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FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

COUNTY OF MAUI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR MEETING

Held via BlueJeans, commencing at 10:09 a.m., on
May 19, 2022.

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

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ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF:

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

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(May 19, 2022, 10:09 a.m.)

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CHAIR GINOZA: Today is May 19th, 10:09 a.m., and I'd like to call to order the Maui County Fire and Public Safety Commission meeting for May. Sorry for the late start, but we shall commence now. My name is Kyle Ginoza, chair of the commission. And I'm sorry, I -- there's a meeting next door to me. I have my door closed, but you might hear some background noise while I speak. So let's -- let's start off with roll call of members.

Vice Chair Lisa Vares.

VICE CHAIR VARES: Lisa Vares present.

CHAIR GINOZA: Could you also state if anybody's in the room with you and where you're located?

VICE CHAIR VARES: I am located in my home office. There is no one else here.

CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Lisa.

Dwight is excused.

Punahele.

COMMISSIONER ALCON: Here. Located at Molokai General Hospital alone.

CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

Max Kincaid, Jr.

COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yeah, I'm here at home. My wife is here.

1 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

2 Dylan is excused.

3 Makalapua.

4 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Here. I'm at the Royal
5 Lahaina Resort in my office, and I'm alone.

6 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you.

7 Chief Ventura, would you like to state who is
8 supporting you today?

9 CHIEF VENTURA: Sure. Aloha, everybody. Good
10 morning. We have in the room with me today myself, Chief
11 Lindo, and Chief Giesea. Off to -- camera here is Richelle.
12 And those are the only people in the room with us. In
13 Wisconsin is Deputy Chief Fujioka.

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Wow. Welcome.

15 And I believe -- Herman, are you there from MEMA?

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

17 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you.

18 And from corporation counsel, we have Dan Kunkel,
19 and I don't know if there's anybody else. Dan.

20 MR. KUNKEL: Just me, and I'm alone in my office,
21 yeah. Aloha.

22 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you.

23 Let's move on to approval of minutes from our last
24 meeting from April 21st. I noticed there's one correction
25 that one statement was attributed to Chief Ventura, I believe,

1 and it was Chief Lindo who -- who made that remark. But, I
2 mean, aside from the name being incorrect, I think like, from
3 my perspective, the minutes were appropriate. Does anybody
4 have any comments?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

6 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Seeing none, could I have a
7 motion to accept the April 21st --

8 CHIEF VENTURA: Chair, sorry.

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, sorry.

10 CHIEF VENTURA: Sorry, Chair. There's one more
11 comment here.

12 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, okay.

13 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: Not that I care personally,
14 but it looks like I'm being referred to as Battalion Chief
15 Giesea, which is not technically correct.

16 CHIEF VENTURA: So we'll work with Richelle to
17 update those minutes.

18 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay, great. Thank you, Chief
19 Giesea.

20 Does anyone else have any comments about the minutes
21 that we were distributed?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Seeing none, could I have a
24 motion to accept the minutes with a couple of revisions as
25 noted, as we previously discussed?

1 VICE CHAIR VARES: I move to accept the minutes with
2 those slight changes.

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Great. Thank you, Lisa.

4 Could I have a second?

5 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: I'll second.

6 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Makalapua.

7 So let's all vote. I'll do a roll call vote.

8 So, Lisa, are you in favor?

9 VICE CHAIR VARES: Lisa Vares in favor.

10 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Punahuele.

11 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Yes.

12 CHAIR GINOZA: Max.

13 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yeah.

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Makalapua.

15 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Yes.

16 CHAIR GINOZA: And I approve as well.

17 So five in favor. The minutes are approved.

18 I'd like to move on next to public testimony.

19 Richelle, I believe we have at least one testifier signed up?

20 MS. WAKAMATSU: Yes, we have one person that only
21 signed up today on the chat, Mahina Poepoe.

22 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Mahina Poepoe, please go
23 ahead.

24 MS. POEPOE: Okay. Good morning, Chair. Before I
25 get started, I wanted -- I want to testify on the reallocation

1 position in Pukoo Fire Station, but I wanted to make sure that
2 that's appropriate to testify about it today or if I should
3 request, you know, time on a future agenda when it can be --

4 CHAIR GINOZA: No, absolutely, it's perfect. Go
5 ahead.

6 MS. POEPOE: Okay. Aloha, Fire Commissioners. My
7 name is Mahina Poepoe from Lanai and Molokai, the service
8 district area of Pukoo Fire Station. My husband is currently
9 a firefighter stationed at Pukoo, and I am a member of Council
10 Member Rawlin-Fernandez's staff, but I want to make very clear
11 that I am not testifying on my husband's behalf (inaudible)
12 behalf and testifying as a well-respected community leader and
13 advocate on Lanai.

14 I live across the street from the Pukoo Fire
15 Station. I've lived across here for the station's entire
16 existence. My dad retired from the department as a captain,
17 and I've had multiple generations of family service by the
18 Pukoo Fire Station. I can tell you that change in our
19 community has been gradual and modest at most, not drastic. I
20 am testifying to express that I do not support the
21 reallocation position, and I would instead be in strong
22 support of an expansion position that adds a captain. And I
23 have a few supporting points to offer.

24 First, I'd like to respond or talk about
25 qualifications of personnel. The department has made multiple

1 statements that allude to Pukoo personnel being less than
2 adequate. For example, they've said that there's too many
3 responsibilities for people that aren't trained to the right
4 level. Also, that basically, we're giving them more tools and
5 more responsibilities, but we still have a driver and
6 firefighter out there. I think when implications of
7 inadequacy are made, I would ask the commission to consider
8 requesting the department provide additional validation of
9 these claims that might include, you know, producing community
10 complaints that speak to the inadequacies. I think without
11 supporting validation, the perpetuation of these types of
12 determinations are unfairly disparaging toward employees.

13 I would also ask that the commission consider
14 further explanation on specifically what is too much
15 responsibility, you know, what tools specifically are out of
16 the range of capabilities, and to define what the right level
17 of training is because, to me, everything's been pretty broad
18 and vague thus far. And our county spends, you know, 1.3 to 2
19 million every year, estimated, on training, and as a taxpayer,
20 I do expect that that money is turning out fully equipped and
21 capable personnel.

22 Just another point is I think these kinds of
23 statements also open the door to liabilities regarding
24 possible claims of intentional negligence.

25 Okay. What we need is an expanded position, not a

1 reallocation. Our community has never expressed a need for a
2 reallocation, but they have expressed a need for an expanded
3 captain's position because an expanded position actually makes
4 a functional and measurable difference. It addresses the
5 issue of limited manpower by adding manpower and adding an
6 extra body, which the reallocation does not.

7 Okay. I have two other points. First is about
8 filling staff shortages. I don't know how everything works,
9 so I'm just an outsider making an observation, but, you know,
10 if we have a captain and a driver out there, I think the pool
11 to pull from to fill shortages gets a lot smaller. And in a
12 rank-for-rank or callback situation, if a captain is
13 unavailable and a driver is temporarily assigned to a
14 captain's position and then a firefighter TAs to a driver, we
15 still end up in the exact same situation of a driver-
16 firefighter scenario or possibly a driver-driver scenario.

17 And my last point is without a firefighter, who does
18 the firefighter work? I have these scenarios in my brain that
19 I'm just gonna put out there to see if it makes sense. If a
20 driver and a firefighter go to a fire, the firefighter -- the
21 driver drives, they talk on the radio, and they pump the
22 truck; and then the firefighter will pull the hose out and
23 spray the fire. I think this is a clear (inaudible) --

24 MS. WAKAMATSU: Sorry, Mahina. Sorry to cut you
25 off, but can you conclude? Because your three minutes is up.

1 MS. POEPOE: Okay. I have a minute. So then you --
2 then the captain and the driver go to the fire, you know,
3 who's delegated to do the firefighter work? Is the captain
4 gonna pull the hose out and spray the fire, or is the driver
5 gonna do it?

6 So I have a longer explanation, but I can also send
7 this in in writing if provided an email address. Again, who
8 does the firefighter work? I think the firefighter position
9 is very essential. We don't need a reallocation, we need an
10 expansion, and that's what I'm gonna fight for for my
11 community. Thank you.

12 CHAIR GINOZA: I wouldn't mind, actually, if you
13 just completed your testimony, but if you actually also
14 submitted it. So, I mean, unless any commissioners have any
15 issue if -- since she says she only has a minute left, could
16 we just have Mahina just continue?

17 (Response.)

18 CHAIR GINOZA: Yeah. Just please go ahead, Mahina.

19 MS. POEPOE: Thank you. Okay. So I explained the
20 scenario of what happens when a driver and a firefighter go to
21 the fire. So when the captain and the driver go to the fire,
22 once at the fire, in one scenario, the firefighter -- the
23 driver still drives the truck, and at the fire, the captain
24 ends up doing the firefighter work of pulling out the hose and
25 spraying the fire, and the driver will maintain pumping the

1 truck. I'm just wondering if, in this scenario, can the
2 captain be the firefighter while still talking on the radio,
3 or will the driver who is pumping the truck be assigned to
4 talk on the radio, and is this practical?

5 In another captain- driver scenario, the driver
6 still drives, but once at the fire, the captain assigns the
7 driver to do the firefighter work of pulling the hose and
8 spraying the fire, and then the captain takes over the
9 driver's role of pumping the truck. In this scenario, the
10 captain is able to maintain control of the radio. But in
11 either situation, somebody's gonna be doing firefighter work,
12 and I'm just wondering, like, how that is practical and
13 functional in comparison to a driver and a firefighter doing
14 it?

15 I think that's pretty much it. Thank you.

16 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Mahina.

17 Does any commissioner have any questions for the
18 testifier?

19 VICE CHAIR VARES: (Gesturing.)

20 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, thank you
21 very much. Oh, sorry, it looks like Lisa, Vice Chair Lisa
22 Vares has a question.

23 VICE CHAIR VARES: I do. Thank you so much for your
24 testimony, Mahina. So, listening to your points, which were
25 perfectly explained, I understand the need for an expansion of

1 whichever location is chosen because we do -- you know, we're
2 considering a relocation to another literal -- another
3 location. If the personnel for the new location were to be
4 expanded to this three positions, would that -- would that
5 answer your concerns?

6 MS. POEPOE: Yes, absolutely.

7 VICE CHAIR VARES: So it's not necessarily about the
8 location as it is about the personnel at whichever location --

9 MS. POEPOE: Yes.

10 VICE CHAIR VARES: -- is used? Okay. Thank you. I
11 appreciate that. Thank you very much. That was all I needed
12 to know.

13 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Thank you, Lisa.

14 Any other questions from commissioners?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, thank you,
17 Mahina.

18 MS. POEPOE: Thank you.

19 CHAIR GINOZA: And I forgot to mention, I am in
20 Makena at my office, alone in my office.

21 Richelle, is there any other testifier wishing to
22 testify?

23 MS. WAKAMATSU: No other testifiers at this time.

24 CHAIR GINOZA: Anybody on the chat or on the call
25 today wishing to testify?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, I'll close
3 public testimony.

4 Next on our agenda is Maui Emergency Management
5 Agency. Herman, you have the floor.

6 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 For MEMA, hurricane season starts on June 1st, and
8 it will be from June 1st until November 30th, and -- and so,
9 as I've mentioned before, we've been doing a lot of
10 preparations for this hurricane season. Yesterday there was
11 an announcement made by the National Weather Service. They do
12 this every year where they provide a Central Pacific Hurricane
13 Outlook. And so this year, they announced that it looks like
14 we'll be heading into another La Nina phase, and so the La
15 Nino-Southern oscillation cycle. And what this means is that
16 our sea surface temperatures should be cooler this summer, and
17 what that means is that we'll probably see less -- you know,
18 less hurricanes coming over. So they predicted that there
19 would be about two to four hurricanes this hurricane season.
20 But, you know, really, it just takes one to come through and
21 to -- to create havoc and to create a lot of damage, so be
22 sure to remain vigilant nonetheless even though, you know --
23 even though it may be less active, we should continue to do
24 all the preparation that we can.

25 So based on that, we've continued our exercises, but

1 we went one week with Makani Pahili doing an exercise with the
2 state. We've also had a Senior Leaders Tabletop Exercise, and
3 this is with the governor, the mayors, the lieutenant
4 governor, the Adjutant General Kenneth Hara, the mayors, and
5 all of the EM administrators. So we've been doing that.
6 We've also been checking with our remote incident command
7 posts. And myself and our lead planner traveled to Lanai to
8 do the ICP there. We also had meetings with Chief Lindo as
9 well with our ICPs from Hana and Molokai as well. We met with
10 Assistant Ryland Yatsushiro and Captain Stencus regarding
11 CERT. CERT is Community Emergency Response Team. And so
12 we've been -- we've been working very closely with fire all
13 these years.

14 Fire has been conducting all the trainings for us
15 and, you know, we have hundreds of volunteers that have --
16 have been trained thus far, but we need -- we need more, and
17 so -- and specifically we need them in the remote ICPs, and
18 that's where I'd like to ask for help from the commissioners
19 because, you know, this is your communities so if you can help
20 us recruit members to become CERT members. And CERT is
21 important to us because oftentimes, we may not be able to send
22 assistance quickly into these communities, and so this is
23 where we have a CERT team that's embedded in the community.
24 They can provide assistance very quickly. Also, they will be
25 supplying relief to our first responders as well. So the

1 less -- the less serious cases, you know, where they can
2 provide assistance can be done by CERT members.

3 We also will be participating in the fire
4 department's training regarding EOC integration that's coming
5 up. And also, we'll be participating in the ICS300-400 class
6 put on by Homeland Security. So there's a lot of trainings
7 going on as we prepare for the hurricane season. We're also
8 working with the Fire and Local Emergency Planning
9 Commission -- Or Committee, rather, to update their hazardous
10 materials plan, so we'll be -- we'll be sponsoring that effort
11 through MEMA.

12 Finally, one last thing, we had an activation, a
13 flash flood warning. And this is for, if you recall, maybe
14 two weeks back or so, there was heavy rains, and it caused a
15 culvert to be washed out near Kaupo on Piilani Highway. So we
16 did activate the -- well, we went to partial activation. And
17 we did speak to the remote incident commander there, which was
18 police, and they were able to reach out to the communities
19 there to -- to see if they were okay, if there were any needs.
20 And, you know, luckily, a lot of them there are -- are very
21 resilient because, you know, these things happen quite often
22 for them, so they did not -- they didn't need any assistance
23 from us. You know, they had supplies, and they were able to
24 weather out the storm, you know.

25 So, anyway, that's all I have, Mr. Chair. I'm open

1 to any questions, if there are any.

2 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you very much, Herman.

3 Does any commissioner have any questions for Herman
4 today?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, thank you
7 very much, Herman.

8 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you very much.

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Let's move on to the fire department.
10 Chief Ventura.

11 CHIEF VENTURA: Aloha. Good morning, everybody.
12 Thank you for making quorum this morning so we can share with
13 you. Before I get into my normal report, I also want to
14 piggyback on what Director Andaya was saying about the
15 hurricane season. They share a lot of their reports with us
16 regarding weather, and one of the things that we're looking at
17 is because of the drier season, they're anticipating the peak
18 of the wildfire season being earlier, which is June and July,
19 rather than later, July-August. So we've got that, you know,
20 information, and we're working, as you'll see in today's
21 presentation, on how to combat the -- this wildfire season.
22 The past wet season that we had was the 12th driest in the
23 last 30 years, so most of us did not see a lot of rain in our
24 neck of the woods, and that is why.

25 Next week Friday -- and we'll post this on our

1 social media -- the Hawaii State Library System is providing a
2 Hurricane Preparedness Virtual Workshop, and so that is also,
3 you know, some of the information that came out of MEMA and
4 that we're gonna share on our social media to -- to make the
5 public aware that hurricane season is upon us and we should be
6 prepared.

7 Getting into the rest of my normal report, we'll
8 first look at the calls for the month. As you can see, the
9 trend continues to rise in our wildfires. Most everything
10 else is pretty consistent, but we do recognize that things are
11 getting drier, and our wildfire calls are going up.

12 On the back side or on the second page is the
13 training for the month. And the training for the month,
14 again, you can see our efforts are focused on some of our
15 mandatory training as well as a lot of captain-led training
16 out there on a variety of different topics that we push
17 seasonally. So we're coming up on captains are getting
18 prepared for the wildland fire season, and the cadre is also
19 gonna go out there and train with all of the members here
20 shortly.

21 The next handout is the monthly update.
22 (Inaudible.) There is some of the things that I've already
23 talked about, some budget items that are in the process. Our
24 recruitment that Chief Fujioka will talk about and promotions
25 that we accomplished.

1 And on the back of that monthly update is that
2 section that I shared with you last month that we're gonna try
3 to spotlight some of our accomplishments within members of our
4 department. You know, we rely on them to share with us,
5 sometimes they do, sometimes they don't, but a lot of them,
6 you know, will have different occasions going on, and we
7 want -- we want to share that and share their accomplishments
8 with the rest of the department when we can. So that's what
9 the back of the monthly update looks like.

10 For my report for the month, we've had several
11 meetings, you know, with the managing director, the deputy
12 directors, as well as the mayor. Some of the projects that
13 I'll continue to talk about continue to be moved on, but in
14 the, you know, pace of government, things move somewhat slowly
15 when we have to get all of the departments together. So the
16 mayor is in support of doing one of the projects that our
17 commissions have suggested that we work on, which is our
18 lifeguard tower murals, and so that's -- it's in its infancy,
19 but it -- I think it serves both -- two purposes. One is the
20 longevity of the tower, and two, we can get some artwork done
21 on our tower so that it matches -- the goal is to match the
22 ahupuaa which in -- that tower is in and gain input from the
23 community members in that area so that the mural on the tower
24 represents the area that the tower is in. So I think that's a
25 really cool project, the mayor's in support of it, and so

1 we're working with Vice Chair Vares on that.

2 If you look at the council interactions, not too
3 much as they were well into their budget process. And so once
4 we finished our testimony and providing answers to their
5 questions last month, that they kind of went into their
6 process of finishing and tightening up the budget, so not too
7 much communication with them the last 20 days or so.

8 On the back of my report, we -- several of us went
9 to the FDIC or the Fire Department Instructor Conference.
10 It's a -- it's one of the -- it's the largest conference in
11 the United States. It was really good 'cause they cover all
12 topics from operations to management to union issues to policy
13 and procedures, so it was a very, very valuable travel effort.

14 We're doing some work with our airport firefighters,
15 and I'd say the biggest highlight here is they now have a
16 5,000-gallon tender at the airport that can respond to mutual
17 aid calls for us about a mile outside the airport here at
18 Kahului, so that's a great resource, good to know, and can be
19 good help in the future.

20 And then the last thing on my report, which was a
21 real -- really good ceremony, the Kahuola Award. As you all
22 remember, I presented it on behalf of the fire commission to
23 the students in Lahainaluna. And what we did was we tied in
24 our community risk reduction, hands-only CPR program to the
25 award, and so we got students involved in presenting the award

1 as well as actually doing hands-only CPR training that day.
2 And we've already gotten feedback from Lahainaluna that they
3 want -- they want to incorporate this into their HOSA program,
4 and so it's really, really good. We're excited. Our goal is
5 with that community risk reduction/CPR program is to deliver
6 it at the high school freshman level, and then we would then
7 turn the program over to the high school and then provide them
8 the equipment to continue the education within their school,
9 but we could do, you know, advising and (inaudible) station
10 and teaching and a trainer course at all the freshman high
11 schools in the state. So just started it last month, it
12 was -- it was a great kickoff.

13 I'll conclude there. If any commissioner has any
14 questions, happy to answer them.

15 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Ventura.

16 Does any commissioner have any questions for the
17 chief?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, thank you.
20 Deputy Chief Fujioka.

21 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Yeah, how's it going? Can
22 you guys hear me?

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes.

24 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Okay, cool. Okay. So, good
25 afternoon, good morning to you guys. Like Chief Brad said,

1 I'm up in Wisconsin at Pierce Manufacturing. This is where we
2 build our fire trucks. I'm actually here for a
3 preconstruction meeting for a Kula engine and a Lanai engine,
4 and I'm in the room by myself.

5 So I'll just go over my monthly report. We kind of
6 finished up the last portion of our -- our interviews and
7 promotions. We promoted our firefighter 2s, which is our
8 hazmat techs and our rescue personnel. So we promoted the
9 names that are listed here: Justin Arruda, Eli Ferreira,
10 Joseph Landi, Kelsey Manning, Lee Moyers, Vietnam Nguyen, and
11 Tyler Orikasa to firefighter 2.

12 We completed our physical agility tests on April
13 30th for our recruits, and we conducted our interviews the
14 following week. We did 29 candidate interviews, and 20
15 candidates were collected for our recruit training program,
16 which will be coming up in June.

17 Moving on to our improvement committees, we had a
18 research and development committee meeting in which we were
19 able to approve two respiratory protection PPEs for our
20 wildland firefighting. Also, our current rules and
21 regulations are being reviewed and revised. And we also had a
22 meeting with our helicopter cadre to go over our SOGs and
23 equipment needed for the operations with our new helicopter.

24 Apparatus committee, so the new engine for Engine 7
25 and Mini 9 on Molokai, the notice to proceeds just went out,

1 so the contractor signed and notice to proceed issued this
2 past week. New Engine 8 and new Engine 13, like I said
3 earlier, I'm up here now doing the preconstruction meeting for
4 those two engines, and that will probably look at being
5 delivered about a year from today.

6 Union interactions, you know, we met with HGEA or
7 continue to meet with HGEA personnel basically for our 4/10
8 schedules for our ocean safety officers. And HFFA, we
9 consulted with them for some COVID-19 protocols or issues that
10 came up, and also a code of conduct language for our members.

11 And then I'll close with just our thank you's from
12 the public. We did receive a thank you from State Senator
13 Lynn DeCoite thanking Maui Fire Department for supporting the
14 first annual Molokai Community Resource Fair, which was held
15 on the island of Molokai. And from the reviews we got, it was
16 a good turnout there on Molokai.

17 That's all I have for you guys. If you guys have
18 any questions, I'll be happy to answer.

19 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Fujioka.

20 Any questions from commissioners for Chief Fujioka?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, thank you
23 very much and enjoy your stay there.

24 Chief Lindo.

25 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: Can you guys hear me all

1 right?

2 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes.

3 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: All right. Good morning,
4 Chair. Good morning, Commissioners. Good to see you guys
5 again.

6 My committee notes, the first topic is just all the
7 incidents dealing with fire and ocean safety. Again, it --
8 for operationally, it makes sense to look at these incidents,
9 analyze it, see what we're doing, and make adjustments
10 accordingly. So that's the important part of this.

11 We had a couple of ocean searches that did result in
12 us having to go a little bit deeper with our personnel so that
13 way we could really tie up some loose ends and give the end
14 product for the community and the people we are assisting to
15 provide them the best that we possibly could. So that's good.

16 The bureaus, the training bureau and ocean safety,
17 which fall under me, these are some of the highlights. Again,
18 we continue to get ready for that upcoming recruit class,
19 hopefully, to begin the end of June, beginning of July. Chief
20 Fujioka covered the amount of recruits that we'll have in
21 there. We're shooting for 20.

22 On the incumbent side, the boat operations, we've
23 got three rescue boats throughout the county: One on Molokai,
24 one in Lahaina, and one here at Kahului Fire Station. So
25 it's -- because we've got a change in personnel, it's staying

1 on top of them and providing the best operations boat training
2 that we can and giving them opportunity to train on it and go
3 in the conditions that we would see out there on calls.

4 EMR refresher, we continue to do training on the
5 mobile data computers and get that -- you know, it's new, so
6 there's a lot of hiccups in it, so we continue to work through
7 that.

8 The blue card training, our command and control,
9 it's continuing to happen right now, and it's getting our
10 captains and drivers up to speed and communicating the right
11 way. Understanding that when we go to the five types of
12 structures most common in our community, that we're
13 responding, that we're using the resources the way it's
14 supposed to be used.

15 We also had a two-day National Fire Academy
16 Leadership and Supervision Course, which is absolutely
17 wonderful because, you know, it's giving leadership and
18 providing leadership to our men and women.

19 On the ocean safety side -- you know what, one more
20 thing before I -- before with the training bureau. We're
21 getting ready for our wildland burn incumbent training. We
22 hope to do that in the month of June. It's gonna be taking
23 place off of Waiko and, again, you know, it's a -- it's a two-
24 way thing. We're able to remove brush and at the same time,
25 provide our guys with training, so that's huge.

1 On the ocean safety side, you guys see what's going
2 on. The recruit training for the 10 OSO 1's. We're almost
3 done, so it's right around the corner.

4 The junior lifeguard program is set to go. Because
5 of COVID, it was placed on hold. So we're looking at doing
6 three sessions for the junior lifeguard program. The first
7 one June 20 to the 24th, the second one June 27 to July 1st,
8 and the last one July 11th to the 15th for those aged 12 to 17
9 and ten max per session.

10 One thing that did happen is we lost an ocean safety
11 officer. It wasn't in the line of duty, but we continue to
12 make arrangements and work with the family to provide the best
13 celebration of life that we can.

14 That's all I have. Do you guys have any questions?

15 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Lindo.

16 Any questions from commissioners?

17 VICE CHAIR VARES: (Gesturing.)

18 CHAIR GINOZA: Lisa.

19 VICE CHAIR VARES: I just wanted to say thank you,
20 Chief Lindo, for expanding on the locations of some of the
21 major incidents that we get. I noticed that you put that on
22 the report moving forward, and I appreciate that, so thank
23 you.

24 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: You're very welcome. And if
25 there's anything else that you guys feel you want to add,

1 please, please bring it up. Thank you.

2 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

3 Any other questions from commissioners?

4 (No response.)

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

7 Chief Giese.

8 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: Yes. Good morning,
9 everybody. So I'm just gonna hit some of the highlights here,
10 and then, of course, feel free to ask about anything you like.
11 We'll start with the fire prevention bureau. We did fill some
12 vacant positions there, so that's great. As we all know, we
13 need every -- every bit of staffing we can get over there.

14 The countywide MAPPS program is up and running. I
15 think there's a few hiccups with generating some reports, but
16 for the most part, I think it's actually functioning pretty
17 well for everyone from what I've heard.

18 You can see public education starting up again,
19 right? So our prevention bureau participated in a career day
20 at the Sheraton and a career day at Iao School. We're getting
21 more requests coming in, you know, now that things have kind
22 of loosened up a little bit. At least -- at least for the
23 time being, we're able to get out there in the community, and
24 we did -- actually, one of our new members in the fire
25 prevention bureau is being assigned as the public education

1 officer and, you know, they're in orientation training right
2 now for all of our promoted firefighter 3s, but we'll be
3 hitting the ground running as soon as that's done.

4 For health and safety bureau, they also got two new
5 personnel. They're hitting the ground running as well,
6 working on our OSHA compliance programs as well as helping
7 with our, you know, warehousing issues and, you know, SCBA
8 orders and things of that nature that have come in. Tracking
9 inventory for the PPE, that's something we do annually just --
10 it's just a way of check -- making sure all of our personnel
11 are checking in with their important PPE and really examining
12 it and finding any issues with it, making sure that we're
13 staying on top of any replacement needs and such.

14 We have some good news/bad news scenarios. We --
15 one of our -- one of our new firefighters we already know is
16 an outstanding worker, that's our SCBA technician. So he's
17 gonna be actually becoming a firefighter with us. The bad
18 news, of course, is we're losing a good SCBA technician, so
19 we'll be working to replace him as well. But he's still here
20 on staff; he'll still be able to take advantage of some of the
21 training that he's gotten and help us as we need.

22 One thing that's new in my report -- which I hope
23 you find valuable, let me know -- is I figured you might want
24 to hear about some of the major facility or CIP projects we
25 have going on, so I have a list here of kind of the big ones.

1 One of the things we're doing is the professional facility
2 assessment. You know, we all start our careers and continue
3 our careers as firefighters, not building engineers and
4 architects and things of that nature. So in an effort to be
5 more proactive and less reactive when it comes to repairs,
6 maintenance, upgrades to our facilities, we're looking to hire
7 a professional consulting firm that's gonna be going out to
8 all of our facilities, you know, a few each year, and looking
9 at all sorts of components, you know, civil conditions,
10 architectural conditions, structural, mechanical, electrical,
11 plumbing, and really helping us make an effective plan for
12 what we need to do to make sure we keep our facilities up and
13 running the way we want rather than just, oh, a problem has
14 gotten to the point where it's so bad, everybody's recognizing
15 it, and then we ask for money in the budget, and then we end
16 up kind of scrambling. Right? So, you know, we're doing
17 okay, but this is an attempt to just get out in front of some
18 major things. So that's what's up with that.

19 We've got some expansion projects at a few stations:
20 Lanai, Makawao, Hoolehua. Mostly those are about building
21 extra space for apparatus storage as well as gym facilities
22 and general storage. Those stations have really kind of
23 cramped areas for their apparatus, and we don't have adequate
24 space for some of the relief apparatus we may want to store
25 there as well as our utility vehicles.

1 We've been renovating the bathroom at Wailuku
2 Station. That's our Station 1, you know, the oldest station,
3 and was definitely in need of some renovations there. That's
4 just about done. They're finishing up some tile work.

5 We did some renovations in Kihei, some painting on
6 the exterior and interior, as well as providing a covered
7 laundry area.

8 Still working on Haiku Fire Station, working through
9 some water supply issues with the department of water supply
10 there.

11 We've talked a fair amount about Pukoo Station and
12 its relocation and renovation project. Chief Ventura and
13 Chief Lindo were just there yesterday working with a lot of
14 our personnel to help with, you know, preparing that site for
15 the work that needs to be done.

16 And we did -- as was in my report last time, you
17 know, we've been working with a firm called G70. It's a large
18 kind of, you know, firm that helps, you know, with all the
19 various planning components for major projects. So we've been
20 working on kind of rightsizing their participation so -- and
21 so we've got a contract pending with them to help provide
22 environmental assessment and such for that project.

23 Some various painting projects in the works, and
24 we'll be looking to do some refinishing of our host tower
25 stairs here at Kahului Station.

1 So those are the main projects we've got going on,
2 and that's pretty much what I have to report on. Are there
3 any questions?

4 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Giese.

5 Does any commissioner have any questions for the
6 chief?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, thank you
9 very much.

10 Chief Ventura.

11 CHIEF VENTURA: All right. Thank you. So, Chair,
12 if you'd like, next, we can go into our presentation. To do
13 that this week, Chief Lindo will cover our wildland
14 preparation, prevention, and training. Would that be
15 suitable?

16 CHAIR GINOZA: Sounds great.

17 CHIEF VENTURA: All right. We'll have him share
18 screen and provide his presentation.

19 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: All right. Sorry about
20 that. Hold on. What happened? Sorry about that.

21 Okay. Can you guys see that?

22 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes.

23 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: All right. Bear with me.
24 This might be the worst presentation you guys ever see.

25 (Laughter.)

1 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: All kidding aside, you know,
2 wildland firefighting, you guys both know that -- how
3 important it is and that's part of our job, so absolute
4 opportune time to share knowing that we're going into that
5 season, knowing just last week we had a rash of brush fires
6 that could have impacted hugely, but thank goodness that a lot
7 of the right components were in place so we could mitigate,
8 stop it where it was at without it expanding and then really
9 making a huge loss for our county.

10 So this is wildland firefighting throughout Maui
11 County. This slide right here just -- if you look at the
12 amount of acres per island in our county, we actually have
13 four islands within our county, so some of the things that
14 stand out is when you look at the amount of conservation and
15 agricultural lands, that's a huge amount of open lands, yeah.
16 So we really want to look at what those lands are being used
17 for when we're dealing with conservation and agriculture.
18 That helps drive a lot of the decisions, yeah, and giving us
19 an awareness of what's happening out there.

20 When we're looking at this slide, you know, it's
21 gathering all of this information, and in the wildland world,
22 there's a term called situational awareness, yeah. So you
23 take a look at the layout, you understand the western side of
24 an island compared to the eastern side of the island. You
25 look at trade wind flow and all of these different things that

1 each island has, its uniqueness, and it's forming a
2 situational awareness of each and every day for us. So that's
3 some of the things that we look for as firefighters, yeah.
4 We're looking for the layout of the land; we're looking for
5 topography and the impact of all of these different things.
6 So it's not just, you know, jump on a truck, throw some water
7 on a fire, and there's -- there's a lot of different things in
8 place.

9 Things that we want to look at is absolutely the
10 increased fire risk factors. So here's some of it right here.
11 Wetter winter seasons with drier summers. Herman talked about
12 the El Nino and the La Nina seasons; that actually impacts
13 fire. Longer drought times, less cattle on lands, shutdown of
14 the major agricultural produces such as sugarcane and
15 pineapple, I mean, just created open opportunities for bigger
16 fires, yeah.

17 And then, you look at the different invasive species
18 of grasses and shrubs. Haole Koa, I mean, it's just rampant
19 out there. And when you add fire and the dryness of seasons
20 to it, I mean, you're talking about huger flame lengths, the
21 ability for rapid-fire fire spread, and ability for spot fires
22 down because of the floating debris.

23 And then human contributions, yeah. It's not just
24 guys lighting fires, but electrical fires can happen when
25 lines get broken. Fireworks and also vehicles themselves.

1 Amazingly, guys don't look, but catalytic converters, as good
2 as the intentions of them are, you know what I mean, in some
3 way, shape, or form, you know, when it's not operating the way
4 it does and the temperatures that it operates, it's just a
5 little piece of that touches grass, I mean, shucks, huge
6 fires. So we like to take a look at that.

7 As you know, for us, data drives decisions. So what
8 we want to do is we want to take a look at all of those land
9 areas and the agricultural use, and then we want to look
10 through the records management system, our RMS, the NFIRS, UH
11 research, Hawaii Wild -- you know, take all of this
12 information, put it together to form one huge picture, yeah.
13 We want to look at sending our personnel to deployments and
14 conferences and relating to people and personnel from many
15 different areas not only here in Hawaii but also on the
16 mainland, yeah, and really analyzing and taking these
17 experiences and seeing what worked, what didn't work, what can
18 we do better. Again, all of this to determine the best course
19 of action that we can.

20 So this, in turn, allows us to form what is
21 essentially creating one wildland firefighting plan, yeah. So
22 we want to take a look and train and perform based on a number
23 of different things. We grab those data, we look at the
24 current guidelines that we have, the way we've done it, we
25 look at our rules and regs and our standard operating

1 guidelines, we look at the NFPA standards, and we tailor our
2 training plan to meet those things, so it protects us when
3 we're dealing with OSHA standards and compliance. It protects
4 us when we're dealing with the type of equipment and the PPE
5 that we use. And then we go ahead, and we take it a step
6 down, and we want to target the specific training for our
7 recruits and incumbents. Again, one recruit, they're coming
8 out of someplace, they could've been waiters when they
9 graduated from high school, so making sure they understand
10 what fire is, so we're gonna give them the type of training
11 that is most useful for them, yeah. Incumbents, a higher
12 level of training because they've been doing the fire response
13 that much longer.

14 So these are some of the trainings that we like to
15 look at dealing with wildland: S130/190, mop up, firing
16 operations, direct fire attack as compared to indirect -- and
17 all that is is direct fire attack is us grabbing hoses and
18 putting water on the fire; indirect fire attack, I'll cover it
19 a little bit later, but that's utilizing resources like dozers
20 and hand crews away from the fire to try and indirectly stop
21 the fire. Using fire and creating back burns in order to stop
22 the fire, then bump and runs, anchors and flanks, all of these
23 different things are tools in the bag that we utilize to try
24 and create the best firefighting plan.

25 Also, we gotta look at the island. So if you look

1 at the different districts that we have, these coincide with
2 the different stations. So Station 5, Makawao, we'll operate
3 at fires way differently than Station 7 because of the
4 terrain, the wet weather, the conditions, you know. So we've
5 gotta grab the right type of equipment, the right type of
6 equipment to balance the type of topography, the type of
7 fuels, the type of weather patterns that we have.

8 So once we've got that all in place, then there's
9 many different ways that we can train. So these are a number
10 of different pictures. You see that one on the right when
11 Chief Gavin was, you know, early in his career, but that's
12 called a sand table. So we don't -- we don't have to be out
13 there, you know, in the elements doing training, even though
14 that's part of what we want to do. We want to get the hands-
15 on, but here's a sand table, and what we're doing is we're
16 learning resources. We're able to create a controlled
17 environment but put people in situations to make command
18 decisions, yeah. With these types of resources, what are you
19 gonna use them for? Here's the wind direction. We can
20 utilize radios and talk story like -- as a real incident, but
21 in a controlled small environment. Easier to get things done,
22 yeah, as compared to us guys being online, and you're dealing
23 with acres and hands-on.

24 We want to look at that lower picture right there.
25 The beauty of fire is taking a look at past historical

1 incidents that happened at multiple other places where
2 people -- where firefighters lost their lives and seeing the
3 things that happened there and adjusting it and throwing it in
4 our training plan.

5 These are other pictures of us actually going out
6 there and doing those -- those hands-on trainings. Again, we
7 want to identify the districts, we want to utilize what makes
8 sense most in those areas, and then take it into the
9 wildland-urban interface, yeah. How do these wildland areas,
10 these open areas, affect homes and houses?

11 Yeah, just a couple of more pictures of how we
12 utilize the training.

13 So after we identify the training, this is probably
14 one of the most important parts, is determining our resources,
15 yeah. Taking a look at all of these different things and
16 realizing, do we have enough equipment? The beautiful thing
17 about fires and what we want to do with fires is we want to
18 overrun the incident. So the best thing we can do is we order
19 big, we order early. The faster we can surround the incident
20 and get resources on top of it, the faster we can start
21 demobilizing, yeah, and sending people home. Because why? We
22 were able to contain or stop the fire.

23 So how do we do this? The fire department has only
24 got a limited amount of resources, yeah. We have engines,
25 we've got tankers, we've got minis, we've got personnel, we've

1 got air support, but we also want to go ahead and establish
2 agency support, yeah, with different coordinating agencies out
3 there. And so what we do is, especially during this time, is
4 we identify the different agencies out there, private versus
5 government and nongovernment agencies that we make contact
6 with these guys and we determine a resource list for each
7 island and each district. Which I just spent about the past
8 two months making contact and creating that list and updating
9 the list with numbers, and making sure that if we have these
10 types of incidents in the different areas, these are the
11 resources that we want to reach out to and get ahold of them
12 ahead of time, yeah. We have -- MEMA is absolutely inside
13 because we've gotta notify them of things.

14 Let's see. And I don't want to get ahead of myself,
15 so -- all right.

16 So these are some of the agencies, not all of the
17 agencies, but you can see a lot of the agencies that we like
18 to work with, yeah, in the wildland world, and each and every
19 one of them plays a huge and integral part. Again, if we can
20 get ahead of it early -- these last fires last week Thursday,
21 we had six fires within a timeframe of an hour and an hour and
22 a half, and utilizing these agencies were huge. Mahi Pono was
23 able to put their resources early that helped us bridge a lot
24 of the gaps. We were able to use public works. I mean, I --
25 you know, because we've established those contacts and

1 relations early, we were able to call them out, and they're
2 there, I mean, very early and in the nick of time. Department
3 of forestry, when we had the fire over there by the ponds, we
4 were able to pass the scene over to them, thereby releasing
5 our resources to be used at some of the other fires. So
6 relationships is huge. I'm a big proponent behind it and
7 utilizing each other to take care of our community as best as
8 we possibly can.

9 So once we got these things all in place, these are
10 the types of equipment that we have. So as the fire
11 department, Maui Fire Department, we've got 14 engines -- and
12 this is throughout the county, yeah -- 14 engines, we've got
13 12 relief engines. We've got five mini resources located in
14 Wailuku, Paia, Hana, Napili, and Kula. We have three tankers
15 on this island, Tanker 10, which is Kahului, Station 14 or
16 Wailea, and our Lahaina Station, as well as a tanker out in
17 Hana and a tanker out on Molokai. We have two relief tankers,
18 one on Molokai and one here on the island of Maui. As well as
19 five wildland units. We've got air support with Air One, and
20 then we've got all the different agencies that you guys got to
21 see.

22 So what happens is when the actual fire happens, you
23 know, we want to go ahead and utilize our training, our
24 resources, our guidelines, our experience, our wisdom to help
25 make the best calls. And what I mean by that is because of

1 the limited amount of resources during the time period last
2 week Thursday, me and Chief Fujioka actually had to respond
3 out to the fire out on Mokulele, or Maui Veterans Highway is
4 what it's called now. And, you know, based on our experience,
5 we got to look at the fire, knowing which way it was running,
6 and there was a field where it was being used to grow things,
7 so we got to basically write off that field and say that's not
8 gonna impact. So we know which way the fire is gonna run,
9 which allowed us to utilize our resources as best as we
10 possibly can, yeah. So those are the kind of things that we
11 do.

12 Within the -- these things, we also want to
13 establish a command structure utilizing ICS so that way we can
14 manage resources the way we need to. We want to notify the
15 proper agencies for updates and evacuations. We want to
16 understand our own resource needs and adjust our operational
17 plan accordingly, yeah. We want to also, as the fire is
18 going, maintain operational continuity throughout the
19 department. So we're moving resources all around in order to
20 surround this fire, but we've gotta maintain medical
21 operations and operations of this community as much as
22 possible, so it's moving around resources accordingly.

23 We want to understand financial thresholds, yeah,
24 when we're dealing with reimbursement. So we're taking a look
25 at the finances of things so that way we're not spending

1 things out of control. We want to update MEMA and notify the
2 mayor. We want to utilize the interagency and interagency
3 support for personnel and equipment. We want to establish
4 routes of public information. We want to utilize our health
5 and safety bureau to establish rehab. Because why? We want
6 to make sure our personnel are fed; we want to make sure that
7 we secure vendors ahead of time to provide food and support.
8 We want to make sure we stock our warehouses accordingly. We
9 want to also create a demobilization plan, meaning utilizing
10 medical monitoring, meaning we check our personnel to make
11 sure that they're in a state of readiness that they can go
12 ahead and go ahead and respond to other incidents if need to.

13 And then, yeah, that's pretty much it for that. But
14 also, with fighting these fires, probably the biggest thing
15 for us is fire prevention. It's before the fire has even
16 started. It's making an effort through the fire department to
17 stop fires or prevent them from even happening. So this is
18 when we work with these kinds of organizations, HWMO and
19 Firewise, to create those partnerships, create community
20 reduction plans and projects to help the community. The
21 beautiful thing is our prevention bureau was able to create a
22 wildland-urban interface community risk reduction program, and
23 it's going as we speak. So what they do is they educate
24 communities about how to prepare for these events. They take
25 a look at their fire codes, and they go and they check out

1 these communities, and they provide feedback on things that
2 the community can do to reduce risk in those areas, yeah. And
3 then they go ahead and eliminate it; they enforce using the
4 code. And the beautiful thing is we're not only working with
5 our department, but we're working with our finance department
6 in order to address a lot of these issues, yeah. So if we've
7 got this in place, you know, if GI Joe -- you know, what did
8 GI Joe say, Knowing is half the battle or something along
9 those lines, yeah. It's getting ahead of it and knowing what
10 we're dealing with and putting a thing in place so we can stop
11 these fires from even happening, yeah. We put these things
12 altogether; hopefully, we get ahead of everything, and, in a
13 nutshell, it's the prevention and the operations working
14 together and all of these agencies providing community support
15 where we, in turn, can deliver the best product that we can to
16 the community.

17 All right. I want to end by showing you guys some
18 of the video -- a couple of videos that shows us actually
19 using fire or an indirect attack to fight fire with fire,
20 yeah. So this upcoming burn that we have in the month of
21 June, this is pretty much what we're doing. And, again, it's
22 not only training for our personnel, but it's also allowing us
23 to reduce the risk of fire by getting rid of the fuels, yeah.

24 (Playing video.)

25 So what these guys are doing is they're learning how

1 to utilize the weather, how to utilize the winds and all that,
2 and put it in our favor so when we're lighting fires, we're
3 not making things worse. So they're burning out edges to kind
4 of surround and create a -- or locking it good, yeah, and
5 creating a huger barrier, that way the fire cannot expand.

6 You know what, is that the same one? Sorry about
7 that.

8 Okay. This is the next video. Again, I mean, look
9 at that. Just I believe the brush there, light fuels is about
10 two to three feet high, but look at the size of the flame
11 that's in. You guys got to see fire, so this is absolutely a
12 huge technique if we can get ahead of the fire of really
13 taking out this fuel and this brush and using it in our favor.

14 And then I've got one last video. If we do it
15 correctly, this is what it looks like, the end result. We
16 took all of these areas out of play, so if there was a fire
17 that was to burn on those unburned areas, we don't have to
18 worry, yeah.

19 (Playing video.)

20 And that's all I've got. Do you guys have any
21 questions or concerns?

22 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Lindo. That was
23 very informative. I don't see -- oh, okay.

24 Does any commissioner have any questions for Chief
25 Lindo?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIR GINOZA: Seeing none, I have a question. So
3 you had spoken about that you do those, I guess, like fire
4 breaks or reduce the fuel. Is that -- and that was part of a
5 training activity. Is that something that you regularly go
6 through various parts of the island and try to hit all these
7 areas that have high fuel and -- or is that incumbent upon the
8 landowner, these large landowners, to do it themselves? I'm
9 just wondering how the public/private partnership worked out.

10 CHIEF VENTURA: Chair, if I could answer that
11 question. So we try to tie in our training to specific areas
12 that are high risk. And, yes, it is -- we need permission
13 from landowners. We do agreements with corporation counsels,
14 right of entries, and so some people are willing to do that,
15 and some people may be less likely willing to do stuff like
16 that because it creates a lot of work. You have to get
17 lawyers involved and such. But our corporation counsel
18 supports us on when we identify a training location; they will
19 create a right of entry for us to use with the landowner.

20 There's a lot of variables that go into selecting
21 the specific site where we're gonna burn. A lot of people
22 contact us, and we can clearly see that this would be a great
23 place to burn and create a buffer on a neighborhood; however,
24 99 percent of the days of the year, it's strong trade winds,
25 and all that smoke is gonna go into houses. So we don't want

1 to negatively impact the community with our training, so we --
2 we will generally use areas that are less intrusive on
3 communities when we do our training. So the training that's
4 coming up this next month is in Waiko, south of Kuihelani
5 Highway. It shouldn't impact homes, but it'll create a buffer
6 around that town area. We've done it in Launiupoko, Puamana,
7 Molokai Hawaiian Homes, Molokai Ranch Camp. We've done it in
8 a few other places. But, yeah, we try to make sure the
9 training is as least impact on the community as possible.

10 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you. Yeah, I just was
11 wondering, you know, there are places like West Maui Land or
12 Mahi Pono that actually have equipment that -- you know, as
13 for these large landowners, but I just wondered, some of these
14 other ones that may be in for high fire risk areas if, you
15 know, they didn't have the resources, if we kind of initiated
16 that. So that's good to hear that even if you don't have the
17 heavy equipment that's part of the training, you folks do
18 actually handle that. Thank you.

19 So any other -- any commissioners have any other
20 questions?

21 VICE CHAIR VARES: (Gesturing.)

22 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Lisa.

23 VICE CHAIR VARES: Chief Lindo, how often do they do
24 the wildland training? Is that just a once-a-year thing, or
25 is it a cadre thing where they go out in groups over a couple

1 of weeks? How does that work out?

2 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: That's a good question,
3 Commissioner Vares. We actually have a wildland cadre, and
4 they train, you know, we send guys away for training, and
5 they've got their own internal training. But each year for
6 the entire department, we want to focus on this quarterly
7 training, which is April, May, and June, tailored towards
8 wildland, knowing that the season is right around the corner.
9 So any time we can have a chance to address this, this is when
10 we want to try and do it, yeah. Does that answer your
11 question?

12 VICE CHAIR VARES: Yes, thank you.

13 CHAIR GINOZA: Great, thank you.

14 Any other questions from commissioners?

15 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yeah. Chief Lindo, do you
16 guys go to these specific landowners and provide training for
17 their employees? Like most of the guys that I know who used
18 to run the dozers and stuff on Lanai have since retired. I
19 mean, is there anything currently being done to train these
20 new landowners that are on each island so that they'll be up
21 to speed in the event that there is a wildfire in the dry
22 zones?

23 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: Commissioner Kincaid, that
24 is absolutely a great question. And in the past, we
25 absolutely would reach out to the different agencies like

1 public works and ALFA, Mahi Pono, and we would offer these
2 training classes. So we would bring someone in from the
3 mainland who's able to -- who deal specifically with fire and
4 dozers, and it's called -- I believe it's called a dozer class
5 for wildland, and we invite these different agencies to come.
6 So we're actually looking at hopefully having one of those
7 classes this year and invite the necessary agencies 'cause,
8 like you said, people retire. The one thing is some of the
9 agencies we deal with, they've got guys who've been doing it
10 for 30 years, and they're absolutely sharp, so we utilize
11 them. But for new people, that's exactly what we want to do.

12 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Okay, thank you.

13 CHAIR GINOZA: All right, thank you. Any other
14 questions?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Seeing none, the next meeting
17 we have is in June, June 16th at 10:00 a.m. via BlueJeans.

18 So we -- the next item that I'd like to go over is
19 as we -- as Chief Ventura had mentioned at the last meeting,
20 he would -- wanted to see if we would entertain an executive
21 session to just give us -- give the commission an update on
22 human resource matters that have come up. So just for
23 whoever's from the public listening, my intention is if we
24 do -- if we are able to go into executive session via vote, I
25 plan to recess this regular meeting, go into executive

1 session, and then come out of executive session to reconvene
2 the regular meeting just to adjourn. So there really is no
3 more information that we will provide if and when we do go
4 into executive session. So that's -- that's kind of the plan
5 going forward.

6 So does anybody have any questions before I ask for
7 a motion for executive session?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Seeing none, so because this
10 is a -- these are human resource matters that we intend to
11 discuss with our corporation counsel, we do have the ability,
12 based on Sections 92-5A (2) and (4) of Hawaii Revised
13 Statutes, to go into executive session to discuss these
14 matters.

15 Could I have a motion to go into executive session
16 pursuant to that section of Hawaii Revised Statutes that I
17 mentioned?

18 VICE CHAIR VARES: Chair, I move to move to
19 executive session based on the Hawaii Revised Statutes Section
20 92-5A --

21 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

22 VICE CHAIR VARES: -- (2) and (4).

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Lisa. Do I have a second?

24 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Second.

25 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you, Punahale. And I'll

1 go -- because we'll have bare quorum, I'll just go around to
2 make sure everybody is in agreement.

3 So, Lisa?

4 VICE CHAIR VARES: Agreed.

5 CHAIR GINOZA: Punahuele.

6 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Agreed.

7 CHAIR GINOZA: Max.

8 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Agreed.

9 CHAIR GINOZA: And Makalapua. Uh-oh. We lost her.

10 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Agreed.

11 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, okay. Thank you.

12 And I agree.

13 So we have five in favor of going into executive
14 session. So I will recess this regular meeting at 11:21, and
15 we'll set up to get into executive session. So,
16 Commissioners, please stay logged in, and we will clear
17 everyone else from the executive session and then start there.
18 So this meeting on 5/19 of the Maui County Fire and Public
19 Safety meeting is in recess.

20 (Pause in proceedings: 11:21 a.m.-11:40 a.m.)

21 CHAIR GINOZA: And it's 11:40 on May 19th. I'd like
22 to reconvene out of recess the regular session of the fire and
23 public safety meeting. Thank you, Commissioners, for your
24 participation today. We got a lot of information. And if
25 there's any topics that people would like to see on future

1 agendas, please let me know. Otherwise, everyone, thank you
2 very much for your time and support today, and we will see you
3 next month. Have a good rest of the day and rest of the week.

4 (The proceedings were adjourned at 11:41 a.m.)

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