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FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

COUNTY OF MAUI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR MEETING

Held via BlueJeans, commencing at 10:01 a.m., on
January 19, 2023.

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

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ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Lisa Vares, Acting Chair
- Dwight Burns, Member
- Punahuele Alcon, Member
- Max Kincaid, Jr., Member
- Gordon Gillis, Member
- Dale Parsons, Member
- Gerald Matsui, Member

STAFF:

- Bradford Ventura, Fire Chief
- Gavin Fujioka, Deputy Fire Chief
- Jeffrey Giese, Assistant Fire Chief
- Hanalei Lindo, Assistant Fire Chief
- Peter Vanderpoel, Captain
- Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel
- Sonya Toma, Deputy Corporation Counsel
- Richelle Wakamatsu, Commission Secretary
- Herman Andaya, Maui Emergency Management Agency

1 (January 19, 2023, 10:01 a.m.)

2 * * *

3 CHAIR VARES: Hi. Good morning, everyone. I'd like
4 to welcome everyone to the Fire and Public Safety Commission
5 meeting for Thursday, January 19th, 2023. We're in '23 now.
6 It is 10:01, and I'd like to call the meeting to order. I'm
7 gonna start with roll call.

8 My name is Lisa Vares. I'm the vice chair of the
9 Fire and Public Safety Commission. Our chair, Kyle Ginoza, is
10 excused from the meeting today, but he'll be back for the
11 next.

12 And could I get a roll call from the rest of the
13 members here? Do we have Dwight Burns yet?

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIR VARES: No Dwight yet.

16 Punahеле, go ahead.

17 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Present on Molokai by myself.

18 CHAIR VARES: Thank you, Punahēle.

19 And I should mention I'm also here by myself in my
20 home office in Wailuku.

21 Max Kincaid, Jr., are you here yet, Max?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIR VARES: Okay, negative.

24 And Makalapua Kanuha has been -- has been excused
25 from this meeting.

1 Gordon Gillis.

2 COMMISSIONER GILLIS: Hi. Gordon Gillis. I am at
3 my home office in Kihei, and I am by myself.

4 CHAIR VARES: Thank you, Gordon. Good morning.

5 Dale Parson.

6 COMMISSIONER PARSONS: Aloha. I am at my home
7 office in Hana.

8 CHAIR VARES: And I'm also getting -- good morning,
9 Dale, sorry about that.

10 I'm getting a note that the commissioners need to be
11 on camera for the roll call to count, so let's see. I've got
12 Dale, great. I've got Gordon, great.

13 Just gonna need Gerald to hop on camera if you can.
14 Gerald, you're our last for roll call.

15 COMMISSIONER MATSUI: I should be on camera. Wait a
16 minute.

17 CHAIR VARES: Okay.

18 COMMISSIONER MATSUI: Yes, I am in my office. I
19 activated my camera, but I guess it's not working. I am here,
20 and I'll try to activate it while the meeting goes. Is that
21 okay?

22 CHAIR VARES: Okay. As long as corp counsel is all
23 right, we'll continue going.

24 Sonia, do you have any input? Can we go ahead if
25 Gerald is just working on technical difficulties?

1 CORP COUNSEL TOSHIKIYO: Chair, if it's all right,
2 I'll jump in. This is Deputy Corporation Counsel Kristina
3 Toshikiyo. Because you are at bare quorum, Mr. Matsui will
4 actually need to have his camera on. That's a requirement
5 under the provisions of the Sunshine Law for quorum to count.

6 CHAIR VARES: Okeydoke.

7 CORP COUNSEL TOSHIKIYO: So we -- you can take a
8 brief recess if we need to restart or figure this out, but
9 there's time.

10 CHAIR VARES: Okay, wonderful.

11 Gerald, would you like us to take a quick recess,
12 and we can kind of discuss it off-camera?

13 COMMISSIONER MATSUI: I'm trying to get my -- oh,
14 hold on. Okay, I got it.

15 CHAIR VARES: All right. Almost there. Almost
16 there. Got a black screen. There we go. Okay.

17 COMMISSIONER MATSUI: I am here alone in my office.
18 I'm sorry for the delay.

19 CHAIR VARES: Not a problem at all. Thanks so much.
20 And thank you for your help, Kristina.

21 Okay. Let's -- we do have bare quorum today for
22 Fire and Public Safety Commission. Hopefully, we'll get Max
23 or Dwight in. If we do not get anybody else in, I'm gonna
24 need everybody to please stay on the meeting; otherwise, we'll
25 lose quorum, and we'll have to redo all of this.

1 Chief Ventura, could you tell me who you have with
2 you today for the fire department, please?

3 CHIEF VENTURA: Aloha. Good morning, everybody.
4 Happy new year. Here at Kahului Fire Station, we have myself,
5 and we have Chief Lindo, Chief Giese, Captain Vanderpoel, who
6 will be presenting today. Off camera is Richelle Wakamatsu,
7 and remotely from Wisconsin Deputy Chief Gavin Fujioka.

8 CHAIR VARES: Okay. Welcome, everybody. Thank you
9 so much.

10 Gavin, Wisconsin in January? Okay, dedication.

11 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Good morning, everybody.
12 Yeah, it's good morning for you guys, good afternoon for me.
13 I'm here at a conference room at Pierce Manufacturing. This
14 is where we build our fire (inaudible). I'm currently --
15 there was somebody in the room; he just stepped out.
16 (Inaudible.)

17 CHAIR VARES: All right. Thank you so much. Okay,
18 noted.

19 I see -- do we have Herman Andaya with -- yes, Maui
20 Emergency Management Agency, Herman Andaya, are you here?
21 Hello, MEMA?

22 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Oh, I'm sorry.

23 CHAIR VARES: There he is.

24 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: MEMA, Chair. We're in the
25 Emergency Operations Center, and I'm here also with Paul Coe,

1 who is our plans and operations officer.

2 CHAIR VARES: Excellent. Thank you. Welcome, Mr.
3 Coe, and welcome, Herman.

4 And then I see that Dwight Burns has joined us. Is
5 that correct?

6 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Yeah. Yeah, sorry, I was
7 running late.

8 CHAIR VARES: No worries. Dwight, can you let us
9 know where you are and if anyone is in the office with you?

10 COMMISSIONER BURNS: I'm at home. I'm by myself.

11 CHAIR VARES: Okay, wonderful.

12 And then from corporation counsel, Sonia, if you
13 could just introduce yourself and Kristina, that would be
14 great.

15 All right. You're gonna have to unmute your --

16 CORP COUNSEL TOSHIKIYO: I think her mouse might not
17 be working, so she can't unmute herself, so I will introduce
18 us. So this is Sonia Tomah, she is our new first deputy
19 corporation counsel, and I am Kristina Toshikiyo, deputy
20 corporation counsel, and we are covering for Caleb Rowe today.
21 Good morning.

22 CHAIR VARES: Thank you so much, ladies. Excellent.

23 Okay. That is roll call for today's meeting. If I
24 could please get an approval -- I would like a movement for
25 the approval of the minutes from the last meeting on November

1 17th, 2022. I hope all commissioners have gotten to -- have
2 gotten to read over the minutes. Are there any questions or
3 comments, or would you like to go ahead and just make a motion
4 to approve them as they stand?

5 COMMISSIONER PARSONS: I'd like to make a motion to
6 approve.

7 COMMISSIONER BURNS: -- the minutes.

8 CHAIR VARES: I've got Dwight moving to accept the
9 minutes as they are. Dale, did you have anything to add, or
10 were you doing the same?

11 COMMISSIONER PARSONS: Yeah, I was doing the same
12 thing. We hit it the same moment.

13 CHAIR VARES: Excellent. All right. Commissioner
14 Parsons, would you like to second it?

15 COMMISSIONER PARSONS: I second it.

16 CHAIR VARES: All right. Go ahead. We've got the
17 approval of the minutes from the meeting on November 17th,
18 2022. I'd like -- I'd like to open up any public testimony on
19 any of the agenda items that are listed.

20 Richelle, do we have anyone signed up for public
21 testimony?

22 MS. WAKAMATSU: No, we don't on my end, and I didn't
23 see anything in the chat, so (inaudible).

24 CHAIR VARES: Okay. And just like on other
25 meetings, as we move through the agenda items, I'll ask at the

1 very end if there's any public testimony or input, and someone
2 will just need to make themselves known via the chat or
3 somehow getting ahold of Richelle. Okay.

4 CORP COUNSEL TOSHIKIYO: I'm sorry, Chair Vares, I
5 don't mean to interrupt. Did you take the vote on the
6 approval of the minutes? I know there was a motion.

7 CHAIR VARES: I didn't. I had a motion and a
8 second. I'd like to go ahead and take a vote on the motion to
9 approve the meeting minutes.

10 Dwight -- Dwight was our motion.

11 Punahale.

12 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Approve.

13 CHAIR VARES: Thank you, Punahale.

14 Gordon.

15 COMMISSIONER GILLIS: Approved.

16 CHAIR VARES: All right. Dwight obviously approves
17 it, dale approves it, and I approve it. That's all five of
18 us.

19 Oh, and I see Max Kincaid has joined us. Max, are
20 you here, and can you please turn your camera on? Working on
21 it.

22 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yes, I'm here.

23 CHAIR VARES: Hi, good morning, Max. Happy new
24 year. Could you please let us -- for roll call, please let us
25 know where you are and if anyone's with you, and also if you

1 vote to approve the meeting minutes as received.

2 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: I'm at my home, I'm just with
3 myself, and I approve the meeting notes.

4 CHAIR VARES: Okay. With that, the meeting minutes
5 are approved from the previous meeting.

6 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yeah, that's it.

7 CHAIR VARES: Okay, Kristina, is that -- is that
8 good for you?

9 CORP COUNSEL TOSHIKIYO: Yes, thank you.

10 CHAIR VARES: And I'm sorry, we'll try this again.
11 Richelle, any public testimony? Oh, no, we already did that.
12 Okay.

13 All right. Let's move on to Herman, the Maui
14 Emergency Management Agency. Herman Andaya, do you have your
15 report?

16 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yes. Good morning, Madam
17 Chair, Members of the Commission. For MEMA for the month of
18 December, we had the -- some things happen. First of all, our
19 recovery plan has been completed, and so right now, it is with
20 the mayor's office waiting for his signature. With respect to
21 -- oh, and I should also note because of a -- because of our
22 new -- we have a new mayor, new administration, we -- we did
23 brief the new mayor and the managing director on our
24 operations and our emergency protocols. So we're going
25 through that process right now of familiarizing them with

1 emergency management as well as the rest of his cabinet also
2 who may be called to report to the Emergency Operations
3 Center. So we are planning a senior leaders workshop as we
4 did four years ago with the Victorino administration, and
5 we'll be having discussions about the emergency command system
6 as well as our emergency protocols here in this room, and it
7 will culminate with a tabletop exercise with all of our
8 partners, so we're looking forward to that.

9 With respect to CERT, so, as you know, we graduated
10 29 graduates back in November, and our next class is gonna be
11 on Molokai. We've been trying to push CERT on Molokai. I
12 mentioned this to you last month and requested that -- your
13 assistance in getting people interested or getting people to
14 sign up for the CERT class. We have been pushing on our end.
15 We've had some people who have expressed interest, and we've
16 had assistance from the Molokai council member as well as from
17 State Senator Lynn DeCoite, who herself has signed up to take
18 the CERT class. So that's where we're at right now with that
19 class. It's not been going too well. The -- we've had a very
20 short list of people who are -- who have signed up and who
21 have done the prerequisites for the class, so -- but we're
22 gonna keep pushing.

23 And the class is supposed to start next week, so we
24 may have to postpone that class unless more participants sign
25 up. The reason why we may have to postpone is because so

1 people who -- the instructors for this class are from the fire
2 department and, you know, we want -- and we're gonna have to
3 send -- it's our firefighters here on Maui that we have to
4 send to Molokai to train these CERT students, and so we want
5 the most bang for the buck. It costs a lot of money to send
6 these firefighters over to Molokai, and so we want to make
7 sure that we have a large class, you know, to make it worth
8 our while. So if you can assist us again with that, please,
9 you know, people can go to our website, there's information
10 about CERT, as well as on Facebook.

11 Another -- one last thing, so, you know, with the
12 eruption of Maunaloa, there was a request from the -- the
13 Hawaii -- County of Hawaii Civil Defense Agency for assistance
14 from our agency, and so we did send two of our staffers there,
15 and they were in charge of air operations, director of air
16 operations on the Big Island. So because of the eruption, we
17 had -- the airspace was restricted, and so our office was in
18 charge of making sure that those restrictions were being
19 enforced, and so we did -- we did send two of our people over
20 to assist there.

21 That's all I have, Madam Chair, pending any
22 questions.

23 CHAIR VARES: Thank you, Herman.

24 Commissioners, does anyone have any questions for
25 Mr. Andaya regarding this report for this month?

1 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Chair, I have a question.

2 CHAIR VARES: Go ahead, Punahuele.

3 COMMISSIONER ALCON: How many people do you need for
4 that class, how many people do you have already signed up, and
5 what are the hours for the class? I know it's on two
6 Saturdays, but the -- the thing that was circulated in town,
7 it doesn't say what time it starts or ends.

8 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Oh, Madam Chair.

9 CHAIR VARES: Go ahead.

10 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: So, thank you, Commissioner,
11 for that question. So right now, we have three people who
12 signed up on Molokai. You know, we're looking -- we were
13 hoping to get maybe 20. I know Molokai, it's a smaller
14 community, and so we may not get the large numbers that we
15 would get here in Maui, but, you know, we're looking at 20.
16 Even 15, if we get 15 students, I think that would be -- you
17 know, it would be worth our while. So we're trying to -- you
18 know, at three, I think that's -- you know, you have more
19 instructors going there than you have students, so that's the
20 reason why we were, you know --

21 In terms of the hours, so it's -- it's 30 hours
22 total for the class, but 12 of which is done through online.
23 So they can -- they can do the class online first, and then --
24 and then do the live class on those Saturdays, Commissioner.
25 But, you know, I'm -- I was talking to our people, and I was

1 like, you know, is it possible just so that we can get the
2 numbers, that we not waive the prerequisite, but kind of, you
3 know, we let people go take the -- take the live class, but
4 they still have to fulfill their -- their online class, you
5 know, during -- during the week or after, after class. So
6 that's something that we're considering too, just so that we
7 can accommodate or we can try and get as many people into the
8 class as possible.

9 I know the hours is like -- I don't know exactly,
10 say from 9:00 to -- 9:00 to 4:00, yeah. I can -- I can find
11 that out, but --

12 MR. COE: We could ask them.

13 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yeah, we could. So we can get
14 that information for you, Commissioner.

15 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Can you find out? We had
16 employees that are interested, but they weren't able to figure
17 out what time it would start or end, so it's hard to plan two
18 Saturdays in a row if you really don't know what you're
19 committing to.

20 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Okay, Commissioner. We'll get
21 that information, yeah. I'm sorry, that -- that should have
22 been on our website, but we'll -- yeah, we'll fix that.

23 Commissioner, it's from 8:00 to 5:00 on the
24 Saturdays.

25 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Okay, thanks.

1 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: We'll go and make sure that
2 that's -- that information is on our -- on our website and
3 Facebook.

4 COMMISSIONER ALCON: Thank you.

5 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you, Commissioner.

6 CHAIR VARES: Thanks, Herman.

7 Do -- ah, yes. Gordon, go ahead.

8 COMMISSIONER GILLIS: Yeah. Thank you, Herman, for
9 your report, and just a quick question about whether you'd
10 consider bringing the folks from Molokai or Lanai at some
11 point? There must be a cost benefit of bringing them here
12 versus sending firefighters over there to conduct a class as
13 opposed to canceling it. Is that -- is that an option? Would
14 that -- would that be something that MEMA would consider,
15 bringing them over to join a preexisting class in Maui? Thank
16 you.

17 CHAIR VARES: Herman.

18 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Madam Chair, yeah, so we
19 didn't really consider that. We were -- we were hoping that
20 we would have a lot of students, you know, applying or signing
21 up for these classes, and so -- and that's the reason why we
22 didn't think about, like, bringing all of them here to Maui,
23 you know. We have in the past got older students to Maui from
24 Molokai. As an example, during the senior leaders' workshop,
25 we did that, we brought -- we brought some students from

1 Molokai, we flew them over to Maui to attend classes. And we
2 plan to do that again with this -- with this senior leaders
3 workshop that we're planning. But with respect to CERT, that
4 was -- that wasn't a consideration because we -- you know, it
5 would be -- I think it would be cost prohibitive to have a
6 large group of students coming over to Maui, but we'll --
7 yeah, we'll look into that, Commissioner.

8 CHAIR VARES: Thank you, gentlemen.

9 Okay. Are there any other questions for Herman for
10 the MEMA?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIR VARES: No? Okay. Thank you so much, Herman.

13 Next on the agenda -- oh, are there any -- is there
14 any public testimony related to the MEMA report for January
15 2023?

16 (No response.)

17 CHAIR VARES: I see none.

18 Okay, Chief Ventura, you guys are up.

19 CHIEF VENTURA: Aloha. Good morning, everybody. So
20 some of this information we're providing for you may be a
21 little dated because we didn't have a December meeting, but I
22 will try to go over it as briskly as possible and get any
23 questions answered that we can.

24 I'm gonna go over the handouts first, and we'll
25 start with the yellow one. The yellow one is our call volume

1 for the calendar year, and just some things I wanted to kind
2 of point out. You know, December was an expected call volume
3 month, but I want to look at the year-to-date totals, and one
4 thing that I noticed that was kind of an anomaly here was the
5 medical calls that our department is going on right now; you
6 add those two big numbers at the bottom in the white, the 1700
7 and the 6400, we're running about 55 percent medical calls,
8 and nationwide, that's more like 70 percent. Part of the
9 reason I believe that is is 'cause we have a lot of other
10 duties here, you know, the ocean rescues, the mountain
11 rescues, so that kind of changes those numbers from a national
12 standard.

13 And then there's a lot of alarms in that
14 year-to-date column called other alarms, and I just wanted to
15 give you some background on what I think those 4,900 calls are
16 for the year. Those would probably fall into the car
17 accidents -- lift assists is when people fall down in their
18 home. They don't have a medical emergency, but they can't get
19 back up, so that's becoming a more and more common role of our
20 firefighters, and they go out and check on people, do wellness
21 checks, and help them get back up when needed. There's also
22 miscellaneous service calls, calls for smoke, calls for
23 chemical smells, so all of those would fall into those -- that
24 other category.

25 So that's our summary of calls for the year. It's

1 about 15,000 calls, which is fairly -- fairly steady on a slow
2 growth pace over the last few years, but nothing -- nothing
3 significantly large there jumping out.

4 The second handout is our training report, that is
5 the one with all of the numbers in the left columns. So
6 December is a month of travel for a lot of people, so we don't
7 schedule a lot of organized training with our training bureau;
8 however, all the crews are still assigned their quarterly
9 drills, so training continues at the captains' level and in
10 the stations. We did also roll out phase 2 of our mobile data
11 consoles, which is our computers, in Lanai, Molokai, Hana, and
12 so they received training, computer training on those new
13 pieces of equipment for those rural areas. So that's the
14 training report. And like we said, we always try to make a
15 huge effort to provide as much training as we can for our
16 members; that way, they are prepared to serve our community.

17 The next handout is the monthly update with the --
18 kind of an update of the calls and where we are in the budget
19 process, which I'll go over in a little bit, and then
20 recruitments. This goes out to the firefighters each month.

21 The second and third pages are pictures of events
22 that happened over the November and December period. So our
23 recruit class is graduating. We had a bunch of firefighters
24 volunteer their time; we built about 500 bikes that were
25 donated to the keiki of Maui over Christmas. The second page,

1 it was Kapalua Christmas parties. And on Molokai, it's really
2 unique, they -- we get a lot of the retirees from the County
3 of Maui out to the party, so that was a nice -- the bottom
4 left picture is a bunch of happy retirees there. And then the
5 Christmas tree picture on the back page there is Engine 1, our
6 Wailuku company, helping the mayor's office put up their
7 annual holiday tree.

8 So that's the three handouts that I normally go
9 over. An additional handout in this month's packet is an
10 additional Kahuola Award. So I'll go over this briefly, and
11 then for a little conversation, I'll try to garner everybody's
12 support for this award. So the Kahuola Award nominee that
13 came in in early December or late November was for a vehicle
14 accident in Kihei where there was somebody pinned under the
15 car and three members from -- three or four members, I think,
16 from Goodfellows Construction Company came over to help lift
17 the car off of the person and get them out prior to our fire
18 companies and ambulance getting on scene. So these three
19 gentlemen were -- four gentlemen, I see now, were nominated
20 for the Kahuola Award for saving this individual's life who
21 was pinned underneath the car. This award, as you all know,
22 is an award from the commission, and we facilitate it as the
23 department. And so what I'm asking, I guess, Chair, Ms.
24 Chair, is support from the commission here to follow through
25 if you folks feel that this was a valiant effort on these

1 individuals to provide them the award. So back to you.

2 CHAIR VARES: Thanks, Chief.

3 Commissioners, has everyone gotten to read over the
4 report of what happened and how these gentlemen saved this
5 guy's arm and possibly his life? I got to read it over; I was
6 impressed and definitely think that this -- they are -- they
7 meet the expectations for a Kahuola Award. Would anyone like
8 to make a motion to present this award to these recipients?
9 Max, was that you?

10 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yes, that's fine.

11 CHAIR VARES: I see Dale lift his hand as well.

12 COMMISSIONER PARSONS: Yeah, I just had a question.
13 I have two nomination forms, one with three names and one with
14 five names, so --

15 CHAIR VARES: The first page of the packet has all
16 five names and is --

17 COMMISSIONER PARSONS: Mine's on the next page;
18 there's another nomination form.

19 CHAIR VARES: Right. There's another nomination,
20 and it appears that two additional names were added
21 (inaudible).

22 CHIEF VENTURA: So maybe Richelle can clarify this a
23 little bit. The -- I was looking -- referring back to the
24 email thread.

25 CHAIR VARES: Yeah.

1 CHIEF VENTURA: When the firefighters emailed this
2 originally, they gave us a few names, and then they emailed us
3 back a couple days later saying that there was a change in
4 name and an additional person, so that's why there may be some
5 confusion here.

6 Richelle, do you know how many we're awarding for
7 this?

8 MS. WAKAMATSU: I think it was four if I'm not
9 mistaken, but also, some of the forms on our county website
10 are not formatted to scroll to the next, so a lot of times
11 also when they fill out the forms, the extra names, if it's
12 too long, it's cut off, so that could have been it too.

13 CHIEF VENTURA: So that plus, that plus icon means
14 that there's more text in that box.

15 COMMISSIONER PARSONS: Okay.

16 CHAIR VARES: Gotcha.

17 MS. WAKAMATSU: And I attached the emails, and so we
18 can kind of see the thread of who is actually on the
19 commendation.

20 COMMISSIONER PARSONS: So the one that I have has
21 Mike Cardoza, LeRoy Gandall, Keoni Andrade, Brendan Kennedy,
22 and Melvin Walin or Noah Walin.

23 CHAIR VARES: I have that as well on my front page.

24 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: (Inaudible) could be the
25 problem, guys.

1 CHAIR VARES: On the email dated the 4th, we do have
2 Pascual mentioning that the names of the crew involved were
3 Mike Cardoza, LeRoy Gandall, and Keoni Andrade, and --

4 MS. WAKAMATSU: Yeah, so there -- I think there was
5 also some people that might have been just not part of the
6 Goodfellows crew as well, so they had to reach out to
7 Goodfellows to actually see who was on the site.

8 CHAIR VARES: That makes sense.

9 MS. WAKAMATSU: Yeah.

10 CHAIR VARES: All right. Is it possible, Corp
11 Counsel or Commission, to go ahead and approve this nomination
12 with either three names or all five names? Corp Counsel.

13 CORP COUNSEL TOSHIKIYO: Yes, hi. Sorry, Chair. I
14 do have a question really quick. As you've been discussing
15 the documents that you're reviewing, I couldn't access it on
16 the agenda. I know all the commission members have it, but
17 was it made available to the public?

18 MS. WAKAMATSU: The whole meeting materials packet
19 should be linked to the calendar or our commission site via
20 the website and then, sorry, I did send the packet to Caleb,
21 so --

22 CORP COUNSEL TOSHIKIYO: Okay.

23 MS. WAKAMATSU: Yeah. He notified me later that he
24 was gonna send a replacement; I just didn't know who.

25 CORP COUNSEL TOSHIKIYO: Okay. I'm just -- I'm just

1 double-checking to make sure that it's accessible because when
2 I hit the link at the top of the agenda, it doesn't go
3 anywhere.

4 MS. WAKAMATSU: Yeah. I think you might have to --
5 if that's not working, if the hyperlink on that is not
6 working, then you might just have to go into our fire
7 commission page from the county website. There's a link for
8 the meeting materials on there as well.

9 CHAIR VARES: Is this a topic that we can leave in
10 the corp counsel's hands for a few minutes while we move
11 forward? We've got two online.

12 CORP COUNSEL TOSHIKIYO: Okay, there we go. I was
13 able to access it through the -- okay. I'm sorry, Chair. Can
14 you please repeat your question?

15 CHAIR VARES: I was wondering if this is something
16 we should give you a few minutes to process, and we could move
17 on to the next agenda item and not vote on this until you've
18 been able to look it over and you can answer our question.

19 CORP COUNSEL TOSHIKIYO: Yes.

20 CHAIR VARES: Is it something we can cycle back to
21 on this meeting?

22 CORP COUNSEL TOSHIKIYO: Yes, you can. Thank you.
23 But if you could, please repeat your question. I was looking
24 for the documents when I think you asked your question.

25 CHAIR VARES: The original question?

1 CORP COUNSEL TOSHIKIYO: Yes.

2 CHAIR VARES: Okay. My original question or the
3 original question was can we vote on the nomination of these
4 individuals for this award by saying yes, we approve the
5 nomination of these three individuals and/or these five
6 individuals?

7 CORP COUNSEL TOSHIKIYO: Okay, thank you. I will
8 get --

9 CHAIR VARES: (Inaudible.)

10 CORP COUNSEL TOSHIKIYO: Yeah, I will get back to
11 you.

12 CHAIR VARES: Okay. We'll take a break from this
13 agenda topic and move on if that's all right with everybody
14 else.

15 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yeah.

16 CHAIR VARES: I want to get this right.

17 Okay, Chief, still you.

18 CHIEF VENTURA: Okay, great. So I'm gonna go over
19 my monthly report with you all, the two-page document from the
20 fire chief. The transition here in mayors, as Director Andaya
21 mentioned, so we did propose -- send our proposed budget to
22 Mayor Victorino and that is the budget that we went over with
23 you all in the -- in November's meeting. The -- there will be
24 some significant changes, it appears, with the new
25 administration. We had a request, initial request from the

1 budget director to take \$2 million off of our equipment
2 request, so we're looking it over right now to see how we can
3 make sure things remain healthy and operational and to, you
4 know, work with them as best as we can.

5 So on that topic, I wanted to answer some questions
6 that Commissioner Kincaid had from last month. We did some
7 research and some background checking on those rescue boards
8 and reached out to a few different vendors, a few different
9 districts. We've done research and development on our current
10 boards. There are more expensive boards that we could buy,
11 we're not buying them for a variety of reasons. We're kind of
12 sticking with a middle-of-the-road board which is that foam
13 rescue board with the handles up and down the side of it so
14 people can hold on to. We did look at Morey boards as well,
15 which was recommended. They have some standup paddle boards
16 and stuff, but they're larger, not paddle style, and not
17 rescue style boards. They weren't willing to kind of custom
18 make a board for us for our needs.

19 And then we did talk to the Big Island, and they put
20 in -- put out a spec for boards to kind of get the best price
21 for boards, and then at the end of the bid process, they got a
22 bunch of boards that actually ended up breaking on them and
23 not fitting their need, so they said they didn't recommend
24 that board that they ended up getting stuck with. So that
25 kind of brings us full circle back to that, that same surf

1 rescue board that we've been using over the last, you know,
2 six or eight years that we're gonna try to stay with. But we
3 did want to just look into it as best as we could. So that
4 was the rescue boards.

5 And then on the Rescue Boat 3, the engines that we
6 talked about, the -- although we're having difficulty with a
7 variety of things, Commissioner Kincaid did recommend checking
8 with Honolulu to see if they would fly over to Maui and do
9 work on those engines because we all know we have one dealer
10 mechanic on Maui. I did call a couple of different vendors on
11 Oahu and only got to speak to one who called me back. He has
12 so much work over there he's definitely not interested in
13 coming to Maui. But we'll continue to work with our vendor
14 here and schedule them as often as we need to to get repairs
15 done.

16 This will probably be an item that we end up
17 removing from the budget as part of that \$2 million reduction
18 request that we got from the mayor's office, so the -- all of
19 this conversation may kind of just be delayed and moot until
20 -- for another year, but I did want to report that to
21 Commissioner Kincaid. If you have any questions regarding
22 those topics, sir?

23 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Approximately how many hours
24 do your engines have now?

25 CHIEF VENTURA: They're under -- just under 2,000

1 hours.

2 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Aren't they designed and good
3 until 10,000 miles?

4 CHIEF VENTURA: They are if you can get everything
5 repaired on them, yes. Yeah, yeah. There's just been times
6 that only one engine was running optimally, you know, just
7 stuff like that, 'cause we couldn't get repair in. So we're
8 gonna -- we're gonna keep working with what we have and go
9 from there. So thank you, I just wanted to provide that to
10 you.

11 Moving down the list on my report, we had a couple
12 of different inaugurations we went to, both Mayor Bissen's as
13 well as the county council.

14 The managing director and the temporary hazard pay
15 for a couple of the unions was in regards to COVID. They --
16 their unions negotiated and arbitrated that the working
17 conditions everywhere in the whole state during COVID were
18 hazardous; therefore, a temporary hazard pay was allocated to
19 those employees.

20 On the budget director front, we -- we have been
21 working hard for nearly six months on our reorganizations.
22 We've gotten that ocean safety battalion chief moved to the
23 battalion chief of admin, and so that took a budget amendment
24 because we have to move money within our budget, and it has to
25 be approved by council, so that was completed. Part of that

1 process was our council interactions with Councilmember
2 Paltin, and she had a bunch of questions for the budget
3 director, so we went back and forth with last year's budget
4 director to provide a lot of information on that position and
5 that change, and they were satisfied.

6 At the county council inauguration, our honor guard
7 did the presentation of the colors. It was a very, very great
8 ceremony as well as three firefighters and a retired
9 firefighter sang the National Anthem and Hawaii Ponoī there
10 that day.

11 On the back of my report, a variety of things I'll
12 skim over. The Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association had their
13 annual conference in Kona this year, which we attended. Good
14 speakers, great networking. We were able to go face to face
15 with a lot of our big vendors to discuss and resolve some
16 issues that we've had with, you know, products and shipping
17 and such.

18 Oluwalu Fire Station, we had a meeting back in
19 December with Mayor-Elect Bissen at that time and the West
20 Maui Improvement Foundation just to make sure everybody still
21 supports the station moving forward, and we do have the
22 support.

23 Had a meeting with Maui Red Cross Advisory Council.
24 Commissioner Gillis was there. We had -- went over a variety
25 of trainings that they offer to the community, and also

1 there's a lot of overlap with our hands-only CPR program and
2 theirs, and we can kind of support each other through a good
3 community risk reduction program and getting that -- that
4 skill out to the youth as well as some adults.

5 Haiku Fire Station, as we've mentioned a lot of
6 times, you know, we have 27 acres out there, and it invites a
7 lot of unwanted people. So we've met with public works and
8 the police department's abandoned vehicle division, did a
9 walk-through of the property, tagged all the abandoned
10 vehicles and stolen vehicles on that property, and we're
11 coming up with a plan hopefully this summer when it's drier
12 out there to get tow trucks and machines in there to remove
13 all of the vehicles, but then we have to barricade off the
14 property, and that's the part that's gonna be costly. You
15 can't just put up a fence; they'll cut through it. You go
16 there two days in a row, there's activity on the property, so
17 we want to -- we want to just try to make it a more safe and
18 sanitary location for the rest of the community members around
19 us.

20 Both graduations happened in the late fall there for
21 firefighters and for ocean safety. Good events; everybody's
22 online. We touched bases with a lot of our new recruits out
23 there working the last 30 days, and a lot of them are enjoying
24 the work that they're doing, so that was really good.

25 We did do two funeral services at the very end of

1 December for two retired captains, one had been retired less
2 than a decade, and one had been retired over 20 years, so it
3 was good for us to help the family with closure on those.

4 And then at the very bottom, you know, our
5 department again has been saddened by another death within our
6 department. We had an active Molokai captain, great guy,
7 amazing person who passed away while with family on vacation.
8 Just having a good time, enjoying life that day, and he passed
9 away of a heart attack. So services are coming up for that in
10 March and -- but we're trying to help our employees through
11 this difficult time as many of them are affected by his loss.

12 That wraps up my report. Any questions?

13 CHAIR VARES: Thank you, Chief Ventura.

14 Any questions from the commissioners?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIR VARES: No questions at all this time?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIR VARES: Okay. I had a few points just real
19 fast. Kyle and I attended the fire recruit graduation on
20 December 1st, and that was wonderful. And I know the
21 commissioners do get invitations to the graduation ceremonies
22 if there is one held 'cause each class is in charge of its own
23 graduation. So it depends on funding, it depends on
24 availability, but I definitely recommend to any commissioners
25 when you do get an invitation to one of those, definitely go.

1 I was so impressed, really very impressed, with the graduates,
2 with the presentations that they gave. It was -- it was a
3 lovely day.

4 And then I also wanted to express my sympathy for
5 the loss of the active member and, of course, also the two
6 retired members, so thank you so much for their service, and
7 please extend the commission's sympathies to their families.

8 CHIEF VENTURA: Thank you.

9 CHAIR VARES: Anybody have anything else?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIR VARES: All right. Moving on to Chief
12 Fujioka. Gavin?

13 CHIEF VENTURA: Give him a second here. He was
14 having some technical difficulties. I think the wifi in his
15 building is poor, so let's give him a second. If not --

16 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Can you guys hear me?

17 CHAIR VARES: Yeah.

18 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Can you hear me?

19 CHAIR VARES: Yes, Gavin. Barely, but yes, we've
20 got you.

21 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Okay. Let me know if you
22 can't hear me, the -- I'm having a poor (inaudible). Is it
23 okay if I do without video? Because my video (inaudible).

24 CHAIR VARES: I believe so. I don't think it's an
25 issue with the fire department members and their reports.

1 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Okay. Go over my monthly
2 report real quick here. Just (inaudible) Deputy Chief, Fire
3 Chief Report. The department made some promotions. We
4 promoted a fire captain to our training bureau.
5 Congratulations to Clement "Heini" Enomoto, who was promoted
6 to fire captain. We also promoted to our lieutenant spot,
7 which is our -- in our fire prevention bureau, (inaudible) of
8 our plan reviews. We promoted Jon Oura to that spot. And
9 then, we also had a couple firefighter 3s, which are our
10 drivers, Keahi Ho, Jay Duquette, Michael Kalalau, Nicholas
11 Tanaka, and Tye Perdido; they were all promoted to the rank of
12 firefighter 3.

13 The fire recruits, as Chief Brad said, we graduated
14 Recruit Class 38 with 19 firefighter trainees on the 1st of
15 December.

16 Coming up, I know we've got some things coming up.
17 Ocean safety is scheduling interviews for the vacant
18 lieutenant position in our administrative bureau for ocean
19 safety, and then we also scheduled the building maintenance
20 repair interviews, and we will be -- hopefully, we'll be
21 making a selection on that soon.

22 Just moving on to our department improvement
23 committees, just continuing our SOG revisions, and a couple of
24 new SOGs recently just got sent out to our members, so that's
25 -- that's in the works.

1 Also, our apparatus committee, this is a big one for
2 me. As you guys know, I'm up in Wisconsin right now doing a
3 preconstruction meeting for a new pumper for Hana. That --
4 it's -- the timeline for that, we're looking probably a little
5 bit over a year out to being delivered to Maui. Our new
6 battalion BC pickup, it was scheduled to arrive this month,
7 January. I just got a report; it's gonna be a few weeks
8 delayed. There were some issues on the West Coast, so they're
9 trying to take care of that truck before it gets shipped here
10 to Hawaii. And then we got a pretty big bid coming -- opening
11 up next week Tuesday for a new hazmat truck, three tankers,
12 Tanker 13, Tanker 3, Tanker 7, and two mini trucks for Paia
13 and Napili, so that will be opening up next week Tuesday. And
14 we received one of our fire-prevention SUVs. We had ordered
15 two of them; one came in.

16 CHAIR VARES: We lost the end of that.

17 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: The fire prevention bureau,
18 we received one of two vehicles. We're waiting for the next
19 one; they're a couple weeks behind on that one. The one we
20 just received.

21 CHAIR VARES: Got it. Thank you.

22 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Good.

23 Okay. Union interactions so far have been pretty
24 good. We just have consulted (inaudible) manpower issue on
25 Lanai. Everything worked out fine with that. We do have a

1 step 1 grievance currently for a firefighter who was
2 transferred to another station, so we have a grievance pending
3 for that. We had a discussion with our HFFA (inaudible)
4 regarding our Rank 4 Rank policy. We had a very good meeting,
5 and we're looking to possibly look at our policy and see if we
6 can revise some things. And then our HGEA, we do have -- I
7 think we have a step 1 class grievance that's soon to be
8 scheduled for our ocean safety officers.

9 Transmittals from the public, over the last couple
10 months, we did receive an appreciation email for our ocean
11 safety officers at Hanakao Beach Park for being so helpful
12 and professional. The visitors wrote in that they really
13 appreciated the professionalism that was -- our ocean safety
14 officers showed out there. Another email we received from the
15 Mauna Kahalawai Watershed Partnership for our services during
16 the November Launiupoko fire. And also, the last here, our
17 firefighters were recognized at the Lahainaluna state
18 tournament football game for a job well-done out in that
19 Lahaina community during that November fire.

20 That's all I have for now. If you guys have any
21 questions, I'll be happy to answer.

22 CHAIR VARES: Thank you, Chief Fujioka.

23 Any questions from commissioners?

24 (No response.)

25 CHAIR VARES: None? Seeing none, I've got one quick

1 question, Gavin. If there were any changes done regarding the
2 rank-to-rank policy with HFFA, is that something -- that
3 change, is that something you could explain and report to us,
4 or is that a union thing?

5 DEPUTY CHIEF FUJIOKA: Chief, you want me to answer
6 from here or --

7 CHIEF VENTURA: I can answer from here since it's
8 clearer. So the rank-to-rank policy is basically -- so is
9 everybody familiar with Rank 4 Rank? It's within the Hawaii
10 Firefighter Association's collective bargaining agreement.
11 They have a provision where if a captain is on vacation or
12 absent for whatever reason, a captain of equal qualification
13 can work in that position so that we always have the correct
14 supervision in the seat on that day. If nobody's -- takes the
15 Rank 4 Rank, what we do is called temporarily assign, we TA
16 people, and we'll take a lower rank personnel, and we'll push
17 him up for the day, and then they will be -- like a driver
18 will become a captain for that day. So the Rank 4 Rank policy
19 came about probably close to a decade ago, and it was a topic
20 of conversation for over 20 years that it's basically a safety
21 thing. We want to keep as many trained, qualified people in
22 the right seat at the right time.

23 So the way we manage allowing captains and drivers
24 and all the way down to firefighter 2s because those are all
25 ranked personnel, the way we manage the policy, when they have

1 to call in, how many days in advance they have to notify, how
2 many hours a year they can get, where they can work, where
3 they're qualified to work is the policy that we create between
4 us and the union, and so right now the union is asking us to
5 kind of expand the variety of places that a captain could go
6 work. So we're gonna look at Hawaii's, Big Island's, and
7 Oahu's Rank 4 Rank policy, so we don't do anything, you know,
8 unfair or outside of the box that's not recommended, and then
9 just see how we can tweak our policy. It's very unique. Even
10 though we're all in the same union, each island, each county
11 has to run things different. Maui has three islands, the Big
12 Island is almost like two islands, so -- Honolulu has a
13 thousand firefighters. So we all have different policies and
14 MOUs that serve the collective bargaining agreement of the
15 union, so this is just one of those provisions, Rank 4 Rank,
16 that we -- the union suggested a few things, so we're willing
17 to listen to them and talk and try to modify.

18 CHAIR VARES: Great. Thank you for the explanation,
19 Chief.

20 CHIEF VENTURA: Long story long.

21 CHAIR VARES: No, it's important.

22 Does anybody have any questions? Yes, just -- who
23 has got the question?

24 (No response.)

25 CHAIR VARES: No? Max, did you have a question?

1 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: No, thank you.

2 CHAIR VARES: We're getting something from Max.
3 All right. Thank you so much.

4 Okay, moving on to Chief Lindo.

5 ASSISTANT CHIEF LINDO: Good morning, Commissioners.
6 Good to see you all again. Before you is my report broken
7 down into November and December. It should be real quick.
8 The first page, the major incident summary for fire and ocean
9 safety, probably the big one was that brush fire on November
10 8th in Kauaula Valley. Thank goodness we didn't lose or have
11 homes that were directly affected. However, in the state
12 lands, it did climb into the native vegetation, which is
13 absolutely a huge loss for us.

14 On the second page of the operations, you see one
15 highlight on the ocean safety, four -- it says four ocean
16 safety recruits graduated. One needed to take his final NREMT
17 exam, which he did pass, so we did end up graduating five,
18 just not on that day.

19 Rescue watercraft operations training started
20 November 28th, completed in December. We did receive three
21 rescue sleds from the 2023 budget.

22 As well as we had seven qualified applicants for the
23 admin lieutenant, which we had interviews this past week, so
24 we're looking at promoting in a month.

25 If you turn to the next page, this is December 2022

1 reports. For the most part, nothing on the major incident
2 summary.

3 December 31st, you know, we had extra crews and
4 always hoping for the best, and really we had minor incidents.
5 We did have huge fireworks throughout the county. I'm sure
6 you guys experienced them through your -- wherever you were
7 living, but we had minor incidents that night.

8 As far as the bureaus go, the chief talked about the
9 gradation of the fire recruits in the beginning of December.

10 With our new training captain, he has a lot of
11 things going on, but he was able to meet with the new fire
12 chief of the airport crash rescue, and they discussed a lot of
13 happenings down there at our JTC with the -- with the
14 renovation, so that's moving forward good.

15 We were able to do a community CPR at Maui High
16 School.

17 And then ocean safety on the last page, the rescue
18 watercraft operators training, they graduated four out of the
19 five officers. One didn't because one had to drop out due to
20 medical reasons.

21 And that's all I have. Do you have any questions?

22 CHAIR VARES: Thanks, Chief Lindo.

23 Do commissioners have any questions for Chief Lindo
24 on his report?

25 (No response.)

1 CHAIR VARES: Seeing none, okay, thank you so much.
2 And Chief Giese.

3 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: Yes, good morning,
4 everybody. As usual, I'll just hit some of the things from my
5 report that I think you might find most interesting or more in
6 need of some expansion. As Fire 2 mentioned, we did hire --
7 or promote, rather, another firefighter 4 in our prevention
8 bureau to do plans review. That's been a big project in our
9 prevention bureau. We basically had a backlog in reviewing
10 plans that have been submitted, so over the -- you know, it's
11 been our focus in last year's budget, this year's budget, next
12 year's budget to start, you know, clearing through that
13 backlog of plans as well as inspections in our fire prevention
14 bureau.

15 As Fire 3 just mentioned, quite a few -- there were
16 just a few, actually, you know, professional permitted aerial
17 fireworks displays that our personnel always go and inspect
18 and supervise there, so that was something they were involved
19 in.

20 You can see going down to the training and public
21 education quite a bit going on over the last two months. Of
22 course, this is two months' worth. Normally we're just
23 presenting one month's worth. But career day, job fair, a lot
24 of training that our personnel are participating in. And they
25 did a couple of keiki ID events, which is one of our more

1 popular public education and just public interaction events
2 where kids come in; they get an official-looking county ID
3 that our prevention bureau helps produce for them. Because
4 they're the ones in the department that make all of our IDs,
5 so they have all the equipment and the software set up. So
6 that's always a popular event that's well attended.

7 There's a little typo here; probably my fault,
8 sorry. On the very bottom, County/Community Meetings, we had
9 a meeting with a Knox Box, K-N-O-X Box representative, not a
10 Know Box. And what that is is a -- there's a system that's in
11 place throughout the country, maybe outside the country too,
12 I'm not sure, that some commercial (inaudible) will
13 participate in where there's a box where they will put the
14 keys to their occupancy, and the fire department has a master
15 key. So it's just one of the systems out there for us to
16 access a property. And there's some new technology that might
17 replace hard keys with digital keys, so we met with them to
18 see if that's something we want to pursue. We probably don't,
19 but I wanted to mention that because there was a little typo,
20 which I apologize for.

21 Moving on to our health and safety bureau, we've got
22 the two new hires I believe we told you about in a previous
23 meeting. They're undergoing lots of training, working out
24 really well. And any time we hire new people, you're always
25 kind of crossing your fingers, did we make the right choice,

1 and it sure looks like we made the right choices with these
2 two individuals, so we're really happy with that. We also do
3 have a new member in the health and safety bureau, so one of
4 our previous firefighter 3s went back to operations, and we
5 got a new member who is also working out great.

6 I believe we mentioned before, but I think it's
7 worth highlighting again, a few months back, we started having
8 meetings with personnel involved in their fire department's
9 health and safety and mental wellness programs, so we've had
10 statewide meetings with folks from Honolulu, Big Island, Kauai
11 sharing ideas and talking through the sorts of programs that
12 we're implementing and we're considering implementing.

13 One thing I know was hit a few -- a little while
14 back in passing, but it's worth reminding ourselves, in the
15 emergency services, I think police and fire in particular,
16 suicide is out passing line-of-duty deaths. So we all know
17 how dangerous firefighting is and law enforcement is, all
18 sorts of ways that we can get seriously injured or killed, but
19 what's happening more often than that is firefighters taking
20 their own lives. So we're working really hard to be as
21 proactive as we can developing our programs. We have programs
22 in place; we're trying to make them better, more
23 comprehensive, and head off any kind of future issues and just
24 help our personnel, you know, process and deal with all of the
25 various challenges that they face in the profession.

1 One of the things for health and safety I'll mention
2 that I find interesting is we have been doing this program for
3 a while now where we are training personnel to function as
4 incident safety officers within the department. So they get a
5 certification that's department-based, it's not a third-party
6 cert, although we do follow a model that was -- that's been
7 used in the wildland firefighting community for quite a long
8 time of doing initial coursework followed by completion of a
9 task book. And a task book basically is just a series of
10 things you have to do under the supervision of a qualified,
11 certified, you know, person in that particular area either at
12 a real incident or some kind of training event where you're
13 actually doing the skill for real, not just learning about it
14 in the classroom setting or doing a little mock trial in the
15 classroom, you're actually going out to a training, for
16 example, and being the safety officer for the training, right,
17 under the supervision of somebody else. So it's a model that
18 helps ensure when you're sent on your own to do a task, you
19 don't just have the classroom knowledge, but you actually have
20 some real experience having -- having done it. So we've been
21 working on that with our health and safety bureau in getting
22 some personnel cycled through that.

23 With respect to our CIP and major facility items,
24 there's really two that have experienced anything worth
25 reporting here, in my opinion, anyway. So we did get a

1 construction contract awarded to Betsill Brothers for the
2 Makawao carport and work shed addition, so we've got some
3 movement on that. That was an item that had been kind of
4 stagnant for a while as we were, you know, sending out bid
5 specifications and that, but we got that contract awarded
6 under budget, so we do have some funds for contingency there,
7 which is great.

8 And then for the Pukoo Fire Station relocation, we
9 did just actually meet yesterday with Nishikawa, the
10 architectural firm that's doing the design, and so talking
11 through with them what's important to us, what needs -- you
12 know, what our needs are to help, you know, drive that
13 project. We did get the home inspection report for that
14 property which highlighted quite a large number of problems,
15 nothing we weren't -- you know, we were especially surprised
16 about. So the main question for us at this point, which we're
17 still mulling over and trying to get the architect's feedback
18 on, is whether we want to just do an extensive renovation or
19 maybe just a complete teardown and rebuild. So we'll report
20 on that in the future as we make decisions there.

21 And that's all I was planning on sharing with you
22 folks today. Are there any questions for me?

23 CHAIR VARES: Thank you, Chief Giese.

24 Does anyone have any questions for him regarding
25 this report?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIR VARES: None? I have a question.

3 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: Okay.

4 CHAIR VARES: Always, sorry.

5 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: No, no problem.

6 CHAIR VARES: Regarding the Pukoo decision whether
7 to -- and the opinion of the architect and home inspector
8 whether to do an extensive renovation or tear it down, is that
9 a decision that would tie into the -- there's supposed to be a
10 new position coming up shortly that -- like a CIP --

11 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: Support clerk.

12 CHAIR VARES: A support guy, you know, like a
13 civilian contractor that could give a realistic price option
14 for both of those options, like, man, if you tear this down,
15 it's gonna be blah, blah, blah, and if you try to renovate it,
16 it's gonna be blah, blah. Is that a decision that's going to
17 be made by someone with some construction experience, or is
18 that not gonna be ready in time, you know, that position ready
19 in time?

20 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: So both, I would say. So
21 the CIP coordinator position is one that we have proposed in
22 our fiscal year '24 budget, and that's pending approval by
23 both the mayor and the council, and those funds wouldn't be
24 available until July 1st. So whoever we hire for that
25 position, assuming it's approved, likely will be here after we

1 want to have set a direction with respect to this. This
2 renovation, however, Nishikawa is not only an architecture
3 firm, but they are closely tied in with a company; I think it
4 was ADC Construction, if I remember correctly, from the shirts
5 they were wearing yesterday. So they're not only architects,
6 but they run a construction contracting business.

7 CHAIR VARES: So they can work on the budget and
8 that?

9 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: Yes. We're tasking them
10 with providing the information we need in terms of logistics,
11 permitting, and cost so we can make the best decision about
12 whether we do want to do a full teardown or a renovation.

13 CHAIR VARES: Excellent.

14 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: So we're not -- we're not
15 just gonna be guessing out of our limited experience; we will
16 have some experts, but it won't be the CIP coordinator, most
17 likely.

18 CHAIR VARES: Gotcha. But at least the architects
19 that are giving you the advice are well-established and
20 experienced contractors that know the pricing and whatnot.
21 That's great. Okay, good. Thanks for the explanation.

22 ASSISTANT CHIEF GIESEA: You're welcome.

23 CHAIR VARES: Any other questions for Chief Giesea?

24 (No response.)

25 CHAIR VARES: No? All right. Do we have any public

1 comment or input for those last agenda items?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIR VARES: All right. Looks like we're gonna be
4 moving on to our special presenter, Captain Peter Vanderpoel.
5 Welcome to the commission. We're looking forward to your
6 presentation. Take it away.

7 CHIEF VENTURA: Perfect. So I'd like to introduce
8 everybody to Captain Vanderpoel. He works here at Kahului
9 Fire Station with our engine on B watch. He's been with our
10 department almost 23 years now. And he's the program director
11 not only for ropes, which he'll talk about today but also our
12 dive program. Another part -- another role that he plays in
13 our department is with our recruits. They do -- he does --
14 oversees the watermanship program, which is basically a stress
15 inoculation program. So a lot of the videos from recruit
16 class we've shared with you all, you see the recruits at the
17 pool, they're bopping, they're underwater tying knots, they're
18 dealing with stress inoculation in a waterous environment, so
19 he oversees that as well. But for today, he'll be talking
20 about his rope program, and so I'd like to introduce Captain
21 Vanderpoel.

22 CAPTAIN VANDERPOEL: Good morning, everyone. Peter
23 Vanderpoel here. So as the chief said, I'll be kind of
24 sharing a little bit about -- about our rope rescue program.
25 Okay, so I'm gonna need to share screen here.

1 Okay, all right. Can everybody kind of see that?

2 COMMISSIONER KINCAID: Yeah.

3 CAPTAIN VANDERPOEL: Okay.

4 COMMISSIONER PARSONS: Yes.

5 CAPTAIN VANDERPOEL: How do I move this?

6 Okay. So, once again, my name is Peter Vanderpoel.

7 I'm a captain here at Kahului Fire Station on the engine. And
8 so the first thing is I'll just kind of explain -- some of you
9 will probably have a pretty good idea of how the department is
10 set up, but I'll just kind of go through this. So we have 14
11 stations spread throughout the county, and 18 companies are
12 spread out throughout those 14 stations. We do cover all four
13 islands. Out of those -- those stations, you'll have a
14 variety of either engine companies or ladder companies, and
15 then you have a few specialty companies in there with hazmat
16 and rescue. So out of those 14 stations, we have seven rope
17 rescue operations level companies.

18 And I'll go a little bit further into what that
19 means for us, but if you look at the map here, they're kind of
20 strategically spread out throughout the county. If we look at
21 the island of Molokai, we have Engine 9 up in Hoolehua and
22 Engine 4 down in Kaunakakai, there are both outfitted with all
23 of the -- the gear, personnel, and they're provided the
24 training to be able to operate together at any kind of rope
25 rescue call that may happen on the island.

1 So the idea, the general idea with the program, is
2 that a company will respond, and they will be backed up,
3 normally, by another company with ropes. So the idea with
4 that is that that initial company would show up on scene, one
5 with ropes, they'll be able to assess the situation, start to
6 work towards gaining access to the -- to the person that's in
7 trouble. The second engine company or ladder company would
8 show up on scene, and they would be able to augment the
9 personnel that's already on scene, and essentially it would be
10 a duplication of the number of people and gear that they have.
11 So that's the way that it would -- it would work on Molokai.

12 The same thing on Maui. The benefit that we have to
13 at least the central area is that we also have Rescue 10,
14 which I'll talk about in a little bit.

15 The stations on Lanai and Hana, because they are so
16 far out there and they're by themselves, they generally get a
17 little bit more -- more gear so that they can start to --
18 start to work and -- and maybe make a little bit more --
19 they'll be able to do a little bit more to start the -- moving
20 the -- those people out of those situations while either an
21 engine company or most likely rescue starts -- starts working
22 towards it.

23 So besides those seven operations level companies,
24 we have one rope technician level company, and that is Rescue
25 10 here in Station 10 down here. If you don't already know,

1 Rescue 10 ends up being kind of a catchall for everything
2 that's outside of everything fire and hazmat operation.

3 So what's the difference between operations and
4 technician level? So generally speaking, an operations level
5 company, which is gonna be our ladder company in Lahaina and
6 all of our engine companies that have ropes, they'll be able
7 to show up on scene, work towards locating access, you know,
8 locating, accessing, and then stabilizing a patient. So that
9 would be included with taking medical gear down over the edge,
10 you know, stopping any bleeding, you know, securing any kind
11 of broken bones. They'd be able to do all that kind of stuff.
12 In addition to that, those engine companies would also be able
13 to evacuate that -- that victim or that patient if it's in a
14 low or, you know, somewhat steep-angled environment.

15 When we start getting into more vertical type of --
16 of environments, then, generally speaking, that's where the
17 technician starts to come into play; that can be a little bit
18 more challenging, especially from a patient handling point of
19 view. So on the right side of your screen, the technicians
20 will have the knowledge, training, and equipment to locate,
21 access, stabilize, and evacuate a patient using rope rescue
22 equipment in any and all environments; that's ideally what we
23 -- what we want them to be able to do. So that's kind of the
24 difference between the two. The engine companies oftentimes
25 will get on scene and start to work, so they'll start to send

1 somebody over, whether or not they're being forward or whether
2 or not they're gonna be rappelling, they'll go down with some
3 medical gear, they'll start to stabilize, they'll bring down
4 additional personnel if they need. In the meantime, rescue is
5 often being transported there either by -- by vehicle or by
6 air in some -- in some occasions, and then that's when -- when
7 rescue shows up on scene, they'll start to augment where they
8 need to, and then they'll oftentimes take over the actual
9 patient care and patient transport portion.

10 So our operations level training kind of starts in
11 recruit class, and so it's usually between four or five days,
12 depending on how -- how we orient the training for the recruit
13 class itself. It'll usually be four hours -- four days of
14 instruction, and oftentimes we'll be able to throw in a fifth
15 day of examination, that's gonna be skills, skills evaluation,
16 and a written test. So the curriculum is designed to take
17 somebody who does not know anything about rope rescue and get
18 them to the point after those four or five days of training to
19 be able to work on an engine company or a ladder company.
20 They will be working at a task level, which means that they're
21 gonna be working under the authority of a -- of an officer,
22 oftentimes being mentored by personnel that have been there a
23 little bit longer, but they will be able to do everything that
24 they -- that essentially their captain or their officer is
25 gonna ask them to be able to do. This includes a knowledge of

1 ropes and knots, they'll be able to identify and rig anchors,
2 they'll have a general understanding of the basic physics that
3 goes along with rope rescue, and then be able to operate
4 different parts of a rope rescue system which would be an edge
5 line, main line, or belay line. They are fairly -- they
6 should be fairly comfortable with patient packaging, that
7 would be like putting them onto a -- onto a backboard and into
8 a Stokes basket so that we can start to move them, and then
9 also being able to operate in that low-angle environment to
10 actually evacuate the patient out.

11 So the next few slides are gonna be just some
12 pictures of a training site that we use. We often will use
13 Turtle Bay, which is out near Hookipa. It's not quite
14 vertical, it's about 65 degrees or so, but it's something that
15 we're able to utilize a lot with our recruit classes to really
16 give them a good idea of what rope rescue is like out in the
17 real world. So here's another shot there.

18 So that's -- that's kind of where our operations
19 level training begins. Beyond that, we start to move into our
20 technician-level training. Our technician-level training is
21 focused towards our Rescue 10 personnel, but it's not
22 exclusively for them. Anybody else in the department that
23 wants to learn this, this stuff, will -- you know, they can --
24 they can come, and they can attend the class. This is a very
25 intensive class. You can see there it is six ten-hour days,

1 so 60 hours. People are generally really happy to be there on
2 day one and day two and day three, and by day six at the end,
3 they're ready to -- to pack up and go home and spend some time
4 with their families.

5 But we do utilize multiple sites. We have utilized
6 multiple sites around the island. It's primarily focusing
7 initially, the first couple days, on really solidifying
8 individual skill development in a -- so that they are able to
9 self-rescue themselves and not contribute to a problem if
10 there is one. Then we start to build upon that so we can get
11 some overall team development. It includes knowledge and
12 skill of advanced rope rescue techniques. We do go fairly
13 heavy into understanding the whys of what we do and having an
14 understanding of the physics, the advanced physics that goes
15 along with rope rescue. They also have a lot of time on a
16 rope, handling a patient in difficult terrain, and then some
17 lead climbing rescue technician, which would -- you'll have a
18 picture of here shortly, and some high lines.

19 So the picture on the left, we utilize a couple
20 trees. If you look really closely, there's a second tree in
21 the background. You've got little monkeys up there with
22 yellow pants on up there also in that second tree. In the
23 past, and I believe that -- that the chief has been involved
24 with rescuing people out of trees in Polipoli, and oftentimes
25 it's done with a helicopter, but we also need to be able to

1 gain access from the ground.

2 So really, the neat thing about this is it's an
3 established training site that we already use, the trees are
4 there, and the concepts that we -- that we teach not only work
5 for trees, to be able to gain access and stabilize somebody
6 and get them out of there safely but also, you know, with
7 cellphone towers and radio towers, it's the same concepts, the
8 same -- it's the same principals that we teach. And these,
9 you know, Rescue 10 personnel and other fire department
10 personnel, they go through the course, have a good
11 understanding of what they need to do and what's involved with
12 it.

13 The picture on the right is of an actual rescue
14 site. This is up in Polipoli. About 18-19 years ago or so,
15 as high school students do, they were partying up there in
16 Polipoli, and somebody found themselves over the edge. So
17 this was at about two o'clock in the morning, the call came
18 in. And I think Chief Hanalei probably remembers when that
19 happened. This actually may be -- may be beyond -- it's
20 probably like 1999 or so. Crews from the rescue crew from
21 Kahului, along with the engine company from Kula, responded up
22 there, and they weren't done until the sun was up in the sky.
23 It was a very difficult environment to be working in, and, you
24 know, obviously the -- the kid that was over the edge was --
25 was pretty hurt. But because of that, because of the

1 challenges that they had that evening in the dark, we now use
2 this site a lot. It's an excellent training area and -- yeah,
3 and so we utilize this spot. It actually belongs to Kaonoulu
4 Ranch, and we gain access through the state roadway going up
5 through Polipoli.

6 The next picture here is a couple of pictures of our
7 high-line setup. This is also in the Polipoli area. This can
8 be fairly confusing if you're not familiar with the way that
9 this is set up. This particular style of what we call high
10 line, you know, is very similar to what, like, a zip line
11 might look like. This particular one can not only transport
12 people from one side of, say, a gulch to another, it's also --
13 this one can be used up to a hundred yards, so that's 300
14 feet, so pretty wide spans. But you can not only transport
15 people across it but you can also lower them down into the
16 depths of the gorge, running water and those areas, areas like
17 that, to be able to gain access and grab somebody out of
18 there.

19 The next picture here is a little bit more of a
20 complex look at what it might look like behind it, and so
21 pretty in-depth knowledge needs to -- needs to take place for
22 something like this.

23 So those are our kind of two formalized training, I
24 guess, operations and technician levels that we have.

25 Now, our instructors. These are the instructors

1 that are currently in the fire department now. All of our
2 cadre have Rescue 10 experience. All of them have attended at
3 least one training out of state. And we use a company based
4 out of Colorado, out of Ouray, Colorado, called Rigging For
5 Rescue. We've been involved with Rigging For Rescue for about
6 20 years now. Their roots are in the British Columbia area of
7 Canada, and they are on the cutting edge of rope rescue
8 training. All of our instructors, just to make it onto the
9 cadre itself, need to have superb skills, and with that and
10 with mentoring from the -- from the older guys in the -- on
11 the cadre, they start to gain an extensive knowledge of -- of
12 not only rope rescue and the -- all the science behind it, but
13 also adult teaching methods. We need to be able to take these
14 pretty propeller-spinning concepts and be able to not only
15 teach it in a classroom setting but also make it so that
16 people understand it out in the real world.

17 The -- if you're looking at these pictures here, the
18 two guys on the very left are our youngest guys, they've got
19 12 years, and it goes on up to 28 years, that's the middle guy
20 with the -- with the black jacket on. You know, with the
21 exception of maybe the bald guy with the green top, these guys
22 are -- in my opinion, of course, might be -- you know, I'm
23 gonna say that these guys are the cream of the fire
24 department. All of these guys are involved with multiple
25 cadres, highly motivated individuals, that I'm very, very

1 proud to be counted along with these guys.

2 So our instructors, we stand -- well, actually,
3 let's go through the next -- so this is some of our training
4 here on Maui. The picture on the left, we had Rigging For
5 Rescue come down here. That's a -- that's a photo from the
6 crane. When they were building the rental car center at the
7 airport, we did some training off of that. The picture on the
8 right is in Maalaea. Another picture here, it's a guiding
9 line there in Maalaea.

10 We've also sent -- this last year, we sent two
11 people to Moab, Utah, to go through a Rigging For Rescue
12 course. I've never been there. I was very envious of those
13 guys. But luckily for me, in the past, I've been able to
14 attend classes in Ouray, several times in Ouray, Colorado, and
15 also I've been able to go up to Canada training. We've also
16 sent people to Ventura County in California as well as
17 Yosemite. So we really are sending -- the department is
18 investing money and time into these instructors and especially
19 for -- like I said, I'm -- this is kind of my thing, but these
20 guys are -- the department's investing in these guys, and
21 they're coming back, and they're essentially gonna be teaching
22 for the rest of their career in this -- in this particular
23 skill set.

24 Some of the pictures here, Molokai training here at
25 the -- at the fire station at Station 4. The picture on the

1 right is our classroom for the technician class, and that's up
2 in Polipoli also. So there's usually a segment of whiteboard
3 with a lot of notes, and then we go out there and do it.

4 We also have -- have had the opportunity to partner
5 with industry. The pictures here are of Auwahi Wind Farm out
6 in the Kaneohe area. You know, we've gone up and gotten to
7 not only kind of preplan what it's like to be able to work on
8 those towers, but also kind of semi-evaluate how the
9 technicians that are working for Auwahi who go up there. If
10 -- oftentimes if they get injured, then they'll have to rely
11 upon their partners to be able to at least start the rescue
12 effort, and so we got -- we get to work with those guys. In
13 addition to Auwahi Wind Farm, we, you know, just -- just
14 today, actually, there's one of our personnel that's out
15 talking with Mahi Pono about the -- their subterranean water
16 wells, so they're out there preplanning that kind of stuff.

17 So all of this stuff is our program. I would say
18 our formalized rope rescue training is due to these two guys
19 here. They're both retired rescue captains. On the left is
20 Captain Mark Paranada, and on the right, some of you probably
21 know who he is, that's Joseph Blackburn. These guys, way back
22 in about 1998 or so, decided that, you know, we need to move
23 perhaps beyond what it was like in the past. In the past, it
24 was firefighters figuring stuff out, and it was often cowboys
25 or guys who were country guys who just figured things out, and

1 they made -- and they applied that -- that common sense
2 knowledge and made things happen. These two guys decided
3 that, you know, maybe we should be a little bit more
4 formalized. They went out and, on their own time, decided to
5 go out and research some of the -- the best ways of conducting
6 rope rescue. And we have now been able to kind of eat the
7 fruit that they start -- that they planted from that tree a
8 long time ago, so it's -- I think it's important for me to
9 acknowledge these guys. Since then, we've had Peter
10 Napolitano, who's now retired also, and he had a wealth of
11 knowledge and, you know, we're just -- the old term that we're
12 standing on the shoulders of giants, these are the guys here.

13 Once again, I'm Peter Vanderpoel. If I can answer
14 any questions that you guys have, I'd be happy to.

15 CHAIR VARES: Thank you so much, Captain Vanderpoel.

16 Commissioners, do you all have any questions on this
17 incredibly interesting presentation?

18 COMMISSIONER BURNS: (Gesturing.)

19 CHAIR VARES: Yes, Dwight, go ahead.

20 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Thank you, Captain Vanderpoel,
21 for that, like Lisa said, incredible presentation. Just out
22 of curiosity, how often do you guys go out and do rope
23 rescues?

24 CAPTAIN VANDERPOEL: Okay. So I -- it's
25 interesting, I just -- I just tried to look it up this morning

1 on our -- on our report management system. We do have a
2 specific high-angle type, incident type, and from that, for
3 the last ten years, I looked for the last ten years, there was
4 about 28 to 30 calls. That was just for high-angle rescue.
5 Now, I have to -- this is a little bit of a -- of a caveat
6 that I suppose I need to bring into that because it all
7 depends on how the officer that's writing up the report is
8 going to classify it. There's potential that it may come in
9 as a search, it may come in as even a medical or a car
10 accident, you know, if there's a vehicle going over the side.
11 It depends on how they prioritize how they're going to
12 categorize the call. I would say that there's -- just kind of
13 looking at it, some of the other rescue incident types, so
14 you've got confined space, that's oftentimes gonna include
15 ropes, swift water type of incidents, along with a bunch of
16 other stuff. I mean, I would say that we are probably
17 somewhere between ten and 12 a year, like really legitimate
18 rope rescue, you know, ropes-involved calls.

19 Now, if we're looking at -- if I remember right --
20 what was our total number of calls that we had there?

21 (Inaudible.)

22 CAPTAIN VANDERPOEL: Yeah, so a little bit less than
23 15,000 callers -- calls per year, that clearly falls into a
24 low -- what's the word that I'm looking for?

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Low frequency.

1 CAPTAIN VANDERPOEL: Low frequency.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: High risk.

3 CAPTAIN VANDERPOEL: Low frequency, high risk, thank
4 you very much. We're a team here. Low-frequency, high-risk
5 operation, which, if you're a student of emergency services,
6 we know that that is the most dangerous calls that we go on.
7 Any kind of -- if something bad happens on those types of
8 calls, then something really bad happens, so -- but that --
9 but I hope that answers your question.

10 COMMISSIONER BURNS: It does. Thank you so much.
11 And then my other question I have is when you guys go out to
12 one of these calls, how soon do you guys make that --
13 determine that you guys have to go out and rappel? Like does
14 somebody assess it right away, or do you guys go out all at
15 one time with all the equipment to --

16 CAPTAIN VANDERPOEL: Yeah, so -- so generally
17 speaking, the way that it kind of works for the emergency
18 services is it all starts with the dispatchers. The
19 dispatchers will try and get as much information as they can,
20 and they're gonna send the most appropriate units based upon
21 the information that they have. Now -- so let's say that
22 there was something that happened in the district of Paia, you
23 know, out past Haiku or something, and for whatever reason,
24 the information didn't come clearly across as needing ropes.
25 The in-district engine company, which would be Paia, would

1 start to respond, and that officer would based upon the
2 knowledge that he has of the area, who he has on his crew,
3 along with any dispatch information is going to start to --
4 start to figure out, okay, well, are we enough, you know? And
5 so, generally speaking for us, the idea is send people early,
6 and you can always cancel it. So most of the time, we'll --
7 we will have resources moving towards that call up to and
8 including even Rescue 10, which -- you know, which may be via
9 the roadways, or it could be by air. And then, of course,
10 once, once they get on scene and they start to determine
11 whether or not they actually need to use ropes, that's when,
12 you know, things start to happen pretty quickly, and that's
13 just -- that's our meat and potatoes, we make decisions
14 quickly.

15 COMMISSIONER BURNS: All right. Thank you. Thank
16 you for that.

17 CAPTAIN VANDERPOEL: You're welcome.

18 CHAIR VARES: Thank you, Dwight. Thank you, Captain
19 Vanderpoel.

20 Does anybody have any other questions?

21 COMMISSIONER MATSUI: How about comments?

22 CHAIR VARES: Yes, please.

23 COMMISSIONER MATSUI: I'm very impressed. I'm very
24 impressed.

25 CHIEF VENTURA: Thanks, Gerald.

1 CAPTAIN VANDERPOEL: Thank you.

2 CHAIR VARES: Thanks, Gerald. I think we can all
3 echo that.

4 COMMISSIONER PARSONS: Yeah, I agree with Gerald,
5 too.

6 CHAIR VARES: Yeah.

7 COMMISSIONER PARSONS: I am very impressed. You --
8 the training seems to be spectacular. Are you -- how are you
9 set on equipment for -- for this?

10 CAPTAIN VANDERPOEL: Yeah, we're -- you know, we've
11 been very, very fortunate. From a rope rescue coordinator
12 position, I'm very -- I feel very fortunate. The past
13 administration and including this administration, has been
14 very supportive of it. It helps when your Fire 1 was on the
15 rescue crew, you know, so --

16 (Laughter.)

17 CAPTAIN VANDERPOEL: You know, that does help,
18 honestly. But, you know, the calls that we have justify
19 itself, you know, and so we've been able to support sending
20 people away and investing -- investing in our instructors to
21 be able to bring the best not only knowledge but exposure to
22 the latest technologies and techniques that are out there in
23 the world. There are lots of training agencies out there in
24 America and across the planet, but not all of them are on the
25 same -- on the same level. And I feel very confident that

1 with the -- with the level of expertise that we have within
2 our cadre, that we can decide a good direction, at least a
3 good educated direction as to who we start to listen to.
4 There's been both Captain Bover and myself, who is the guy
5 with 28 years, we've been directly involved with testing not
6 only our -- our techniques, but our gear, testing them to
7 failure to see whether or not all the things that we're
8 teaching are actually real or did we just hear it from
9 somebody. And so, you know, that -- all of that comes back to
10 how much the -- not only the fire administration but also the
11 county leadership supports the -- you know, what we're trying
12 to do.

13 COMMISSIONER PARSONS: That's great.

14 Lisa, I want to apologize for you not recognizing
15 me. I just jumped in there, sorry.

16 CHAIR VARES: That's quite all right. Thank you so
17 much, Dale.

18 All right. Are there any other questions for
19 Captain Vanderpoel?

20 CHIEF VENTURA: Chair, can I just add a couple
21 comments?

22 CHAIR VARES: Please.

23 CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah, just to give everybody
24 background, for most people, rope rescue is an extremely
25 perishable skill, and a lot of the repetitive training falls

1 on the cadre to make sure things are scheduled, especially at
2 the technician level. But each captain who has ropes on his
3 truck will train with his crew on any random day that they
4 want to. We can look across the parking lot every week and
5 we'll see at least a couple to three times a day -- a week
6 that the rescue company is working on ropes, you know, whether
7 it's just anchors or basket work or patient packaging. There
8 are so many -- so many different parts of rope rescue that
9 that's why the class sessions are ten hours long because you
10 can't just get in and get out kind of a thing. And so the --
11 when we send them to classes, and they see new techniques and
12 new equipment and whatnot, we want to keep our -- our
13 firefighters as safe as possible and get them the best they
14 can to do their job. So we've been fortunate, and I hope --
15 you know, as Captain Vanderpoel said, he feels fortunate to
16 get the support. It's a very, very technical skill.

17 CHAIR VARES: Thanks for that explanation. And,
18 yeah, a perishable skill is a good term. I hadn't thought of
19 a skill as that before, but now I can see why frequent
20 training would be necessary because if you get a rope not --
21 wrong, it all goes bad quick. All right, thank you so much.

22 Does anyone have any other questions or comments?
23 Is there anyone from the public who wanted to testify
24 regarding this agenda item?

25 (No response.)

1 CHAIR VARES: No? Oh, yes, Dwight, go ahead.

2 COMMISSIONER BURNS: You know, a quick question.
3 So, you know, like, Rappel Maui, they do these rope rappels,
4 too. Who is responsible for checking on the equipment and
5 making sure that everything is safe? Do you guys do that, or
6 is there an agency that does that?

7 CAPTAIN VANDERPOEL: We have no oversight. It would
8 be very similar to us going to a surf school and saying, hey,
9 what you guys -- you know, it's kind of the same thing. The
10 industry out there, I'm -- I believe that they're
11 self-regulated. There's not a whole lot of oversight when it
12 comes to stuff like that. So that's why we're here; we're the
13 catchall.

14 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Right on. Did you guys ever
15 have to go out to calls to some of their mishaps? 'Cause I
16 have heard that they had some from relatives on the east side
17 where they do most of that stuff, and they said that they did
18 have a few incidents.

19 CAPTAIN VANDERPOEL: Yeah, I would say, generally
20 speaking, we don't get a whole lot of calls going for, you
21 know, Hike Maui or any -- you know, there's all kinds of
22 people that are out there doing stuff. Generally speaking,
23 they -- I have to hope and believe that they're -- that
24 they're as safe -- you know, it would be bad for business as
25 well, you know, if they start killing people out there. But,

1 you know, the vast majority of our calls are going to be just,
2 you know, people out there enjoying the outdoors, and they get
3 into trouble. There hasn't been a big spike in -- you know,
4 in the industry calling us, you know, and maybe -- maybe
5 they're just not calling us, and they're handling it
6 themselves, I'm not sure, but there -- I wouldn't say that
7 there's -- there's an epidemic of, you know, Hike Maui people
8 falling off cliffs, you know. Not yet, anyway. But the
9 industry is fairly small here so far, but it is growing for
10 sure.

11 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Okay, thank you.

12 CHAIR VARES: Okay, wonderful, guys.

13 If there's nothing else, I'd love to see everybody
14 here again next meeting on February 16th, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.
15 via BlueJeans again.

16 COMMISSIONER BURNS: (Gesturing.)

17 CHAIR VARES: Oh, yes, Dwight.

18 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Sorry, Chair. So what about
19 the -- the award?

20 CHAIR VARES: Oh, thanks.

21 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Hear back from corp counsel.

22 CHAIR VARES: Look it, Sonia and Kristina are back
23 quick.

24 Corp Counsel, do you have any input for us if we can
25 vote on three or five, or both? What can we do?

1 CORP COUNSEL TOMA: I reviewed the materials that
2 were provided. It looks like there were three nomination
3 forms. They were all signed at the same time, but they were
4 attached to emails. And I guess you folks should get
5 clarification on which one is the most updated one.

6 CHIEF VENTURA: I can provide some information on
7 that.

8 CHAIR VARES: Great.

9 CHIEF VENTURA: So we -- because Richelle had
10 mentioned that some of the boxes didn't expand for the initial
11 people who filled them out, let's look at the top page of the
12 three pages, which is correctly filled out, and it has all
13 five people nominated in -- both the name of the people being
14 nominated and the narrative, and it listed as witnesses
15 because they were there. So it is five people for the award.
16 It's Mike, Leroy, Keoni, Brendan, and Noah.

17 CORP COUNSEL TOMA: I just asked that because on the
18 last three pages, the email date includes the three people,
19 and that's the last email. That would be on November 4th,
20 where it's indicated that they're amending the names of the
21 crew involved. So I guess it's not clear which one is the one
22 that --

23 MS. WAKAMATSU: The last form that I -- the last
24 form that I got is the one with the five names. I am -- I did
25 reach out to the person who submitted the forms to just get

1 the full confirmation on whether it should be five or three,
2 but I don't have that information right now. But the last one
3 that I received that I confirmed with an email is the one with
4 the five names, so --

5 CORP COUNSEL TOMA: Okay.

6 MS. WAKAMATSU: So I'm not sure if we want to just
7 approve that with the five names, and if it's three, is that
8 okay that we just award three, or how would that work?

9 CORP COUNSEL TOMA: I discussed with Kristina, and I
10 think you folks should approve either five or three; it
11 shouldn't be and/or.

12 MS. WAKAMATSU: Okay.

13 CORP COUNSEL TOMA: It may need to be amended later
14 if it's not the five and it's actually the three. Maybe
15 Kristina can chime in if --

16 CHAIR VARES: How do we feel about just maybe making
17 this in February, or is it -- I know it's not time-sensitive,
18 but --

19 CHIEF VENTURA: Very good.

20 CHAIR VARES: -- it's on the agenda.

21 Chief, did you say we're good to put it off for one
22 month?

23 CHIEF VENTURA: I think we could further discuss
24 this at the next meeting after we clarify the recipients.

25 CHAIR VARES: Thank you, Chief.

1 Commission, is everybody okay with just suspending
2 the vote on the nomination for this Kahuola Award?

3 COMMISSIONERS: Yes.

4 CHAIR VARES: Corp Counsel, do I need a vote for
5 that, or can that be something that we just shelve?

6 CORP COUNSEL TOMA: You can defer with no
7 objections, and so I don't think you need to take a vote.

8 CHAIR VARES: Okay, great. Deferring with no
9 objections.

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIR VARES: Okay. We'll tackle that in February,
12 then. Okay.

13 And other than that, we do have our next meeting
14 time and date. Again, February 16th, 2023, 10:00 a.m. via
15 BlueJeans.

16 Could I get a motion to --

17 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Motion to adjourn.

18 CHAIR VARES: Moved by Dwight Burns.

19 COMMISSIONER GILLIS: Second.

20 CHAIR VARES: Do we have a second? Gordon Gillis
21 seconds. Vote or no? I think we can just go. It looks like
22 I lost everybody anyway.

23 CORP COUNSEL TOSHIKIYO: Well, since you took the
24 motion and the second, then you can -- it doesn't have to be a
25 roll call. So long as there's no objection, you can adjourn

1 the meeting. But in the future, if you wanted to just say if
2 there's no objections, we're gonna adjourn.

3 CHAIR VARES: Thank you. All right. If there's no
4 objections, we're gonna adjourn till next February 16th.

5 (The proceedings were adjourned at 11:47 a.m.)

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