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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
April 21, 2021.

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

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ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Kyle Ginoza, Chair
- Lisa Vares, Vice Chair
- Dwight Burns, Member
- Punahuele Alcon, Member
- Max Kincaid, Jr., Member
- Dylan Andrion, Member
- Makalapua Kanuha, Member

STAFF:

- Bradford Ventura, Fire Chief
- Gavin Fujioka, Deputy Fire Chief
- Jeffrey Giese, Assistant Fire Chief
- Hanalei Lindo, Assistant Fire Chief
- Moana Lutey, Corporation Counsel
- Daniel Kunkel, Deputy Corporation Counsel
- Richelle Wakamatsu, Commission Secretary
- Herman Andaya, Maui Emergency Management Agency

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(April 21, 2022, 10:00 a.m.)

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CHAIR GINOZA: Good morning, everyone. My name is Kyle Ginoza, chair of the fire and public safety commission. It is ten o'clock and I'd like to call to order today's 4-21-22 fire and public safety. I will start with roll call. As I call, Members, please note whether or not you're here, where you are located, and if anyone is in the room with you. Vice Chair Lisa Vares.

VICE CHAIR VARES: Present and no one's in the room with me.

CHAIR GINOZA: Wailuku or --

VICE CHAIR VARES: And Wailuku.

CHAIR GINOZA: Dwight Burns. Dwight yet?
(No response.)

CHAIR GINOZA: Punahuele Alcon.

COMMISSIONER ALCON: Here, Molokai, by myself.

CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Punahuele.
Max Kincaid, Jr.

COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Here on Lanai, just my dogs.

CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Dylan Andrion.
(No response.)

CHAIR GINOZA: No Dylan yet.
And Makalapua Kanuha.

COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Aloha kakahiaka. I'm at the

1 Royal Lahaina Resort in my office. Thank you.

2 CHAIR GINOZA: Anyone with you?

3 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: No one is with me in my
4 office.

5 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you.

6 So we have five members today, so we have quorum.
7 The next agenda item -- oh, sorry, let's go with the personnel
8 that we have. Chief Ventura, would you like to state who from
9 your team is present today? You're muted.

10 CHIEF VENTURA: How about now? Can you hear me now?

11 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes. Go ahead.

12 CHIEF VENTURA: Okay. Good morning, everybody.
13 Aloha. Thank you for being here today. Today here at Kahului
14 Fire Station in the conference room I have Chief Fujioka with
15 me, Chief Lindo, Chief Giese, as well as Richelle Wakamatsu.
16 And currently no testifiers, nobody else in the room with us.

17 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you. And we have Dan Kunkel
18 and anyone -- and Moana Lutey, it looks like.

19 MR. KUNKEL: Aloha.

20 CHAIR GINOZA: Anyone else from corp. Counsel?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Good morning, Dan.

23 I believe that's it as far as fire personnel. I'd
24 like to go on to the minutes. Does anybody have comments on
25 the last of the March 17th meeting minutes? I actually have

1 comments because it noted that I'm there, but I wasn't there.
2 So, Richelle, I don't know if you can -- what is the process,
3 but I would suggest that the minutes be revised just to
4 eliminate my name as Chair Ginoza and that any time that the
5 recorder had put in Chair Ginoza, it should be Chair Lisa
6 Vares. I just noticed in, like, five or six places for some
7 reason my name got put in even though I was not there. So
8 is --

9 Dan, if it's okay, I thought we'd -- I'd just ask
10 for approval of the minutes with that change.

11 MR. KUNKEL: Yeah.

12 CHAIR GINOZA: Everything else looked good.

13 MR. KUNKEL: Yeah.

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay.

15 MR. KUNKEL: Yeah. I think that's fine for you to
16 do that.

17 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. So can I have a motion to
18 accept the March 17, 2022, fire and public safety commission
19 minutes as amended that we've replaced any of -- reference to
20 my name to Chair Vares?

21 VICE CHAIR VARES: Yeah, Chair. I move to accept
22 the minutes from the previous meeting with those changes made.

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you, Lisa.

24 Any second?

25 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: And I'll second.

1 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you, Makalapua.

2 So let's vote on it. So, Lisa.

3 VICE CHAIR VARES: (Gesturing.)

4 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Makalapua.

5 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: (Gesturing.)

6 CHAIR GINOZA: Max.

7 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Good.

8 CHAIR GINOZA: Good.

9 And Punahele.

10 COMMISSIONER ALCON: (Gesturing.)

11 CHAIR GINOZA: Good. So -- and I approve. So it

12 looks like all five commissioners are approving of the

13 minutes, so the minutes are approved.

14 The next item we have is if there's any public
15 testifiers. Chief Ventura indicated that there was no one at
16 the room to testify. Is there anybody on the call that wishes
17 to testify?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, public
20 testimony is closed.

21 The next item on the agenda is every year we go
22 through just electing chair and vice chair, and so both Lisa
23 and I are still on the commission next -- this coming year,
24 but this is an opportunity if anyone else shows any -- or has
25 any interest in being chair or vice chair. I'll turn it over

1 to Dan, who will actually run this, and then we'll vote on a
2 chair and vice chair for this coming one year going forward.
3 Dan.

4 MR. KUNKEL: Thank you, Chair. Okay. I guess,
5 then, would anyone like to move to nominate anyone for the
6 chairperson for the next year?

7 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: (Gesturing.)

8 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Member Kanuha, whom would you
9 like to nominate?

10 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: I'd like to nominate Kyle
11 Ginoza for chair and Lisa Vares for vice chair.

12 MR. KUNKEL: Okay. Yeah, why not do both at once?
13 Is there a second by anyone?

14 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: I'll second that.

15 MR. KUNKEL: Okay. And I'll go ahead and take a
16 roll call vote then starting with Member Kanuha, yea or nay.

17 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Yea.

18 MR. KUNKEL: All right. And Member Alcon.

19 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Yea.

20 MR. KUNKEL: Okay. And Member Vares.

21 VICE CHAIR VARES: Yea.

22 MR. KUNKEL: Yeah. And, let's see, Member -- I
23 think -- I don't have your name on there, sir. I'm seeing
24 Hale Lanai under your image.

25 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yeah, Max.

1 MR. KUNKEL: Max. How do you vote, sir?

2 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: I'm for it. Yea.

3 MR. KUNKEL: Yea, okay.

4 And, Member Ginoza, how do you vote?

5 CHAIR GINOZA: Yea.

6 MR. KUNKEL: Okay. That's everyone, as I understand
7 it.

8 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes.

9 MR. KUNKEL: So it looks like that unanimously
10 passes. And I'll turn it back over to you, Chairperson.

11 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you,
12 everyone, for your support.

13 Let's move on -- and I forgot to recognize Herman in
14 the roll call, but, Herman, are you on? It's -- you have the
15 floor for MEMA.

16 Oh, and I see Dwight Burns also joined.
17 Commissioner Burns also joined the call.

18 Herman.

19 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Mr. Chair, Herman Andaya,
20 administrator, Maui Emergency Management Agency. Do I need to
21 say where I'm at and all of that or not?

22 MR. KUNKEL: Mainly the --

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Are you in the room by yourself?

24 MR. KUNKEL: Yeah, mainly the members who need to
25 disclose that.

1 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Oh, okay.

2 MR. KUNKEL: Members of the -- yeah.

3 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Okay. Thank you.

4 So the EOC continues to be in partial activation.
5 Although the number of COVID cases in the county is low
6 compared to the surge in November through February, we are
7 seeing a gradual increase in cases, so we will remain in
8 partial activation until we see a period of stabilization in
9 COVID cases.

10 We are continuing with our hurricane preparedness.
11 At this time we are about five weeks away from the start of
12 hurricane season, and so we are taking this time to review and
13 update our plans as well as to develop new plans. We just
14 hired a consultant to update our recovery plan annexed to the
15 emergency operations plan, and we will also be conducting an
16 exercise with all of our partners.

17 The Army Corps of Engineers are currently in the
18 island to conduct power assessments of selected critical
19 infrastructures and facilities. This includes the airport,
20 hospitals, police stations, fire stations, well pumps,
21 wastewater facilities, and so on. And so they will be here
22 for one week and they'll visit each site and they will assess
23 their power needs and what kind of backup power they may have
24 and how is it that we may be able to assist with power
25 restoration should it go out during an emergency.

1 We recently conducted a statewide amateur radio
2 exercise and we had well over 75 participants throughout the
3 state and we had about 14 within the county. The ham radios
4 are a last resort means of communication in the event that all
5 other modes of communication goes down after a disaster. The
6 exercise was very well done. We utilized the incident command
7 system to push out the messaging and, you know, all these
8 different things. So it was great to see such a huge
9 participation for this event. We do hope and we're trying to
10 get more ham radio operators on Molokai and Lanai and in Hana,
11 so that's something that we're trying to do more of. There
12 was a person on Lanai that was able to participate, but we
13 didn't have any on Molokai, so that's something that we need
14 to be sure that we have somebody that can -- that can operate
15 a ham radio there.

16 The other thing that we've been working on a bit is
17 the CERT team. CERT stands for community emergency response
18 team. And we've been working with the fire department, we're
19 hoping to recruit and bring back classes. We had to suspend
20 classes because of COVID, but at this point we're -- it looks
21 like we'll be able to do a class -- if not a live class, it
22 would be a hybrid type of class so part of it would be online,
23 part of it would be live. And we hope, again, to get more
24 people on Molokai, Lanai, and Hana to these classes.

25 That's all I have, Mr. Chair, pending any questions.

1 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Herman.

2 Does any commissioner have any questions for Herman?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, thank you
5 very much, Herman.

6 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you.

7 CHAIR GINOZA: And I forgot to mention, so I'm --
8 I'm also -- I'm by myself in my office in Wailuku -- sorry,
9 not Wailuku, in Makena.

10 So the next item is for the fire department. Chief
11 Ventura.

12 CHIEF VENTURA: Aloha. Good morning, everybody.
13 Can you hear me?

14 COMMISSIONERS: (Gesturing.)

15 CHIEF VENTURA: Excellent.

16 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes.

17 CHIEF VENTURA: All right. Great to see everybody
18 back this month that is here. I would like to share with you
19 first our three handouts that are in the packet. Our monthly
20 update that goes out to our department gives everybody kind of
21 an overview, kind of a situational awareness as to what
22 projects are happening throughout the department. Next month
23 we're gonna kind of add a little personal twist to it, so
24 Richelle and Chief Fujioka are working on that, so stay tuned.
25 That's gonna be a great change to that monthly update.

1 The second -- well, let's look at the yellow
2 handout -- are calls for the calendar year. You know, as I
3 mentioned in previous meetings, we've noticed that there's
4 already an uptick in our wildfires as the island's starting to
5 dry out from the winter months. Other than that, most
6 everything else is business as usual.

7 And then our third handout is the training handout,
8 and that covers all of the training reports that we have
9 conducted in the last month, and so great to see that our
10 crews are focusing on certain things. And then a lot of
11 captain-lead training out there at the stations that also gets
12 plugged in here. So over 2,800 training reports. Last month
13 they focused on getting everybody recertified for their
14 medical, their EMS training, and we also focused on our
15 structure fire stuff. So there's a lot of stuff -- reports
16 that you'll see associated with our structure fire fighting.
17 Next month, we'll probably move towards our wildland stuff, so
18 you'll see some of that on next month's calendar.

19 My report for you, starting with the mayor and the
20 managing directors. As you know, the directives have been
21 lifted regarding the COVID protocols, so we reissued to our
22 whole department our new endemic plan for how to keep people
23 safe and what our procedures are moving forward. We've opened
24 up stations again. We'll start supporting community service
25 events again. We'll start supporting first responder and

1 public education requests that we get from the community; and
2 that's been shut down for two years, so that is gonna be a
3 great change.

4 We met with the mayor several times budget -- for
5 budget purposes as well as for his state of the county
6 address. We are heavily focused on budget right now for this
7 past month to try to do our best to get the things that we
8 need.

9 Looking down at council items, you'll see budget,
10 finance, and economic development committee. We went before
11 them on April 7th to justify our budget. Our department
12 received 101 written questions from council that we were able
13 to provide written justification and support to all of those
14 questions, and then we spent about an hour and a half with
15 them on the 7th and answered a variety of questions, and then
16 some follow-up questions on the 17th. The current state of
17 our proposed budget is very good and although it still has
18 some efforts to go through with council and approval from the
19 mayor, I feel that we will have a good budget to take us
20 through FY '23.

21 On the back of my report, several exciting things.
22 I'll say the lighter, more common things are at the top there.
23 American Red Cross and, you know, we're working with them to
24 support their smoke detector/first aid program. They're gonna
25 put out an initiative this spring to be in Hana and try to

1 provide a lot of service out there in Hana to the remote
2 areas.

3 With MEMA, the state Homeland Security grant is
4 something that I've kind of rejuvenated and tried to get a
5 little bit more active with so we can get funding from outside
6 the state and get a federal partner in here.

7 Windward Aviation, we're meeting pretty regularly
8 with them right now as the new aircraft is on the island. And
9 as you folks have seen whether you follow Instagram or last
10 night's news on KHON covered Honolulu's also asking for \$12
11 million for their new helicopter program, so we're excited
12 that our helicopter is here already. As we speak, the hoist
13 is being mounted onto it. The schedule of training is being
14 created for May. We will send out lesson notifications to all
15 of you shortly and, yeah, that's a really, really exciting
16 point for our department.

17 The bottom three items are also very exciting.
18 Lanai Fire Station expansion, we did finally get a proposed
19 construction offer that was within our budget, something we've
20 been working on for nearly two and a half years, so we do a
21 contractor. I'm not positive of the contractor's name, but
22 we'll be able to build that apparatus bay behind the station
23 once we enter contract and get that started.

24 Lifeguard towers have been ordered and are being
25 built for Hookipa and Baldwin. So just on my end, it's

1 communicating with the parks and recreation that we're gonna
2 need to have -- do some work in their jurisdiction, so we've
3 provided communication to the director of parks to kind of let
4 her know that these are anticipated to come in the fall.

5 And then east Molokai, you may have also noticed
6 that that house was closed on. There appeared to have been
7 some confusion in the public that this was to house off-duty
8 firefighters, but it's not. It's to have our firefighters
9 respond out of the east end of Molokai, so moving the station
10 from where it currently exists to this new house that needs to
11 be heavily renovated will be where the firefighters will live
12 in the future and that's what today's presentation is.

13 That concludes my notes. Any questions?

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Any questions from commissioners?

15 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: (Gesturing.)

16 CHAIR GINOZA: Makalapua.

17 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Thank you, Chief. I just had
18 a question about notifying County Councilmember Paltin about
19 your visit at the Maui Sheraton for our proposed lifeguard
20 tower. Can you expound a little bit more on your visit or --

21 CHIEF VENTURA: Certainly. Thank you, Chair. So
22 it's something we've been working on for several years,
23 something that's been recognized by the community beach goers
24 and such and the statistics are there that Puu Kekaa or Black
25 Rock, as many know it as, is per capita the deadliest beach in

1 the state.

2 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Yes.

3 CHIEF VENTURA: So we have always wanted to see how
4 we can best support the beach goers there. COVID kind of put
5 a damper on that, but we have now tried to put that behind us.
6 We had a meeting with the Sheraton as well as the Kaanapali
7 Operations Association, and they're on board to support this
8 effort. We put the positions for the staffing in our budget,
9 which thus far has gone through and survived. And KOA, our
10 Kaanapali Operations Association, is gonna provide -- we have
11 verbal commitment, we actually have email commitment, but not
12 a formal letter yet. They're gonna support \$150,000 worth of
13 equipment, which includes a tower, a rescue watercraft, a
14 utility vehicle for the beach, and parking and restrooms for
15 our employees there.

16 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Okay, perfect. Thank you.
17 Yeah, because I had a meeting with (inaudible) and I just
18 wanted to get updated. So I'm glad that you connected with
19 County Councilmember Paltin, so I'll just follow up with her
20 regarding the tower, that it was going to be potentially
21 donated.

22 CHIEF VENTURA: Correct.

23 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Okay.

24 CHIEF VENTURA: So it'll be -- more than likely what
25 we're looking at right now is a wooden tower similar to

1 Hookipa and some of the Kamaole Beach parks, just like
2 Hanakao Beach park, and it would be built in a combination
3 with some Sheraton people as well as some of our -- our
4 building maintenance repairers, and we're gonna try to do it
5 in-house as best as we can.

6 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Thank you, Chief.

7 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you for the question,
8 Makalapua.

9 Any other questions from the commissioners?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIR GINOZA: Chief, I have a question about last
12 month we had two people end their terms, Donna and Gregg. If
13 I recall correctly, the two that were supposed to come on this
14 commission, one was denied by the council and I think the
15 other guy moved out of state. Do you have any update as far
16 as when we might get two new commissioners?

17 CHIEF VENTURA: So what's been shared with me is
18 exactly what you just stated. The single and sole person that
19 was accepted onto the fire and public safety commission has
20 moved or is planning to move; therefore, withdrew his name,
21 and the mayor's office is currently looking for additional
22 commission members.

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Okay, great. Thank you.

24 Chief Fujioka.

25 VICE CHAIR VARES: (Gesturing.)

1 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, sorry, Vice Chair Vares.

2 VICE CHAIR VARES: Hi. Thanks, Chair.

3 On that same note, I was wondering if the rest of
4 the commission has any input to give on their feelings of
5 having any former Maui Fire Department -- either, you know,
6 some (inaudible) retired firefighters to join us again like we
7 had with Travis. I thought maybe we could discuss it.
8 Especially, if you ever got to serve with Travis, it was so
9 helpful to have someone on the commission that could not only
10 answer questions but ask very probing questions of the -- of
11 the commission and of the chief and the rest of the -- just
12 basically just about anything including operations.

13 Does anybody have any -- God, we've got so many new
14 people. Did anybody else get to serve with Travis and have
15 any -- have any commentary on having a retired firefighter on
16 our commission or the opposite, they're not comfortable with
17 it? Does anyone have anything to add to that?

18 CHAIR GINOZA: I also served with Travis and I think
19 it's valuable to have a former person on. I know the other
20 side would say that, oh, you know, that person might try to
21 influence the commission, but because we typically would only
22 have one or two, that is less likely, and so I see the value
23 in it.

24 I would suggest that if members know of people who
25 might be interested in being on the commission, that they just

1 notify the mayor's office because I don't know, you know,
2 their selection process as far as the -- whoever the executive
3 assistant in the mayor's office actually puts forth names to
4 the Maui County Council, but it is something that I think as
5 individuals we can -- individual commissioners, we should just
6 kind of notify the mayor's office if we have somebody.

7 And I noticed Dylan is on, so welcome, Commissioner
8 Andrion.

9 COMMISSIONER ANDRION: Thank you, Kyle.

10 VICE CHAIR VARES: Hi, Dylan.

11 Does anybody else have any input on when we did have
12 a firefighter with us on the commission? I can't even
13 remember who was with us at the time when we had Travis.

14 Punahale, were you on the commission with Travis?

15 COMMISSIONER ALCON: (Gesturing.)

16 CHAIR GINOZA: And Dylan?

17 COMMISSIONER ANDRION: (Gesturing.)

18 CHAIR GINOZA: It was really helpful. And you'd
19 think that -- well, first of all, one commissioner can't sway
20 the commission one way or the other. We all have the exact
21 same amount of influence or opinion or opportunity to express
22 ourselves. He was harder on the white shirts than anybody and
23 he had much more in-depth questions than anything that we
24 could have ever asked, so I thought that was really important.
25 I think that maybe not just any experienced firefighter, you

1 know, of any level should be -- I don't know -- made this
2 exception, you know, to allow someone that's maybe just a
3 couple years as a firefighter and didn't complete his career
4 as such. But some of the guys that have a lot of experience
5 and a lot of years devoted to the fire department would
6 probably have a lot to add. So I would hope that if we have
7 the opportunity to have someone join us that's already
8 dedicated decades of their life, they would really be helpful,
9 and I really hope the mayor's office would see that benefit.
10 That's all I've got.

11 CHAIR GINOZA: I'll reach out -- I'll reach out to
12 the mayor's office to see if we have candidates that are
13 former members or what their thinking is. I just -- that's
14 why I brought it up because I -- I haven't been in touch with
15 them as far as they don't ask me or I don't know if they ask
16 any of you who might be -- who of who applied might be a good
17 candidate. So I just found out based on it being on the
18 council agenda who was nominated the last time, so perhaps
19 Chief Ventura and I -- I mean, unless anybody -- and anybody
20 can chime in individually to whoever the EA is -- from the
21 mayor's office that puts forth the name, but it is something
22 that for me personally, I support having a member that has
23 that experience that a lot of us lay people do not have, so
24 that's what I'll express to the mayor and the mayor's
25 representative.

1 And it looks like Chief Ventura has a question.

2 CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah. Thank you all. I would like
3 to share too that I thought it was valuable. I thought, you
4 know, also it's easy for you guys to have a resource as a
5 commission. There -- when it did happen, when retired Fire
6 Chief Tancayo did get appointed to the fire commission, it was
7 heavily contested and there was testimony against it. And it
8 was a very contentious time when it happened, but it was still
9 allowed. So I don't know if the mayor's office has since
10 changed the rules because now we're talking seven years ago
11 when he was put on the commission.

12 The EA in the mayor's office is Ipo Mossman, he
13 oversees boards and commissions. And same as Kyle or Chair
14 Ginoza mentioned he doesn't contact me either. We just see it
15 on the council agenda and then we know who's kind of coming
16 up. But they did say that they're looking for people, that's
17 as much of a report as I have. And I just echo again, yeah,
18 Chief Tancayo was a good value to the commission, I thought
19 because he was a good resource to all of you if you had
20 questions. And then, you know, like Vice Chair Vares said,
21 you know, he knows our operations, so he was able to ask us
22 certain questions that wouldn't come to mind for other people.

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. So I'll reach out to Ipo, but,
24 yeah, if any commissioner has any recommendations too, they
25 should just convince their -- who they think they would

1 recommend to apply to the mayor's office. Okay. Thank you.

2 Unless there's any other questions, Chief Fujioka.

3 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Good morning. Thank you,
4 Chair. Good morning, Commissioners. Yeah, I'll go over my
5 report for the month that you should have in front of you
6 guys. So just the department interviews and promotions, we
7 just completed the firefighter 2 interviews and we will be
8 promoting very shortly, within the next week or so.
9 Firefighter trainees, our physical agility test is scheduled
10 for April 30th and, you know, I think we're somewhere right
11 about 47 or so candidates that we have for the physical
12 agility for the firefighter trainee position.

13 Our ocean safety division, we just promoted two
14 captains, Michael Sparling and John Seitz. And also we
15 promoted three lieutenants, so Anthony Ancog, Jona Romero, and
16 Ehukai Awo have been promoted to lieutenants in our ocean
17 safety division. And we also started a recruit class on April
18 1st. I think we have ten -- nine?

19 CHIEF VENTURA: Ten in the class.

20 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Ten in the class, yeah. So
21 ten personnel in our ocean safety recruit class.

22 As far as department improvements, you know,
23 research and -- our research and development committee, we
24 just had our evaluation period from April 1st to April 15th,
25 so that just closed and we'll be meeting with the R&D, our

1 research and development cadre coming up shortly.

2 Also, we had -- we expanded our software for
3 ordering equipment and supplies from our warehouse, so what
4 this does is just streamlines the whole process for our
5 members to be more efficient on ordering our supplies with --
6 from our department -- I mean our warehouse.

7 And union interactions, we did consult with HFFA on
8 a few items including, you know, the eligibility requirements
9 for the firefighter 2 testing. And also we consulted with
10 HFFA on our 40-hour bureau positions on how we can better
11 retain our personnel within that bureau.

12 And the last thing we have here, just transmittals
13 from the public, a bunch of thank you letters. So what we
14 have been doing is, obviously, we have a lot of line of duty
15 deaths in our profession across the United States, so when we
16 see deaths that occur online, what we do within our
17 department, we send a -- like a card to the department
18 addressed to the chief and recognizing the member that was
19 lost within the department, and we offer our condolences and
20 our support from our department. So these departments have
21 reached back to us with thank you cards and expressing their
22 gratitude for us reaching out to them for their loss in the
23 department.

24 As far as -- that concludes my monthly report. If
25 you guys got any questions, I'll be happy to answer.

1 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Fujioka.
2 Does any commissioner have any questions for Chief
3 Fujioka?
4 (No response.)
5 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, one thing I
6 forgot to ask of Dwight and Dylan, we stated where we are as
7 commissioners located or what city as well as if anyone is in
8 the room with you. So, Dwight, where are you, and is anybody
9 in the room with you?
10 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Good morning, everyone. I'm in
11 my office and nobody is here with me. I'm alone.
12 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you, Dwight.
13 How about you, Dylan? Oh, you're muted.
14 COMMISSIONER ANDRION: I had my children with me
15 earlier, but I'm in a home office and no one is with me
16 either.
17 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay, great. Thank you, Dylan.
18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's muted.
19 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: My turn? My turn.
20 CHAIR GINOZA: Chief Lindo.
21 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: Oh, okay. Hi, Chair. Good
22 morning. Good morning, Commissioners, good to see you guys
23 again. My report should be real short. A lot was covered by
24 Fire One and Fire Two.
25 So before you, these are the major incident

1 summaries for the month of March. You can see over there
2 under fire there are a couple of more structure fires and
3 we're in the post-incident analysis stage right now, you know,
4 taking a look at what happened at the fire, getting the input
5 from the guys who were actually on the scene, and retaking a
6 look at always how we can get better, yeah, what worked, what
7 didn't work, how we can be more efficient. So it's pretty
8 amazing to see the amount of structure fires compared to where
9 we were a couple of years ago.

10 So, on the ocean safety side, you can see the
11 medical calls and it's also to watch our men and women,
12 especially in the ocean safety division, just continue to grow
13 and then we get to address what they're doing and add it to
14 our EMR refreshers, yeah. One thing about that was we were
15 able to meet with the ocean safety and start a quarterly
16 meeting with the captains. And what that did is allowed us to
17 hear directly from them and let them know what's happening
18 from our end, what we're doing to best support their division
19 and their personnel and their equipment, and also get to hear
20 from them the problems that are occurring so we can stay on
21 top of that and let them know how much we support them, so
22 really huge.

23 Ongoing projects, you can see some of the equipment
24 that we have, a new Utility 4 and Engine 2 placed in service;
25 the new Engine 8 and Engine 13 coming up with preconstruction,

1 and the bids for the Engine 7 and Mini 9.

2 On the backside, we're gearing up again getting
3 ready for the upcoming recruit class. You heard Chief Fujioka
4 discuss about the upcoming PAT on April 30th. We have a new
5 training captain, new firefighter 3s, and they're working
6 absolutely hard in looking at the past recruit classes, what
7 went well, what --

8 MR. KUNKEL: Chief Lindo, I'm sorry. This is Dan
9 Kunkel speaking. I'm sorry to interrupt you. Apparently,
10 there's a -- they're at least announcing a fire emergency in
11 my building, so I need to go outside. But my participation in
12 this meeting is not important, so just, you know, I need to
13 temporarily leave the meeting and go outside my building,
14 that's all. I'm sorry.

15 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: All right.

16 Well, that's good to see. Something real, something
17 operationally happening. Yeah, hopefully, it's nothing
18 extreme. We don't see anything coming through through our
19 end, so -- but let me complete and finish this.

20 So as they're -- as we're working to begin and then
21 we're -- hopefully, we're gonna start the recruit class June
22 through July at the latest. So the training bureau is doing
23 an outstanding job with getting that ready, so really proud.

24 Ocean safety, Chief Fujioka covered that, but we got
25 the contract for two new lifeguard towers, they're completed.

1 And then the ocean safety manager, you know, as we transition
2 from the BC7 and them taking over has been doing an
3 outstanding job aligning as we move forward and hopefully get
4 the ocean safety chief and allow the men and women in that
5 division to take the -- take the realm and just take it to new
6 levels. So we're excited, I'm excited.

7 And that's all I have. Any questions?

8 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Lindo.

9 Any questions from commissioners?

10 VICE CHAIR VARES: (Gesturing.)

11 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Lisa.

12 VICE CHAIR VARES: Hi, Chief Lindo. I was wondering
13 if on your report every month if you've got some of these
14 major medical calls like all these from March 12th, 18th,
15 yadda-yadda-yadda, is it possible to tell us where those were,
16 those calls came -- originated from kind of like you do for
17 the fire where it's Kula, Napili, Wahikuli? Is it possible to
18 put that on for us?

19 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: I can absolutely get that
20 on, yes. I will do that. Thank you.

21 VICE CHAIR VARES: Great. (Inaudible) trouble spots
22 that maybe -- I don't know -- need to be discussed. That
23 would be appreciated.

24 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: Yep. Thank you.

25 VICE CHAIR VARES: That's all I have. Thank you.

1 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

2 Any other questions from commissioners?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, thank you,
5 Chief Lindo.

6 Chief Giese.

7 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: Yes. Good morning,
8 everybody. Can you all hear me okay?

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes. Go ahead. Good morning.

10 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: Okay. So I'll just hit
11 some of the highlights from my report and, of course, if you
12 have questions on anything else, feel free.

13 Starting with the fire prevention bureau, the big
14 news over there is MAPPS went live. And that's big news for
15 the whole county, so that happened on April 18th. MAPPS is
16 Maui's Automated Permitting and Planning System, and it's been
17 a massive project ongoing for many months. You've probably
18 seen it in the report highlighted, you know, training for
19 MAPPS, training for MAPPS, etc., and now it's live. So
20 we'll -- you know, time will tell if it ends up working out
21 the way everybody hopes, but hopefully a more streamlined
22 process for everybody including us as we go about getting
23 permits for various projects. So that's the big happening
24 over there. They did get some new members that were promoted
25 as firefighter 3s in the prevention bureau, so they've been

1 training them up as well.

2 Moving on to health and safety, probably the two
3 biggest pieces of news there are the oxygen tank filling
4 system is here, it's in place, it's operational. So what that
5 does for us, it gives us the ability to fill our own oxygen
6 cylinders, so that's -- oxygen is a big part of what we do in
7 the EMS world and until now, we've had to go through third
8 parties to get, you know, the actual cylinders we use at our
9 fire stations and ocean safety towers filled with fresh
10 oxygen. So now we can do that ourselves, so that helps us be
11 more efficient and self-sufficient. So, again, that was a big
12 project as well and it's finally here and operational, so
13 that's great.

14 I want to follow up on the HIOSH inspections we had.
15 So my very first report to you was -- included the fact that
16 we had inspections as just part of a routine health inspection
17 from HIOSH. No incident or complaint prompted it, they just
18 go out every now and then. So we got the final notices from
19 them and we had what's called an informal conference. So when
20 they -- they send you, say, a citation, a notification of
21 penalty, you can schedule an informal conference to talk it
22 over and explain, you know, your perspective on that and see
23 if you can work out compromises on various issues. So we had
24 a really good meeting with them, very amicable. They
25 acknowledge we've abated every -- everything that they had

1 concerns about, they understand that we're doing everything we
2 really ought to be doing to protect our personnel and keep
3 them safe. We did have some issues with our documentation
4 practices and written programs, and we've either fixed or are
5 in the process of fixing all of those issues. And the result
6 is they dropped the fine substantially, so that was all good
7 news. And we're kind of building a good relationship with
8 them and really that went about as well as we could have
9 expected. So that was a kind of another, you know, big
10 incident -- not incident, a big event for our health and
11 safety programs.

12 I want to talk about one other thing that's been in
13 my report a few times, but I've never really highlighted that
14 I think might be of interest to you folks. So if you look
15 down for rehab and medical monitoring, rehab is fire lingo for
16 what happens on the scene of a major emergency to help keep
17 our personnel able to continue functioning. So that includes
18 getting them out of the heat, getting them some shade, water,
19 food, medical evaluation, things of that nature. And, you
20 know, one thing that's easy to overlook is the role of our
21 health and safety bureau in our operations.

22 So when we have a major fire, it's routine,
23 actually, for the health and safety bureau to have to go out
24 and respond. And they're not responding to put the fire out,
25 they're responding to support our personnel, and that's what's

1 referred to here by the HSB support team. So that can include
2 things like setting up rehab stations for hydration and, you
3 know, rest and medical monitoring; filling air bottles -- so,
4 you know, the air packs that the firefighters wear on their
5 back, they only last so long and they need to get refilled if
6 we're gonna send guys back into the fire zone, so somebody has
7 to refill those bottles on scene; that's our HSB support team.

8 They will provide a safety officer for the incident
9 if that's necessary. So a safety officer is somebody that's
10 on scene that has no other responsibilities except to help
11 ensure that operations are being conducted safely and in
12 accordance with our best practices. It's a really helpful
13 position because everybody else is focused on specific tasks
14 and if you have somebody whose only job is safety, they can
15 often intervene in ways that are gonna prevent a major, major
16 accident from happening. So, yeah, so that's basically
17 something I just wanted to share with you. I thought it might
18 be of interest that that's one function of our health and
19 safety bureau. They have a team of about 15ish or so
20 personnel, many of whom are former health and safety bureau
21 members, some former training bureau, some that are currently
22 in the bureaus that are available on call, you know, when
23 there's a major incident and they need this kind of support.
24 So I figured that might be worth, you know, something for you
25 folks to know more about.

1 I think that the budget issues that were highlighted
2 in my report, I think Chief Ventura covered most of those. I
3 was gonna tell you more about the tower at Puu Kekaa, but that
4 got covered. I'm happy to answer more questions about that.
5 And, yeah, our budget emerged after council deliberations, you
6 know, pretty much unscathed. There were, you know, a few
7 things, you know, shaved off, but we're -- we're happy with
8 what we have, what we anticipate having going forward for next
9 fiscal year.

10 So that's my report. If there are any questions.

11 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief.

12 Any questions from commissioners?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, yeah,
15 basically I was thinking at the next meeting we would go over
16 what the approved fiscal 2023 budget would be, so we'll get
17 further detail at the next meeting.

18 Okay. So if no questions for Chief Giese, the next
19 thing we have is our guest presenter, who is Chief Ventura.

20 CHIEF VENTURA: Okay. Aloha. Chair, if I may,
21 'cause a lot of times we just wrap up at the end, I have a
22 couple of suggestions for next month's agenda that I would
23 just like to propose to you.

24 CHAIR GINOZA: Sure, sure.

25 CHIEF VENTURA: One -- some of them simply being the

1 current agenda and items that we share with you all, I'd just
2 like to move some of them. For example, Chief Lindo and his
3 Agenda Item D3, he reports about the apparatus and the
4 vehicles, whereas Chief Fujioka is actually in charge of it
5 now. So I'd like to just move some simple things around there
6 so we have the right people talking about the right thing and
7 less passing of information. So if there's no objections to
8 that, I'll make some slight adjustments next meeting.

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Sure. That's fine. And at the same
10 time, I'd like to just remind commissioners if there are
11 topics that are of your interest or of general interest,
12 please let me or Lisa know. We kind of consult and try to
13 figure out what would be of interest to the public and to you
14 all, but if there are recommendations that you have, please
15 let us know and we'll put it on the agenda.

16 Go ahead, Chief Ventura.

17 CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah, so that that's exactly where
18 I'm kind of thinking as well. One of the recommendations from
19 Vice Chair Vares today was about the critical medical calls
20 for ocean safety, so we can -- we can add that. We can
21 constantly be changing it to meet everybody's needs here.

22 And then something that I'm gonna request be put on
23 the agenda for the next meeting is that we have a short
24 executive session or an executive session to discuss some of
25 our HR issues that we've been having that I want to share with

1 you all to, you know, create transparency, but we shouldn't be
2 sharing these things publicly because of people -- to protect
3 people.

4 CHAIR GINOZA: Sure.

5 CHIEF VENTURA: Okay. So we will -- we will add
6 that to the agenda. That's all of the normal business I have.
7 We'll move on to the PowerPoint.

8 Let's see here. Okay. Can everybody see the first
9 slide, Pukoo Fire Station?

10 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes.

11 CHIEF VENTURA: Okay, excellent. So what was
12 requested from Vice Chair Vares was kind of a background of
13 Pukoo Fire Station. Pukoo Fire Station is located on the east
14 end of Molokai. And so I'm gonna try to walk you through the
15 journey of the station and how it's evolved and why we need
16 some movement here.

17 So Pukoo Fire Station, we're looking at two
18 different items here: 1) a relocation and moving of the
19 station, and 2) reallocation of the positions due to a change
20 in responsibilities out there.

21 So let's see. All right. So to give you an idea of
22 Pukoo and the area west -- I'm sorry, east end of Molokai,
23 about 1500 or so estimated residents there. The length of the
24 island there is about 17 miles of roadway that we cover. And
25 had this station not been built or not been put into service

1 in 1990, it would take Kaunakakai Fire Station 45 minutes to
2 get all the way to the end of the road which is out in Halawa
3 around the east end of Molokai. Pukoo Fire Station is still
4 approximately 30 minutes from Halawa, but, you know, when we
5 talk about our line of work, 15 minutes is a very big number.
6 So that kind of gives us an overview as to the district that
7 we're talking about.

8 And the site that was recently bought is in Ualapue,
9 and so the name of the station will become Ualapue because we
10 don't want to name a fire station the name of a different
11 district. So it's basically moving over a little ways.

12 So this is where the journey began. In 1990, two
13 personnel, a driver and a firefighter, were assigned there
14 with a -- basically, a leftover vehicle that was repurposed.
15 Their main concern out there for the community that was shared
16 with me was that there's no ambulance and no -- somebody able
17 to help them with major medical calls out there. And the
18 firefighters were mainly equipped and trained to respond to
19 medicals and smaller brush fires in their incipient stages
20 before the Kaunakakai Station got on scene to help. So 1990,
21 this is what it looked like as far as apparatus goes.

22 In 2004, a type 3 engine was purchased and that gave
23 them a little bit more capability as far as what their
24 responsibilities would be on the east end of the island and
25 how they could safely operate in a somewhat larger emergency.

1 That was 2004.

2 And in 2017, this type 1 engine was purchased with
3 the capability to now, you know, fight a larger fire, do
4 wildland fire as well as structure fire, be able to respond
5 with more than two personnel. And basically, we were giving
6 them more tools and more responsibilities, but we still have a
7 driver and a firefighter 1 out there. So I'll talk about the
8 reallocation a little bit more as we move forward through this
9 PowerPoint.

10 So the old versus new. So the old location is on
11 the right end of that blue line, that's the current Pukoo Fire
12 Station; 2.3 miles back towards Kaunakakai is the location of
13 the new site. And the reasons for the move, I'll show you in
14 the next couple of slides here, are highlighted in pictures.

15 This picture shows where the current Pukoo Station
16 is below the highway, which is in the flood zone. And these
17 are some of the pictures and the current condition of the fire
18 station. So we have building issues, roof issues, door
19 issues, paint issues. That upper right corner, it's a little
20 bit hard to see maybe on the PowerPoint, but the whole yard is
21 flooded and around the house is about, you know, four to six
22 inches of water. The -- depending on the tidal surge, high
23 tide/low tide, and rain, the cesspool there can overflow at
24 times, so we're regularly pumping that out to prevent that
25 from happening. Nobody is willing to go on the roof. This

1 property is owned by the State of Hawaii, it's not owned by
2 us, so it's not appropriate for us to put county dollars into
3 a facility that we don't own. We're on a 30-day -- basically,
4 a month-to-month lease on this property, and at any time the
5 department of health could say, We want it back, you guys
6 gotta go. So with all of these things that are kind of
7 looming over us, you know, we thought it was -- it would be
8 important for us to move on this station and improve in many
9 ways.

10 So the proposed site, the new site that's been
11 purchased is 7541 Kamehameha V Highway. There's a couple
12 pictures of the house here and you'll see it needs quite a bit
13 of renovation still. You know, it hasn't been lived in for
14 quite a while. But basically, all we're needing to do out
15 there is provide two dorms as well as an office space for the
16 firefighters to live in, a kitchen, dining room, and then
17 there's a -- there's a lean-to outside.

18 We have to do some discovery on the property still
19 to determine where the cesspool is before we are able to
20 change that out to the new and improved septic system that
21 needs to be installed. The roof needs to be changed, the
22 windows need to be changed, so there is -- there's quite a bit
23 of work ahead. I have a list here to kind of share with you
24 all of what needs to be done on it, and this is just the
25 construction part. Prior to the construction, we need to do

1 an environmental assessment, an archaeological inventory
2 review, we need to do a cultural review, and we need to
3 include several parties and consultants to make sure we have
4 everything proceeding in the right order and that we take care
5 of all concerned parties before we do construction. But this
6 is just a list of all the things that need to be renovated on
7 the home.

8 So as far as the reallocation goes, the reason we
9 feel very strongly to reallocate the firefighter 1 to a
10 captain, which would then put our personnel as the proposed
11 manpower here on the bottom, is because in 1990, we didn't
12 expect the driver and firefighter 1 out there to be doing
13 command and control to running incident command systems, to be
14 responding to as many major calls as they do today. And right
15 now with the firefighter 1 and 3, you have the firefighter 3
16 maybe driving, a firefighter 1 to help, and there's too many
17 responsibilities for people that are not trained to the right
18 level.

19 So what we've installed most recently is -- kind of
20 explain how temporary assignment works in our department. If
21 that firefighter 3 right now is on vacation, that firefighter
22 1 can TA to that position. Now we're putting a firefighter 1
23 in a position to make command and control decisions and
24 it's -- to us, it's not responsible. So what we've started
25 several months ago was if that firefighter 3 is on vacation,

1 we're gonna call back, relocate, somehow get a firefighter 3
2 there because at least that person has some of the necessary
3 training, whereas a firefighter 1 does not have all that
4 command and control training that he needs to have to run that
5 district.

6 In this year's budget that will plan to come out
7 July 1, thus far our reallocation of these positions has made
8 it through and has the support of both the mayor and the
9 council. And unless something unforeseen happens, I
10 anticipate having a captain and a driver at that station
11 sometime in the fall.

12 To keep it short, that is the end of the PowerPoint.
13 I am happy to answer as many questions as you might have.

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Ventura.

15 Any questions from commissioners? Well, while we
16 wait, I have a question -- oh, go ahead, Lisa.

17 VICE CHAIR VARES: Oh, please, (inaudible).

18 CHAIR GINOZA: Well, I just wondered what -- what
19 was in the proposed budget, if anything, for this? I don't
20 remember.

21 CHIEF VENTURA: Positions or CIP?

22 CHAIR GINOZA: Either.

23 CHIEF VENTURA: So due to the call volume in that
24 area, our intent is to keep this a two-person station and the
25 reallocation from firefighter 1 to captain is in the budget as

1 well as half a million dollars for renovation in FY '23.

2 CHAIR GINOZA: Does that renovation also include all
3 the EA and AIS?

4 CHIEF VENTURA: So in the budget that we're
5 currently in, we have funds for that.

6 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, okay.

7 CHIEF VENTURA: So we're working with a consultant.
8 And I'm always shocked at how expensive things are, but, yeah,
9 we have -- we have that in this year's budget. So we've
10 already discussed it with the consultant. We've gotten an
11 offer that we think is a little strenuous, so we're trying to
12 clean it up and make it a little bit more fair to the people.

13 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you.

14 Lisa, you had a question.

15 VICE CHAIR VARES: Yeah. Thank you, Chief, first of
16 all, for going through all of this for us and explaining it
17 all. I really appreciate it. And it completely cleared up
18 everything, so I appreciate that.

19 My question was regarding the engine that is -- this
20 type 1 engine, is that -- that is currently, like, assigned to
21 and housed at Pukoo, is that correct?

22 CHIEF VENTURA: That is correct.

23 VICE CHAIR VARES: And then it's gonna go and live
24 now over at the new station? Is it --

25 CHIEF VENTURA: That is --

1 VICE CHAIR VARES: Is there room? It looks a
2 little -- it looks a little tight.

3 CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah. So we -- I don't have the
4 PowerPoint up, but, yeah, from -- if you look at the slides on
5 the paper, there's a little aerial shot of it. Part of this
6 whole purchase agreement was that we get a license agreement
7 from Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, which is working its
8 way through the attorney general's office right now. We have
9 commitment and support that that's gonna happen. We just need
10 to survey the land that we want from DHHL so that we can carve
11 out what we need to operate. It's not a lot. It's -- but it
12 does surround that house completely including driveway access,
13 mauka access, and west end access on the property. And we've
14 been there several times and there are several different ways
15 we can park the fire truck there.

16 VICE CHAIR VARES: Great. That's -- thank you for
17 that. That's a -- that's a big engine. Is it -- are the
18 roads out there and the calls that this station gets and will
19 be getting that's -- do the roads handle a big truck? That's
20 impressive.

21 CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah. So that area is -- has mixed,
22 you know, road use, so there's -- there's well-paved, good
23 roads out to Halawa that the engine can operate on, and then
24 there are a lot of off-road areas in that district, so they
25 also have a utility vehicle as well, a pickup truck --

1 VICE CHAIR VARES: Right.

2 CHIEF VENTURA: -- if we had to move personnel up
3 dirt roads. There's been plane crashes, helicopter crashes,
4 hikers lost on that end of the island where they would use the
5 utility truck rather than the big engine.

6 VICE CHAIR VARES: Got it. And then when you and I
7 were discussing this previously, I thought it was a very valid
8 point to note that a lot of times when your other stations are
9 called out for a wildland fire or something like that, this
10 Pukoo and now the Ualapue comes and covers town while they go
11 out and go take care of whatever emergency is happening. Is
12 that accurate?

13 CHIEF VENTURA: Yes, absolutely. So a lot of times
14 people think that the fire trucks just live in a district, but
15 they don't. We move them, we surge them back and forth. So
16 if there's a big west-end brush fire and we have Kaunakakai as
17 well as Hoolehua and a call-back crew -- because we have
18 relief apparatus on that island, so we can call back crews and
19 we can send all of them out to the west end -- we would move
20 Pukoo to town, maybe staff it with two additional personnel,
21 also called-back personnel, and then that way they could
22 respond to the city area.

23 VICE CHAIR VARES: Great. I appreciate that. Thank
24 you. I think that was about everything that I had. I really
25 do appreciate you guys going through the time and energy to

1 pull this together so quickly because I just asked you about
2 it after the last meeting. So this is -- this is why you're
3 the chief now, is we ask a question, you immediately come up
4 with a PowerPoint. I don't know how you do it. So it's very
5 appreciated. Thank you.

6 CHIEF VENTURA: I have Richelle.

7 VICE CHAIR VARES: Thank you, Richelle.

8 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Lisa.

9 Any other questions from commissioners?

10 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Chief, this is Max.

11 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead, Max.

12 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: I don't understand the
13 hierarchy of your department and system, but you're going from
14 a firefighter to a captain? There's no in-between there as
15 far as positions? 'Cause, it seems kind of unreal to have one
16 captain ordering one Indian. You don't have a lieutenant's
17 position or a sergeant position? You know, Lanai is run -- a
18 lieutenant runs the whole district and I don't understand why
19 it's -- it would have to be that way.

20 CHIEF VENTURA: Certainly. Great question. So the
21 way the positions are structured in HFFA, which is Hawaii
22 Firefighters Association, is different from the police. We
23 don't have lieutenants that work in operations. So we just
24 have -- we have different -- a different rank. We have
25 firefighter 1s, 3s, and captains that generally work on a fire

1 engine. And so what we have here now is the responsibilities
2 that we're putting on these people, one is to drive, so that's
3 a firefighter 3, and then the captain is the person who's in
4 charge of command and control, making decisions, making task
5 and tactic level decisions so that second and third and
6 arriving companies have the direction that they need. So they
7 receive -- compared to -- it's kind of like the captains that
8 the police department has. They're one per larger district,
9 and then lieutenants run it. Our captains run each district
10 versus the way the police are set up, and then we have
11 battalion chiefs over that. So hopefully that helps.

12 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yeah, it does. I joined the
13 wrong department. I should have been in the fire department.

14 (Laughter.)

15 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: Can I add something with
16 that? And just so you know --

17 CHAIR GINOZA: Go ahead.

18 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: -- with the system and how
19 it was designed, the firefighter 1s are specific, they can
20 only go to a firefighter 3, and at the firefighter 3 level,
21 they can only drive the truck and operate the truck. So in
22 order -- what happens is if the firefighter 3 is out, then the
23 firefighter 1 TAs to a firefighter 3, now we're asking them to
24 act as a captain, which goes totally out of their control and
25 out of their range, yeah, because they're not trained at it.

1 It doesn't meet the HFFA requirements, I mean, so that's one
2 of the reasons we had to make that adjustment.

3 And previously back in Hana, that's exactly how it
4 was done. We had a three-man station back in the '90s and you
5 had a captain and a driver and a firefighter, and the minimum
6 was a captain and a driver, and they took care of a lot of the
7 problems that we see now. And it allows them to be paid
8 correctly and it allows them to make the calls and the
9 decisions that they need to make and it allows them to be
10 trained at the proper level, yeah. Hopefully, that helps shed
11 some light.

12 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: So how does that system work
13 in Hana now?

14 CHIEF VENTURA: Well, Hana is -- Hana, they have a
15 regular station, yeah, a five-man station.

16 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yeah. So how long were you
17 running with the three-man team in Hana?

18 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: Oh, brah, imagine in the
19 '90s when I got in, they only had one guy. The three-man
20 station was some years. Again, it's -- we've got to deal with
21 the union and all of that, yeah. It's not that easy to change
22 and adjust it. And, of course, when you look at the amount of
23 calls that a district has, it doesn't make sense financially,
24 and that's us being fiscally responsible, yeah. It doesn't
25 make sense to put a five-man station and you've got a limited

1 amount of calls. So it's -- that means, you know, if you look
2 at cost-wise, I'm paying somebody -- it's costing us 20,000 a
3 month per call if you were to look at numbers and finances.
4 So it's being fiscally responsible and trying to utilize the
5 manpower as best as we can.

6 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: I understand. But wouldn't
7 it be more prudent to have a three-man team out there as far
8 as environmental safety issues?

9 CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah, I mean, for us, expansion in
10 numbers is always gonna be safety. Lanai Fire Station started
11 out as a volunteer fire station and then it grew into a small
12 paid group and now a six-man paid group. So the same as
13 Ualapue and, you know, Pukoo area, if we do need to grow it in
14 the future, then we would definitely do it. We've done it at
15 many stations throughout the department. As demand grows, the
16 manpower grows, so, you know, we'll keep an eye on that for
17 sure.

18 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Okay, good. Thank you.

19 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Max.

20 Any other questions from commissioners?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIR GINOZA: All right, great. Seeing none, thank
23 you, Chief Ventura.

24 The next meeting we have is May 19th, and it will be
25 via BlueJeans again. As I mentioned -- or does anybody have

1 any comments before we get to closing the meeting?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. So as I mentioned, if anyone
4 has any recommendations for what they would like to see either
5 in the next meeting or in the future, please me or Lisa know.
6 As I mentioned, next month we will most likely go over the
7 2023 budget, and I'd also like to hear a little bit about what
8 kind of preparation the fire department does as we get into
9 the dry season as far as fire breaks or other preparation, so
10 that's kind of what I'm thinking for next month. But if any
11 commissioners have any comments, please feel free to reach out
12 to us.

13 And if no other commissioners have any comments,
14 thank you, everyone, for your time today and we will see you
15 next month, May 19th. Take care.

16 CHIEF VENTURA: Thank you, everyone.

17 CHAIR GINOZA: The meeting is adjourned. The
18 meeting is adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

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