right, Chair Ginoza.

7 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Absolutely.

8 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: Okay. Yeah. So for those

9 of you guys who don't know me -- and I know some of you -- my

10 name is Hanalei Lindo. I've been a firefighter for a little

11 over 25 years. I started on -- at Paia Station back in 1994

12 and, surprisingly, Chief Thyne was my recruit training officer

13 when I first got in, so our relationship stems that long. I

14 also was able to work out of Kahului Station. So I spent

15 about 14 years of my career here on the island of Maui, not

16 only at Paia, at Kahului, but I spent about four years in the

17 fire prevention bureau as an inspector. Back in 2008 I moved

18 back to Molokai, still as a fire inspector, and that's where

19 I actually saw my -- my career heading to and I wanted to stay

20 in that route. But thank goodness that we have leaders who

21 saw potential and that saw potential in me, said, you know,

22 what (inaudible).

23 So back in 2009 I became a captain over on Molokai

24 and that's where I spent the past -- from 2009 all the way

25 through this year, 2020. I've been a part of different cadres

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1 and committees within the department, such as the incident

2 management team, being a part of the fire task force out there

3 on Molokai with Chief Tancayo. Chief Tancayo was instrumental

4 in talking me into being a part of that, which allowed me to

5 grow in not only relationships, but really understanding the

6 importance of relationships, yeah, between the fire department

7 and every other agency that we deal with.

8 Back in March of this year, I took a position as a

9 battalion chief and it's been awesome. The learning curve has

10 been steep, you know, but, amazingly, COVID-19 gave me an

11 opportunity and chance to learn as much as I could because the

12 amount of call volume. So for right now, where I see myself

13 moving forward, you know, I didn't take this job just to come

14 in and play around and, Whoo-hoo, I'm a battalion chief, you

15 know. I believe all these years had -- years of service and

16 everything that I've been involved with led me to where we are

17 now. So I believe what I bring to the table as a battalion

18 chief is to continue to bridge the gaps -- not to say that

19 there's any gaps between fire administration and operations,

20 yeah. So the BCs, we're kind of middle management, you know,

21 to be -- we take care of operation of things that -- that are

22 happening on line and we're able to distribute information and

23 things that work or didn't work and give that in little

24 advisements up to administration.

25 I also believe -- one of my things is to continue to

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1 support the mission and the goals of the fire administration,

2 yeah. Also, to move forward in the missions and goals of the

3 strategic plan that was laid out. I just believe I'm an asset

4 to this department because I enjoy positive, I enjoy

5 empowering people, I enjoy leadering and mentoring knowing

6 that anybody can (inaudible) me. So my job is to make sure to

7 find the -- the future leaders and -- and mentor them and

8 empower them and instill in them good foundational values

9 because that's the upcoming leaders and that's the kind of

10 stuff that's gotta be passed along. So I'm kind of right in

11 the middle of that, yeah, a little bit of old, a little of the

12 new, and bridging all of that and putting it together.

13 So thank you, guys, I hope to see you guys face to

14 face and -- and work with you guys closely over the next

15 coming years. So thank you, Chair and Commission Members.

16 Thanks.

17 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you very much and

18 congratulations on your promotion.

19 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Thank you, Chief.

20 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: Thank you.

21 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Does any commissioner have any

22 comments or anything they want to say about --

23 (Interruption in proceedings.)

24 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: That's the last item on our

25 agenda.

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1 (No response.)
 2 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Can I have a motion to
 3 adjourn the meeting.
 4 COMMISSIONER STERLING: I make a motion to adjourn
 5 the meeting. Commissioner Sterling.
 6 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.
 7 COMMISSIONER VARES: Commissioner Vares seconds.
 8 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: -- have a second? Oh, Lisa
 9 Vares seconds.
 10 All in favor, raise your hand, please.
 11 (Response.)
 12 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you very much. The
 13 meeting's adjourned. Thank you for very much for --
 14 MR. MURAI: Kyle.
 15 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Yeah. Oh, sorry. Yes.
 16 MR. MURAI: Are we gonna set a -- the next meeting
 17 or are we just going to leave it subject to your call or --
 18 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Oh. Right now we should plan on
 19 another Blue Jeans and July 16 is the next date on our
 20 schedule, but depending on how things go, we'll -- we'll keep
 21 everybody posted.
 22 MR. MURAI: Okay.
 23 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Sounds good. Thank you.
 24 VICE CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you very much.
 25 (The proceedings were adjourned at 11:15 a.m.)

Reporter's Certificate

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF HAWAII)
 3 COUNTY OF MAUI) SS.
 4)

5 I, Sandra J. Gran, Certified Shorthand Reporter for
 6 the State of Hawaii, hereby certify that on June 18, 2020, at
 7 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 2nd day of July, 2020, in Maui, Hawaii.
 18
 19
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21 

22 Sandra J. Gran, RPR
 23 Hawaii CSR 424
 24
 25