

HONOLULU FIRE COMMISSION

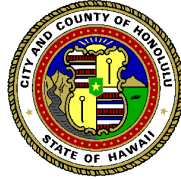
*Komikina Kinai Ahi o Honolulu*

**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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CRAIG NAGAMINE

CHARLOTTE NEKOTA

BUTCH GALDEIRA

DEBBI ELENKI

MAX HANNEMANN

Minutes of Regular Public Meeting  
Honolulu Fire Department Headquarters  
Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium  
March 20, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chair Matlin called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Matlin, Craig Nagamine, Butch Galdeira, and Debbi Eleneki.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dennis Morton, Charlotte Nekota, and Max Hannemann.

IN ATTENDANCE: Deputy Fire Chief Jason Samala (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Joseph Kostiha (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Reid Yoshida (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Craig Uchimura (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Mokulehua (HFD), Wayne Lalicon (USDOT), Nii Amahtey Sampah (USDOT), Evelyn Yang (USDOT), Marc Nichols (USDOT), Clayton Hatfield (USDOT), Yolanday Braxton (USDOT), Brian Ancheta (Department of the Corporation Counsel), and Nadine Murata (Commission Secretary).

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON ALL AGENDA ITEMS. Vice-Chair Matlin asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to give public testimony. There was none.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21, 2024. Vice-Chair Matlin called for any comments or corrections to the minutes of February 21, 2024. Commissioner Nagamine moved and Commissioner Eleneki seconded. There being no further comments or corrections and with a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission approved the minutes.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTE OF FEBRUARY 21, 2024. Vice-Chair Matlin called for any comments or corrections to the executive session minutes of February 21, 2024. Commissioner Nagamine moved and Commissioner Galdeira seconded. There being no further comments or corrections and with a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission approved the executive session minutes.

V. REPORT OF THE FIRE CHIEF. Deputy Fire Chief Samala introduced the guests of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to the Commission. Deputy Fire Chief Samala mentioned that they produce the Emergency Response Guide (ERG) that the department uses on their truck which guides them to hazardous incidents.

Deputy Fire Chief Samala briefly went over workforce with the Commission. Details can be found in the March 2024 monthly report handed out at the meeting.

Deputy Fire Chief Samala mentioned the upcoming 115<sup>th</sup> FFR I Class graduation on March 28, 2024 with the Commission.

Deputy Fire Chief Samala discussed the Wildland Fire data on page 10 of the report and gave the Commission an overview of various extinguish times known as bench marks which indicates the on-scene time, control time and fire extinguish time.

Deputy Fire Chief Samala mentioned that the department is exploring ways of measuring time to controlling fire.

Deputy Fire Chief Samala mentioned that the executive staff will be introducing themselves and highlighting events from their respective divisions.

Assistant Fire Chief Joseph Kostiha- Fire Operations. Chief Kostiha introduced himself and gave an site of what his division had accomplished within the past month.

Chief Kostiha mentioned that his division oversees 63 trucks, 43 stations, 3 helicopters, 17 Battalion Chiefs, 1000 personnel and daily operations of the department.

Chief Kostiha mentioned that 2 newly promoted Captains were sent to Los Angeles County to participate in its Fire Captain's Academy for 2 weeks, there they learned about leadership, tactics, and administrative roles.

Chief Kostiha mentioned a structure fire organization was hired and gave a strategy and tactic class and that the department will utilize what it has learned and apply it to the department's curriculum to create a formal strategy and tactics curriculum for Fire Operations personnel.

Chief Kostiha mentioned currently his division is focusing on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) structures which are single-family dwellings, low-rise apartments, strip malls and high rises and noted that the department has formalized guidelines for these structures.

Chief Kostiha mentioned in the future wildland strategy and tactics, rescue strategy and tactics, and hazmat strategy and tactics will turn into an annual training for personnel.

Chief Kostiha went over residential and abandoned structure training with the Commission and noted that it was modeled after the Seattle Fire Department's fire structure program, training is voluntary. Former sites used here are the Autosource and Pohukaina sites, and there is a current site in the Moiliili area.

Chief Kostiha discussed the federal Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG) and mentioned that the department received \$2.9 million, \$1.6 million of which was used by Fire Operations to purchase equipment: Genesis rescue tool kits, chest compression systems, thermal vision cameras, etc.

Vice-Chair Matlin commended the department on its training and asked what the department's goal is and how many personnel will be participating in the department's strategy and tactic training.

Chief Kostiha answered that in February 2024 the department held its first Captains orientation with 15 – 18 personnel and the new recruits were its crew. Feedback has been positive.

Commissioner Nagamine asked who's teaching who and how many Captains in the department.

Chief Kostiha answered the department has been giving them the information and everyone from FFI to the Fire Chief shares their expertise. There are about 200 – 210 Captains.

Commissioner Galdeira asked about funding and if it was specifically for equipment.

Chief Kostiha discussed the procurement process with the Commission.

Assistant Fire Chief Reid Yoshida- Administrative Services Bureau. Chief Yoshida introduced himself and gave an overview of his division.

Chief Yoshida mentioned that he oversees a few Battalion Chiefs, the Administrative Service Officer (ASO), mechanic shop, storeroom, Occupational Safety and Health Office (OSHO) and Human Resources.

Chief Yoshida mentioned that the Waianae Fire Station's renovation has been completed (partial roofing being done, asbestos treatment, central air conditioning, weight room, upgrade the kitchen, upgraded the decontamination room, new bay doors in front of the station and improved the parking area). The target date for move in is March 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> and operations will resume on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Chief Yoshida mentioned that the completion and delivery date for the Quint 31 is expected to arrive between January 2025 and February 2025.

Chief Yoshida mentioned there was an amendment to the twin engine helicopter and expected delivery is expected by the end of summer/end of the year.

Chief Yoshida mentioned he discussed the FY25 CIP annual and budget review with City Council as well as Bills 11, 12, and 13.

Chief Yoshida briefly went over the department's budget with the Commission and indicated that the department has 10 funded managers.

Chief Yoshida briefly went over capital improvements with the Commission.

Chief Yoshida briefly spoke on the Pearl City and Waialua Fire Stations. The department is asking for \$1.75 million and \$750,000 respectively for these stations.

Vice-Chair Matlin asked what is the funding for the Pearl City Fire Station to be used for.

Chief Yoshida answered it's for the land and planning.

Commissioner Galdeira asked what is the update on the roof regarding the Waipahu warehouse.

Chief Yoshida answered the department is working with the City's Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) and repairs will start soon with a shared cost.

Commissioner Galdeira asked about personnel within the Mechanic Shop.

Chief Yoshida answered there was a recent promotion to Lead Mechanic, leaving a staffing gap at the lower level. He said staffing issues will be resolved soon.

Commissioner Eleneki asked about apparatus procurement and supply chain issues as well as the status of the reserve apparatus and if it's sufficient to sustain any shortage/delay of new apparatuses being procured.

Chief Yoshida answered that the department has 5 engines, 5 pumpers, and 2 aerials on standby and if threshold falls below the superintendent will need to coordinate staffing to get it back up to the staffing line. Supply chain is a challenge and the department makes sure there is sustainability.

Assistant Fire Chief Craig Uchimura- Support Services. Chief Uchimura introduced himself and gave an overview of his division.

Chief Uchimura mentioned that his division oversees the Training and Research Bureau, recruit training and curriculum incumbent training. Past training was fentanyl overdose, and new trainings are conducted every 6 months.

Chief Uchimura spoke on its Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) program at the Training and Research Bureau and mentioned a recent incident that took place at City Council that resulted in a surge of training inquiries. Chief Uchimura mentioned that City Council has requested that all city departments be properly trained to perform CPR.

Chief Uchimura mentioned a recruitment event to be held on April 13, 2024 with limited seating of 275. Demonstrations will be done at the training center, and a media release for this event will be made next week.

Commissioner Galdeira asked if this is the first time the department has held this kind of event.

Chief Uchimura answered no, the department has held it for female fire fighter recruitment.

Commissioner Galdeira asked about maintenance of the fire academy tower.

Chief Uchimura answered currently pavement is underway and tower maintenance is in its planning stages.

Chief Uchimura gave an insight of what the Fire Prevention Bureau is and mentioned that its personnel include inspectors, code inspectors, and investigators.

Chief Uchimura passed out the department's "After the Fire is Out" brochure and reviewed it with the Commission.

Chief Uchimura spoke on the Maui fire and mentioned that the Mayor had created a Wildland Urban Interface Group and Captain Ken Ito from the Nanakuli station is assisting with the prevention litigation response plan.

Chief Uchimura mentioned that the department has been following fire-related bills during this legislative session.

Chief Uchimura mentioned that the department is working the with City's Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) on tracking evacuation procedures.

Chief Uchimura explained what smoke particulate sensors are to the Commission and mentioned that they were purchased by the U.S. Fire Administration for the island of Maui, to detect by products of wildfire sparks.

Chief Uchimura mentioned that HFD is working with the vendor, and smoke particulate sensors will be purchased by the U.S. Fire Administration and given to each county. Oahu will be receiving 16 sensors and placing them on the westside of the island, as well as 4 portal sensors to monitor.

Chief Uchimura shared what its brushfire group had conducted within the past month.

Chief Uchimura went over community relations with the Commission and mentioned the departments website has been updated.

Commissioner Galdeira commended the department on its communication and asked about social media outreach.

Chief Uchimura discussed social media communication outreach with the Commission.

Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Mokulehua- Planning and Development. Chief Mokulehua introduced himself and gave an overview of his division.

Chief Mokulehua mentioned that his division assists with the department's accreditation process and mentioned that the department has been accredited since 2000 with accreditation taking place every 5 years. Currently the department is planning for its 6<sup>th</sup> accreditation come next year.

Chief Mokulehua explained what accreditation is to the Commission and discussed the 3 main documents that make up the accreditation which includes:

1. Self-assessment manual
2. Standards of cover
3. Strategic plan.

Chief Mokulehua explained the function of the Fire Communication Center with the Commission.

Chief Mokulehua gave an update of its proposed 5-year land leases for its hangar, live fire scenarios program and storage for its equipment in the Kalealoa area.

Chief Mokulehua discussed the status of the Pearl City Fire Station and mentioned that the department is working on a letter of intent to give to the landowner of Trinity United Methodist Church to open up negotiations to purchase its land, processing can take up to 2 – 4 months.

Chief Mokulehua mentioned that the new location for the new Waialua Fire Station is adjacent to the old Waialua Sugar Mill.

Chief Mokulehua discussed land transfers of Ben Parker and land adjacent to the Aina Haina Elementary School to the City's Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) as well as submitting an easement on a United States Coast Guard property for a possible future site of the Wailupe Fire Station.

Commissioner Galdeira thanked the executive staff for their reports and asked if the Fire Chief's report can be submitted 2 – 3 days prior to each Commission meeting so that the Commission may review in advance and come with questions.

Vice-Chair Matlin asked if there were any further questions or comments. There was none.

VI. HONOLULU FIRE COMMISSION'S 2023 ANNUAL REPORT. Vice-Chair Matlin proposed to defer item number 6 to the next Commission meeting.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENT: The next monthly Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. in the Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, Commissioner Nagamine moved and Commissioner Eleneki seconded that the meeting be adjourned. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned on March 20, 2024 at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Nadine Murata, Secretary.

APPROVED:

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DAVID MATLIN, Vice-Chair