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FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

COUNTY OF MAUI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR MEETING

Held via BlueJeans, commencing at 10:00 a.m., on
October 21, 2021.

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

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ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Lisa Vares, Vice Chair
- Gregg Lundberg, Member
- Dwight Burns, Member
- Donna Sterling, Member
- Punahuele Alcon, Member
- Max Kincaid, Jr., Member
- Dylan Andrion, Member
- Makalapua Kanuha, Member

STAFF:

- Bradford Ventura, Deputy Fire Chief
- Gavin Fujioka, Deputy Fire Chief
- Michael Werner, Assistant Fire Chief
- Richard Kawasaki, Assistant Fire Chief
- Gary Murai, Deputy Corporation Counsel
- Richelle Wakamatsu, Commission Secretary
- Herman Andaya, Maui Emergency Management Agency

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(October 21, 2021, 10:00 a.m.)

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CHAIR VARES: All right. Good morning, everybody. I'd like to call to order the fire and public safety commission meeting, Thursday, October 21st. It's 10:00 a.m. If I could please start with a roll call. We do have -- Chair Kyle Ginoza is excused from this meeting. I'm Lisa Vares, vice chair chairing the meeting.

And then if I could have everybody else, please, starting with Gregg.

COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Gregg Lundberg. Present.

CHAIR VARES: Thank you. Do we have Dwight?

(No response.)

CHAIR VARES: No Dwight.
Donna?

COMMISSIONER STERLING: Here, Chair.

CHAIR VARES: Donna Sterling present.
Dwight Burns, present?

COMMISSIONER BURNS: Here.

CHAIR VARES: Excellent.
Max Kincaid.

COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yes, I'm here.

CHAIR VARES: Wonderful.
Dylan Andrion. Andrion?

COMMISSIONER ANDRION: Present.

1 CHAIR VARES: Punahuele Alcon.

2 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Here.

3 CHAIR VARES: And Makalapua Kanuha.

4 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Present.

5 CHAIR VARES: Did I miss anybody?

6 (No response.)

7 Okay, excellent. And our fire and public safety
8 resources, who do we have with us today?

9 CHIEF VENTURA: Good morning, everybody. On the
10 fire side, we have Chief Ventura, Deputy Chief Fujioka, Chief
11 Kawasaki, and Chief Werner. And I see Gary Murai is present
12 as well.

13 CHAIR VARES: Excellent. Good morning, everybody.

14 Okay. First off, if we could -- and it's gonna be a
15 little specific. I actually need to get approval of the --
16 only the regular meeting minutes listed on the agenda. So the
17 regular meeting minutes of August 19th, of August 30th,
18 September 8th, and September 15th, if I could get a motion to
19 approve those minutes.

20 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Motion to approve the regular
21 minutes, regular meeting minutes.

22 CHAIR VARES: Dwight, thank you very much. Do we
23 have a second for that?

24 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Second.

25 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Second.

1 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Commissioner Sterling.

2 CHAIR VARES: Good. Okay. Did anybody catch any
3 corrections or anything that needs to be amended at all?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIR VARES: All right. All in favor of approving
6 the regular meeting minutes from those dates?

7 (Response.)

8 CHAIR VARES: All right. Let the record show that
9 all commissioners approved the minutes.

10 Do we have any public testimony today on any of the
11 agenda items?

12 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: We do not.

13 CHAIR VARES: Thank you.

14 Okay. I have not seen MEMA. Is Maui Emergency
15 Management Agency up today?

16 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yes, Chair. I'm right here.

17 CHAIR VARES: Good morning.

18 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Good morning.

19 CHAIR VARES: We'd love your report.

20 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Madam Chair, Members of the
21 Committee -- Commission, the emergency operations center
22 continues to be partially activated. We are now in our 596th
23 day since we were activated in response to COVID-19. We
24 continue to support the department of health and the mayor's
25 office, and, in fact, there is a VTC going on right now, so

1 right after this meeting, I'll be jumping on into that
2 meeting, and this is with HiEMA and DOH as well.

3 We did meet with our new appointed Fire Chief
4 Ventura as well as with Deputy Chief Fujioka and Assistant
5 Chief Werner to discuss our partnership with respect to
6 emergency management. Chief Ventura has pledged to continue
7 his support of the emergency operations center and will
8 continue to send fire personnel during emergency activations.
9 We also mentioned to the chief our intention to create a
10 formalized training program for our partners in the EOC, and
11 this is in line with the national trend of emphasizing
12 credentialing and ensuring that partners in the EOC are
13 trained and qualified.

14 MEMA is also continuing to integrate a new computer
15 software system called VEOC or Virtual EOC, which will enhance
16 information sharing between EOC partners and maintain a common
17 operating picture. This system will also assist us and create
18 the necessary documentation needed to receive FEMA
19 reimbursements.

20 We continue to do also various grants management.
21 One particular one that we've been handling is the Homeland
22 Security Grant program which we received from FEMA and from
23 Homeland Security, and this is the grant -- this is the grant
24 that the fire department has been a beneficiary of in the
25 past, and so we're continuing to manage that grant. We are

1 gonna be allocating \$114,000 toward the 911 dispatch, so this
2 911 supplement will allow for location mapping and PSAP
3 analytics. The map feature enhanced location that sends a
4 link to mobile devices that callers can click to send their
5 enhanced location to the fire communicator. So this will
6 allow us to find individuals quickly should they require
7 assistance. We are also working on an EMPG grant, this is the
8 Emergency Management Performance Grant. We're finishing up
9 this grant year, and so we are using those monies to enhance
10 our communication capabilities in the EOC.

11 The description hazard mitigation, we are -- we
12 received a grant, a \$145,000 grant to create a hazard
13 mitigation website, and so this is a competitive grant, and we
14 were very fortunate to have been one of the jurisdictions to
15 have received this. So we will be going out to bid on this
16 project. We also have been working with the FEMA public
17 assistance with respect to -- with respect to COVID and with
18 respect to the Haiku floods. So I know fire -- one of the
19 equipment that was lost during the fire was radio equipment,
20 and so the public assistance program will be able to reimburse
21 the fire department for that.

22 And we're very fortunate that we have someone who
23 used to work for FEMA on staff, and so she's able to get us
24 through the process. It's a very arduous process to get
25 public assistance monies from FEMA, and so we're very

1 fortunate to have someone on board who has a lot of experience
2 doing that.

3 With respect to communications, we are gonna enhance
4 our ham radio, amateur radio capabilities. For those of you
5 who don't know, during -- during a disaster, many times the
6 only thing that -- the only communication device that works is
7 a ham radio, and so for that reason, we want to make sure that
8 we have that capability here on Maui. We find it very
9 important. In fact, two of us here in the -- in MEMA are
10 licensed to operate ham radios, and I'm one of them, and we're
11 trying to get more people to get licensed as well. We've
12 learned from other -- in other jurisdictions, like, for
13 instance, Puerto Rico, the only communication device that
14 worked was the ham radio, so we're working on that.

15 With respect to plans, we have been working a lot
16 with the DOE with their active shooter TTX. So we've been
17 spending a lot of time in creating this -- I'm sorry, TTX is a
18 tabletop exercise. And so we've been working with many of our
19 partners, including the fire department, they've been coming
20 to the table, and we've been planning this -- this large
21 tabletop exercise for the department of education. So it's
22 a -- it's a concern for me because, you know, when it comes to
23 hurricanes and tsunamis, we've been through all of that, but
24 the one thing that we have not had any experience with is an
25 active shooter. And so I think it's important for all of us

1 to be prepared and -- and that's the reason why we're wanting
2 to do this exercise to kind of get everyone thinking about
3 what they would do in the event of an active shooter. There
4 are plans out there; our staff is working with the DOE to --
5 in creating their plans and everything, so we're looking
6 forward to that. That should be occurring the first part of
7 December.

8 And then just a few more things. CST, the Civil
9 Support Team, Air National Guard. So every year, they have an
10 exercise here on Maui and the fire department has been a huge
11 partner in that exercise. They come in here, and they do a
12 hazardous -- hazardous material type of a -- type of exercise.
13 And so -- and they come down here, and you've probably seen in
14 the newspapers, you know, they're all in their hazmat suits
15 and they -- they do this exercise, a tabletop, and a full
16 exercise. So we are preparing for that as well.

17 That's -- that's all I have, Madam Chair, pending
18 any questions.

19 CHAIR VARES: Does anyone have any questions?

20 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yes, Chair. Commissioner
21 Sterling. I had a question.

22 CHAIR VARES: Go ahead.

23 COMMISSIONER STERLING: You know, I -- I really
24 commend you on all your active -- all your active seeking for
25 grants and monies. And I had a question regarding the 911

1 supplemental enhancement location. Could you explain -- with
2 us back side, when we call 911, it goes to the Big Island. Is
3 that what you're addressing under -- in this 911 supplemental
4 money direct, would we have direct to the MPD dispatch, or do
5 we still have to go through the Big Island, back side?

6 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: I'm not quite sure of the
7 question. So you mentioned the Big Island; I'm not sure how
8 Big Island comes -- can you explain that a little bit more?

9 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Sure. So the -- your
10 grant -- you're going for the grant for 911 supplemental
11 money. It's to enhance the location, the finding of
12 individuals. My question is: Does that mean -- when we call
13 from back side, whether it's Kaupo, Kipahulu, Kahikinui, 911,
14 right now we go to the Big Island. What's your emergency?
15 Fire. I'm in Maui. One moment, we'll put you through to
16 Maui. Is that what you're addressing here in that grant?

17 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Madam Chair, Commissioner, I'm
18 not aware -- with respect to the 911 call, I believe it goes
19 all to -- to our dispatch here on Maui. I don't believe it
20 goes through the Big Island, but I can -- I may be wrong.
21 I'll -- I'll go research that and find out for sure. I'm not
22 sure if the chief -- maybe the chief knows, but I wasn't aware
23 that we were using another dispatch on another island. I know
24 that when our dispatch gets overwhelmed here, as it did
25 several years ago, that we -- there's a -- another like

1 dispatch entity on the mainland that then takes calls, you
2 know, so -- but that's only in the event that we are
3 overwhelmed here on Maui. But otherwise, you know, I do not
4 believe, and I'm not aware of that -- that other counties
5 would be -- would take over, you know, or take over like
6 dispatch to, you know.

7 COMMISSIONER STERLING: I think it's -- Herman,
8 thank you. I think it's the -- the location of their tower on
9 the Big Island versus Maui, and it does happen. And it's
10 fine. I mean, we -- we still get our calls answered. I'm
11 just -- if that could be addressed in your grant seeking, that
12 would be great. Thank you.

13 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Okay. Yeah. We'll look into
14 that, Commissioner. Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Thank you.

16 CHAIR VARES: Thanks, Commissioner Sterling.

17 Do any other commissioners have any questions for
18 Mr. Andaya?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIR VARES: No? All right. Thank you, Director
21 Andaya. Thank you very much.

22 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you.

23 CHAIR VARES: Fire Department, what do you have for
24 us? And may I take a second and congratulate the new chief
25 and deputy chief on their post. It was a pleasure getting to

1 know you both during the process of the -- the interview.

2 CHIEF VENTURA: Thank you all. Good morning,
3 welcome. I have a ton of material to go over that I shared
4 with you. I'm gonna try to get to the highlighted rather than
5 read it all with you. But the first three handouts that we
6 provide to you every month are our monthly updates, which is
7 what we share with the whole department monthly. And we're
8 just basically trying to keep things transparent with them and
9 update them as to all of the projects, budget, calls that we
10 go on every month.

11 The next handout, which has the yellow on it, is our
12 calls for the month. And up to this point in the year, you
13 will see that the drought conditions still remain, and our
14 wildfires are still active through September. And so we've
15 been very happy to see the rain the last couple of weeks as we
16 hope to decline those numbers of wildfires.

17 The next sheet with all of the codes, the three-
18 digit codes, that's all of our training for the month of
19 September. And you can see sometimes there will be a large
20 number for one of those training events, that's when our
21 training bureau is probably concentrating on assigning them to
22 every single crew and every single firefighter for the
23 department. And then other captains who are training their
24 crews on a daily basis can also create training reports, and
25 that's how some of these smaller numbers end up on this chart.

1 That's our training for the month, several thousand training
2 reports done by our crew members.

3 Getting into my report, I'm gonna cover both the
4 fire chief as well as the deputy fire chief this month. And
5 the reason being is when we actually author documents, they're
6 completed and submitted to the commission about the first week
7 of the month, and then it gets mailed and posted, and then a
8 couple weeks later, we talk about it. So when this was due,
9 Gavin was only on the job four days. So I'm just gonna report
10 on both of these and then allow him to just do the
11 presentation at the end of the meeting here.

12 So looking over the first one, the fire chief
13 report, the mayor interactions, we've had a lot of meetings
14 with both mayor's, council members, kind of introducing
15 ourselves, kind of finding out what the priorities of those
16 members and departments are. So we've been kind of on tour
17 for the last two weeks here getting that done. On the back of
18 the page there, met with Councilmember Molina, and, you know,
19 they're still very much in support of the Haiku Fire Station,
20 so we will be continuing to push that project forward.

21 Then getting down into the miscellaneous area, this
22 is kind of where some of our highlights are for the last
23 month. The department of forestry and wildlife, DOFA, as well
24 as Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization, just created a
25 great report for the leeward side of Haleakala, Kahikinui-

1 Kaupo area for their wildfire protection plan. And that plan
2 is a hundred or so pages, 120 or so pages. It takes about a
3 year to accomplish this, and so the final product is out.
4 It's been signed by all agencies, and it's a really good,
5 thorough study of the weather, the vegetation, the topography,
6 and how a wildfire can affect that community (inaudible).

7 Makena lifeguards, if any of you follow social
8 media, you'll know that that's been a hot topic lately. The
9 status of the Makena lifeguards is that in July, we received
10 an MOU from DLNR. It's a state beach, so DLNR provides the
11 funding for the state -- the lifeguards to work on that state
12 beach. July and August went through, and we got the MOU
13 approved, we got the grant accepted by council, and we were
14 headed in the right direction. September came, DLNR
15 discovered that they only had six months of funding, not 12
16 months. So right now, we're in the middle of working with the
17 mayor and DLNR to identify basically the missing third quarter
18 of the year because we're already into the second quarter of
19 the year. We already missed the first quarter. So if all the
20 parties agree, then we'll be able to -- the mayor is
21 supporting the funding of the third quarter of Makena with
22 county funds so that we can get lifeguards on the beach. So
23 we're just waiting for the final documentation from DLNR and
24 the mayor's office and the budget office to kind of align, and
25 then we'll be able to start staffing that beach because that

1 is a hot topic.

2 This month is October; it's Go Pink. We are in
3 support of the Pacific Cancer Foundation, so you'll see some
4 of our crews wearing the pink fire shirts that are out there,
5 and it's just our way to bring awareness to cancer this month
6 of October and help that organization.

7 Our Fiscal Year '23 budget process has begun. Chief
8 Werner heads that with our divisions -- with our accountants
9 and gets all of our input from all of our departments,
10 bureaus, and whatnot. That has occurred, and now we're
11 creating our budget for the next fiscal. So come next month,
12 we'll be able to present to you folks what our budget for next
13 year looks like and see if you have any input.

14 Along the lines of the budget process, we've gone to
15 the virtual community meeting the mayor held -- hosts so that
16 we can get input from the community and see what they have to
17 suggest for our department. Additionally, last night I was on
18 with Kula Community Association and discussed with them their
19 budget concerns as well as next year's plans and fiscal year
20 needs for that district with Councilmember Sinenci.

21 One project that we've got going in the last couple
22 weeks here is the annual conference. So to give you some
23 background, Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association is made up of
24 retired and active fire chiefs in the state of Hawaii. Hawaii
25 Fire Chiefs Association hosts a conference annually, and it

1 moves from county to county. So last year was supposed to be
2 on Maui and was canceled due to COVID. This year, we weren't,
3 you know, confident that we'd be clear, so we decided to do a
4 virtual conference. And in the last three weeks, we've been
5 really working on this virtual conference, so there will be --
6 there will be a conference on November 9th. It'll be a one-
7 day conference. We've lined up speakers to talk about, you
8 know, hot topics in the fire service, which are cancer
9 awareness, wildfire, social media, leadership, and -- I'm
10 missing one here -- and COVID response and recovery. So it's
11 gonna be a one-day event. If any of you are interested, you
12 are more than welcome to join us. Please reach out to
13 Richelle, and she can share with you the QR code to register
14 for the conference and watch for that day. That's
15 November 9th.

16 So that kind of concludes the fire chief's report.
17 Before I move on to the deputy chief's report, I'd be happy to
18 take any questions.

19 CHAIR VARES: Commissioners, do you have any
20 questions for Chief Ventura?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIR VARES: No? All right. Fairly thorough.
23 Okay. Let's move on to the deputy chief report.

24 CHIEF VENTURA: Okay. So on this report here,
25 interviews and promotions, I'm happy to announce two

1 promotions to firefighter 3. One is listed here on the paper,
2 one is going to go to fire prevention bureau, and one is going
3 to Molokai where there's a vacancy. Both firefighters have
4 been with our department for eight to 12 years, they've been
5 with us a long time, so we're happy for them.

6 And then our ocean safety class that we're gonna
7 basically recruit for the Makena position should be -- we
8 should be interviewing them shortly to get those positions
9 filled. We're gonna be able to fill and staff Makena without
10 these ten positions. We're just gonna have to be utilizing
11 the last recruit class that recently graduated as well as the
12 manpower on the current beaches to kind of reorganize a little
13 bit.

14 Additionally, in the promotion process, we worked
15 really hard, and we're establishing our new promotional
16 process, which is gonna be -- it's been well received from our
17 members. Historically, our promotion process all went through
18 the department of personnel, and a lot of it was out of our
19 hands (inaudible). So we work with them to understand civil
20 service law and all the proper things that we need to do to
21 conduct all of our promotion processes internally. So our
22 members are really happy about that, and we'll be able to be a
23 lot more kind of swift and responsive when promotions are
24 needed. And we're currently taking applications through now
25 today for our future captain position, so a lot of very

1 excited drivers to go through the new process for captain and
2 that -- that is gonna take place, the process will take place
3 next month after (inaudible) today.

4 Department improvement committee, we had our annual
5 captains' meeting last week. This is something we do once a
6 year, and we usually do it in person. It allows for some
7 great dialogue between all of our captains, who are our
8 frontline leaders, and administration so we can clear up
9 anything that's unclear or give them any needed direction.
10 Unfortunately, we had to do it virtually this year, but we had
11 a good turnout. It was basically all companies were
12 represented throughout the whole department, so that was
13 really good.

14 And then the -- our wellness app, you know, we're
15 still constantly considerate about people's, you know,
16 well-being right now, especially during COVID. And so, our
17 wellness app is out there. Over 50 department members have
18 downloaded it, so they have immediate access to, you know,
19 peer support, any type of 800 number that they might need help
20 for in the middle of the night, that sort of thing. So we're
21 happy that people are -- you know, it's (inaudible) other
22 people who need help have help available and know if they want
23 it, they can get it. So that's good.

24 Union interactions, we are working with the
25 firefighters association in regards to Pukoo Fire Station is

1 only a two-man station, so -- that's in Molokai, and we're
2 trying to make -- have consultation with them so that we can
3 get more qualified personnel there. So we're working with
4 them to make sure that -- right now, what it is is there's a
5 driver and a firefighter 1 there, but we would like to change
6 that to at least have it all the time the driver there and
7 then in the budget process next year, hopefully, change that
8 to a captain that's at that station at all times. What we
9 require out of that individual is more in line with those two
10 positions, so we want to make sure that we have the right
11 staffing there. And then passbooks, temporary filing, those
12 are other, you know, things that we're working with HFFA on.

13 And then for HGEA, which is mostly our lifeguards,
14 we're working with them on reimbursement for their medical
15 examinations. On the fire side, we're required to go for a
16 medical exam every year. The ocean safety side is not
17 required, but we want to encourage it because we want to keep
18 them healthy and, you know, fit for duty. So what we're doing
19 is we created a program where they can go get their physical,
20 and we'll pay for their copay so that they have access to a
21 good doctor's physical every year, so that we're working with
22 the union. The union's pretty much happy -- completely happy
23 with that and onboard.

24 And then we're working with HGEA on minimum
25 qualifications and national registry EMT certification, which

1 is our EMS training that we receive, but basically a
2 certificate that we give an employee when they get hired. We
3 want them to be responsible for maintaining it throughout
4 their career, so we've created a policy that says that they
5 have to maintain it, they can't just let it lapse, and so
6 we're working with HGEA to get that policy accepted.

7 And then transmittals from the public have been just
8 a couple last month. People reached out to us about Makawao
9 Fire Station, just, you know, great customer service and
10 comments from the community there. And then there was a
11 pretty extensive rescue on Molokai where a gentleman was lost.
12 He had a GPS device; he was able to get help from the fire
13 department. At that time, he was not with his wife, his wife
14 just showed up at the fire station, and they were able to
15 provide her with, you know, direction and help and get her
16 back reunited with her husband at the hospital. And so both
17 the husband and the wife wrote us letters thanking us for, you
18 know, the service of our firefighters on that call. And we --
19 as an administration, we'll share those letters with our
20 firefighters because we want to make sure they know how, you
21 know, appreciated they are by the public.

22 So that concludes the deputy fire chief report. Any
23 questions?

24 CHAIR VARES: Commissioners, any questions for Chief
25 Ventura on the deputy chief report?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIR VARES: No? Okay, great. Thank you.

3 Okay. Moving on to operations.

4 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: So we're kind of at the
5 end of our usual, you know, typical fire season here. We did
6 have a few brush fires in September, nothing of significance,
7 you know, like everybody's used to the last few years how
8 we've had all those big fires. But I kind of attribute some,
9 you know, smaller fires and less fires, for one thing, I do
10 (inaudible) we didn't have any start that were on those really
11 windy days when those fires get out of control. And the other
12 thing is I gotta thank Mahi Pono with all of their planting
13 and cattle raising and, you know, clearing of land, a lot of
14 brush that (inaudible) before. So they didn't have a huge
15 fire and just less fire this year.

16 Moving on to our apparatus, I think Chief Fujioka is
17 gonna talk about it some later, but right now, we do have a
18 fire truck pumper for Lanai and also for Kula. That process
19 is currently -- we awarded a bid, that -- we're just waiting
20 on the contract to be finalized before we can proceed with the
21 build. We also have a pumper for Hana Station and a wildland
22 vehicle for Molokai Hoolehua Station that is -- we're just in
23 a holding pattern with CDBG. It is approved, but we need
24 final approval before we can put that out, that spec out to
25 bid. The spec is currently ready to go; we're just waiting on

1 approval for that.

2 And then Chief Ventura talked about our ocean
3 safety. They just graduated a class on the 8th of October,
4 five personnel, so they're out on the line right now. And
5 they will be hiring for the Makena spots currently.

6 That's all I have. If anybody has any question, I'm
7 happy to answer anything.

8 CHAIR VARES: Thank you, Chief Kawasaki.

9 Any questions?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIR VARES: All right. Thanks.

12 Okay. Moving on to support services, Chief Werner.

13 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Good morning, Commission.

14 For our bureau updates starting with the fire prevention
15 bureau, Fire Prevention Week was October 3rd to the 9th, and
16 fire prevention bureau put out the fire safety guides as well
17 as some other supplies to all of the schools that reached out
18 to them. And then, they provided messaging through our
19 Facebook page on fire prevention measures. And then the other
20 one, I had talked to you guys a couple of months ago about the
21 fire safety education video that they had created, and they
22 had put it out to the school boards and never heard anything
23 back, so what they did is they put it on our county website.
24 So if you're interested in seeing that, you can go to the
25 County of Maui, their main website, and then click on

1 Government and then click on the Fire Public and Safety, and
2 then click -- you'll see an icon that says Education Video
3 Prevention, and you can have them look at that. It's a really
4 fun little video. The target audience is young children, but
5 it gets the message that we're trying to get out there to the
6 kids.

7 The other thing that happened was the fire
8 administration got to review the amendments that fire
9 prevention created for the upcoming fire code, and we approved
10 those and sent those to corporation counsel to review. And
11 then added to that code was the identification of private
12 hydrants. They provided two options to people who own those
13 hydrants to properly identify those, so that's part of that
14 code.

15 Moving on to the health and safety bureau, the
16 training for putting on the naloxone and the oral glucose and
17 using blood sugar monitors has been created, and they're
18 actually doing that training right now, so that will be in
19 service very soon. There -- we had talked earlier about, you
20 know, issues with medical-grade oxygen, so they're researching
21 and have actually found a new vendor. They were looking to
22 see the cost to go to use some of our FY '22 money to purchase
23 our own oxygen-producing machine. There are some issues with
24 that, but they're looking at all -- all options to make that
25 happen. And they're starting with our annual events cleaning

1 of the turnouts that we send out to Hawaii PPD on Oahu. The
2 incident safety officer training was completed by everyone,
3 and now they're -- I sent out task books to all of our
4 personnel to get moving on to that.

5 Moving on to the budget planning and appropriations
6 committee update. All of our procurements for the FY '22
7 budget have been completed. Grants, Chief Kawasaki talked
8 about the CDBG, the final for getting 9 and 7. And then FY
9 '22 performance measures, we just finished our first quarter,
10 and we have submitted all of our reports to the budget office
11 for those. And then, as far as FY '22 budget procurements,
12 we're on track with all of our B and C account procurements,
13 and now we're working on FY '23 budget.

14 That's all I have for you folks. Happy to answer
15 any questions.

16 CHAIR VARES: Thanks, Chief Werner.

17 Any questions for Chief Werner?

18 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: (Gesturing.)

19 CHAIR VARES: Yes, Makalapua.

20 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Aloha, Chief Werner. Thank
21 you for that. I had one question. I'm the president for
22 Kaupo Community Association, Inc. So our project at the old
23 Kaupo School is almost completed. We also put in a hydrant,
24 so I just wanted to make sure that the hydrant fits and it
25 works, so maybe you can point me in the direction of who I

1 would connect to to make that happen. Like I guess it would
2 be Hana Fire Station?

3 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Yeah, you know, if you want
4 to reach out to me first, then I can make sure that that
5 happens.

6 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Okay. I appreciate that.
7 Thank you.

8 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Yep.

9 CHAIR VARES: Any other commissioners? No?

10 I've got a question.

11 (Background noise.)

12 CHAIR VARES: Oh, yeah. Max?

13 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: (Shaking head.)

14 CHAIR VARES: No? Who was it? Somebody have
15 anything to add?

16 CHIEF VENTURA: Chair, can I add something? Sorry.

17 CHAIR VARES: Oh, go ahead.

18 CHIEF VENTURA: I just wanted to add, you know,
19 Chief Werner discussed the naloxone and stuff. So our medical
20 director previously didn't want us doing blood sugar tests,
21 didn't want us providing like Narcan for overdose patients and
22 whatnot. But we've had a new medical director now for several
23 months, for, you know, half a year, and he's a lot more
24 progressive, he's a lot more aggressive, and he's providing
25 the training and equipment to provide these life-changing,

1 life-saving measures out there in the field. So the
2 introduction of naloxone, which is Narcan, you've seen it on
3 the news lately a lot. The police are carrying it; they're
4 saving kids' lives. And so, just this week, we kind of are
5 wrapping up our training for all of our firefighters to have
6 it on their fire trucks. So I think that's a big win for our
7 community. And then the blood sugar and the glucose testing,
8 we go to a lot of diabetic patients in the state of Hawaii and
9 in Maui County, obviously, but this will give us the ability
10 to test blood sugar before medics are even on scene and to
11 provide intervention to maybe reverse their, you know, high --
12 sorry, drawing a blank here. Basically, their blood sugar
13 being too low, we can help them with that problem. So that's
14 two things that came out of our medical director, and it's --
15 they're gonna greatly help our community.

16 CHAIR VARES: Excellent. Thank you, Chief Ventura.
17 That's actually exactly what I was gonna ask about. I was
18 gonna ask about the naloxone, but that answered my question.

19 Okay. Did that bring up any questions for any other
20 commissioners?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIR VARES: No? Very good. Hold on.

23 Okay. Well, it looks like we're moving on to our
24 guest presenter, that would be Deputy Fire Chief Gavin
25 Fujioka.

1 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Good morning.

2 CHAIR VARES: Good morning.

3 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: So before we start this
4 video, I'll just give a brief personal bio just for your guys'
5 information. So my name is Gavin Fujioka, deputy fire chief.
6 I was appointed by Chief Ventura on the 1st of October. I
7 have about 16 and a half years with the fire department.
8 Previously, before this appointment, I was a captain for just
9 about four and a half years, spent some time on Molokai, and
10 also finished as a captain in Kihei. I'm married. Born and
11 raised here. Married with two sons, 15 and 12 years old. And
12 as far as my philosophy or whatever you want to call it, I'm
13 here to support Chief Brad's vision. I think we both have the
14 same common goal to have that team concept within our
15 department and empower our members and just provide the
16 support for the department to grow and expand our -- expand
17 our department. Open stations, that's our big vision here.
18 But as far as, you know, the common goal here is to have that
19 team concept, get morale back up, and just make the department
20 better than how we received it. Take small steps, but get
21 there in the long run.

22 So if you guys have any questions, you know, you
23 guys can give me -- send me an email or give me a call any
24 time.

25 But with that, we'll go ahead and move on to this

1 video.

2 (Playing video.)

3 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: So if you guys have any
4 questions, we can stop the video, or you can ask at the end.
5 This is gonna be a brief overview of our newest truck. So
6 this is our newest mini truck stationed at Wailuku. This
7 truck was built in Texas, Waco, Texas -- or Hillsboro, Texas.

8 Moving on will be our newest engine also at
9 Station 1 in Wailuku. It's a Pierce Enforcer Chassis.

10 CHAIR VARES: Chief Fujioka, I'd like to interrupt.
11 I'm so sorry. I'm getting zero audio. Are any of the other
12 commissioners getting the audio? Anybody?

13 COMMISSIONER STERLING: No audio. No audio. Nice
14 pictures. Nice pictures.

15 CHAIR VARES: Yeah. To get us --

16 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: It needs music.

17 CHAIR VARES: We'll just -- I just hearing what
18 you're saying, no -- I'm hear what you're saying. Because it
19 starts out, and then it stops. (Inaudible), but (pause) --

20 Keep going, Chief Fujioka. Let's see if -- as long
21 as we can hear you.

22 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Can you hear me now?

23 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yes.

24 CHIEF VENTURA: It's just music playing with the
25 video. Can you guys hear the music?

1 COMMISSIONER STERLING: No.

2 CHAIR VARES: No. I just wanted to make sure we
3 weren't missing any of your --

4 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yeah.

5 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Okay. (Inaudible) probably
6 need to ask questions after you guys see the video.

7 So this is our Pierce 107 Aerial. This is the
8 newest aerial we have, probably the most sophisticated truck
9 we have in our department.

10 CHAIR VARES: How tall is that ladder?

11 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: One hundred seven feet.

12 CHAIR VARES: That's interesting. That's
13 interesting that you're watching on your video; just fill in.
14 That's great.

15 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Holey moley. Oh, my.
16 That's high, 107 feet. Wow.

17 By computer, direct the water by computer?

18 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: It's remote control. It's
19 wireless remote control.

20 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Unbelievable.

21 CHAIR VARES: And the hose just basically travels up
22 the ladder?

23 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Yeah.

24 CHAIR VARES: After the ladder has (inaudible).

25 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: It's a hard pipe.

1 CHAIR VARES: Oh.

2 Do you want to do anything on, like, MFD's website
3 or Facebook page or anything that kind of describes these
4 apparatus at all?

5 CHIEF VENTURA: I've been --

6 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: No.

7 CHIEF VENTURA: I've been told --

8 CHAIR VARES: Kids would love it. Just regular
9 citizens would love (inaudible) about this stuff.

10 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: In a hotel fire, how far up
11 or how many floors does that ladder reach?

12 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: The challenging thing would
13 be -- is how far are the setbacks. As you know, these
14 resorts, they -- they build and the setbacks to get to -- if
15 we could get close to the building, we could probably reach,
16 you know, eight, nine stories high, but the thing is for us to
17 get that close to the building. So if -- in the real world,
18 we'd probably be looking at five, six, seven floors in
19 reality, if we could get the truck close enough.

20 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Thank you.

21 CHIEF VENTURA: So one of the questions that I heard
22 that is, I think, a great idea is if we can put on our website
23 either a department website or if we can -- if we have to
24 utilize the county fire department fire site, it's to list
25 every station and kind of what -- the layout of that station,

1 list apparatus in it, and then give a brief description of
2 each apparatus with some pictures. I think you said that a
3 lot of people would be interested in that to know what is
4 where in our community.

5 COMMISSIONER STERLING: I'm for that, Chief. That's
6 a great idea. Yeah, Chair.

7 CHAIR VARES: Yeah, I think, you know, just
8 overlaying this existing video with dialogue or description
9 would be, I think, an excellent start because that's a really
10 cool video. Thanks so much for sharing that. Is that all for
11 that?

12 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Yeah. That was just a brief
13 overview of our -- and I believe some of the commissioners
14 weren't able to come to the last blessing, I believe, so
15 that's why we kind of put together this video so you guys
16 could see what the newest engines were or new vehicles were.

17 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Chair, I have a question.
18 Chief -- Chair?

19 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER STERLING: So I've always been curious
21 about how you select names for the -- the engines, the trucks.
22 How do you select names? Is it by place or --

23 CHIEF VENTURA: Great question. So we have a
24 committee within our department, all of them are, you know,
25 devote Hawaiian practitioners, that they love this -- this

1 group of people is just awesome to kind of hang out with and
2 work. And so what they'll do is they'll do research on where
3 is the truck going, they'll do research on the history of that
4 area, they'll identify stories of battles or anything that --
5 that really speaks to the area, and then they'll work as a
6 group to kind of name the apparatus. And then these apparatus
7 have a name, but then it also has a meaning and story behind
8 it. So when we do our blessings, we talk about naming the
9 apparatus, and we talk about why they're named for that. And
10 so (inaudible) actually has these trucks here -- so, for
11 example, the two trucks that you saw were in Wailuku, Engine 1
12 and Mini 1, that is the fire engine, and then there's that
13 wildland, that off-road vehicle, the smaller one. So Engine 1
14 is named Wailua for the two waters.

15 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Oh.

16 CHIEF VENTURA: And the Mini, which was named
17 Eleile, was basically it's a historical water source there, so
18 it's like the -- the smaller sister version of Wailua. So
19 because they knew these two apparatus were coming together,
20 they kind of gave them a sister name for that neighborhood,
21 for that district. And then the ladder, the name is Mooloa,
22 which is long great lizard, so, obviously, the way the truck
23 looks, so --

24 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Oh, nice. That's so --
25 that's so, you know, encapsulating of what we do. It's

1 wonderful. That's great. Thank you very much, Chief. Thank
2 you.

3 CHIEF VENTURA: No problem.

4 CHAIR VARES: And that can be on your video too.

5 CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah.

6 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Okay.

7 CHAIR VARES: Excellent. Does anybody have any
8 other questions for Deputy Chief Fujioka?

9 COMMISSIONER BURNS: (Gesturing.)

10 CHAIR VARES: Yes, Dwight.

11 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Chief, Chief Fujioka, I was
12 just wondering, you know, around the resorts, they've got the
13 fire lanes, yeah, so what I was noticing on the ladder truck,
14 you guys' outriggers, is the fire lanes wide enough to support
15 those outriggers? Because I know you guys gotta extend all
16 the way out for supporting the truck itself, yeah, when you
17 extend that ladder out.

18 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Yeah. I can't -- I don't
19 know the code offhand as far as the fire lanes. I believe the
20 jack spread on that aerial is somewhere between 14 and 16
21 feet; that's fully jacked. If we do have a kind where we need
22 to, we don't have the width in that for, those aerials are
23 designed -- they can be called -- what they call short-jacked,
24 so they can be short-jacked so we don't have to extend both
25 outriggers fully. So we can short-jack it, it just gives us

1 different limitations on the truck, but the operators know how
2 to position the truck if they have to short-jack it and which
3 way they can swing the aerial. So it becomes limitations, but
4 the operators which way they can swing because of the
5 short-jacking.

6 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Okay. Thank you.

7 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Yep.

8 CHAIR VARES: Any other questions for Chief Fujioka
9 regarding the apparatus or his appointment to deputy chief?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIR VARES: No? All right. Well, welcome.

12 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Thank you.

13 CHAIR VARES: Nice to have you in the commission.

14 Does anybody have any other questions, any other
15 topics that need to be discussed for this meeting?

16 (No response.)

17 CHAIR VARES: No? Okay. If I could have a
18 motion --

19 COMMISSIONER STERLING: I make the motion, Chair, to
20 adjourn the meeting so I can get to my next Zoom at eleven
21 o'clock.

22 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Second.

23 CHAIR VARES: Seconded by Dwight Burns, moved by
24 Donna Sterling.

25 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Welcome. Welcome, Chief

1 Fujioka, and welcome, Chief Vares -- I mean, Chief Vares.
2 Chief Ventura. I gotta get to my meeting. Thank you.

3 CHAIR VARES: Talk about promotion committee. Wow.

4 COMMISSIONER STERLING: (Inaudible.)

5 CHIEF VENTURA: Aloha. Let us know if you need
6 anything. Thank you.

7 CHAIR VARES: Okay. Thank you, guys. The next
8 meeting is November 18th via BlueJeans at 10:00.

9 And it is 10:55, meeting is adjourned. Thank you so
10 much.

11 (The proceedings were adjourned at 10:55 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF HAWAII)
) SS.
COUNTY OF MAUI)

I, Sandra J. Gran, Certified Shorthand Reporter for the State of Hawaii, hereby certify that on October 21, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., the proceedings were taken down by me in machine shorthand and was thereafter reduced to typewritten form under my supervision; that the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings had in the foregoing matter.

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

DATED this 3rd day of November, 2021, in Maui, Hawaii.



Sandra J. Gran, RPR
Hawaii CSR 424