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FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

COUNTY OF MAUI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR MEETING

Held via BlueJeans video conference, commencing at
10:01 a.m., on August 20, 2020.

REPORTED BY: SANDRA J. GRAN, RPR/CSR #424

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ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Lisa Vares, Vice Chair
- Jack Freitas, Member
- Travis Tancayo, Member
- Gregg Lundberg, Member
- Dwight Burns, Member
- Donna Sterling, Member
- Punahеле Alcon, Member
- Max Kincaid, Jr., Member

STAFF:

- David Thyne, Fire Chief
- Bradford Ventura, Deputy Fire Chief
- Michael Werner, Battalion Chief
- Richard Kawasaki, Assistant Fire Chief
- Jeff Robson, Captain
- Gary Murai, Deputy Corporation Counsel
- Richelle Wakamatsu, Commission Secretary
- Herman Andaya, Maui Emergency Management Agency

1 (August 20, 2020, 10:01 a.m.)

2 * * *

3 VICE CHAIR VARES: Good morning, guys. It's 10:01
4 and I'd like to call the meeting to order. This is Lisa
5 Vares, vice chair of this commission. Kyle is not here today.
6 He's an excused absence, but an excellent one. So we're just
7 gonna get started. I'm gonna start off with the roll call.
8 We've got Lisa Vares, vice chair.

9 And we can keep going through. Jack. Jack, if you
10 could state your name, let us know you're here.

11 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Jack Freitas. Here.

12 VICE CHAIR VARES: You said Jack Freitas.

13 Okay. Keep going. Travis, Gregg.

14 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: I don't know what order I'm
15 in, but Travis Tancayo here. Present.

16 VICE CHAIR VARES: Thank you.

17 Gregg.

18 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: I'm here.

19 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Punahale Alcon here.

20 VICE CHAIR VARES: Dwight.

21 COMMISSIONER BURNS: I'm here. Present.

22 VICE CHAIR VARES: Excellent. Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Gregg Lundberg is here.

24 VICE CHAIR VARES: Wonderful.

25 And then we've got Maui Fire Department, if you

1 could let us know which resources and reps you've got with us
2 today.

3 CHIEF THYNE: Hi, good morning to you. Thyne, Brad
4 Ventura, Rick Kawasaki, Mike Werner, and Richelle Wakamatsu
5 present.

6 VICE CHAIR VARES: Good morning, everybody.
7 Excellent.

8 And then Herman, I see eave got MEMA here as well.

9 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yes. Hi, Madam Chair. Yes.
10 And I'm also here with Paul Coe, our communications and alerts
11 officer, as well as Kahoo Kamakawiwoole and he is on an
12 (inaudible) right now, but he's one of our emergency
13 management planners.

14 VICE CHAIR VARES: Wonderful. Welcome, everyone.
15 Welcome, gentlemen. We'll have some questions for you a
16 little bit later.

17 And then, Max. Max Kincaid just joined us. Yes?
18 Can you hear us, Max?

19 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yeah.

20 VICE CHAIR VARES: Excellent. Great.

21 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yeah. Go ahead.

22 VICE CHAIR VARES: And then we also have guest
23 speaker Captain Jeff Robson here. All right. Is there
24 anybody I didn't recognize? Gary's here with corp. counsel.

25 (No response.)

1 VICE CHAIR VARES: No? All right. Any absences
2 that were not excused? I don't see Donna here. I don't know,
3 Richelle, if she let you all know if she was going to make it
4 or not, but I don't see Donna. Everybody else, we've got
5 everybody else. Wonderful.

6 All right, you guys. So is there any public
7 testimony or we're just going to go straight to approving the
8 minutes?

9 CHIEF THYNE: Nothing here.

10 VICE CHAIR VARES: Okay. So I guess we could just
11 move on to approval of the minutes from the July 16th meeting.
12 Motion to accept the minutes.

13 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: (Gesturing.)

14 VICE CHAIR VARES: Travis.

15 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Second.

16 VICE CHAIR VARES: I guess that's -- Travis, is that
17 a motion or Dwight?

18 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Travis motioned, I second.

19 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Yep.

20 VICE CHAIR VARES: All right. Okay. We have Travis
21 motion, Dwight Burns seconded. Thanks, guys.

22 No public testimony, so as of right now, public
23 testimony is closed.

24 And I am going to turn it over to MEMA. Herman.

25 Oh, Gary, did you have something? Are you on mute,

1 Gary?

2 MR. MURAI: Sorry. Madam Chair, before we move on
3 to MEMA, there was a motion and a second for approval of the
4 minutes, we just need to ask if there's any corrections; if no
5 corrections, then vote to approve.

6 VICE CHAIR VARES: Any corrections from anyone?

7 COMMISSIONERS: No.

8 VICE CHAIR VARES: Motion approved.

9 MR. MURAI: All in favor.

10 VICE CHAIR VARES: All in favor, please.

11 (Response.)

12 VICE CHAIR VARES: Travis in favor. Okay. All
13 approved, motion carried. Thanks so much.

14 Keep me on track, Gary. Okay?

15 All right. We're going to turn it over to Herman
16 guys with -- Herman Andaya with --

17 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you, Madam Chair and
18 Commissioners. With respect to our agency, we recently lost
19 our emergency specialist (inaudible) Joyce. He's decided to
20 return to the mainland and so (inaudible). We're very
21 thankful for his service to us, he was invaluable as an
22 emergency specialist as well as a trained meteorologist. He
23 provided tremendous input for us here at the agency.

24 We began recruitment for two positions, a specialist
25 1 and a specialist 3. The specialist 1, which was filed by

1 Dr. Joyce, was -- we're looking for that now, recruiting for
2 that, as well as a specialist 3 position, which was vacated by
3 Charnan Carroll, who is now our plans and operations officer.
4 So we do have some -- some vacancies.

5 We're fortunate to have Kahoo Kamakawiwoole join us.
6 He's come out of retirement to assist us. He's a (inaudible)
7 with the active Air Force as well as with the Guard and so he
8 provides that kind of input to us. Hoping that he would stay
9 with us permanently, but he's enjoying retirement too much and
10 so -- so for now, he's told us that he'll only assist us
11 during this short period, but we're very grateful for that,
12 nonetheless.

13 We also have two more positions, as I reported
14 previously in our previous meeting, that was approved by the
15 council and so we'll be recruiting for that as well. So all
16 together, we have four positions that we'll be recruiting for
17 and we're trying to do it -- frankly, trying to do that
18 because we could use the help.

19 We've continued to be in partial activation for
20 COVID-19. We have video conferencing with our partners now
21 every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and these partners include
22 our county emergency management administrators, our county
23 mayors, the governor, department of health, and adjutant
24 general National Guard, and also, of course, Maui Fire
25 Department is included in those meetings as well.

1 I'll just kind of briefly go through. With respect
2 to recovery, our recovery specialist continues to engage with
3 the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and we do this, of
4 course, through video conferencing. Various topics from mass
5 violence to mass feeding or looking at mass feeding partners.
6 Our hurricane sheltering plan, especially with COVID, that's
7 been a huge challenge for us and so we're working through that
8 as well as working with American Red Cross in establishing
9 protocols for our shelters.

10 With respect to our alerts, we've had a lot this
11 past -- this past month. There were over 107 alerts that was
12 sent out to the public and it ranges from -- from hurricane,
13 hurricane watches, hurricane warnings, earthquakes, brush
14 fire, high surf advisory, high surf warnings, wind advisories,
15 and there's -- and there's others as well, but all in all,
16 about 107 warnings or alerts went out. And, you know, a lot
17 of it is -- happens during the course of the night, so we have
18 someone who is on call and in the middle of the night they --
19 when an alert comes through, they're the ones who pushes it
20 out to the rest of the community through Maka'ala, so we're
21 working on that also.

22 And then with respect to our sirens, Paul can go a
23 little bit more about how our sirens have been going. And
24 that's all I have for now, so I'll turn it over to Paul Coe,
25 he's our communications and alerts officer. And if I haven't

1 introduced him before, Paul is a former fire captain from
2 Arizona -- 30 plus years, is it?

3 MR. COE: Yeah.

4 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thirty plus years with the --
5 with a fire department in Arizona. He is also a graduate of
6 the Emergency Management Institute, which is very selective,
7 and so we're very honored to have him with us in this agency.

8 So I'll turn it over now to Paul.

9 MR. COE: Okay. I guess, briefly, on the -- so the
10 August 1st siren report that we sent out in -- to get
11 responses back on whether they sounded or not, there were 62
12 confirmations that the siren that they -- that the person
13 lives near or responds in regards to was heard, eight no
14 sounds, and five no contacts. Those eight no sounds, though,
15 include the one, two, three, four, five, six -- out of those
16 eight no sounds, seven of those are sirens that we know have
17 some sort of mechanical problem or something going on with it
18 that would cause it not to sound. And then the no contacts
19 are just people that either weren't home, were unable to
20 answer the phone or contact, so that's what those are in
21 regards to.

22 But in regards to the sirens that are -- have
23 mechanical difficulties right at the moment and the repair of
24 those, so as you guys know, the State of Hawaii is responsible
25 for the maintenance, upkeep, and repair of the -- of the siren

1 system. There are four of them -- Siren 109 in Maalaea; Siren
2 303 in Wailua Valley up in Kula; and Siren 304, Hamoa, the
3 upper one by the beach there; and 410, the Puamana siren --
4 those all received notice to proceed through the state through
5 a repair contract to get those repaired and back operational.
6 It's supposed to be completed by the end of -- by the 21st of
7 September. Obviously, COVID and the ability to travel inner
8 island and such could potentially play a part in that. At
9 this point I haven't got an update as to if there's been
10 any -- any problems on that side of it or not, so...

11 That's pretty much all I've got in regards to the
12 sirens right at this moment. Is there any questions?

13 VICE CHAIR VARES: Commissioners, any questions for
14 Mr. Coe?

15 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Yeah. How long -- how long
16 those sirens been down, the six that you knew about?

17 MR. COE: So they've been down -- like the Puamana
18 siren has probably been down for at least two years, because
19 I've been here since July of '18 and it was down before that.
20 The Hamoa siren, that was -- I believe earlier this year it
21 was shut off because it was making sounds. They think one of
22 the amps in it was going bad, so they had to shut it off and
23 get replacement parts and such. Yeah. So a couple of them
24 were over a period of time and there's others that are still
25 waiting to be -- to be repaired. There's the one by the

1 Cannery Mall, that the -- it's an old siren, the motor on it
2 for the head of the siren had froze up several months ago and
3 so that -- they have a plan for a replacement siren at a
4 different location, it's just going through the process, so --
5 and, unfortunately, sometimes that can take a while.

6 VICE CHAIR VARES: Any other questions?

7 MR. COE: Is that it? Yeah.

8 (No response.)

9 VICE CHAIR VARES: No other questions. Is there
10 anything else, Herman?

11 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: No, Madam Chair, that's all we
12 have. We'll be signing off if there's no other -- if we can
13 leave at this point.

14 VICE CHAIR VARES: There's no other questions if --
15 go ahead and (inaudible). Thank you guys so much.

16 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you very much, Madam
17 Chair.

18 MR. COE: Thank you.

19 VICE CHAIR VARES: Before we go on to the next
20 thing, I wanted to recognize that Commissioner Sterling has
21 joined us (inaudible) know that she's here. Donna.

22 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Thank you.

23 VICE CHAIR VARES: There you are.

24 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Good morning.

25 VICE CHAIR VARES: Donna is with us. And then also

1 I wanted to note Agenda Item No. 5 was abandoned vehicle
2 information. Max, did you have something for us regarding
3 abandoned vehicles or was that an item that was dropped?

4 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Can you guys hear all right?

5 VICE CHAIR VARES: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Now, now we can.

7 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Okay. Can you hear me now?

8 VICE CHAIR VARES: Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Good. Okay. The most
11 important page on top of that addendum I sent you all is the
12 first page, basically the reality of filing an abandoned
13 vehicle case. The reality of it, it takes quite a while for
14 this to go through and it all depends on whether or not the
15 officer you're dealing with in filing the case is on the ball.
16 Suffice to say that if it's not within 11 feet of any county
17 or state roadway, the county police will not do anything other
18 than file a derelict vehicle case, in some cases they won't
19 even bother.

20 The most important thing for you to do as a public
21 complainant is to get a report number so you can follow up on
22 it. Policemen are like -- well, policemen are policemen. If
23 you don't get the police report number, they're probably gonna
24 just sluff the report, it's something they're famous for. In
25 other words, they don't even file the report. If you get the

1 report number, you get something you can refer to as far as
2 substantiating as to whether or not the proper protocol is in
3 effect.

4 The rest is self-explanatory. Any questions?

5 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: No questions, but I have a
6 correction to that disposal of the abandoned vehicles. They
7 no longer hold an auction at the abandoned lot. All vehicles
8 that come in that is unclaimed, whether it's running or not or
9 whether it's a 2013, if it's not claimed after they run all of
10 the paperwork and they clear it, it goes straight to
11 Hammerhead and gets disposed of. They no longer hold the
12 auction. And the primary reason for that is the people was
13 buying the vehicles, stripping the parts, and then putting
14 them back on to the road, so -- and the cost to run the
15 abandoned lot is substantial, they have two police officers,
16 they have three staff, and the money generated is very minimal
17 and -- but the primary reason was that the vehicles was coming
18 back on to the road.

19 VICE CHAIR VARES: Thank you, Jack.

20 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Hi, Lisa.

21 VICE CHAIR VARES: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Hi, I've got a question. I
23 understand for vehicles that are off more than a certain
24 distance off of the side of the road and whatnot, but what
25 about the abandoned vehicles? Like there's been one on the

1 Pali right after the lookout, right on one of the corners,
2 inches from the white line and it's been there for over five
3 days. It's just waiting for somebody to rear end it coming
4 around that corner. Who should we --

5 VICE CHAIR VARES: For Max, do you have anything for
6 that?

7 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Do you know if anyone filed
8 an abandoned report on it?

9 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: It has the orange sticker.

10 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: That would be the first
11 thing.

12 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: The orange sticker is just a
13 slap on. After two days, it should've been a report -- there
14 should be a report number filed. Okay? And normally when you
15 see that and the report has been filed, the officer will take
16 a grease pencil and mark it on the car as such.

17 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Okay. So I should -- I need
18 to call the police, then, again, I guess is your direction.

19 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: I would. I would suggest you
20 do that to follow up. Is it the Lahaina district side or the
21 Wailuku side?

22 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: It's the Lahaina side of the
23 Pali --

24 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Oh.

25 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: -- by the -- by the lookout.

1 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Okay. Before you get to the
2 lookout or after?

3 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: If you're coming from
4 Kahului, after.

5 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Okay. Because the lookout is
6 actually the demarcation line between the two districts. So
7 if it's on the Lahaina side, you should call Lahaina police.

8 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Okay. I'll take it directly
9 to them. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yeah.

11 VICE CHAIR VARES: Okay. Any more -- any other
12 questions (inaudible)?

13 (No response.)

14 VICE CHAIR VARES: No other questions. Okay. Let's
15 move on to the fire department, Chief Thyne.

16 CHIEF THYNE: Did you say -- Vice Chair Vares, did
17 you say fire department? I thought I heard that.

18 VICE CHAIR VARES: I did.

19 CHIEF THYNE: Oh, okay. Thanks. Great. Good
20 morning, everybody. Let me start with our incident numbers.
21 As you see on your packets, brush fire season is still upon
22 us. I was able -- I think our firefighters are --
23 firefighters visited with a couple of our commissioners,
24 meaning Commissioner Sterling as well as Commissioner Tancayo,
25 so we hope that they did their job out there to the best of

1 their ability and you approved that, of course. But we did
2 have a couple -- as you can see, 35 brush fire type incidents,
3 so that's still an ongoing concern of ours and we will
4 continue our vigilance with Chief Kawasaki and our opps guys
5 staying on top of their responsibilities out there.

6 You also see in our training participant column, we
7 continue our training to the best of our ability. With the
8 COVID crisis and pandemic all around us, we've had to limit a
9 lot of our training, but we are trying to soldier on and make
10 sure that our crews are staying on their training tempo. Even
11 though a lot of it is now virtual, we're trying our best and
12 you'll hear more from Captain Robson on our efforts in the
13 training bureau towards the end of today's meeting.

14 Just quickly on my report, we do literally have
15 meetings related to COVID now, it seems like, from basically
16 shortly after we come in the office till basically before I
17 walked in here, I just keyed off a meeting. So you'll see
18 references to those. It's good for the coordination aspect,
19 obviously, to make sure we get any new and updated guidance
20 from the mayor's office as well as the governor's office and
21 that any other agency that coordinates with us on the --
22 either the response side or on the travel side, you know,
23 having our personnel going between islands for work or
24 relocations and stuff like that, that we can get our answers
25 right away. Much like police, some of our other service

1 agencies like public works, water, we have to go between the
2 islands of our county, so it's important that we make sure
3 we're staying in compliance with all of the CDC guidelines and
4 whatnot. So you'll see some references to that.

5 We've also been working with corp. counsel on, you
6 know, some of the guidance that they put out with the mayor's
7 directives as well as our lead corp. counsel Moana Lutey has
8 been kind of coordinating a lot of the efforts with the CARES
9 Act funding that you may have heard of to see and prioritize,
10 I guess, for lack of a better description, what the various
11 county agencies get approved for with the CARES Act funding
12 that comes through the federal government to the state and
13 then down to the counties. So we've been working closely with
14 her as well as, you know, in coordination with the various
15 closures and regulations and guidelines that they put out.

16 Second page. With the council, we did meet with
17 Mr. Hokama, Councilmember Hokama regarding -- Chief Ventura
18 and I met with him regarding the Lanai Station expansion,
19 that's a project that's ongoing. Commissioner Kincaid is
20 probably aware of that. It's a goal of ours to expand some of
21 our storage capacity on Lanai as well as potentially some
22 quarters for off-island personnel that may either be assigned
23 there for, potentially, a major incident or disaster and/or if
24 the personnel get kind of stuck there because of the commuter
25 routes being compromised either by natural disaster type of

1 thing with high winds or high surf or some other reason. So
2 we're looking at having, basically, a garage/quarters behind
3 our Lanai Station. So when we can all get together and go on
4 field trips again, hopefully, you folks can actually see that
5 and what we're trying to plan for to the rear of Lanai Fire
6 Station. So we got Councilmember Hokama up to speed and it
7 was a good meeting and he provided some guidance to us as well
8 and so that was very successful.

9 We do have our weekly battalion chief meeting we
10 talked to you about before, that's important to keep our --
11 our battalion chiefs, which is our leadership out at the
12 department level -- or, excuse me, the station level
13 coordinating with our captains to make sure, again, we're all
14 in the same loop as far as any guidance that we need to put
15 forth and any questions or concerns that they may have coming
16 out of the station, the fire station level.

17 So we're working with also some attorneys on
18 conducting appropriate investigations with our personnel. It
19 doesn't happen too often, but occasionally we have either a
20 vehicle accident or a personnel situation that we may have to
21 investigate and may result in disciplinary action. So Chief
22 Ventura and Chief Kawasaki are working with an attorney we've
23 worked with in the past out of Honolulu to help us train our
24 personnel, mostly our battalion chiefs, in how to conduct an
25 internal investigation to make sure that we do it along the

1 guidelines and make sure we're doing it the right way,
2 basically, to shorten that out.

3 You see a couple of agreements that we're working
4 on. Rescue tubes is one, that's been a successful project.
5 We're trying to expand that. The agency that we work with
6 listed there, the Rotary Club of Kihei-Wailea, they want to
7 expand it to a few of their beaches. What basically happened,
8 short version, is that the rescue tube agreement was set to
9 expire, basically, the born on date was expiring that
10 agreement, so we had to renew that agreement for the legality
11 side of things. And so in the process of doing that, they
12 said, Hey, why don't we try to expand it to a few other
13 beaches, because it's been a successful program. We're in
14 support of that. Any time we can provide -- or we can support
15 our community being provided with safety devices like rescue
16 tubes, we're gonna support that. And that'll help our
17 lifeguards and ocean safety officers are out there protecting
18 the beaches, especially when we start to have our tourists
19 back on the beaches. It's not so bad now, we can keep up with
20 the pace, but once we start filling in with tourists again,
21 it's good to have that ability.

22 Tropical Cyclone Douglas, as you know, Hurricane
23 Douglas turned out to be relatively minor as far as the
24 impacts and that's a good thing, but we always have to ramp up
25 and make sure we're prepared as we can be to respond and,

1 basically, face whatever demands we face as far as our
2 response agency. So that's about it.

3 We did do some internal things with training. We're
4 looking at, again, our COVID preparedness. I think all of you
5 probably as well. We've ramped up our preparedness for
6 COVID-19 again for this round and we constantly strategize on
7 how we can make sure our personnel are safe and that they have
8 what they need to respond out there and deal with the public
9 as well as hopefully preventing it from coming in the back
10 door of the fire station somehow through some sort of exposure
11 and then potentially exposing other -- other folks.

12 So I did hear the comments on the abandoned
13 vehicles, that's what I found out as well. I can go into
14 detail, which I won't unless you ask, but we are coordinating
15 specifically for the Piihana Farms property with public works
16 as well as environmental management as well as the planning
17 and zoning department because of some illegal structures that
18 are -- that are on that property. So I know we started the
19 conversation last meeting kind of specific to Piihana Farms
20 because of the large amount of vehicles and whatnot there and
21 the fires that we've had, so just so you folks know as our
22 commission, that is a coordinated effort with those agencies
23 to try to mitigate the fires that have been happening in the
24 Piihana area.

25 So that's all I have. There's -- obviously, you

1 have the handout. If there's any questions, I'll take them in
2 here and if you think of it later as well. So thanks. Good
3 to see you all. Sorry we can't be in person.

4 VICE CHAIR VARES: Thanks, Chief.

5 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Chair. Lisa.

6 VICE CHAIR VARES: Commissioners, does anyone have
7 any questions?

8 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yes, I -- Chair, I had a
9 comment. I wanted to thank -- on the Kahikinui fire, I want
10 to thank the fire department, all engines that responded at
11 1:30 in the morning. And on that note, Chief, I did -- at the
12 Hale Pele we saw one of the orange pumpkins had holes in it.
13 I mean, tiny holes, but enough to -- maybe we could duct tape
14 it or get a new one or -- anyway, it was -- it was several.
15 There are holes in it, the orange pumpkin. With that being
16 said, during the fire Councilmember Shane Sinenci called and
17 said if there's anything he can do to help Kahikinui, he would
18 be more than happy to support any efforts. The effort that we
19 put through Helekunihi Cultural Foundation is a \$49,000 grant
20 with OED, the county, and that was last month for a bunch of
21 PPE, chainsaws, a quad, weed whackers to start weed whacking
22 besides the county mowing down along the corridor of the seven
23 miles of Kahikinui, this will be an ongoing work and so that's
24 where that grant is.

25 Yesterday I met with DOFAW, Lance, and the ranchers

1 to come up with a bigger -- Hawaii Wildland Management -- to
2 come up with a bigger picture for Kaupo to Kahikinui to Awihi
3 and Kanaio, so that's going to be an ongoing interfacing with
4 wildlife and DOFAW and the ranches, hopeful.

5 So, anyway, okay, signing off. The dogs are gonna
6 bark. Any comments?

7 (No response.)

8 VICE CHAIR VARES: Thank you, Commissioner Sterling.
9 Anyone else?

10 (No response.)

11 VICE CHAIR VARES: Okay. Chief Thyne, I had a
12 question. On your first page you have the mayor's directive
13 expedited permitting for the resorts, the Westin (inaudible)
14 for just fire prevention.

15 CHIEF THYNE: You cut out, Vice Chair Vares, but I
16 got you had a question regarding the expedited permitting. So
17 what happened -- I don't have it directly in front of me, but
18 there is a directive sent out by the mayor and what his goal
19 was is to keep people working, yeah, to make sure that we did
20 all we can as a county and whatever agencies involved with the
21 review of plans and so on and so forth to really put forth an
22 effort to move things along through the process. And so they
23 basically had a criteria that was established that -- and
24 former -- I think he was a planning director or deputy
25 planning director Don Couch is now working in the mayor's

1 office as an executive assistant, so obviously he has a
2 background in, you know, planning and so he was kind of the
3 point man that would then receive the permits and then
4 determine if they fell into the category of expedited
5 permitting. And if they did, he would send an email to the
6 various agencies saying, you know, obviously, focus on these
7 permits, so I just listed two or three there that came across
8 our desk.

9 And then what happened is our plans reviewers at our
10 fire prevention office there actually where we used to meet,
11 you know, Oliver -- I think you met Oliver Baz, he's one of
12 our leads with the plans review, they said it's okay with our
13 office if Don Couch can work straight -- you know, straight
14 with them. And then if there was any sort of concerns or
15 issues, it would come back to the fire chief's office and we'd
16 work with the mayor's office to resolve them. So that
17 decision was made to do that, just to expedite the process
18 even more, and so -- I'm not sure if there was additional ones
19 besides the three that are listed here. But the goal, again,
20 Vice Chair Vares, was just to expedite the process to keep
21 folks working out there in the construction and trades
22 industries.

23 VICE CHAIR VARES: So those three are just examples,
24 give us three examples, then?

25 CHIEF THYNE: Yes.

1 VICE CHAIR VARES: These three examples were for the
2 fire prevention permitting to keep construction (inaudible).

3 CHIEF THYNE: That's right.

4 VICE CHAIR VARES: Thank you. Any other questions
5 for Chief Thyne?

6 (No response.)

7 VICE CHAIR VARES: No other questions. Let's move
8 on to Deputy Chief Ventura.

9 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Hello, everybody. Thanks for
10 being here today. Hope everybody's doing well, staying
11 healthy during these times. My report's pretty short. As we
12 get further into the year and further away from the retirement
13 cycle, our promotions slow down. So we don't have as many
14 promotions as the year goes on until people start retiring
15 again, that it usually picks up again, you know, end of the
16 year and, of course, a big chunk in December and then we start
17 the promotional process again.

18 We did have some movement, as you're aware, with the
19 Makena lifeguards, so we did an ocean safety captain interview
20 process and promotion, so that was completed. What that did
21 for the ocean safety bureau was that added an additional
22 captain on the North Shore of Maui. That was our biggest
23 ocean safety district with the most beach, the most activity,
24 most hours, and only one person was a supervisor of that. So
25 static control was starting to get a little tough, so we

1 created that position and promoted somebody there so that they
2 could split the static control.

3 We had an SCBA technician who was gonna work with
4 our health and safety bureau to take care of our self-
5 contained breathing apparatus. Offered her the job, she
6 currently lives in Honolulu, she declined the position just
7 because she couldn't pull off the moving to Maui. She didn't
8 have the support system for her family and school and all that
9 sort of stuff. So we moved on and we offered it to another
10 candidate, who has accepted it. They're jumping through all
11 the hoops to become a county employee and they should be
12 starting here in about a week or so or a little bit longer
13 than that. So that's for the SCBA technician.

14 The other position that just started this week was
15 our fire communication technician, that person will be
16 responsible for some of our radio com equipment, some of our
17 computer hardware stuff, some of our data and information
18 practices report, reporting to the public. They'll have those
19 responsibilities, so kind of a hybrid IT/radio person. It's a
20 new position for our department, so we will be creating it as
21 we go. We have some ideas of how it can definitely help our
22 department.

23 Department improvement committee, you know, we're
24 constantly watching CDC guidelines, mayor's directives,
25 governor's directives on how we can work and keep our

1 firefighters and ocean safety officers safe. So whether
2 that's something as simple as changing a disinfectant or
3 moving a whole fire company out of a fire station, those are
4 two drastic ends of the spectrum.

5 We are actually currently working on finding housing
6 for our hazmat company. They were housed in Kahului, that
7 station holds on a daily average 15 to 17 personnel, if we
8 were to have a COVID positive case in that station, it would,
9 you know, greatly impact our workforce. So what we're trying
10 to do is move one company out of that station so that if we do
11 have a COVID-positive case within the station, it less impacts
12 our operations. They're also the only hazmat company in our
13 county, so if somebody on the engine were to get sick and we
14 had to isolate and quarantine the hazmat company, operations,
15 you know, could be slightly hampered.

16 So we're just trying to be proactive, stay in front
17 of this thing as much as possible, so we reiterate to our
18 battalion chiefs and we send out emails to all of our
19 employees about, you know, just staying on top of our hygiene,
20 staying on top of our cleanliness, making sure housekeeping is
21 done well, making sure that they're being smart off duty so
22 that they don't bring the virus into our stations.

23 And that ties directly into union interactions. So
24 consultation on how we (inaudible) stations. We want to make
25 sure, you know, we don't ask people to do things that's --

1 they're not comfortable with, but at the same time, you know,
2 if a station gets contaminated, we want to clean it as quickly
3 as possible to get things back in service. So we worked with
4 a variety of people to make sure we have a primary, secondary,
5 and tertiary way of cleaning our fire stations so that if some
6 station needs to be decontaminated and the fire trucks do as
7 well, we would be able to make sure we have somebody who can
8 come pretty immediately to take care of the problem. The last
9 thing we want is to call a vendor and them say, I'll be there
10 in three to five days, and we can't operate out of a fire
11 station. So we have plans in place and all the way, you know,
12 to keep our stations clean. So we've been working with the
13 union on that, that was mostly HFFA because those are our fire
14 stations, our houses.

15 As far as HGEA goes and the ocean safety bureau,
16 during the promotional process for captain there was some
17 questions on how we were doing it, so we were open and
18 transparent with the union to make sure they're comfortable
19 with the way we were promoting people, and they were, so we
20 were able to dismiss any worry with the union.

21 Transmittals from the public. You know, people have
22 been kind of minding their own Ps and Qs for the most part.
23 We aren't too involved in any of the enforcement stuff as far
24 as COVID goes, but our fire count has been average for the
25 month of July, so we've got a few phone calls in from the

1 community. The Haliimaile fire, as Chief Kawasaki will
2 probably talk about, we had some calls in from the community
3 saying everybody did a great job out there and they
4 appreciated us being right in their back yards protecting
5 their homes.

6 So that's the end of my report. Any questions?

7 VICE CHAIR VARES: Commissioners, any questions for
8 Brad?

9 (No response.)

10 VICE CHAIR VARES: All right. Let's move on to
11 Chief Kawasaki.

12 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Good morning, everybody.
13 So I'll be really quick 'cause it looks like Captain Robson
14 has a big PowerPoint to go over, so I've gotta save some time
15 for him. Yeah, we did have a fairly busy brush fire month for
16 July, a couple big -- a really big one in Haliimaile, 4300
17 acres, with pretty limited damages. There was some Mahi
18 Pono's telephone poles, power poles that got burned. I think
19 our guys did a really good job on that 22-acre Haliimaile
20 fire. The captain on duty, the first in captain, one of our
21 new captains, made some very good calls on where to position
22 apparatus and they protected much of the homes from burning
23 up. The fire was coming up the gulch right into their back
24 yards. I believe Captain Robson was on duty, his -- he took
25 his training guys, they actually were one of the most critical

1 stops on protecting one of those structures there, a couple of
2 those structures there.

3 Other than that, you know, everybody else talked
4 about the hurricane and whatnot.

5 Today is kind of an exciting day for us, we got
6 the -- two of our vehicles in from the mainland of the five
7 vehicles that we've been talking about for the last two years.
8 So we had the two wildland trucks that were put in service
9 last month, I think Travis would probably appreciate those
10 trucks. They are built by this company called Skeeter.
11 They're a lifted four wheel -- F 550 truck that carries 400
12 gallons of water, it has big 42-inch tires, I think Travis
13 would like to play with that. It also has foam. So, anyway,
14 those two were put in service this month and then today we
15 just received a ladder truck for Ladder 14 and our replacement
16 truck for Engine 11. So those two just got in off the barge,
17 we picked them up, our mechanic and apparatus guys are
18 inspecting it, making sure everything -- no damages.

19 So we still have one more that's coming, it's still
20 in Oregon waiting for a part from Pierce to be replaced on the
21 truck. It got damaged during the -- during the ride over. So
22 that truck, hopefully, if we -- best case scenario, it makes a
23 boat that leaves on next week Wednesday out of San Diego and
24 then we'll have that two week -- in about a week from then and
25 then we can schedule our blessing for the fire trucks and

1 training -- we have to have training for the operators and the
2 personnel for the ladder and the pumper trucks.

3 Our training bureau, we kind of slowed down after
4 COVID, then we kind of started again and now we're back to
5 slow down again. So a bunch of our training is postponed,
6 we're just doing essential trainings that we need to have.
7 And Chief -- Fire 2 already talked about our captain promotion
8 in ocean safety. That's all I have.

9 Oh, you know, one more thing. To address Donna's
10 comments about the pumpkin and the leaky pumpkin in Kahikinui,
11 so those holes in there are just to protect the pumpkin so the
12 grass around doesn't burn, so the pumpkin doesn't burn. No,
13 I'm just kidding. I'm just kidding. We have some pumpkins,
14 you know, some of them have some leaking issues. We do have
15 replacements. I saw it, you know, it wasn't leaking all that
16 bad, you know, it has a few holes, but it does help protect it
17 from fire coming around it. And another thing, if -- you
18 know, Kahikinui, if you guys could work on some -- some sort
19 of hydrant or water supply out there, it would be really
20 helpful for us rather than going to the windmill.

21 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Right. We're working on
22 that. We're coming together, yeah. We're working on a
23 reservoir, many reservoirs, so maybe this year, maybe next
24 year.

25 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: That would help us a lot.

1 And, you know, we have those -- a fire out there almost
2 yearly, so that will be worth the -- whatever it costs.

3 VICE CHAIR VARES: Thanks.

4 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: That's all I have. Any
5 questions? Trav.

6 VICE CHAIR VARES: Oh, we have a question from
7 Travis.

8 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Hey, you know, more of a
9 comment. Back up a little bit. As far as the pumpkin,
10 there's actually a patch kit for -- to fix those pumpkins and
11 I used to do the maintenance on the ones on Molokai. So every
12 now and then when you pull them out, you get holes and there's
13 a patch kit that you boys can -- you know, you've gotta go set
14 them up, draw one circle around them, deflate them, it's a
15 long process. Maybe not so good to do them during the --
16 during the summertime because, you know, it takes a day or two
17 to patch it, but they do have a patch kit available for those.

18 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: The pumpkins, yeah.

19 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: And then just a comment,
20 Chief, for the fires that we had on Molokai that's right
21 around my -- the Ho`olehua Homestead area that we had these
22 fires and the guys did a wonderful job as far as -- you know,
23 when the -- we make plans to fight fires on Molokai and it's
24 wonderful to see plans work. The guys got out here quickly,
25 the helicopter came in a fairly good time, backup trucks,

1 special equipment like the Polaris Ranger, all of that stuff,
2 the trailers, all the stuff that, you know, you guys planned
3 or we planned years ago, the system is working. And what
4 could've been a bigger fire, you know, the guys were able to
5 keep it small.

6 And I would like to give a little bit credit, it was
7 back 20 years ago when they had the -- I believe with the soil
8 conservation that worked with the Hawaiian Homesteaders to
9 identify the fires that we were having on Molokai and they
10 started funding these grants that helped the homesteaders put
11 a fence line. And part of the benefit of having those fence
12 lines not only to do cattle, was to help control soil erosion
13 and the fire control. And what we've seen in the last fires
14 in Ho`olehua, and you can ask the guys, was that the fires
15 were moving slowly because of the cattle being in the area and
16 then firebreaks were utilized to stop these fires. And also a
17 big thanks for the public works people, they come out and
18 maintain these roads and those roads are also used to help
19 stop these fires.

20 So it could've been a lot of -- a lot worse. I
21 was -- I went to three of the fires and the wind was blowing
22 really hard, but because of the things that, you know, the
23 fire department put in place and other agencies, it's great to
24 see that kind of stuff work. Because where we had these
25 fires, if we didn't have those things in place and the kind of

1 equipment and the training that the guys had to fight these
2 fires, it could've been a lot of worse. And I know this, I
3 know it wouldn't have been so good. So I'm just thankful for
4 what you guys have done and continue to do and the
5 relationships that we keep with the other agencies to help
6 mitigate the fires, especially on Molokai.

7 But, thank you, Chief. Just a comment that I want
8 you to know that the guys are working hard, the equipment is
9 working hard. It was wonderful to see. The backup trucks got
10 up there real fast and I'm pretty sure they were essential in
11 helping to run fire lines on the last fire we had. So just a
12 big thank you for continuing to provide good fire service and
13 protection on Molokai. That's all.

14 VICE CHAIR VARES: Okay. Anyone else have any
15 questions or (inaudible).

16 Move on to Chief Werner.

17 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Good morning, everyone.
18 Under the fire prevention bureau, you had talked about, Chair
19 had talked about the plans reviews and that directive that
20 came down from the mayor, and so what we did is -- we had only
21 one person who does regular plans review in the prevention
22 department, but we have two people that are capable. We have
23 a lot of firefighters that have gone through that bureau that
24 were trained on doing plans reviews. So what we did is we
25 called them back on their days off so that we could get caught

1 up and we went from a pretty large number of plans that were
2 backed up to being almost caught up, so they did a really good
3 job on working on that. And so I changed my monthly report to
4 just kind of give you guys an overview every month of the
5 number of plans that we receive and how many get approved and
6 how many get inspected. I'm going to add to it next month the
7 ones that are pending, too, so you can have an idea of how
8 many plans we have pending in that -- in that situation.

9 We also have -- we did get approved for another
10 person to do investigations, but that person is also going to
11 be trained on doing inspections as well -- I mean, plans
12 review as well, so when they do get backed up, they can also
13 help with the plans review.

14 Under the topic of training news, as I reported last
15 month, we do have five new inspectors. And I just wanted to
16 make a correction to the training that they did on the 23rd
17 and the 24th, that was actually on investigation, not
18 inspections.

19 Moving on to health and safety, as we all know, this
20 COVID-19 continues to evolve and change, so they've been --
21 health and safety has been -- bureau has been very proactive
22 on keeping updated with all of those changes through the CDC
23 and the DOH and updating our department guidance. So they
24 just recently updated our main guidance and put that on the
25 share drive and sent out a directive to everybody for that.

1 As Chief Ventura said, our SCBA tech who we were all
2 excited to have arrive on Maui called him up and declined, so
3 we have hired somebody else. And our health and safety
4 department captain is in charge of that person, so he's
5 preparing for the training of that new person who I believe
6 starts September 1st.

7 Moving on to our FY '21 approved budget items, Chief
8 Thyne made it very clear that he did not want us -- that he
9 wanted that acted upon within 90 days and so I did a pulse
10 check. September we're moving along with procuring all of the
11 items that were on that list.

12 As far as that Hawaii Professional Firefighters
13 Foundation, Chief Kawasaki has completed purchasing all the
14 items that were on that list.

15 So that is -- that's pretty much it. Have any -- I
16 can answer to any questions.

17 VICE CHAIR VARES: Questions for Chief Werner from
18 the commission?

19 (No response.)

20 VICE CHAIR VARES: All right. It sounds like you
21 guys are (inaudible).

22 Okay. Moving on to our guest presenter, we have
23 Captain Jeffrey Robson.

24 CHIEF VENTURA: If I say something just really quick
25 before he starts.

1 VICE CHAIR VARES: Yes.

2 CHIEF VENTURA: We were gonna try to do a screen
3 share, but the computer is unable to do it right now, so make
4 sure everybody has or can review the PowerPoint. So pull that
5 out. As he goes along, just kind of follow. If you don't
6 have it, let me know, I can Richelle email it to you right now
7 if that is possible.

8 VICE CHAIR VARES: This one. Thank you, Chief
9 Ventura.

10 All right. Go for it, Jeff. Thank you.

11 CAPTAIN ROBSON: Okay, you guys. Everybody have --
12 have this guy, right, somewhere?

13 COMMISSIONERS: (Indicating.)

14 CAPTAIN ROBSON: Okay. This is kind of what I'm
15 going to go through and then there's a few questions that I
16 had earlier about our internship and maybe, listening to the
17 way talks have been going, about how we're dealing with COVID
18 and how we were still accomplishing training.

19 So I'll start by going through this and the first --
20 the first slide is introducing myself. So I've been in for
21 about 15 years, worked at every station in the department so
22 far, including a year on Molokai, and just have a background
23 with coaching, so it -- so it was something that I wanted to
24 do, was be in the training bureau.

25 The next slide, if we look at that, this is a

1 training bureau organizational chart. So Fire 1, Fire 2 --
2 the change for me from the last time that I was in training of
3 we went from being under Fire 4 to being under Fire 3. I
4 believe it's more fitting because everything we do supports
5 operations and, basically, how well we train is a reflection
6 of what kind of service we can provide to the community.

7 If we go to the next page, it shows the
8 responsibilities. Basically, these are what I feel are the
9 responsibilities of the training bureau, is:

10 Fulfill the training requirement based on community
11 and department needs.

12 Ensure safety of fire department personnel by
13 providing practice for emergency operations.

14 Protect the fire department from liability.

15 Provide professional development for the members.

16 And coordinate multi-agency training.

17 Train recruit classes.

18 And recordkeeping.

19 If we go to the next slide, so I just talked about
20 some of the challenges with Maui County being unique with
21 three islands, oceans between us, and still trying to keep
22 everybody on the same page. The training bureau, basically,
23 we're -- we try and state up to date with the latest fire
24 fighting techniques. Home building is always change, PV
25 panels are a problem, hybrid and electric vehicles are

1 becoming more prominent on the roads; all of these require new
2 training techniques, so it's stuff that the training bureau is
3 aware of and is working to provide for our members.

4 If we go to the next slide, it's talking about --
5 these are a list of our cadres. What the cadre system is, is
6 in the past we used to pay instructors to come down and
7 provide training for our department. This cost a lot of money
8 and was very limited in the amount of instruction that we
9 could provide for our incumbents, so presently the cadre
10 system was created. So we created subject matter experts, so
11 they went up to the mainland to go get trained or wherever off
12 island to go get trained, came back and were able to train
13 our -- our own guys, so that's the way the system works. And
14 below that is the list of cadres.

15 Okay. I'm gonna just briefly go through some of the
16 cadres. The first one is AHIMT, Chief Thyne is the head of
17 this. We have a type 3 team here in Maui. Recently -- recent
18 deployments I guess would be they went to help out on the
19 volcano and more recently, they mobilized the team ready for
20 Hurricane Douglas response. Thankfully, we didn't need it,
21 but it was -- it was pretty cool to see how efficient they
22 were and how well everybody worked together and the county's
23 in good hands with, you know, a cadre like that and a team
24 ready to deploy like that.

25 The next cadre we have is blue card command, Captain

1 Tommy Gann is in charge of that. It's a command and
2 control (inaudible) -- sorry, getting -- (inaudible.)

3 Can you guys hear me?

4 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: In and out.

5 VICE CHAIR VARES: We lost you for a second, Captain
6 Robson.

7 CAPTAIN ROBSON: Yeah. I'll go -- okay. So --

8 COMMISSIONER: Why don't you go over blue card
9 command one more time.

10 CAPTAIN ROBSON: Okay. Blue card. Blue card
11 command is, basically, a command and control. It helps us
12 with communication on fire ground, specifically for structure
13 fires. So all firefighter 3s are given that and then we have
14 continuing education, so we try and capture all of the
15 pre-officers and the guys that might be AOs and captains on
16 each crew.

17 The next cadre is boat operations. Firefighter 3
18 Dennis Swain is the director of that. This program provides,
19 you know, everything that they need for boat operations, you
20 know, from trailing to launching to how to -- how to maneuver
21 the boat. Currently, we have three rescue boats in Maui
22 County, Rescue Boat 10 in Kahului, Rescue Boat 3 in Lahaina,
23 and Rescue Boat 4 in Molokai.

24 The next cadre is confined space, that is by Rescue
25 Man Shane Adolpho. Pretty self-explanatory there. They just

1 require training to get into tight spaces that might be low
2 oxygen atmospheres or tight, tight to get in and out of.

3 The dive cadre is next by Captain Pete Vanderpoel.
4 They're -- from what I understand, are the only dive team in
5 Maui County, so even the police or -- or Coast Guard that
6 needs somebody to dive, that's -- that's who they're gonna
7 call. A recent notable call that they had was Maliko Gulch,
8 they -- a car went off the cliff with trapped occupants, so
9 they had a combination of vehicle extrication and the dive
10 team where they were able to use the tools underwater to,
11 unfortunately, not save them, but recover their bodies. But
12 it was a very challenging call, but a notable call as well.

13 The next slide is FADOP 1A. FADOP stands for fire
14 apparatus driver operator program. Captain Kealoha and
15 Firefighter 3 Dean Pacheco are the heads of those. The
16 difference between 1A and 1B, 1A talks all about driving and
17 operating the apparatus on the road and 1B is operation --
18 like pump operations and sending water and the stuff that
19 you're going to do once you're on the scene. We train that
20 annually, we flip flop 1A and 1B.

21 The next slide we have is FGO or fire ground
22 operations, so they basically -- all our fire ground skills
23 are stuff that they go over: Forceable entry, ventilation,
24 ground ladder, search and rescue. This cadre relies heavily
25 on props and facilities. Currently we use the JTC, but the

1 JTC is also under renovation, so it's -- it's making training
2 during these times extra challenging.

3 The next slide is fire ground survival and RIT.
4 That is run by Captain Roger Agdeppa. It's -- it basically
5 tells us how to save each other. You know, it's a -- it's a
6 great cadre that teaches us how to escape, how to manage air,
7 how to -- how to get in and out of places, and how to work as
8 a team to save somebody, one of our fellow firefighters if
9 they're in trouble.

10 The next slide is hazardous materials, emergency
11 response. Captain Chad Pacheco is the director of that. We
12 do have a hazardous tech, technician class scheduled for next
13 week. Actually, retired fire chiefs from Honolulu are going
14 to be teaching that one. That's the initial certification for
15 hazardous technician that is required by members of the hazmat
16 crew, so we have -- we've cut the class down a little bit for
17 COVID reasons, but all the personnel that are -- that need it
18 for their job description is going to be able to attend that
19 class.

20 Let's see. Heli opps is the next one, that's
21 another class that we have currently going on. Basically,
22 it -- the helicopter is a great tool for us, but it's -- it's
23 also very dangerous, for obvious reasons. Let's see.
24 Currently, heli opps is teaching dunker training, how to
25 escape in a water landing, and they're also doing short haul

1 operations, so if -- if they have to pick somebody up off of a
2 cliff side or something like that and get them to safety or
3 out of the water, you know, and then get them to land,
4 that's -- that's what they consider a short haul. So they are
5 currently training that as we speak.

6 Let's see. The next slide is incident command
7 system. This is another command and control training system.
8 It's very similar to the two others that we discussed and it
9 basically helps with the prerequisites to get -- to be a part
10 of the IMT team.

11 Ocean rescue is the next slide. Captain Kapala
12 Novikoff, he teaches that based on U.S. Lifeguard Association
13 recommendations. So this is all shoreline-type rescue
14 operations and then we have jet ski and boat operations if
15 they're further, further offshore.

16 The next slide is rope rescue. Captain Pete
17 Vanderpoel teaches this as well. There's currently seven
18 companies with rope rescue capabilities, so it's strategically
19 placed throughout Maui County and -- but MFD only has one
20 company that's at the technician level, which is Rescue 10.
21 And they wanted me to mention this notable recent emergency:
22 In June of this year a person was rescued after a 300-foot
23 fall down a cliff close to the Mendes Ranch and the person is
24 still alive today based on trainings that we were able to have
25 like this one.

1 Moving forward, rescue water craft. Jay Sniffen
2 is -- Firefighter 3 Jay Sniffen is the director of that. He
3 travels to all islands and provides jet ski training for them.
4 He's really good at what he does. We've gotten a lot of good
5 feedback from his program.

6 The next page is vehicle extrication, Captain Alma
7 Aiwohi runs this one. This is another thing that, you know,
8 vehicle design is always changing, so, you know, it requires a
9 lot of upkeep for this to make sure that we know how to rescue
10 somebody that's in an accident.

11 The next slide is wildland. Captain Sandy Parker
12 runs this. I think I've put in the notes here that last year
13 was a record of 25,000 acres burned. I've heard that we're
14 getting 4 to 1 ratio of wildland fires to structure fires, so
15 it's something that we're aware of and we're -- we're starting
16 to be able to fight fire indirectly by using fire to fight
17 fire, so that was our most recent wildland training.

18 Let's see. So just a summary, on the next page is
19 just the -- it was an innovative system that allows us to
20 train and maintain high levels of proficiency at a fraction of
21 the cost of bringing in outside instructors. It also has
22 created in-house subject matter experts for (inaudible)
23 members of our department.

24 Okay. So that's the -- a lot of the training. Some
25 of the other things that we do, on the next slide is the

1 training methods. So every quarter we put out a quarterly
2 drill schedule, which is on the next slide. Everybody see
3 that one? Okay. So the next slide is a quarterly drill
4 schedule, this is actually the current one that is in the
5 picture there. So we put out open road driving to everybody
6 and then we've created drills that they have to perform as a
7 company, so this is all captain-led training and the numbers
8 on the right are numbers the way that we capture it into our
9 method for recordkeeping.

10 Let's see. The next slide, other things that
11 we're -- we attempt to do is provide for professional
12 development for our members. So some of the ways we do that
13 are fire instructor 1, fire officer 1, fire inspector 1, and
14 more recently created was incident safety officer. So those
15 are all ways that they train to become -- you know, get
16 themselves ready for promotion.

17 Let's see. The next slide is recruit class
18 training. So when people hear, you know, that I'm -- I'm the
19 training captain, this is the first thing that they associate
20 with me, is that, Oh, you train the recruits. And yes, that
21 is correct, but we have many other functions besides the
22 recruit training. I would say recruit class is about 30
23 percent of what we do. Currently we have Recruit Class 36 in,
24 that's composed of 15 county and five state recruits. Let's
25 see. They started July 1st and they're going to go until

1 December 18th, is the estimated graduation date. This has
2 been a real challenge for our bureau to put this on with COVID
3 restrictions and so we're having -- having them train off site
4 at an armory, at the armory above Baldwin. We were -- they
5 were nice enough to let us have that, that facility to train
6 in. We separate them to groups of ten to abide by CDC
7 guidelines, we have them mask up and decon as much as
8 possible, we also do temperature and vital signs screenings
9 twice a day with them. We're trying to do everything we can
10 to keep them healthy throughout this long process all the way
11 till December.

12 Another complication with that is that our JTC, our
13 joint training center down by the airport, is under renovation
14 currently, so it's just been really challenging so that my
15 staff has been working really hard and doing a great job with
16 finding facilities and juggling all of that around.
17 Currently, the recruit class was -- as of yesterday, was
18 training at Kaahumanu, Queen Kaahumanu parking lot where
19 they're learning how to throw ground ladders and window
20 bailouts and escapes like that.

21 Okay. Let's see. Next page is RMS and
22 documentation, recordkeeping. Basically, if the training
23 wasn't documented, it didn't happen, you know, legally, so
24 we've got to -- we do a real good job of making sure that we
25 capture that training in RMS. And, you know, it's a real

1 daunting task because we have training going on all over
2 the -- all over the department at any given time and as well
3 as the trainings that the training bureau itself puts on. So
4 the recruit class training is all captured as initial training
5 throughout the entire six months, but -- anyway, that's
6 something that we constantly have to stay on top of and it
7 takes a lot of time to track that.

8 So, anyway, I think I'll open it up to questions. I
9 think the first question that I had prior to even starting the
10 meeting was the question about our internship, so we do have
11 an internship program. In the past it was -- let's see. It
12 was -- it was more like volunteer work where people would come
13 and we would make them do data entry and those kind of things
14 and, you know, it didn't really seem like the interns were
15 getting anything out of it. So my staff and I rewrote the
16 program so there's three different levels now of internship.

17 One is those kids that are just required by their
18 high school that they need internship hours and volunteer
19 hours, so those are the guys that we put in to data entry and
20 the -- you know, kind of the boring stuff.

21 But then internship program No. 2 is focused for
22 journalism students or people that have -- have the need or
23 the want to learn how to, you know, put out a publication. So
24 the training bureau puts out a quarterly magazine and so we --
25 we're hoping that we can attract some -- after COVID, we're

1 hoping to attract some college level students or even high
2 school level students that work on their newspapers or
3 whatever to -- to come and assist with that, that would be
4 everything from photography to journalism. You know, it would
5 be a good thing for their resume.

6 And then program No. 3 is what we just currently
7 had. This is geared for people that are wanting to be in the
8 fire department, so we -- they were lucky that they were able
9 to witness summer recruit class and participate in recruit
10 class. They completed 175 hours of internship with me
11 recently and then they had to go back to school. So they are
12 left with CPR certification, they passed the firefighter 2
13 rescue test -- let's see, what else did they do? They were
14 just exposed to a lot of our training. They participated in
15 PT every morning with the recruits, so they -- they were in
16 great shape and did a good job. You know, I mean, they
17 actually showed up some of the recruits that -- one of the
18 kids was a track star and wrestling star, so he had no problem
19 with the PT, so it was fun to see. I think everybody had fun.
20 We also taught them a class on how to get in the department
21 and what classes, like career planning for them. So we made
22 it beneficial for them and they were -- they were really
23 excited about it and, you know, hopefully that they continue
24 on their path and become firemen one day.

25 But any other questions?

1 VICE CHAIR VARES: Any questions for Captain Robson.

2 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: How many interns did you have
3 and how many -- how many classes do they get? Did they go to
4 recruit class or how did it function?

5 CAPTAIN ROBSON: So currently it's a case-by-case
6 basis. You know, last time we just only had two interns and,
7 you know, just as they contact the training office, that we
8 sign them up for the internship. A lot of it is -- in the
9 past has been assigned by their schools to go out and find
10 internships and ways to volunteer, so that's usually been the
11 trigger for this. But the most recent one, we just had two
12 and it was just on their parents that inquired about it, you
13 know, it wasn't school based. Did that answer your question?

14 COMMISSIONER FREITAS: Thank you.

15 VICE CHAIR VARES: I have a question for you,
16 Captain Robson.

17 CAPTAIN ROBSON: Yes.

18 VICE CHAIR VARES: I think it's really beneficial
19 for all of the (inaudible) --

20 CAPTAIN ROBSON: I'm sorry. You're going to have to
21 start over. You cut out.

22 VICE CHAIR VARES: Sorry. It sounds like it's a
23 wonderful program for all the interns (inaudible) make a
24 career in fire and (inaudible). Is it something that is
25 advertised for interns to come and join you all or is it -- or

1 is it more -- I noticed that it's case-by-case basis, but
2 since it is beneficial to the fire department itself, is that
3 could become a scheduled and advertised program or is it kind
4 of hard on the department?

5 CAPTAIN ROBSON: Yeah, I think that's above my pay
6 grade. So, Chief, do you guys want to chime in on that? You
7 think it's something that we would advertise for and do you
8 think it's something that would be of benefit for getting
9 qualified candidates for our department, I guess is the
10 question.

11 CHIEF THYNE: Chief Thyne. So we've had various
12 iterations of this in the roughly 13 years I've been a chief
13 officer and we've even worked with -- for a while we worked
14 with the UH, at the time it was Maui Community College, but UH
15 Maui actually formalizing a program. So we're always open to
16 it. There's a program on the mainland called Fire Explorers
17 and it's similar to like the Junior Lifeguard program or an
18 internship program that we're talking of. So we're certainly
19 open to that, especially for our local kids, you know, the
20 kids that are, you know, here in the islands that, you know,
21 want -- are looking for a career path and can serve our
22 communities, you know. We certainly want to focus on those
23 folks if we can, absolutely.

24 The problem comes in, I guess, with the funding
25 issue. You know, it's fairly obviously there's -- with the

1 county and, you know, everybody having no more work and the
2 hotels closed and all of those types of things, people
3 struggling, it's going to be, you know, a time frame. It's
4 something we'll look forward to. Like I said, we've tried
5 different versions through the years.

6 Captain Robson, like he mentioned, it was -- it was
7 just kind of hit-and-miss before. Kamehameha Schools would
8 approach us or other, you know, schools would approach us and
9 we'd put together a program. They've formalized it in the
10 three different types of programs that he mentioned. And so
11 we'll just continue to build on it. We're certainly open to
12 it, especially, like I said, to focus on our local kids that
13 are looking for a career here in our islands is -- that's one
14 of our main focuses, so we'll continue to do it. COVID is
15 gonna put a little pause to it, but we're not gonna stop
16 trying, we can promise you that.

17 VICE CHAIR VARES: Great. Thank you, Chief. I
18 really hope so. I'm a product of an internship and I was able
19 to completely jump start and go (inaudible). So I really hope
20 that (inaudible).

21 Any other questions for Captain Robson from any of
22 the commissioners?

23 (No response.)

24 VICE CHAIR VARES: All right. Any other points to
25 bring up?

1 (No response.)

2 VICE CHAIR VARES: Oh, I want to thank Captain
3 Robson for all the time that you put in to be with us today
4 and also putting together this excellent presentation. Thank
5 you so much.

6 CHIEF THYNE: Thank you, Jeff.

7 CAPTAIN ROBSON: Sorry to be doing this distance.
8 My mom just got a positive COVID test, so we are doing
9 everything that we can to -- I'm under quarantine right now
10 and doing this from home, so anyway. But I tested and.

11 VICE CHAIR VARES: (Inaudible.) Thank you.

12 CAPTAIN ROBSON: But, anyway, thank you. I'm glad
13 you guys enjoyed it. I hope I didn't bore anybody.

14 VICE CHAIR VARES: Nope.

15 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Good job. Thank you.

16 CAPTAIN ROBSON: All right. Thank you.

17 VICE CHAIR VARES: All right. Anybody else? Does
18 anyone else have anything else they want to bring up at all
19 for this meeting?

20 (No response.)

21 VICE CHAIR VARES: No, doesn't look like. All
22 right. Well, the next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday
23 the 17th. On the agenda it says it's going to be (inaudible).
24 I'm pretty sure it's going to be (inaudible). If there's
25 anything that anyone wants to put on to the agenda for the

1 next (inaudible), Richelle. (Inaudible.)

2 Okay. If there's nothing else, thank you guys so
3 much for all of your time and your attendance today. Motion
4 to adjourn the meeting, then?

5 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Motion to adjourn.

6 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Second.

7 VICE CHAIR VARES: Commissioner Tancayo. And who
8 seconded? Was it Donna?

9 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yes. Sterling.

10 VICE CHAIR VARES: All right. Donna, commissioner
11 seconded that. Excellent. All right. Well, I guess that
12 adjourns the meeting for today, August the -- whatever it
13 is -- 20th. Thank you guys so much. I'll see you guys next
14 month.

15 (The proceedings were adjourned at 11:25 a.m.)

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