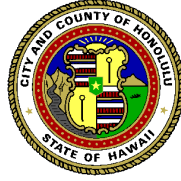


HONOLULU FIRE COMMISSION  
*Komikina Kinai Ahi o Honolulu*  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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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  
January 17, 2024

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Morton, David Matlin, Charlotte Nekota, Butch Galdeira, Debbi Eleneki and Max Hannemann.

MEMBER EXCUSED: Craig Nagamine.

IN ATTENDANCE: Fire Chief Sheldon Kalani Hao (HFD), Deputy Fire Chief Jason Samala (HFD), Brian Ancheta (Department of the Corporation Counsel), and Nadine Murata (Commission Secretary).

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

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 15, 2023. Chair Morton called for any comments or corrections to the minutes of November 15, 2023. Commissioner Nekota moved and Vice-Chair Matlin seconded. There being no further comments or corrections and with a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission approved the minutes.

IV. REPORT OF THE FIRE CHIEF. Fire Chief Hao passed out the Honolulu Fire Department's (HFD) 2023 Annual Executive Report and briefly went over its strategic goals (pages 11 - 18) and mentioned it focuses on their strategic plan, pillars, work force, facilities, and equipment.

Fire Chief Hao highlighted Strategic Goal #2- “To elevate the professional development of our workforce, so they become masters of their trade” (page 13), and discussed professional development as well as fire structure training with the Commission.

Fire Chief Hao mentioned that the department is working with developers before destructing buildings and giving personnel real world situations with live fire training.

Fire Chief Hao mentioned back in November 2023, the former Auto Group on Ala Moana Boulevard was used as its first live-fire training and currently property by University/McCully has been used as a walk-up type of training facility to develop firefighting skills.

Fire Chief Hao went over Strategic Goal #3- “To enhance our relationship with the union, first responder partners, government agencies, and the community to prevent, prepare, and respond to emergencies” (page 14 – 15), and mentioned the department is strengthening its partnership and communication with Federal, State and City entities since the Lahaina wildfire incident.

Deputy Fire Chief Samala mentioned one of the strategic goals for 2024 that the department is working on is live-fire training.

Commissioner Nekota asked where the live-fire training will be done.

Fire Chief Hao mentioned the department is working with the City’s Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM), and the training site will be in an industrial area located in Kalaeloa with a 5-year lease.

Fire Chief Hao mentioned live-fire training will commence at the end of calendar year 2024.

Deputy Fire Chief Samala mentioned at the end of the calendar year the Hawaii Fire Chief’s Association will hold its annual conference.

Chair Morton asked where it will be held.

Deputy Fire Chief Samala answered on Oahu.

Fire Chief Hao asked if there were any questions regarding the Annual Executive Report.

Commissioner Galdeira requested that information on air operations be provided.

Commissioner Galdeira commended the department on its communications and safety reports.

Fire Chief Hao briefly went over workforce with the Commission. Details can be found in the December 2023 monthly report handed out at the meeting.

Fire Chief Hao mentioned the department held a Christmas decorating contest to build morale within the department and thanked the Commissioners Hannemann and Eleneki for their participation.

Fire Chief Hao mentioned there are 117 vacancies within the department and there are 37 FFR I in recruit class and come next week the department will be hiring 31 individuals. Current vacancies now total 49 department wide.

Fire Chief Hao projected that the department will have 68 vacancies come July 2024, and the department goal is to hire 40 – 50 individuals.

Fire Chief Hao discussed staffing within the department.

Fire Chief Hao indicated there's a new bill on novelty fireworks (i.e., sparklers and ground flowers) and mentioned that the department will not be supporting it given the safety risks caused by the sustained burn of these items.

Fire Chief Hao mentioned that when the ban for novelty fireworks went into effect in 2011 statistics showed that rubbish, brush and structure fires were significantly reduced.

Fire Chief Hao went over 2022 - 2023 firework emergencies during New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, and 4<sup>th</sup> of July and its 27 related cases.

Fire Chief Hao discussed medical cases and mentioned the year before it was 10 and now it's down to 4.

Fire Chief Hao discussed wildland fires and keeping the community safe.

Commissioner Galdeira asked for clarification regarding grievances, specifically the reason for the drop in grievances from November to December. Fire Chief Hao said he would circle back on this question. Deputy Fire Chief Samala said the drop may be due to resolution of grievances carried over from the prior HFD administration.

Chair Morton asked if there were any further questions or comments. There was none.

Chair Morton asked for a motion to accept Fire Chief Hao's report. Commissioner Nekota moved and Commissioner Hannemann seconded. There being no further comments or corrections and with a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission accepted the report.

#### V. HFD INVESTIGATION ON ALLEGED BREACH OF CONFIDENTIALITY REGARDING FIRE FIGHTER III PROMOTIONAL INTERVIEWS IN JULY – AUGUST 2023.

Chair Morton briefly discussed what took place at the Commission's November 2023 meeting.

Chair Morton asked the Commission if they should further investigate the anonymous complaint re: breach of confidentiality.

The Commission voted not to take such action, in light of the responses already given by Fire Chief Hao in earlier Commission meetings.

VI. CITY SALARY COMMISSION LETTER DATED DECEMBER 22, 2023, INVITING TESTIMONY AND RECOMMENDATION ON THE SALARY OF THE FIRE CHIEF.

Counsel Ancheta mentioned that the Commission does not have any salary data to determine the salary.

Counsel Ancheta advised the Commission to wait until the Salary Commission comes up with dollar amount then the Commission can evaluate it.

Counsel Ancheta mentioned that the Commission can acknowledge the Salary Commission with a letter.

The Commission agreed and Chair Morton asked Counsel Ancheta to prepare a letter.

Fire Chief Hao mentioned that he recently got a raise back in July 2023.

VII. Annual Evaluation of the Fire Chief.

Counsel Ancheta passed out evaluation templates to the Commission.

Counsel Ancheta briefly went over the evaluation process with the Commission.

Commissioner Galdeira asked Counsel Ancheta to re-clarify the evaluation process.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENT: The next monthly Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. in the Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, Commissioner Nekota moved and Commissioner Hannemann seconded that the meeting be adjourned. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned on January 17, 2023 at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Nadine Murata, Secretary.

APPROVED:

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DENNIS MORTON, Chair