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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 via BlueJeans video conference, commencing at
 14 10:01 a.m., on July 16, 2020.
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 19 REPORTED BY: SANDRA J. GRAN, RPR/CSR #424
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1 ATTENDANCE
 2 COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:
 3 Kyle Ginoza, Chair
 4 Lisa Vares, Vice Chair
 5 Jack Freitas, Member
 6 Travis Tancayo, Member
 7 Gregg Lundberg, Member
 8 Dwight Burns, Member
 9 Donna Sterling, Member
 10 Max Kincaid, Jr., Member
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 13 STAFF:
 14 David Thyne, Fire Chief
 15 Bradford Ventura, Deputy Fire Chief
 16 Michael Werner, Battalion Chief
 17 Richard Kawasaki, Assistant Fire Chief
 18 Kristopher Sakamoto, Battalion Chief
 19 Gary Murai, Deputy Corporation Counsel
 20 Richelle Wakamatsu, Commission Secretary
 21 Herman Andaya, Maui Emergency Management Agency
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1 (July 16, 2020, 10:01 a.m.)
 2 * * *
 3 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. It's 10:01. I'd like to call
 4 this meeting to order. This is Kyle Ginoza, chair of the fire
 5 commission. I'd like to do -- start off with roll call. Lisa
 6 Vares, vice chair.
 7 VICE CHAIR VARES: Here.
 8 CHAIR GINOZA: Jack Freitas.
 9 (No response.)
 10 CHAIR GINOZA: Travis Tancayo.
 11 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Here.
 12 CHAIR GINOZA: Gregg Lundberg.
 13 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Present.
 14 CHAIR GINOZA: Dwight Burns.
 15 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Here.
 16 CHAIR GINOZA: Donna Sterling.
 17 (No response.)
 18 CHAIR GINOZA: Punahale Alcon.
 19 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Here.
 20 CHAIR GINOZA: Max Kincaid, Jr.
 21 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Here.
 22 CHAIR GINOZA: Chief Thyne, could you go over who --
 23 the resources you have with you.
 24 CHIEF THYNE: Okay. Good morning, Chair. Yeah, so
 25 I'm here. Deputy Chief Ventura, Brad Ventura; Assistant Chief

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1 Rick Kawasaki, Assistant Chief Mike Werner, and Battalion
 2 Chief Kris Sakamoto and then off camera is Richelle Wakamatsu
 3 there.
 4 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. And I believe we have Gary
 5 Murai from corporation counsel.
 6 MR. MURAI: Yes.
 7 CHAIR GINOZA: Anybody else we didn't recognize?
 8 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Okay. There's corp. counsel.
 9 I don't see Puna. Do you guys see Puna?
 10 VICE CHAIR VARES: No.
 11 COMMISSIONER ALCON: I'm here.
 12 CHAIR GINOZA: Maybe you had camera off, Puna.
 13 VICE CHAIR VARES: Oh, there we go.
 14 CHAIR GINOZA: It seems to like kind of scroll here
 15 and there on mine.
 16 VICE CHAIR VARES: I don't have corp. counsel on
 17 mine.
 18 MR. MURAI: I think I've got to say something first.
 19 Anyway, you know what, Kyle, I think one thing we also need to
 20 do is because they changed the law, I think Richelle is
 21 supposed to note who is absent, whether they're excused or
 22 they just -- you know, they're not here and not excused. So I
 23 think Commissioners Freitas and who else was it?
 24 CHAIR GINOZA: Sterling.
 25 MR. MURAI: Sterling were -- I guess it would be

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1 marked as not present. 'Cause I think we're supposed to
2 report to the mayor or something like that. That's all.
3 CHAIR GINOZA: Richelle, do you know if --
4 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Morning.
5 MR. MURAI: Oh, there's Donna.
6 CHAIR GINOZA: Jack and Donna. Oh.
7 MR. MURAI: Donna's on.
8 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh.
9 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Good morning. Hi.
10 CHAIR GINOZA: Good morning.
11 Richelle, do you know if Jack said he wasn't going
12 to be here or not?
13 MS. WAKAMATSU: No, but I know he usually has some
14 issues with logging on, so he might show up a little bit late
15 again like the last one, but he didn't say he wasn't going to
16 be here.
17 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you.
18 MS. WAKAMATSU: We do have a guest on -- logged on
19 with no testimony, but we've usually gotta sign them in as
20 well, so we might need an introduction of them, even though
21 they have no testimony today.
22 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Gary, should we do that now or
23 when we go to the public testimony just to acknowledge?
24 MR. MURAI: Well, no, it's not really necessary.
25 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh.

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1 MR. MURAI: You know, because this is a public
2 meeting, anyone can, you know, log on and watch.
3 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, I see.
4 MR. MURAI: Or I don't know whether this is being
5 broadcast on Akaku, but they could watch on Akaku or they can
6 log in or just, you know, phone in and listen in on the
7 meeting.
8 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Okay. Thank you very much.
9 So let's move on to the approval of the June 18,
10 2020, minutes. I hope everybody has -- has had a chance to
11 look at the transcripts. Do we have a motion to approve the
12 minutes?
13 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: So moved. Motion to approve.
14 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you. Raise your --
15 VICE CHAIR VARES: Second.
16 CHAIR GINOZA: I cannot who that was. Oh, that was
17 Travis.
18 VICE CHAIR VARES: That was Travis.
19 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: This is Travis. Motion to
20 approve.
21 CHAIR GINOZA: And Lisa second?
22 VICE CHAIR VARES: Second it.
23 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. All in favor, raise your hand.
24 (Response.)
25 CHAIR GINOZA: Any opposed?

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1 (No response.)
2 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Minutes are approved.
3 So right now it's public testimony, I assume
4 nobody's come in since Richelle just mentioned we just have
5 one guest. Is there anybody wishing to testify?
6 (No response.)
7 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Seeing none, public testimony
8 is closed.
9 Let's move on to Herman and Maui Emergency
10 Management Agency. Herman.
11 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Hi. Thank you very much.
12 Good morning, Mr. Chair, Members of the Commission. I have --
13 I have to apologize, I have my report here, I thought I would
14 bring it with me to the meeting and then it dawned on me that
15 I can't do that. And so I'll send this off to Richelle and
16 have it distributed to all of you, but I can summarize very
17 quickly.
18 First of all, our plans and operations officer,
19 Angela Finkelstein, she's left our agency and accepted a
20 position with a private company and so we will be promoting
21 Sharon Ann Carroll in to her role as the plans and operations
22 officer, Sharon Ann is a ten-year veteran as a preparedness
23 specialist, and because of that, we will then begin
24 recruitment for the preparedness specialist.
25 Also, the Maui County Council approved the creation

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1 of two additional positions for MEMA, the two positions will
2 be a trainer position and a public affairs officer position,
3 so this will enhance our ability to communicate with the
4 public through the -- through the PAO.
5 Also, MEMA continues to be in partial activation due
6 to COVID and I was making a joke with Commissioner Vares that,
7 you know, as long as there's one -- one crisis at a time,
8 then -- you know, lately we've had COVID and then there's the
9 possibility of a hurricane, we're in hurricane season and so
10 we've been keeping an eye on the East Pacific Ocean and
11 there's been a few storms, and then also with the brush fires
12 and we were in activation last week, as a matter of fact,
13 partial activation when the fire started to threaten Skill
14 Village. And so Chief Werner was here in our EOC and -- and
15 we were -- we were planning to evacuate Skill Village if
16 necessary, but, luckily, the fire department was able to hold
17 back the fire.
18 With respect to public outreach, if -- those of you
19 who signed up for Maka'ala, that's the county emergency alert
20 system, you should've gotten an alert today and that's to --
21 we're in the midst of upgrading our system and so it requires
22 everyone to sign in again and change some settings, so I hope
23 that all of you received that alert this morning.
24 All of our public events were suspended due to
25 COVID. At this time of year we usually have our Emergency

1 Management Expo at the shopping center, but, again, because of
2 COVID, we've suspended that.

3 Our update of the hazard mitigation plan is
4 progressing. We've had community meetings, we've had input
5 from them as well -- as well as from the county council and we
6 should be completed with the hazard mitigation plan by
7 September 2020.

8 With respect to the siren, the siren test for June,
9 we had 58 sirens that sound -- well, what we -- we understand
10 someone has heard sounds, so we had 58 people report that
11 there was a -- that it sounded, eight reported that the sirens
12 did not sound, and then we had nine that we had no contact, so
13 that's -- that's pretty high. Typically, it's -- we have a
14 better -- better response with this.

15 With respect to alerts that have gone out, we've had
16 a total of -- sorry. We've had a total 12 alerts that went
17 out for the month of June.

18 So that's the -- that's my report, I'm open to any
19 questions if there are any.

20 CHAIR GINOZA: Does any commissioner have any
21 questions?

22 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: I have a question.

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Travis.

24 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Herman, as far as the COVID,
25 are you constantly meeting with state officials or just at the

1 county level as far as, you know, since you're dealing with
2 the airports and the department of health?

3 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yeah. We've been in almost
4 daily meetings with the state and so every Monday, Wednesday,
5 Friday we have our VTCs with the -- with all the mayors, all
6 the administrators, emergency management administrators, as
7 well as the governor and the adjutant general and so -- and,
8 in fact, we have from -- usually Chief Werner or someone from
9 the Maui Fire Department is in the meeting with us, they're
10 able to hear the meeting. But we do have VTCs and we do
11 communicate with them quite a bit regarding -- regarding
12 COVID.

13 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Thank you.

14 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you.

15 CHAIR GINOZA: Any other commissioner have any
16 questions?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIR GINOZA: I have a question, Herman.

19 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yes, sir.

20 CHAIR GINOZA: So it seems like we always have that
21 issue with sirens not going off and I think the last time you
22 said it's kind of whenever the state has resources or puts
23 some attention to it, so what is the plan to try to get -- I
24 don't know if it's other ones that are not going on or if it's
25 the same ones and more, but what -- what are the plans for

1 these communities that do not get that alert system
2 operational?

3 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: That's a good question and,
4 really, as I've mentioned before, the sirens are kind of a
5 last resort and I've -- and I've said this before.

6 Oftentimes, many of us don't even hear the sirens because
7 we're indoors, you know, we may be in a house that may -- we
8 may not be able to hear a siren outside. You know, we're --
9 like, for instance, all of you are in your homes, you may not
10 be able to hear the siren, I'm here in the EOC, and so we
11 really -- what we really depend on is Maka'ala, yeah, that's
12 probably -- that's how all of you will probably get the first
13 alert, you know, the first mention that there's an emergency
14 going on, and so that's where we kind of put a lot of emphasis
15 on. You're gonna get it that way, you're gonna get it by --
16 on TV, you know, on the radio, and the other way that -- there
17 was a study that was done and another way that you probably
18 would get it is by word of mouth, someone will call you up and
19 say, Hey, did you hear about the -- you know, about this going
20 on or whatever the case may be. And so that's -- that's
21 primary how you're gonna get information about an alert, you
22 know. The siren is kind of -- you know, it's for those that
23 are on the beach or, you know, like that, but chances are
24 you'll probably get the alert through your phone.

25 With that said, however, the state is -- is trying

1 to put a lot of effort to, like, fixing the sirens and
2 whatnot. And I think I explained to you at the -- in previous
3 meetings how -- you know, how it is, the challenges. You
4 know, the state will come here, they'll look at the siren,
5 they'll say, oh, okay, we need a part. They'll go back to
6 Oahu, they'll order the part, they wait for, you know, another
7 part and then the part comes and then they'll go back and
8 they'll install the part and, you know, it may work, it may
9 not work and they have to go order another part, you know,
10 whatever the case may be, so that's kind of the -- that's kind
11 of been the challenge. But the state is looking at hiring a
12 contractor here on Maui to help with that and then I
13 believe -- I was told that they will be fixing some of the
14 sign -- sirens soon. They got some money from the legislature
15 and so they'll be fixing some -- at least some of the sirens
16 that are broken.

17 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: I have a comment in regards
19 to that.

20 CHAIR GINOZA: Travis.

21 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: I still feel sirens are
22 important. As we all know, you lose electricity and the
23 phones go out anytime there's a major emergency, so,
24 therefore, I still think that we should put effort, good
25 effort in continuing to update and keep our siren systems

1 running good and not depend totally on phones and other means.
 2 I think the sirens are still an important -- plays an
 3 important role in notifying the public. That's all.
 4 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Sorry, I -- I don't know mean
 5 to diminish the value of sirens.
 6 (Commissioner Jack Freitas signed in.)
 7 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: I totally agree with you,
 8 Chief, that the sirens are important and that's the reason why
 9 a lot of -- a lot of monies and a lot of effort are going into
 10 fixing those sirens. So most definitely, it's -- I was -- I'm
 11 sorry, I wasn't meaning to diminish the value of the sirens.
 12 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Thank you.
 13 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you. If no more
 14 questions, I'd like to recognize Commissioner Jack Freitas has
 15 joined us, so we have everyone.
 16 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Good morning.
 17 CHAIR GINOZA: And I would like to move on to the --
 18 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Good morning.
 19 CHAIR GINOZA: -- next item on the agenda, the --
 20 with the fire department. Chief Thyne.
 21 CHIEF THYNE: Good morning, Chair and Commission
 22 Members. You do have my report, I believe, would be in the
 23 packet that you received from Richelle. Again, we pride
 24 ourselves on being a training department, so you see a
 25 breakdown in your reports on the training that we've done over

1 the past month since we met last. That was focused primarily
 2 on wildland, which, obviously, you've probably all seen it
 3 on -- in the news and whatnot, the couple of fires we had.
 4 Chief Kawasaki may go into that in a little bit more detail.
 5 But we do a preseason -- what we call a pre-wild fire season,
 6 you know, get everything -- get the guys back out in the
 7 fields and -- and focused on wildland, so that was held this
 8 past month. And then we also cleaned up all of our required
 9 medical training and making sure everybody got their refresher
 10 training, so that was the two topics there.
 11 You'll see on the incident report, like we've talked
 12 about in the past, our incidents have tapered off a bit just
 13 based on, you know, obviously, the tourism being down and
 14 whatnot. So we're gonna see that downtrend in numbers for
 15 incidents, as you can all imagine, and then as things start
 16 reopening, I'm sure we'll, unfortunately, be going back up in
 17 numbers again, so...
 18 You know, I think Director Andaya mentioned the
 19 conference calls that we have. Both he and I and some other
 20 of the guys here are on the calls daily with both our local
 21 leadership and directors and the mayor and his staff as well
 22 as coordinating with the state. They have a -- now -- it used
 23 to be every day, but now it's three days a week a state call
 24 as well reporting in with the governor's office and department
 25 of health and whatnot, so that's ongoing. I'm just

1 referencing my report. Again, I don't wanna go over it
 2 position by position or block by block, but that's kind of a
 3 summary of the daily meetings we have regarding COVID.
 4 We did get our council-adopted budget. I'm not
 5 sure, Chair, if you wanted to review that at all or -- you
 6 guys approved it, meaning when Ed was here as the chair,
 7 excuse me, Chair Misaki, when we submitted it. So I'll leave
 8 that up to the chair if you wanted any sort of copy or any --
 9 it's public record. As you know, being a former director,
 10 it's on the county website, but if you wanted a copy, we can
 11 easily provide that to you, to the members.
 12 CHAIR GINOZA: They can just look it up.
 13 CHIEF THYNE: If you have any questions regarding
 14 that, let us know.
 15 We did have a couple of council member requests that
 16 we took care of that -- that's kind of normal.
 17 And then we talked about, last meeting, the HIOSH
 18 investigation into our watercraft accident off Wailea, so we
 19 went through the -- basically, the review with the council
 20 committee that's assigned to that and then what you see
 21 referenced here is the report got approved and we got official
 22 notification that we can move forward with that, that HIOSH
 23 procedure with corp. counsel and Deputy Chief Ventura is
 24 taking the point on that for us.
 25 And then in the Miscellaneous, you'll see some

1 various things we've been working on, the community plan
 2 update for West Maui, as well as a couple of different new
 3 programs we have going. One is our safety officer component,
 4 we can talk more about that, if you'd like, but basically any
 5 major incident that we respond to as an agency should have a
 6 designated safety officer. We also appoint a safety officer
 7 when we do any sort of high risk training. Whether it be live
 8 fire or wildland training where we have a lot of resources
 9 moving around, a lot of potential for injury, we will have a
 10 safety officer assigned to that training. And so we're --
 11 what we're doing here is developing an educational program and
 12 certification for our members so that we can have that safety
 13 officer assigned, basically, again, on every major incident
 14 and every high risk training.
 15 And then research advisors are related to,
 16 basically, what most of us are concerned with and that's
 17 protecting our natural resources, meaning our land and our
 18 ocean and our reef system and whatnot, so they're -- they're
 19 basically good at -- they're trained, they went through a
 20 course on the Big Island at the national park and there's a
 21 handful of our guys that are trained in looking into the
 22 effects of our responses to the environment post fire; i.e.,
 23 runoff, potential flooding of areas, and so on and so forth,
 24 and they work with the landowner to try to remedy that as best
 25 they can. So that's what resource advisors is referenced in

1 there and so we're building that program as well. It's in
2 a -- it's in the infancy stages, but we're looking for good
3 things to come out of that in networking with the folks that
4 are already out there protecting our lands and watersheds and
5 whatnot, so...

6 And then we did kick off our recruit class, that's
7 exciting that we have the ability to start a recruit class.
8 As you're aware, it takes about six months for us to train
9 folks with all the certifications and training they have to go
10 through, so we're excited that the mayor allowed to us kick
11 off our recruit class which is being primarily held up at the
12 old Army Reserve facility by Baldwin High School because we
13 needed the physical distancing, large classroom area in order
14 to hold our training. So we were able to get that from them
15 free of charge, which was great, and so we kicked that off the
16 beginning of July.

17 So that's about all I have. If there's any
18 questions, I'll be here, Chair. Thank you for allowing me to
19 report.

20 CHAIR GINOZA: Does any commissioner have any
21 questions for the chief?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Seeing none, Brad.

24 CHIEF VENTURA: Good morning, everybody. Thanks for
25 being here under these unusual circumstances. My report

1 should be with you; if not, please let me know. We've been
2 fortunate enough to continue our interviews and promotional
3 process. Excuse me, Chair. We have adequate staffing and --
4 throughout our department, which includes the ocean safety and
5 the fire side. Some of it has been done on Blue Jeans, you
6 know, to create social distancing, some of it has been done in
7 person with physical distancing between us and the panel -- or
8 the panel and the candidates. The things that are --
9 basically, have been happening in the last month and taking
10 action starting this week are the firefighter 2s have been
11 promoted, that's our rescue and haz. mat. personnel, and they
12 are all taking their new positions over the next few days
13 depending on which watch they're working.

14 In our human resources section, we added an
15 office -- office assistant. The person that was in that
16 position promoted up last month, if you remember, to a
17 personnel assistant and so now we've filled -- starting today,
18 we have a new member of our department, came from the mayor's
19 office to work with us, Pele, we're happy to have her on board
20 here.

21 And we're exactly in the middle today of
22 interviewing for our position that was granted last year for
23 the information communication person. That person's going to
24 help us with data collection, some radio maintenance, some
25 computer maintenance, and a variety of other responsibilities.

1 We're in the middle of interviewing for that right now.

2 And then next week, the end of this week and next
3 week we interview for our ocean safety captain position.
4 We've increased the captains on the North Shore by one and so
5 we have added a position there that we're going to be
6 interviewing for today.

7 Did I see a question from somebody in the corner of
8 my eye or are you good?

9 (No response.)

10 CHIEF VENTURA: Good? Okay. Department improvement
11 committee, you know, that's our committee that we have in the
12 department that's open to all of our members to put in
13 suggestions to make things better. Sometimes we get stuff,
14 sometimes we don't. And in the most recent months everybody's
15 been so focused on, you know, safety and COVID and whatnot,
16 we've put in a lot of protocols and procedures to protect us
17 and the public, our firefighters, our ocean safety officers,
18 and the public. So while that's happening, we, as an
19 administration, have started those two new programs that Chief
20 Thyne talked about a few minutes ago, one was the safety
21 officer program, the other one was the resource advisor
22 program. So he explained those to you, I won't go much more
23 into depth.

24 And then union interactions, you know, starting
25 early -- late February into -- heavy into March, we've been

1 constantly talking about additional personal protective
2 equipment for responders and whatnot, but we're also, you
3 know, trying to keep everyone as safe with COVID, 'cause
4 that's the hot topic, but at the same time, we want to make
5 sure they follow our normal procedures and policies. So
6 you'll see with our fire union we had to do an investigation
7 because we had some firefighters not wearing appropriate PPE
8 on call, that's concluded.

9 And then with HGEA, they oversee our ocean safety
10 officers, we're kind of consulting on a new mileage
11 reimbursement policy. Their union contract is pretty new, it
12 didn't really even make it to print, even though they've been
13 with us for several years. Just trying to figure out all the,
14 you know, small details of their contract, so there's a lot of
15 back and forth and consultation trying to get that all ironed
16 out. Hopefully by the next contract, they'll actually have a
17 printed version of it so that we all can be working out of the
18 same playbook.

19 Transmittals from the public, you know, it's been,
20 for the most part, as usual, very positive. With the brush
21 fire season starting and people noticing more and more of our
22 activity in the public, we've been gotten a lot of support,
23 you know, both on social media as well as, you know, notes,
24 calls into the stations, calls into our administrative office,
25 so that's nice.

1 Everybody's out there working hard on the wild
 2 fires, being as safe as they can. We've had some relatively
 3 very high wind, high temperatures, and low humidity, which
 4 creates a pretty bad fire situation, so here we are entering
 5 our season right on time, you know, June/July. There were
 6 some rumors, and we tried to dispel them through our PIO to
 7 the media, that our wildland training that happened last month
 8 was related to the Haliimaile fire that was -- that just so
 9 happened to start a couple days later. They are not true.
 10 The training and that fire were over two miles away from each
 11 uphill and upwind, so they were not related to each other,
 12 although that was a lot of the stuff that was going on in
 13 social media. We worked with our Fire Service Officer Rylan
 14 Yatsushiro to put out press releases both on our Facebook page
 15 and on the Maui News just to reassure people that that wasn't
 16 the case, hopefully it sunk in and got through to everybody
 17 who was concerned.

18 And then we had a lady call our office when we were
 19 doing the wildland training, she was just concerned why we
 20 were burning on Mahi Pono land. She thought HC&S has gone
 21 away and that we don't do that kind of stuff that anymore. So
 22 we talked to her about how important it is for us to, one,
 23 train and then, two, we select specific locations where we do
 24 our wildland training to remove fuel in the event that we have
 25 a fire in that area. And, ironically, the Haliimaile fire,

1 the makai flank that jumped the Hali stopped at our prior
 2 wildland training burn, so that fuel that we did remove
 3 actually kind of stopped the makai side as it jumped the
 4 highway right there. So call it good, call it lucky, whatever
 5 you want to call it, successful in that case, so that was
 6 good.

7 That's all I have on my report. Any questions for
 8 me?

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIR GINOZA: Donna.

11 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yes. Thank you, Chief,
 12 for -- can you hear me? First of all, you know --

13 CHIEF VENTURA: Yes.

14 COMMISSIONER STERLING: -- on July 4th Lis Vares --
 15 anyway, Lisa knows about the incident. On social media there
 16 was a -- a notice that this Atlanta group called the Warehouse
 17 was gonna meet at Plenty Kiawi on the full moon and they
 18 nicknamed themselves the Firebugs. And we got wind of it
 19 backside, so we made our calls to the mayor's office and it
 20 just rippled down to where we were ready to block these people
 21 coming in after the National Guard was -- you know, went home
 22 from their guard -- their stations. So we happened to be at
 23 Nu'u, but we were very aware that this group out of Atlanta,
 24 Georgia, on social media were getting people to go down to
 25 Plenty Kiawi and do their fire dances, so... They were

1 known -- known as the Firebugs. Well they didn't show up,
 2 'cause we were there to monitor it. Anyway, I just wanted to
 3 share that, that, you know, social media was very important in
 4 watching who comes backside because of the fire conditions we
 5 have. That's all. Thank you.

6 CHIEF VENTURA: Absolutely. And if I can just add
 7 to that, that did also -- that information did travel to our
 8 office and we worked and notified the appropriate parties and
 9 worked with PD to make sure they were in front of it.

10 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Great. Thank you very much.

11 CHAIR GINOZA: Travis. Travis.

12 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: I have a comment.

13 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead.

14 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Okay. So a couple weeks ago
 15 we had a fire on Molokai, it was right across from my house,
 16 and kind of neat to see things happen. And there was a lot of
 17 brush, the fire took off pretty good, and it was nice to see
 18 our guys do what they need to do, to see everything work.
 19 There's a -- years ago there was a fire task force that was
 20 created on Molokai that helped cut the firebreaks and
 21 maintain. The guys, the training that they use, the
 22 equipment, I got to see it all happen and a lot of the stuff
 23 is working well. I'm proud to say the guys were all safe,
 24 they stopped the fire. It could've been a lot bigger. But
 25 just compliment to the guys on Molokai and the staff that

1 helped. I know the county came, came in and helped a whole
 2 bunch. So from my point of view, as an ex-fire department,
 3 it's nice to see that the guys -- all the equipment and all
 4 the investment that the county invests in the -- in the
 5 equipment and the training. The helicopter arrived really
 6 quickly, everything worked really well. So just a compliment,
 7 Chiefs, that the guys did really well here on Molokai.

8 And then another note, a few weeks ago we lost a
 9 medic, Scotty Schaefer, who passed away, and he was very dear
 10 to a lot of us in the emergency community here on Molokai.
 11 And the firemen, once again, came to show a tribute to him and
 12 honor him by their presence at his -- as the boat was getting
 13 ready to launch and it was very heartwarming to the unity of
 14 the emergency workers on Molokai. And thank you guys for
 15 allowing that to happen. That's all.

16 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

17 Any other comments?

18 CHIEF THYNE: Chair.

19 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you. Can we move --

20 CHIEF THYNE: Chair.

21 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, sorry. Chief Thyne.

22 CHIEF THYNE: So I just wanted to -- Chief Ventura
 23 touched on it, I just wanted to let you -- you know as our
 24 commission that, you know, we're -- it's incumbent upon us in
 25 the charter, actually, as a department to determine the cause

1 of all fires, right, and what that leads us to is hopefully
2 then you can create prevention, you know, and avoid fires from
3 happening again, whether it be on a structure, in a, you know,
4 warehouse setting. In the case of a wildland fire, it's very
5 difficult, as we know, but we still call our investigators to
6 try to determine what is the origin and cause of even a
7 fire -- even fires this big.

8 To share with you just a bit, although we can't
9 definitively say that it was a homeless encampment that
10 started the Haliimaile fire, where the fire did start, there
11 was three known camp sites as well as a cooking area as well
12 as expended fireworks in the area. There weren't any homeless
13 there, but, of course, once the fire started, they might've
14 bugged out from the area. But, you know, there was a lot of
15 rumors, again, we were just talking about social media, about
16 Mahi Pono starting fires and clearing land and all those types
17 of things. We cannot say that that didn't happen, but we can
18 say that -- is that there was an illegal campsite in that area
19 by the skeet range there off Haliimaile and that's the origin
20 of where the fire started.

21 The second fire that you may have heard about
22 recently, we also sent an investigator to, and that was the
23 recent one in Kihei and that was accidental. Some folks from
24 a local ranch were welding some gates and inadvertently
25 started the fire and then admitted to that. So, fortunately,

1 that one didn't grow on and on for days and cause any sort of
2 major damage to the community in South Maui, but just wanted
3 to let you know we do investigate these fires as well. We
4 send our investigators and do our best to determine cause, so
5 just wanted to share that, Chair. Thank you.

6 CHAIR GINOZA: What was -- what was the fire at
7 Piihana? Was that just abandoned vehicles?

8 CHIEF THYNE: Unfortunately, Chair, you're probably
9 aware that that's been a problem area that's grown and grown
10 over the years and there's a tremendous amount of abandoned
11 cars in that area. So there was probably about 15 to 20
12 vehicles that were on fire, all abandoned vehicles. How it
13 originally started was probably, unfortunately, somebody being
14 kolohe, whether it be kids or just somebody deciding to cause
15 some damage. But it was all abandoned vehicles, so a
16 tremendous amount of black smoke, toxic smoke. We got a lot
17 of calls. The guys had to work hard to, obviously, put out
18 those fires, but it was pretty much abandoned vehicles.

19 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you.

20 Anybody else? Let's move on to Chief --

21 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah. I've actually got a
22 question --

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, yes, Lisa.

24 COMMISSIONER VARES: -- regarding Piihana. I -- we
25 actually went over to check that one out, 'cause it was -- it

1 was definitely smoking us out here in Wailuku and that was
2 some really terrible smelling black, black smoke that I just
3 felt terrible for the firefighters that had to wade into that
4 to -- to address that fire. And it was be obvious it was all
5 abandoned cars and probably just vagrancy issues. Is there --
6 is there any procedure that the public could use to make a
7 fire hazard complaint for -- not only for brush, but actually
8 for abandoned vehicles? Are abandoned vehicles enough of a
9 fire hazard to warrant a complaint?

10 CHIEF THYNE: Anybody want to take that?

11 (Laughter.)

12 CHIEF THYNE: So what I -- thanks, Vice Chair Vares.
13 You know, and it is a really good question and we get called a
14 lot regarding what our role is and what the fire code says
15 about certain things like this. And what it basically relates
16 to and from what I've seen is there is regulations from the
17 department of health and, therefore, public works and some
18 folks like that and maybe even environmental management, Chair
19 Ginoza may reference that, I'm not sure. But usually what
20 happens is we get a call, it goes to the mayor's office
21 like -- for instance, hypothetically, if you were to submit a
22 complaint and what happens is, is then the managing director
23 would send it out to the various departments. What we have
24 lacking is a fire code related concern, because, basically,
25 you know, the fire code doesn't say that you can't park 20

1 cars in your backyard, for instance. It may have zoning
2 issues as far as, you know, the zoning and land use and codes
3 division and certain people like that, but fire code related,
4 it doesn't.

5 So we send out our inspectors, though, just to kind
6 of -- just to share that with you, Vice Chair Vares, we do
7 send our inspectors out. They'll look at all the fire code
8 provisions and see if there's anything related, but most of
9 the time it's more related to a zoning or environmental
10 management code violation and so they'll work with -- with
11 those folks to get those vehicles removed or homeless camp
12 sites or whatever have you.

13 COMMISSIONER VARES: Thank you for explaining.

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Yeah. Yeah, Lisa, in my experience
15 when I was director of environmental management, we -- we
16 dealt with abandoned vehicles that were on public roadways or
17 in public property and it got kind of complicated if it was
18 abandoned vehicles in private property and we didn't have
19 jurisdiction. So oftentimes what would happen is there --
20 there's one section of the code under public works where if
21 there's like a -- I forget what they call it, some kind of
22 nuisance, that they would send the public works guys out, you
23 know, if there was like overgrown brush or stuff like that.
24 And, of course, DOH doesn't allow this kind of stockpiling of
25 cars on, like, ag. land or certain land uses, but they're also

1 on Oahu, so it's hard for them to regulate.
 2 So, invariably, it was the zoning, zoning
 3 administration and enforcement division of planning,
 4 department of planning that, as Chief Thyne mentioned, would
 5 go in as zoning violation that, you know, you're not able to,
 6 say, stockpile whatever, scrap metal or abandoned vehicles in
 7 certain zoning districts, but oftentimes it takes a while
 8 to -- to get any kind of enforcement action and depending on
 9 if it's an absentee owner or who the owner is. So it is good
 10 to -- to either do an RFS, request for service, or now they
 11 have that E-Fix Click or something, that's the county's thing
 12 where you can get an app and, you know, take a picture of it
 13 and send it out. And my understanding is that goes to the
 14 managing director and he sends it out or his office sends it
 15 out to the respective department. But it's good to just put
 16 it in there and some department, hopefully, take it on, but
 17 it's not very clear-cut.

18 COMMISSIONER VARES: Is there precedence set for
 19 possibly (inaudible) countywide, statewide, or (inaudible)
 20 where added in that derelict vehicles could be considered a
 21 fire hazard, considering the -- the really excellent
 22 presentation that we were given by the department of health
 23 portion of the fire department last year when they explained
 24 that firefighters due to (inaudible) smoke and inhalation of
 25 toxic chemicals have such a high potential for cancers and

1 that trickles down to so many different things that if it
 2 could be something that could be managed before a fire starts
 3 a little faster, a little more directly or at least easier for
 4 the public to (inaudible) make those -- at least start the
 5 steps to be able to clear the threat out of there. And this
 6 isn't just a brush fire we're talking about, this is toxic
 7 kind of things. Is it -- is changes to fire code just
 8 impossible to do or additions to fire code impossible to do or
 9 is there a process?

10 MALE SPEAKER: I would say --

11 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead.

12 CHIEF THYNE: Oh, I'm sorry, Chair. There is a
 13 process, it -- we have the state fire council, we meet
 14 quarterly as well, and there's proposals that come in and it
 15 has to -- ultimately, the fire code has to be approved by the
 16 state legislature. So what we'll do is propose amendments
 17 or -- normally what they'll do is they'll take the national
 18 code, which is NFPA1, and then each state and -- well,
 19 basically, each state and then, therefore, county also can put
 20 amendments in. So we have the national code, NFPA1 and then
 21 there'll be the state fire code and then the county can put in
 22 amendments as well. But, again, that has to all be proposed
 23 and approved and there is a -- but to answer your question,
 24 there is a process.

25 Whether this particular topic can be remedied

1 through that, I'm not sure. I think it would be more related
 2 to, like Chair Ginoza said, the zoning violations and things
 3 of that nature. But, you know, because, I mean, obviously,
 4 you look over at the airport right now and all of the rental
 5 cars that are parked in hazard field, in, you know, waist-
 6 high, buffalo -- dry buffalo grass, you know, that's a pretty
 7 big hazard. And they're not abandoned, but if a fire goes
 8 through there, oh, my goodness, you know, kind of thing. So,
 9 anyway, to answer your question, there is a process and we can
 10 make proposals to get that adopted by the state fire council.

11 CHAIR GINOZA: I thought perhaps instead of
 12 necessarily going through changing the fire code, since Chief
 13 Thyne and the other director-level people meet periodically,
 14 perhaps he could bring it up to these type of director-type
 15 meetings to say that, you know, there was this incident that
 16 involved abandoned vehicles that they don't necessarily have
 17 the jurisdiction to handle, but they're kind of downstream and
 18 feel the ramifications of it, is there a process that can be
 19 put in place for the public to point these out and what would
 20 be the steps, more concrete, so that these areas could be
 21 addressed.

22 So, I don't know if, Chief Thyne, you'd be open to
 23 doing something like that, but that might be an easier first
 24 step just to see if -- like, for instance, environmental
 25 management deals with abandoned vehicles on the public

1 roadways, so they know what it takes to deal with it and they
 2 have the contacts at DOH, but maybe, you know, planning
 3 working in conjunction with environmental management may be a
 4 better conduit to have these types of issues addressed. So I
 5 don't know if, Chief Thyne, that's something you might be
 6 willing to bring up and then just report back to the
 7 council -- the commission if there's any updates.

8 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah. No, we can definitely do that,
 9 that's a good idea. We've tried different routes before, just
 10 to share that with you, for different areas that we're made
 11 aware of. Like I referenced earlier, the complaint will come
 12 in, whether it's a homeless encampment or a bunch of people
 13 living in their vehicles type of situation, and then it comes
 14 down to the managing director and then we address it with our
 15 inspector going out and seeing if there's any code violations.
 16 And then, like you mentioned, Chair, environmental management
 17 will send somebody, public works sends somebody, you know,
 18 oftentimes PD will send some of their outreach folks as well
 19 and then, ultimately, hopefully we remedy the situation. But
 20 there's obviously in this case a Piihana Farms area that's not
 21 being remedied. It just has been an ongoing thing for the
 22 past, I don't know, and maybe more years, so... But I will, I
 23 will move that forward and see what I can come up with and
 24 hopefully will be able to report something back to you next
 25 meeting.

1 COMMISSIONER VARES: That would be great, because
 2 there's just more cars, they're not going anywhere.
 3 CHIEF THYNE: Right.
 4 COMMISSIONER VARES: They're just all getting older
 5 and more derelict.
 6 CHIEF THYNE: (Inaudible.)
 7 COMMISSIONER VARES: I know Donna, they've got
 8 terrible situations out there.
 9 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yes.
 10 COMMISSIONER VARES: Thank you.
 11 CHIEF THYNE: Absolutely.
 12 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Chair.
 13 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Donna.
 14 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Chair, I wanted to add on to
 15 this. So, good, there's something in place, there's a
 16 process. Just to let you know, Kanaio -- some of you come to
 17 the fire in Kanaio, but, you know, there's a history of
 18 abandoned cars in Kanaio. The county takes them away and five
 19 more come and then six more come and -- and it's endless. And
 20 then they start loading rubbish inside and it's right along
 21 the highway. So this addresses some of the issues we have in
 22 Kanaio and I just wanted to reiterate, good, I understand a
 23 little bit more about environmental, but it's costing the
 24 county money to haul those cars away and they just keep coming
 25 out of the -- of wherever they come from. Anyway, good, good.

1 Thank you.
 2 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Real, real quick.
 3 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Jack.
 4 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: We do the abandoned, we tow
 5 out of Kanaio area, and those cars is not coming out of
 6 Kanaio. Those cars, they drag them in from all over the place
 7 and it's like designated areas to junk dump cars. Same like
 8 Piihana, those cars come from all over the place. What it is
 9 is people are not responsible. They should be responsible
 10 their own trash and get their cars out and not put them on the
 11 side of the road.
 12 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Chair, I'd like to add one
 13 more thing, Chair.
 14 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes. Yes, Donna.
 15 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Last month we noticed that
 16 60 tires were dropped off by Kepuni Bridge in Kahikinui off a
 17 lookout and I made a call to the mayor's office, Bill John
 18 Medeiros. And, thank you, Bill, and everybody in the mayor's
 19 office. They came out the next day and they removed 60, six
 20 zero, tires from the area, which was a potential fire hazard.
 21 It was right below my house. So, anyway, I just wanted to
 22 thank the mayor and Bill John Medeiros for -- they jumped on
 23 it real quick and got it out. But more stuff are coming back:
 24 Engine blocks, dead deer carcass, syringes. You know, it's an
 25 ongoing thing we have here, but what we've got is we're going

1 to -- so what we're going to do is we're going to -- our
 2 association is gonna join up with the Leeward Haleakala
 3 Watershed Partnership and we're going to be looking at -- with
 4 DOFA too, to look at a collaboration of funding so we can
 5 address firebreaks, fuel breaks, abandoned, you know, tires
 6 and rubbish in Kahikinui and Kaupo. So, yeah, we're gonna be
 7 moving quickly on this in the next month. Anyway, thank you.
 8 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you. Any more comments or
 9 questions?
 10 (No response.)
 11 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Let's move on to Chief
 12 Kawasaki.
 13 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Good morning, everybody.
 14 So last month's -- if you take a look at the incident report,
 15 you can kind of see in -- there's a couple of small brush
 16 fires in there and, you know, the Molokai one was the biggest
 17 one last month, 40 acres, and then it kind of led us into this
 18 past, you know, couple big fires that we had. I did attend
 19 most of the Haliimaile fire, I was on the call most of the
 20 time, Chief -- Fire 1 also joined us for a day out there, so
 21 did Chief Ventura. So, anyway, if you guys have any questions
 22 on either that Haliimaile fire or the Kihei fire, I'd be happy
 23 to answer whatever I can. Any questions for those two?
 24 (No response.)
 25 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Okay. Chief Thyne

1 already talked about the cause determination for the two of
 2 them. We did, unfortunately, damage three of our vehicles on
 3 those two fires, so one of them is currently being worked on
 4 right now and the other two are still in service, I believe.
 5 The rules and regs and SOGs are being worked on
 6 by -- they're -- the editing process is going on. The content
 7 was edited, now there's just the typing and reformatting those
 8 SOGs.
 9 I did miss last month's meeting because I went to
 10 Wisconsin to check on our trucks, then I had to quarantine two
 11 weeks when I came back, so I was gone for a month. So, in the
 12 meantime, we did receive two of our wildland vehicles, one the
 13 early part of July and then one last week, so we did conduct
 14 training on those two. We do have some minor things that --
 15 warranty work that needs to be completed before we can totally
 16 put them in service. So right now the Lahaina one is in
 17 service, the Kahului one's in the shop at Ford being -- it
 18 should be done today or tomorrow and that one will be ready to
 19 go in service and we'll finish up the training with the crews
 20 on that one. The Lahaina one, for the third crews today,
 21 it'll be put in -- on line today and then those minor repairs
 22 will be dealt with next week, I believe, so that -- it will be
 23 taken out and given back to Ford to fix that.
 24 The three big trucks, the Engine 6, the Kihei truck,
 25 Napili truck, and the Ladder 14 is currently on the West Coast

1 at our dealer's shop being inspected by them before they ship
 2 it over to us. So we're expecting them, those trucks to be in
 3 service about the third week, fourth week of August. We do
 4 have to ship them over here, we've gotta go and do another
 5 inspection, we also conduct trainings of -- our in service
 6 time will -- that'll be based on when the manufacturer can
 7 send their trainers down to us. With the COVID thing, that's
 8 kind of uncertain. We don't know if they have to quarantine
 9 or not, but we are trying to get it in service about the end
 10 of August, third week to end of August.

11 Chief talked about our recruit class that just
 12 started. We did -- at one point we kind of shut down all of
 13 our classes and stuff because of the COVID, but we're slowly
 14 trying to get back and we're -- we're conducting training
 15 again, just we've gotta modify it in how we do it with the,
 16 you know, social distancing.

17 Ocean safety, we also -- Chief Brad talked about the
 18 promotional interviews next week that we have. Other than
 19 that, ocean safety, you know, they're continuing on with Chief
 20 Gieseck still working on their -- all of their protocols and
 21 policies.

22 That's all I have. If anybody has any questions?

23 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Just a question. Chief, on
 24 the trucks that got damaged during the fire, were these backup
 25 trucks or main line, front line trucks?

1 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Front line. So we did
 2 have a -- our tanker, one of our tankers got -- the tire
 3 caught on fire and we did sustain some damage to the back
 4 quarter of the truck. It's currently out of service and the
 5 mechanics are working on it to get it repaired. They would --
 6 still need to go through some insurance adjuster, I don't know
 7 if that's done or not, but insurance adjuster (inaudible).

8 The second truck was -- what's that?

9 CHIEF THYNE: Feedback.

10 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Okay. The second truck
 11 is a pickup truck, one of our wildland utilities that got some
 12 melted parts on it just from the heat of the Haliimaile fire.
 13 And then the third one was one of our engines, we've got a
 14 hole in our gas tank from something, you know, when they were
 15 driving off road.

16 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: So you anticipate to -- for
 17 most of that to get back on the line before too long or --

18 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yeah. So I think it's
 19 just the tanker, so -- I think the estimate was about a month
 20 or two to get that back on line, which, you know, is bad for
 21 us at this time, because we only have one relief tanker. So
 22 right now we currently -- that relief tanker is in service now
 23 so I don't have another tanker to -- for a backup.

24 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: And a question, Chief. As
 25 far as they're being supported during that fire, so I assume

1 the county was first to assist and then the other private
 2 agencies to assist?

3 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: We actually had -- so how
 4 the fire started on Haliimaile, Mahi Pono offered, you know,
 5 two dozers for us and -- at the beginning of the fire and so
 6 at the -- at that time that was sufficient. Throughout that,
 7 whatever the transport process, they were unable to get their
 8 dozer there so (inaudible) a private company to bring their
 9 dozers, so then, you know, it was for then. And then on the
 10 following day, the fire kind of blew up, so I did utilize
 11 Goodfellow and Alpha Construction. So, no, the county
 12 resources were not on scene.

13 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Okay. So no tankers or
 14 anything, it was all private assistance?

15 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yeah, yeah.

16 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Thank you.

17 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Oh, on that topic, I did
 18 hold a meeting yesterday, our after action review of that fire
 19 with just the private agencies, so Windward Aviation and then
 20 the three construction companies. Also (inaudible) we're
 21 gonna try and do some communications, be able to tie in their
 22 radios with ours. And, you know, I know we talked about that
 23 in the past, but hopefully by our next fire we'll be able to
 24 utilize that patching tool so that we can talk to each of the
 25 resources.

1 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Thank you, Chief.

2 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yeah.

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you. I believe Lisa had a
 4 question.

5 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah. I was looking on the
 6 training bureau section, it says MFD intern program, two
 7 students. Would you explain that a little? That sounds
 8 pretty interesting.

9 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yeah. So I think that's
 10 two high school age kids that are shadowing our training
 11 bureau. I don't know their exact schedule, but they do come
 12 in for a length of time, you know, some days here and there.
 13 It's a good time for them to do that because we have our
 14 recruit class going on. We also had our wildland training
 15 that they -- they got to witness. So they will be -- I don't
 16 know how long the program is, sorry for that, but they will be
 17 given a -- kind of a, you know, a quick introduction to what
 18 we do here, hopefully, you know, to spark interest in wanting
 19 to join later.

20 COMMISSIONER VARES: Thank you. I usually keep an
 21 eye on (inaudible) that looks pretty exciting for high school
 22 students. Thank you for explaining.

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Any other questions from
 24 commissioners?

25 (No response.)

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1 CHAIR GINOZA: If not, let's go to Chief Werner.
2 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Good morning, everyone. So
3 for our bureau updates, the fire prevention department has
4 several investigations of fires, both structure and wildland.
5 As far as inspections go, they did issue a certificate of
6 occupancy at the Mahaolu Ewalu in Pukalani, they signed off on
7 that. They've opened their office back up for plans review.
8 They're asking people to -- they're encouraging them to make
9 appointments and a lot of times during those conversations,
10 they're actually able to answer a lot of the questions over
11 the phone and avoid having them come in, you know, in lieu of
12 the social distancing. But they do come in, we're taking
13 COVID-19 precautions.
14 Five works applications: This year we did not issue
15 any fireworks applications at all.
16 As far as those five new inspectors that we have, we
17 have a previous employee from there, James Blando now has his
18 own company, he's very versed in investigations and
19 inspections and so he's going to be giving classes. I think
20 the first class starts tomorrow to get these guys up and
21 running so they're doing investigations and inspections.
22 The MAPPS project, they're on schedule with that.
23 Moving on to the health and safety bureau, we're not
24 letting up on moving towards getting PPE. We know that we're
25 gonna be opening up to the mainland, right now it looks like

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1 September 1st, and we don't want to get caught without being
2 able to get supplies, so they're continuing to stock up on
3 supplies. And they're also continuing to monitor, you know,
4 as you know, this is a new virus that we're dealing with and
5 (inaudible) it was thought that it was six feet and by summer,
6 it'll be dead, you know. We're finding this is evolving all
7 the time, so they're staying up on what the CDC and the
8 department of health puts out and sticking with procedures as
9 far as that goes.
10 We have hired a new SCBA tech and she begins August
11 1st. She'll be charge of the SCBAs, which is our self-
12 contained breathing apparatus. We -- I think we got lucky
13 with who we got. She actually worked for the company that we
14 were shipping all of our tanks over to on Oahu and doing all
15 of the inspections on our tanks and the flow testing of our
16 regulators and the repairs on it, so that's all going to be in
17 house now, which is gonna be a huge savings for us.
18 Moving on to our budget planning and appropriations,
19 our grant (inaudible) Captain Reza and myself had a BlueJeans
20 meeting with FEMA regarding our COVID-19 grant that we were
21 awarded and so we went over the parameters with them of what
22 we need to provide and what we're looking at possibly getting
23 back.
24 The adopted budget came out and Chief Thyne has made
25 it clear that he wants us to be very proactive moving on that,

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1 so we set a goal of everything in motion and either under
2 contract or actually purchased within 90 days of July 1st, so
3 I've been very active getting everybody who's responsible
4 moving on that.
5 Performance measures came out along with
6 the (inaudible) and they've gotten rid of a few of the old
7 ones, so we're on track with tracking those performance
8 measures.
9 And then the grant that we received from the private
10 foundation, I believe Chief Kawasaki is finished purchasing
11 (inaudible) and putting them in service.
12 That's everything I have. If you have any questions
13 on any of those items, I'm happy to take those.
14 CHAIR GINOZA: Does anyone have any questions?
15 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Just curious, was there any
16 fireworks show at all on Maui?
17 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: No fireworks performance,
18 no shows.
19 MALE SPEAKER: (Inaudible) illegal shows.
20 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Yeah. There was lots of
21 illegal shows.
22 (Laughter.)
23 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Yeah. It was fairly quiet
24 here on Molokai, just wondering what it was like on Maui.
25 Thanks.

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1 CHAIR GINOZA: Any other questions?
2 (No response.)
3 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Let's move on to Chief
4 Sakamoto.
5 BATTALION CHIEF SAKAMOTO: Good morning, Commission,
6 Chair. My name is Kris Sakamoto, I'm one of the newly
7 promoted battalion chiefs. I do know a couple of you, Chief
8 Tancayo, of course, and Chair Ginoza and I grew up on the
9 same street (inaudible). My career, I started 19 years ago.
10 I was able to work in a variety of places, so that helped
11 benefit me in my position (inaudible) stations Hana to, you
12 know, engine company Kahului and all the specialized
13 companies, I was able to work on all of them in my time. I
14 was also able to work in the training bureau as a training
15 captain and that opened my eyes to the -- a lot of the
16 administrative stuff that we do as a department. And, you
17 know, I'm excited to contribute where I can to support the
18 administration and the department moving forward. That is
19 pretty much my career. I'm a Maui High graduate, married to
20 my wife Geri. I have three boys -- Noah, Alex and Leo -- and
21 in my free time I like to spend time with them, go to the
22 beach, do some fishing. That's a little bit about me. Any
23 questions?
24 CHAIR GINOZA: Anybody have any questions?
25 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: No. Congratulations, Chief.

1 CHAIR GINOZA: Yeah, congratulations.
 2 VICE CHAIR VARES: Congratulations.
 3 BATTALION CHIEF SAKAMOTO: Appreciate it.
 4 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. So does anybody have anything
 5 they want to bring up -- well, I guess the next meeting date
 6 is Thursday, August 20th, same time, ten o'clock, and right
 7 now we're saying at the -- at the conference room, but it
 8 likely will be via BlueJeans again. But if people don't have
 9 anything else -- or if anybody wants to discuss putting
 10 something on the agenda, please let me know and we'll get it
 11 on the agenda for the next time.
 12 But I appreciate everybody's attendance. Could I
 13 have a motion to adjourn the meeting?
 14 COMMISSIONER VARES: Move.
 15 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Motion to adjourn the
 16 meeting.
 17 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, Lisa.
 18 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Second.
 19 CHAIR GINOZA: And second Travis. All in favor,
 20 raise your hand.
 21 (Response.)
 22 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. The fire and public safety
 23 commission meeting of July 16 is now adjourned. Thank you
 24 very much, everybody.
 25 (The proceedings were adjourned at 11:09 a.m.)

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

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

5 I, Sandra J. Gran, Certified Shorthand Reporter for
 6 the State of Hawaii, hereby certify that on July 16, 2020, at
 7 10:01 a.m. the proceedings was taken down by me in machine
 8 shorthand and was thereafter reduced to typewritten form under
 9 my supervision; that the foregoing represents, to the best of
 10 my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings
 11 had in the foregoing matter.

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

16
 17 DATED this 28th day of July, 2020, in Maui, Hawaii.
 18
 19
 20
 21

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