



**Fire Department**  
**Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report**  
**July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023**

Michael R. Gibson  
Chief

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

### **I. MISSION STATEMENT**

To preserve and protect life, property, and the environment of Kaua'i County from all hazards and emergencies.

### **II. DEPARTMENT GOALS**

The Kaua'i Fire Department (KFD) is dedicated and highly motivated to make our community safe. The KFD team has effectively carried out duties to achieve the department's goals of preventing, suppressing and extinguishing all types of fires; responding to and mitigating any and all types of emergencies (medical, HAZMAT, search and rescue, disasters) in a highly trained, professional and safe manner; administering first aid and CPR to the basic life support level (EMT) and to make Kaua'i a safer place by supporting and promoting training for the community; enforcing the National/Hawai'i Fire Code and promote fire prevention through educational programs and community outreach; maintaining our vehicles and equipment for emergency response through a preventive maintenance program; and providing safe, guarded beaches through an effective and dynamic Ocean Safety program.

### **III. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

To achieve departmental goals, the Kaua'i Fire Department has an authorized staff of 212 employees--145 uniformed fire personnel, 59 uniformed ocean safety personnel and eight (8) civilians assigned to five (5) major service bureaus, eight (8) fire stations, twelve (12) lifeguard towers located throughout the island, one roving beach patrol, and three (3) Roving Jet Ski Patrols, one in each of the three districts (North, East, South/West).

The department prioritizes preventative measures to avert emergencies before they happen. Community risk reduction activities including fire code enforcement, fire investigation, fire safety programs, ocean safety awareness, and targeted programs like fall prevention, smoke detector installation, and fire extinguisher training.

Emergency response is a core capability that the department provides at a high level to the community. Our responders are highly trained and skilled to deliver emergency response through the air, on the land, and in the water. Search, rescue, and fire suppression is supported by the department air operations helicopter. Fire operations crews are trained in fire suppression, emergency medical, hazardous materials, technical rescue, and water rescue. Specialty teams for hazardous materials and technical rescue are deployed to manage these complex highly specialized responses. The Ocean Safety Team provides initial response to emergencies in and around the water through land-based and on-water rescue teams. Roving jet-ski teams are strategically located around the island to provide rapid response to off-shore emergencies.

The Fire Commission appoints the Fire Chief and reviews and provides input for the annual budget.

The five major service bureaus are Administration, Operations, Training, Prevention, and Ocean Safety.

### **OPERATIONS BUREAU**

Fire Operations is comprised of 3 Battalion Chiefs, and 132 Fire line personnel (21 Fire Suppression Captains, 3 Hazmat Captains, 3 Rescue Captains, 27 Fire Apparatus Operators, 6 Fire Rescue Specialists, 9 Hazardous Materials Technicians, and 55 Fire Fighters). They respond to fire and hazmat/rescue incidents and assist in all 911 emergency medical calls.

Fire fighters work 24-hour shifts for an average of 56 hours per week. They are assigned to 3 platoons, each consisting of 1 Battalion Chief and 44 fire fighters. Each platoon staffs 8 fire stations with crews consisting of a Fire Apparatus Operator and Fire Fighters and/or Fire Fighter Trainees under the command of a Fire Captain, except for the Līhu'e Fire Station which has a Suppression Captain and Rescue Captain, two Fire Apparatus Operators and three Fire Rescue Specialists. The Līhu'e Fire Station is the designated home base for the Rescue team.

Fire Fighters are stationed at the Hanalei (E-1), Kapa'a (E-2), Līhu'e (E-3), Kōloa (E-4), Kalāheo (E-5), Hanapēpē (E-6), Waimea (E-7), and Kaiākea (E-8) Fire Stations. Staffing for all our fire stations is at five except for Līhu'e which is a nine-person station.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **July 2022**

- 7/2: Air1, R3, E1, T1; Male visitor with cardiac complications airlifted to Princeville airport.
- 7/4: Air1, R3, T1, E1; Female with broken wrist airlifted to Princeville airport.
- 7/8: E8, T8, E2, T2; Small warehouse fire extinguished.
- 7/8: R3, Air1; Female visitor with ankle injury airlifted to Princeville airport.
- 7/9: R3, Air1, E1, T1; Male visitor with ankle injury airlifted to Princeville airport.
- 7/12: R3, Air1, E8, T8; Female visitor with ankle injury airlifted to awaiting medics.
- 7/13: E1, T1, North Roving ski; Male boater towed into port by Fire/OSB personnel.
- 7/20: E1, T1, Air1, R3; Female visitor not feeling well airlifted to Princeville airport.
- 7/21: E7, T7, R3, Air1; Female visitor with heat exhaustion airlifted to awaiting medics.
- 7/24: E1, T1, Air1, R3; Female visitor with ankle injury airlifted to Princeville airport.
- 7/28: R3, Air1; Responded to an SOS, patient was ok, no assistance needed.
- 7/28: E1, T1, Air1, R3; Male subject with injured leg, airlifted to awaiting medics.
- 7/28: E1, T1, Air1, R3; Male subject with heat exhaustion airlifted to awaiting medics.

#### **August 2022**

- 8/7: E7, T7, Air1, R3; Male visitor airlifted to awaiting medics. Refused medical.
- 8/13: Air1; Conducted water bucket drops for fire extinguishment.
- 8/15: E1, T1, BC1, Tanker1, DOFAW; Brush fire extinguished by Fire/DOFAW.
- 8/17: E8, T8, T2, Tanker1, Air1, BC; Fire personnel extinguished brushfire in Anahola.
- 8/18: E6, T6, Air1, Tanker1, T7, BC3; Fire personnel extinguished 30+ acre brush fire in Kaumakani.

- 8/21: E8, T8, R3; Female with broken ankle wheeled out of Hoopii falls.
- 8/21: L4, T4, S. Roving ski; Male swimmer in distress brought back to shore safely.
- 8/26: E2, T2, T8, E8, BC, T3, R3; Fire personnel extinguished a structure fire in Kapa'a.
- 8/26: Air1, R3, E1, T1; Female visitor with a leg injury was airlifted to Princeville airport.
- 8/26: E8, T8, T2; Male subject with a leg injury was wheeled out of Larsen's beach.
- 8/29: E2, T2, R3, T3, E3, E5, T5; Small structure fire extinguished by fire personnel.
- 8/29: E1, T1, AMR, OSB; Male swimmer pulled from the water at Wanini beach, patient did not survive.
- 8/31: E8, T8, Air1, Tanker1, BC; Brush fire extinguished by fire personnel at Larsen's beach.

**September 2022**

- 9/1: E8, T8, OSB, AMR; Female, possible drowning at Kealia beach.
- 9/9: E1, T1, Air1, R3; Female visitor with ankle injury airlifted to Princeville airport.
- 9/12: E5, T5, T1, Air1, BC3; Brush fire extinguished by fire personnel.
- 9/12: E3, T3, T1, R3, E2, T2, BC; Structure fire extinguished by fire personnel.
- 9/13: T7, Air1, R3; Male visitor with leg injury airlifted to awaiting medics.
- 9/21: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Male visitor with arm and leg injury airlifted to awaiting medics.
- 9/21: E8, T8, E2, T2, T3, BC3, Prev; PV fire extinguished by fire personnel.
- 9/22: E8, T8, E2, T2, R3, T1; Brush fire in Anahola extinguished by fire personnel.
- 9/23: E8, T8, E2, T2, R3, Air1, BC3, T1; Brush fire in Anahola extinguished by Fire personnel.
- 9/26: L4, T4, BC; Fire personnel assisted evacuation of Koloa school due to bomb threat.
- 9/27: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Female visitor with injured ankle short hauled out of Queens bath.

**October 2022**

- 10/1: E1, T1, R3; Fire personnel used high angle rescue ropes for a female and her dog.
- 10/2: E2, T2; Female with injuries wheeled out of sleeping giant trail by fire personnel.
- 10/2: E1, T1, R3, Air1; female with heat exhaustion airlifted out of Kalalau.
- 10/3: Air1, R3, E1, T1; Male with injured ankle airlifted to awaiting medics.
- 10/3: E8, T8; Two lost female hikers located and hiked out by fire personnel.
- 10/8: E1, T1, Air1, R3; Male hiker with facial injuries assisted out of Hanakāpī'ai Fire personnel.
- 10/8: E1, T1, E3, Air1; Fire personnel searched for missing swimmer at Kalihiwai beach.
- 10/12: Female with ankle injury airlifted from Kalalau to Princeville airport.
- 10/13: R3, Air1; Fire personnel searched Napali Coast for a female with heat exhaustion.
- 10/14: E2, T2, E8, T8, E3, R3, T3, BC2; Fire extinguished by fire personnel.
- 10/14: E1, T1, N. Roving ski; Three swimmers reported in distress, all were safely on shore.
- 10/14: E6, T6; Fire personnel assisted KPD with body recovery below Hanapepe lookout.
- 10/19: R3, Air1; Male visitor with an ankle injury airlifted out of Kalalau.
- 10/22: E3, R3, Air1, BC1; Female visitor found deceased at the bottom of Wailua falls.
- 10/24: R3, Air1, E1, T1; Male subject airlifted out of Kalalau due to dehydration.
- 10/25: R3, Air1, E1, T1; Male visitor airlifted out of Kalalau due to eye injury.
- 10/25: E2, T2, E8, T8, E3, R3, T3; Fire personnel responded to a structure fire in Wailua.

10/27: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Female with ankle injury airlifted out of Kalalau.  
10/30: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Two injured hikers airlifted from Kalalau LZ.  
10/31: L4, T4, OSB; Tow visitors assisted back to shore by OSB/Fire personnel.

### **November 2022**

11/11: L4, T4, BC1, Air1, T1; Fire personnel extinguished a brush fire on Koloa ranch.  
11/11: E3, R3, T1, BC1; Fire personnel extinguished a brush fire in Hokuala.  
11/11: E7, T7, E6, T6, T1, BC1; Fire personnel extinguished a brush fire on Waimea canyon road.  
11/20: E3, R3, T1, BC1, ARFF, E2, T2; Fire personnel extinguished a brush fire across Vidinha stadium.  
11/21: E5, T5, T1, T6, Air1, BC3; Fire personnel extinguished a brush fire near Ka Kela Makai.  
11/26: R3, Air1; Fire personnel responded to a land rescue and brush fire in Kalalau.

### **December 2022**

12/1: E1, T1, R3, Air1, N. Roving ski, OSB; Fire/OSB personnel responded to 2 male swimmers in distress at Wanini beach.  
12/1: E1, T1, Air1, R3; Fire personnel airlifted a visitor with head injuries from surf.  
12/1: T1; Fire personnel searched for and located a missing hiker on Okolehau trail.  
12/6: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Injured hiker airlifted out of Kalalau beach LZ.  
12/11: E1, T1, Air1, R3; Female visitor with a leg injury airlifted out of Hanakāpī'ai.  
12/13: R3, Air1, E1, T1; injured hiker airlifted out of Kalalau to awaiting medics.  
12/14: R3, Air1; Injured hiker airlifted out of Kalalau.  
12/15: E7, T7, Air1, R3; Female with injured ankle airlifted out of Kalalau beach.  
12/15: E3, ARFF, AMR, KPD; Personnel responded to a small plane crash on Ninini Rd.  
12/24: E1, T1, Air1; Fire personnel airlifted an injured hiker from Kalalau.  
12/24: E1, T1, OSB; Fire/OSB personnel responded to swimmers in distress at Wanini beach.  
12/25: E2, T2, Air1, Whaler2; Fire personnel investigated a boat adrift. Owner safe.  
12/25: E1, T1, E8, T8, BC, Air1, OSB; Fire/OSB personnel responded to a family of 3 in distress at Wanini channel. 2 children rescue, father was not found.  
12/25: E8, T8; Fire personnel wheeled out a female visitor with a broken ankle.  
12/29: E7, T7, AMR; Fire personnel wheeled out a female patient with a leg injury.

### **January 2023**

1/2: E7, T7, R3, Air1; Female with a broken ankle airlifted to awaiting medics.  
1/2: E7, T7, R3, Air1; Male subject with knee injury airlifted out of Kalalau.  
1/3: E1, T1, N. Roving ski; 4 visitors rescued by OSB and transported to shore.  
1/4: E1, T1, N. Roving ski; OSB/Fire personnel responded to 3 swimmers in distress in Hanalei Bay.  
1/5: E2, T2, Air1, R3; Fire personnel airlifted a male resident from Haholalele falls.  
1/5: T7, R3, Air1; Fire personnel short hauled a visitor from Sugi grove.  
1/6: E8, T8, E2, T2, E3, R3, T3, BC1, KPD, AMR; Fire personnel responded to a structure fire on Olohena Rd.  
1/11: E1, T1, jet ski1, N. Roving ski; Fire/OSB personnel located a missing surfer.

- 1/13: R3, Air1; Fire personnel airlifted 2 lost hikers to Kokee park.
- 1/22: R3, Air1; Fire personnel airlifted a male with injuries out of Kalalau.
- 1/24: E7, T7; Fire personnel located 2 lost visitors off camp 2 contour rd.

**February 2023**

- 2/2: E2, T2; Fire personnel wheeled a male subject with a hip injury off Sleeping Giant trail.
- 2/2: E6, T6; Fire personnel wheeled a female subject with an ankle injury out of Pihea trail.
- 2/4: E1, T1, E8, T8; Firefighters extinguished a compost fire.
- 2/8: E7, T7, R3, Air1; Fire personnel Airlifted a male subject with leg injuries to medic20.
- 2/8: E8, T8, T2, T1, BC2; Fire personnel extinguished a brush fire in Anahola.
- 2/12: E3, R3, T3; Fire personnel extinguished a dryer fire in the carport of a home.
- 2/13: T3, Air1, R3; Fire personnel rescued stranded hikers from flooding.
- 2/13: E1, T1, R3, T3, BC2; Fire personnel responded to an overturned crane.
- 2/14: L4, T4; Fire personnel responded to fire in a home under construction.
- 2/15: R3, Air1, E1, T1; Fire personnel airlifted a male visitor with a knee injury to Princeville airport.
- 2/15: E6, T6; Female subject with allergic reaction Airlifted to awaiting medics.
- 2/16: R3, Air1; Fire personnel assisted KPD with search for male subject in Waimea.
- 2/22: E8, T8, Air1, R3; Fire personnel short hauled a patient with seizures to awaiting medics.
- 2/22: BC2, drone cadre; Fire personnel assisted KPD in search for missing male subject.

**March 2023**

- 3/4: R3, Air1, E1, T1; Fire personnel airlifted a female subject with leg injury out of Hanakāpī'ai Trail.
- 3/6: R3, Air1; Fire personnel airlifted a male patient with allergic reaction from Limahuli area.
- 3/10: T7, R3, Air1; Female with ankle injury airlifted off Waipo'o falls trail.
- 3/10: E8, T8, R3, Air1, BC1; Female with ankle injury airlifted by fire personnel.
- 3/11: E2, T2, R3, Air1, BC3; Female subject airlifted to awaiting medics.
- 3/13: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Female visitor with leg injury airlifted to awaiting medics.
- 3/17: T7, R3, Air1; Female with ankle injury airlifted off Waipo'o falls trail.
- 3/17: E2, T2, BC1; Family of 3 hikers who were lost, located, and hiked out of Uluwehi falls by fire personnel.
- 3/19: R3, Air1; Fire personnel assisted 3 hikers who were stranded on crawler's ledge.
- 3/27: E7, T7; Male visitor who was lost, located by fire personnel.
- 3/30: R3, Air1; Fire personnel airlifted an injured hiker from Kalalau.
- 3/30: E1, T1, L4, KPD, KIUC, AMR; Fire personnel responded to a male who was electrocuted while trimming trees.

**April 2023**

- 4/1: E2, T2, R3, Air1, BC2; Fire personnel short hauled an injured hiker to awaiting medics.

- 4/6: L4, T4, E5, T5, R3, BC1, E3; Firefighters responded to a structure fire on Puni Rd.
- 4/16: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Male visitor with shoulder injury airlifted out of Hanakāpī'ai.
- 4/19: L4, T4, OSB; Fire/OSB personnel assisted with surf rescue at Brennecke's.
- 4/21: T7, R3, Air1; Fire personnel airlifted a patient with an ankle injury from Waipo'o falls.
- 4/25: R3, Air1; Male resident who was unresponsive airlifted to awaiting medics.
- 4/26: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Male visitor airlifted to Princeville airport and awaiting medics.
- 4/30: E8, T8, E2, T2, E3, R3, BC2, L4, Prevention; Firefighters extinguished a structure fire at Otsuka's Building in Kapa'a.

**May 2023**

- 5/1: E2, T2, R3; Female visitor with an ankle injury wheeled out of Uluwehi falls.
- 5/4: E7, T7; Male visitor with difficulty breathing assisted from cliff trail by firefighters.
- 5/9: E1, T1, Air1, R3; Male and female visitors airlifted out of Kalalau to Princeville airport.
- 5/9: E8, T8, R3; Female resident with injuries from a fall wheeled out by firefighters.
- 5/19: E8, T8, E2, T2, E3, R3, T3, BC1; Structure fire extinguished by firefighters.
- 5/20: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Male visitor with heat exhaustion airlifted to Princeville airport.
- 5/20: L4, T4, OSB, CG; Fire/OSB personnel responded to an overturned canoe.
- 5/20: E7, T7, R3, Air1; Male visitor with heat exhaustion airlifted to awaiting medics.
- 5/23: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Male with back injuries airlifted to Princeville airport.
- 5/25: E1, T1; Fire personnel wheeled a female visitor with an ankle injury out of trail.
- 5/29: E1, T1, Air1, R3; Male visitor with a broken leg short hauled from Hanakāpī'ai.
- 5/29: E6, T6, E5, T5, BC3; Structure fire extinguished by firefighters.

**June 2023**

- 6/7: E2, T2, R3; Female visitor with back injury wheeled out of trail by fire personnel.
- 6/8: E6, T6, E5, T5, BC1, Prevention; Firefighters investigated smoke coming from BOH.
- 6/8: E5, T5, E6, T6; Firefighter help extinguish a battery fire in a garage.
- 6/9: E5, T5, E6, T6, E3, R3, T3 T1, BC3; Firefighter extinguish fire in Kalaheo.
- 6/10: T7, R3, Air1; Male visitor from Oahu short hauled to Kokee lookout.
- 6/14: T7, R3, Air1; Female visitor with an ankle injury short hauled to awaiting medics.
- 6/18: E7, T7, R3, Air1; Male resident airlifted to Waimea Park.
- 6/20: E1, T1, E8, T8, E2, BC2; Structure fire extinguished by firefighters.
- 6/21: E1, T1, Air1, R3; Male visitor with heat exhaustion airlifted to Princeville airport.
- 6/25: E7, T7, E6, T6, T1, Air1, R3, DOFAW; Firefighters extinguished brush fire in Kokee.
- 6/27: E7, T7, E6, T6, Air1, R3, CG; Firefighter responded to a capsized boat. No injuries.
- 6/27: E2, T2, E8, T8, BC; Brush fire extinguished by firefighters.
- 6/28: E7, T7, AMR; Female visitor with an injured knee wheeled out of trail by firefighters.
- 6/28: E7, T7, Air1, R3; Female visitor with heat exhaustion airlifted to awaiting medics.

**EMERGENCY CALL REPORT BY INITIAL DISPATCHED UNIT**

<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Sta 1</b>	<b>Sta 2</b>	<b>Sta 3</b>	<b>Res 3</b>	<b>Sta 4</b>	<b>Sta 5</b>	<b>Sta 6</b>	<b>Sta 7</b>	<b>Sta 8</b>	<b>Total</b>
Fire	60	77	46	21	30	36	34	36	115	<b>455</b>
Rupture/Explosion	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
EMS/Rescue	529	869	617	546	737	522	367	390	681	<b>5258</b>
Hazardous Condition	7	3	4	4	4	4	3	0	10	<b>39</b>
Service Call	43	44	50	52	77	50	25	73	66	<b>480</b>
Good Intent	188	98	221	151	136	39	21	39	115	<b>1008</b>
False Call	33	20	55	17	49	5	9	5	27	<b>220</b>
Severe Weather	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>4</b>
Other	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>1112</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>1033</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>1014</b>	<b>7467</b>

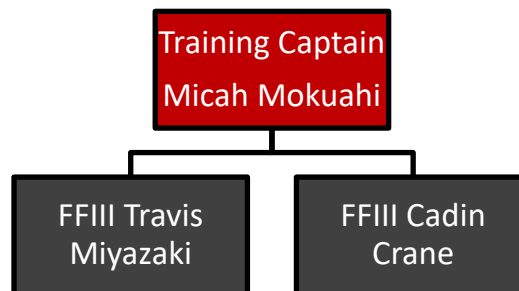
**TRAINING BUREAU**

**PURPOSE**

The Training Bureau assists training cadres with planning annual program budgets, developing new training, and assuring all mandatory trainings are provided.

In FY 2022 to 2023 the Training Bureau executed the 2022 and 2023 Training Plans. These plans were built to encourage consistent and coordinated training across the department. Areas of focus on the plan address training needs identified by the Chief Staff.

A Fire Captain and two Fire Service Trainers (FFIII) staff the Training and Research Bureau. They are tasked with coordinating the training of all Fire Fighter Trainees and line personnel.





Mission Statement: The Training Bureau's motto is "Commitment to Excellence"

This mission realized by three goals.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- "Create a culture where people are hungry to learn." The hope is to provide exciting and interesting training in a positive atmosphere where we fail forward. These instances are teaching points to help encourage a positive mindset and a desire to learn.
- "Every Day we get a little bit better." This supports the idea that Kaua'i Fire Department members can strive daily for personal and department wide improvement. This is in alignment with the Kaua'i Fire Department Strategic Plan, which highlights the need for a *continuous improvement mindset*.
- "Be a full stack." The final guide is built upon the observations of a FF3 that a full stack of pancakes is better than a short stack. The same logic is applied to American Fire Service and team building. The belief is the Training and Research Bureau must itself function as a full stack or crew. Everyone works trains, exercises, and brainstorms together to encourage continual improvement. Fostering teamwork influences the design of all classes created in the Training and Research Bureau.

### **ACTIVITIES AND TRAINING**

- I. Program Descriptions
  - a. ASHER/NFPA 3000 – this training program is working to improve KFD's interactions with KPD and EMS at active shooter events.
    - i. Training of Recruit Class 32
  - b. Fire Ground Command (FGC) Cadre – Program implemented to standardize department communications at emergency scenes.
    - i. All captains and FFIII are Fire Ground Command certified command officers
    - ii. The FGC cadre has introduced Expanded Sets and Reps in FY 22/23 to provide officers with a chance to practice fire ground command operations in station with their respective Battalion Commander.
    - iii. Introductory training provided as part of Recruit curriculum
  - c. Driver Training – Provides initial training to DOT standards for new hires. Also conducts refresher training.
    - i. Annual refresher for all personnel
    - ii. In 2023 one week with RC32
  - d. Extrication – In service training for crews every other year. Cadre also trains new hires for a week in recruit training.
    - i. Biannual refresher will take place in Sept 2023
    - ii. Trained Recruit Class 32

- e. Fire Ground Operations – Program provides initial attack training for Fire Fighter Recruits.
  - i. Annual on duty refresher to KFD 3/2023
  - ii. Trained Recruit Class 32
  
- f. Fire Ground Survival/RIT – Program created with assistance from IAFF to train all personnel in surviving and responding to fire ground maydays and emergencies.
  - i. FGS Cadre provides annual refreshers
  - ii. Use of UPW building has been an incredible asset and is used to give crews realistic training scenarios.
  - iii. Props were built to assist in implementing Search and Rescue / RIT techniques and mimic what crews would come up against
  - iv. New fireground Search, Survival, and Rescue training brought to Kaua'i from Cadre members who attend training conferences.
  
- g. HAZMAT
  - i. New HazMat refresher in rolled out for FY2022/23. On duty training to assist crews with preplanning hazards in their district.
  - ii. Starting OSHA's Train the Trainer process to certify Firefighters to HAZTECH level.
  - iii. Trained Recruit Class 32 to HAZMAT Ops / Awareness level
  - iv. Multi-agency training planned with Coast guard and Law Enforcement
  
- h. Helicopter – Program conducts on duty refresher training to keep line personnel up to date on best practices in a high-risk low occurrence aspect of fire department duties. The cadre has also implemented standardized training for line personnel and has refined the skills introduction process for new hires.
  - i. Training for RC 32 scheduled for 9/2023
  
- i. EMS – Program has implemented annual refresher and in station training for EMS continuing education. EMS cadre assists KCC staff with training new hires in initial NREMT certification. Program also oversees annual refresher needs of the department.
  - i. NREMT recertification:
    - 1. 50 renewals in 3/2023 (1 certified to A-EMT)
  - ii. RC 32 (6 KFD) enrolled in NREMT class.
  
- j. PADO/AADO – Cadre tasked with training line personnel to IFSAC standards for Pumping Apparatus Driver Operator. A new curriculum added in 2019 to raise department skill levels with using Pumping Apparatus to supply water on the fire ground.
  - i. Skill sheets created and used to hold new standard. Continuing progress towards IFSAC certification
  - ii. Two classes conducted annually to raise standard of service.
  - iii. RC 31 participated in 1 week class to TA up to FAO if needed.

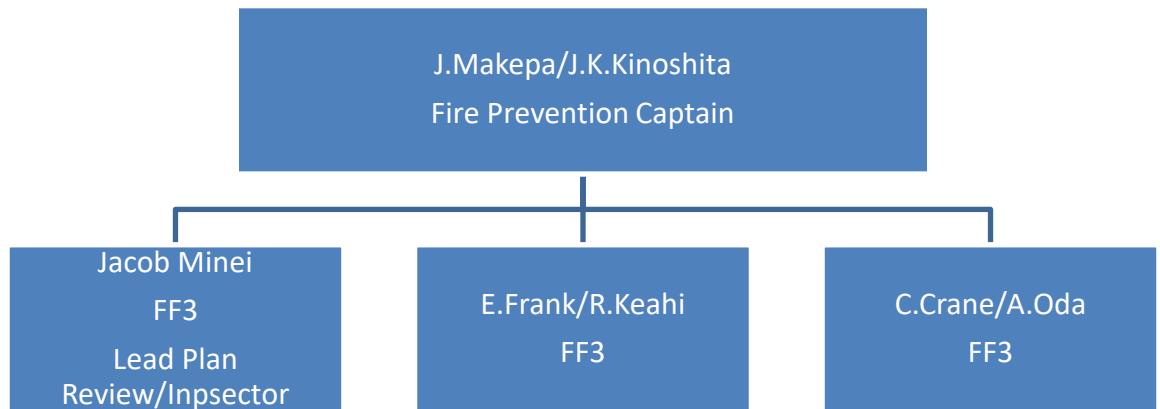
- k. Ropes – Program trains the department in the use of new rope rescue skills and equipment. The cadre also trains new hires in basic ropes rescue operations.
  - i. Cadre is writing basic ropes SOG for department wide consistency.
  - ii. Cadre also working to standardize rope rescue equipment department wide.
  - iii. Keystone Drill continues and has evolved to “in the field” scenarios instead of in the engine bay.
  - iv. Cadre continues to build off prior refreshers using observations from Keystone Drills
- l. Swift Water
  - i. Recruit Class Training to Dive Rescue International standard.
    - 1. Recruit class 32 Training Scheduled for 11/23.
- m. USLA – Program oversees the annual refresher training for line personnel and a one-week water lifesaving training for new hires. The cadre is also tasked with maintaining Kaua’i Fire Department’s USLA ARRT (Aquatic Resource Rescue Team) certification (Recertified 2023)
  - i. Annual Refresher off duty held for all personnel 8/2022. Officers and operators invited to attend.
  - ii. Trained RC 31, RC 32 Training scheduled for 9/2023
  - iii. Keystone Drill added this year – Surf Rescue of Unconscious victim.
- II. Budget - FY 2021 – 2022
  - a. Original budget: \$1,316,580
  - b. Revised budget: \$1,312,936
  - c. Total expenditures: \$1,004,366.70

## Accomplishments

- I. Certifications offered in FY 2022 – 2023. Certificates were awarded in the following disciplines.
  - a. IFSAC Firefighter I and II
  - b. IFSAC HAZMAT Awareness and Operations
  - c. HAZTECH – 12 KFD Firefighters
- II. HAZTECH
  - a. In Oct 2022, Training Bureau brought 2 instructors to certify our Firefighters to the HAZMAT Tech level.
    - i. Training was 2 weeks long done on island as opposed to previous classes that were 4 weeks long and took place on Oahu.
    - ii. This allowed our on-duty Hazmat crews to participate in training and helped with manpower.
- III. Recruit Training
  - a. Recruit Manual updated and signed by the Union.

- b. Overarching goal of Recruit Training is to instill a service-oriented mindset. Training has the goal of creating a workforce united towards a goal of career long service and improvement.
  - c. Continued the use of Monthly KFD specific JPR forms created by KFD line personnel for Training Bureau use.
- IV. Implementation of the 2022-2023 Annual Training Plan. This plan focuses on quality training of core firefighting skills and incremental improvement.
- a. Updated of KFD specific Skills Sheets
    - i. These sheets are used for recruit skill testing and for line personnel to maintain a consistent base level of skills.
  - b. Keystone Evolutions
    - i. Company level drills designed to tie together multiple Task Performances from the training plan.
    - ii. Evolutions also introduced the idea of time standards for crews.
    - iii. Ropes Keystone – Operating under the crawl, walk, run philosophy, the ropes keystone is now moving into somewhere in district to conduct their drill of lowering and raising a rescuer adding a more practical feel to the drill.
    - iv. New Keystone Drills: USLA and PADO.
      - 1. USLA – Seeing a need to keep KFD’s water skills sharp, a USLA Keystone was proposed and carried out during 3/2023. Crews would respond to an area in / near district and rescue an unconscious swimmer.
      - 2. PADO – scheduled for 11/2023

**FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**



The Positions with 2 entries represent the change in personnel on 2/1/2023 AND 3/1/2023

**PURPOSE & INTENT**

The Fire Prevention Bureau is tasked with the reduction and prevention of fires and life-safety hazards that lead to personal injury and property damage. Raising public awareness through fire safety education that prevents hazardous conditions from occurring and

heightening the public's awareness of fire prevention is the primary focus of the Prevention Bureau. The Prevention Bureau is also challenged with the timely inspection of schools, hospitals, care homes and other commercial occupancies to minimize hazardous fire conditions; the review and approval of commercial building construction plans to ensure compliance with the County Fire Code and required fire protection features and systems; to review, update, and enforce the County Fire Code; to investigate and determine the origin and cause of fires for statistical data and seek the prosecution of person(s) who cause incendiary fires; and to maintain inspection and investigation records for the assessment of Fire Prevention Bureau objectives in creating a fire-safe environment for the County of Kaua'i.

#### **DUTIES**

1. To promote fire prevention and life safety awareness in the community.
2. To reduce and minimize fire hazard conditions.
3. To investigate the origin and cause of fires.
4. To enforce the Kaua'i County Fire Code.

#### **CHALLENGES FY 2023**

- Prevention Staff Turnover
- Training Opportunities for Staff
- Wide-Spectrum Knowledge Requirement for FPB
- Complaint Resolution Process for Abatement
- Streamlining Plan Review Process
- Rebuilding Public-Education Program
- Central Storage for Fire Prevention Data
- Streamlining Prevention Processes
- Kauai County Code Amendments

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Continual Improvements in Social Media Programs
- Process improvement through technology via County Elements program
- Partnered with DHHL to cut fire break in Anahola.
- Acquired \$78,000 in funds to update the CWPP plan.
- Increased efficiency for firecracker permit process
- Prevention Vehicle purchased.
- Increased Social Media reach through enhanced content.
- Inflatable Fire House Community Outreach purchased.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

This Fiscal year was a transitional period for the Bureau as we went through significant staff changes. First and foremost was Captain Jeremie Makepa moving to operations as of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. He was replaced by Captain Justin Kaeo Kinoshita on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. This transition will guide this report moving forward as Capt. Makepa lead the bureau for the 1<sup>st</sup> 7 months of this fiscal year, while Capt. Kinoshita lead the last 5 months.

As we started the fiscal year, the Fire Prevention Bureau (FPB) looked at the 2023 budget for opportunities and limitations. Pivoting from the challenges from COVID-19, the FPB education and outreach program needed to be rebuilt again. In that time our prevention trailer was quickly approaching the end of its useful life and due to the lack of use during the covid years it was inoperable. FPB brought in lead trailer mechanic/tech to do an assessment which resulted in a decision to not invest resources in the trailer. In the interim, the bureau has been using activity station and tents.

In the beginning of 2023, we discussed the possibility of acquiring an inflatable fire house prop to use at our preschools, K-5, and various public events. Despite purchasing challenges, we were able to order the fire house with expected delivery in September 2023. This prop will allow FPB the flexibility to provide outreach to various events due to its logistical agility. The prop will require a quarter of the personnel to provide fire safety education to all levels of our community. FPB intends to drive fire public education at the end of 2023 going into 2024.

Updating the Fire Code remains a challenge. Currently, Kaua'i is utilizing the 2012 NFPA 1 Fire Code with Kaua'i specific amendments. With the ever-changing operating environment, updating this code is a top priority. The average time for completion of county specific amendments based on our Hawai'i counterparts is 12-15 months of exclusive work on these amendments. Our FPB currently does not have the current capacity to accomplish this, however a working group through partnership with the OCA gives us the best shot.

Business inspections have returned to be a priority for FPB. Still returning to prominence from the COVID-19 era, our inspectors report the need and conditions that exist in our community. Many businesses on Kaua'i endured many challenges from COVID-19 that are still prevalent today. Many have struggled financially and often fire protection standards and systems were the first casualties of financial constraints. FPB recognized this hardship and relied on working relationships to provide support through education, enforcement, and resource identification. This allowed us to require a safe environment for businesses and our community. Our inspectors report the current climate as improved financial positions for many businesses and increased compliance with fire protection systems.

Pre-school inspections are done in partnership with the State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services. We were able to complete all our preschool inspections for FY22-23. This is usually done in the fall AND has the full focus of the FPB. Our Elements software program allows us to use technology to our advantage by streamlining the process. This allows us to communicate and send reports in real time to DHS, pre-school managers and owners while allowing our inspectors to focus on safety at these establishments. Chad Lowe and Michael Weeks-Johnson have been a great resource for FPB and continue to work on exploring ways to make our Bureau more efficient.

DOE school inspections are required by Hawai'i Revises Statues to be completed annually. Working with the east/west state representative we were able to complete all our school inspections for year. Some of the challenges for FY 22-23 in the schools are replacing old fire alarm systems. A challenging aspect is funding and finding replacement parts for legacy systems. Most school menus do not involve cooking processes that provide grease-

laden vapors which lessen the need for kitchen suppression systems and cleaning. This information is also stored in Elements which streamlined this process to take a quarter of the time vs a few years ago using paper copies and hand delivered files.

The need for tenure in our prevention bureau should be reexamined. The amount of specialized knowledge required to run an effective prevention bureau is substantial. To be effective in the core functions of fire investigation/inspection/plan review/pub ed takes minimally two years of training and experience in each field. The most crucial role is plan review which requires two years of specialization to be at the novice level. With all the added roles and projects that FPB takes on, this can add a few more years on top. FPB has been fortunate to have FF3 Minei return to the Bureau where his knowledge and experience is invaluable.

Our KFD social media program continues to flourish under FPB FF3 Minei. He continues to develop his skills through training and updating software to consistently engage our community with updates and information sharing. FPB relies heavily on our social media accounts to help communicate our core functions such as fire safety, events, as well as any up-to-date public announcements. Under the guidance of both County and Fire administration, we can deliver a unified, consistent message to our community through this program.

<b>PREVENTION BUREAU</b>			
Description	FY 22-23 YTD	FY21-22 YTD	% Variance
Fire Investigation	24	23	4%
ADU Permit Applications	81	43	88%
Bldg Permit Plan Review	1501	1244	21%
Planning Dept Review	35	105	-67%
Cert. of Occupancy Inspection	54	326	-83%
Business Occupancy Inspection	154	156	-1%
Witness Acceptance Tests	49	83	-41%
Fire Extinguisher Training	4	6	-33%
Fire Safety Presentation	73	28	161%
Telephone/Email Inquiries	3134	3798	-17%
Complaint Investigations	18	7	157%
Sparky Presentation	14	1	1300%
Fireworks Displays & Inspections	32	22	45%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5173</b>	<b>5842</b>	<b>-11%</b>

## **OCEAN SAFETY BUREAU**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Ocean Safety Bureau is to provide a comprehensive ocean safety and lifeguard program for the island of Kaua'i. That includes prevention, response, rescue, and public education components.

### **PROGRAM**

The Kaua'i Fire Department, Ocean Safety Bureau (OSB) has the responsibility to provide ocean safety awareness, safeguarding beach patrons, responding to emergencies, and providing medical aid. A professional lifeguard service protects Kaua'i's residents and visitors. The Ocean Safety Bureau program also includes prevention, risk management, ocean rescues, completing records and reports, training and maintenance of equipment, and public education programs. With support of different community groups, like the Kaua'i Lifeguard Association, Hawaiian Lifeguard Association, The Kaua'i Visitors Bureau, State Drowning and Spinal Cord Injury Prevention Committee, The Rotary Clubs, the goal of raising ocean awareness is being realized.

Staffing is the most vital component to any life guarding service. There are 54 full-time positions, and 6 part-time positions, in the Ocean Safety Bureau; 4 of the full-time and 1 part-time positions are State funded for Kē'ē Beach. OSB has a three-district operation, District #1= North, District #2 = East district, and District #3 = South/West district, with 1 working supervisor, and 1 Captain in each district. A prevention/training Ocean Safety Officer (OSO) IV Captain oversees an OSO III training position, responsible of keeping all mandatory certification training, prevention, and education programs, and creating training to the highest effective level. The Ocean Safety Bureau also has an office support technician/clerk assisting with all office duties, with an overall bureau operations supervisor overseeing all operational tasks.

There are a total of twelve (12) Lifeguard Towers in full-time operation, and a rove team at Wanini Beach. North District: Hanalei (Pavilion), Hanalei (Pine trees), Hā'ena Beach Park, Kē'ē Beach, and Wanini Rove; East District: Anahola, Keālia, and Lydgate Beach; South/West District: Po'ipū , Nukumoi, Salt Pond, and Kekaha Beach.

Equipment is another important part of the rescue operations. We currently have the three districts with a Roving Patrol Jetski unit. With the Fire Departments rescue boats, the Island of Kauai is well covered by ocean going vessels. All-terrain vehicles (ATV) are also used in the OSB's operation at Keālia, Hā'ena, Kē'ē, Lydgate, Anahola, and Kekaha Beach, which are utilized in a professional and successful manner. Three new utility vehicles (Mules) are also stationed at various locations to assist with patrols and response times.

### **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

- To promote ocean safety awareness in the community and develop a drowning prevention educational program.



- To provide lifeguard services at beach areas around Kauai as determined by risk management, demographic analysis, and resource allocation.
- To maintain and develop training programs to assure our personnel are at the highest effective level.
- To develop and implement an effective management structure with an appropriate span of control.
- To increase personnel to a more effective level.
- To reduce response times and increasing the chain of survival by upgrading to the state-of-the-art equipment.
- To integrate smoothly with current emergency response units

## **ACTIVITIES**

OSB has been approved 12 NEW Full-time positions in the next fiscal year to staff all our operation to 4/10-hour day schedules allowing longer coverage across our island.

After a couple of years of Covid related restrictions, OSB went right back into full force with training with the Keiki & Jr lifeguard program. Scheduling five weeklong location sessions at Salt Pond, Kalapakī, Hanalei, Wanini, and finishing up again at Kalapakī beach. OSB is pleased to have serviced and trained over 500 of Kauaʻi's youth ranging from 8 -17 years of age. Without a doubt the best youth program in the County system.

State Jr lifeguard “Leadership Challenge” was held in Waikīkī beach during the Duke Kahanamoku Ocean Festival. The theme of this year’s program was all about leadership stewardship.

State Drowning Prevention Conference was held in beautiful Waikīkī beach area at the Waikīkī Outrigger East Hotel ballroom. A great sold-out event of all different agencies attended with great water safety information.

State of Hawaiʻi and all island Mayors celebrated and declared Hawaiʻi Beach & Aquatic Safety Week during August 13 – 19, 2023.

The beach attendance visitor counts have grown considerably since our State has reopened after a couple of years of Covid travel restrictions. OSB has recorded more incidents and rescues from the previous years

The Kēʻē Beach lifeguard operations have been renewed with a Newly signed contract and refunded by the State Parks.

The OSB has been involved with numerous ocean safety presentations to community groups like Anahola School, Charity walk, Kanuikapono School, and the Live Like Sion youth group. Sharing valuable ocean safety information about Kauai’s beaches, pools, and rivers.

Due to the increase of the visitor attendance, Nukumoi Tower on the South Shore

continues to be the busiest for rescues, beach attendance, and first aid treatments than all the other towers.

OSB continues to cover the Wanini beach area on the North Shore as a roving lifeguard operation. Preventative actions, rescues, and beach attendance have been on the rise due to the limited parking permitting at the Hā'ena area. The ocean safety bureau highly recommends permanent lifeguard operations for the future of Wanini due to the high beach daily attendance and ocean activities all year round. A few CPR saves have been accomplished due to being present at this highly populated beach.

The roving patrol rescue craft units and the district supervisors continue to work the 4/10 work shift schedules. Currently, we are reviewing our future plans to have all OSO staff move into the 4/10 work schedule. This will increase longer daily coverage and overall better service to the public.

The Queens Bath trail in Princeville has been an ongoing issue due to high traffic during hazardous ocean conditions. OSB continues to monitor ocean forecast and partner with the Princeville Security on opening and closing of the Queens Bath gate. The gate will be closed during Winter months from October through March due to safety concerns. A Safety Information Kiosk has been installed at the trail head for educational purposes of the area, with the support from the Kaua'i Lifeguard Association & the Hawaiian Lifeguard Association.

Mandatory training has been ongoing to warrant the highest level of professionalism. Training includes Open Ocean Lifesaving training following the guidelines of the United States Lifeguard Association (USLA), annual First Responder recertification, and annual CPR/AED certifications. Other training involves ATV safety rider's course, Emergency Vehicle Driver training and Boating Safety training.

The OSB is ongoing with the electronic data collection program with Watchtower. Each tower and roving patrol unit is equipped with an iPad to input daily ocean conditions, beach attendance, first aids, and medical reports three times a day or as needed. These stats are also available at real time on the "Safe beach day" Website <https://safebeachday.com/county/kauai/> for the public to view. This data collection system has been implemented called "WatchTower" <https://www.yourwatchtower.com/> joining other lifeguard agencies across the nation.

The Roving Mobile Units have developed into mandatory training because of the numerous outstanding rescues, reduction of drowning incidents and the increase of community preventions and awareness. The Rescue Craft Program has enhanced ocean safety services, by reducing response times, extending beach coverage, and lifesaving techniques are setting standards worldwide. Additional rescue craft training was provided by the Ocean Safety staff. Future goals are to work together with the outer Islands and the union to create a rescue craft operator position. A supplemental agreement has been established for operator and crew member compensation.

All trucks are equipped with AED's, O2 units, 1st aid kits, and all proper ocean rescue

equipment. All the trucks are available to respond to any ocean related emergencies and will not have to use the tower equipment.

There were eight deaths related to drowning from swimming pools, snorkeling, fresh water, or scuba diving accidents. Most of the drownings occurred at unguarded beaches. With 188 rescues/assist, we had the potential for a much higher count. Also note, the rescues count does not include the Fire Department rescue, local surfer rescues, or other public assisted rescues.

### **ACTIVITY SUMMARY**

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic travel restrictions being lifted, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, the OSB statistics have risen almost back to pre-pandemic levels.

#### **Tower Activity – Summary**

Drownings	8
Rescues/Assist	374
Public Contact	164,397
Preventative Action	94,051
Minor First Aid	9,114

#### **Roving Mobile Units - Summary**

Jet Ski Rescues/Assist	65
Other Rescue/Assist	134
Public Contact	45,302
**Preventative Actions	42,187
Minor First Aid	1,405

**Total beach participants on Guarded Beaches and Mobile Patrol:** \*1,406,520

Note: Participants on guarded beaches & unguarded beaches: Physical counts are taken three times daily at 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. The figures reflect the average of these physical counts.

**IV. BUDGET**

**KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT  
APPROPRIATION BALANCE  
FY 2022-2023  
As of June 30, 2023**

Includes payroll dates 06/30/2023 & 07/14/2023

Percent of FY Expended 100.00%  
Percent of FY Remaining 0.00%

ACCOUNT	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Total Expenses To Date	Bal of Appropriation Incl Encumbr
<b>ADMINISTRATION TOTALS</b>	\$ 2,476,635.00	\$ 2,476,385.00	\$ 2,444,476.88	\$ 31,908.12
<b>OPERATIONS TOTALS</b>	\$ 26,009,400.00	\$ 26,073,299.00	\$ 25,098,617.29	\$ 974,681.71
<b>PREVENTION TOTALS</b>	\$ 1,088,725.00	\$ 954,812.00	\$ 845,229.80	\$ 109,582.20
<b>TRAINING BUREAU TOTALS</b>	\$ 1,316,580.00	\$ 1,125,496.00	\$ 1,004,366.71	\$ 121,129.29
<b>OCEAN SAFETY TOTALS</b>	\$ 6,060,219.00	\$ 6,321,567.00	\$ 6,123,663.51	\$ 197,903.49
	<b>\$ 36,951,559.00</b>	<b>\$ 36,951,559.00</b>	<b>\$ 35,516,354.19</b>	<b>\$ 1,435,204.81</b>

**AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL**  
June 30, 2023

**ADMINISTRATION**

Fire Chief	1
Deputy Fire Chief	1
Fire Assistant Chief	1
*Administrative Services Officer	1
*Accountant III	1
*Private Secretary	1
*Secretary	1
*Accountant I	1

**MAINTENANCE**

*Lead Fire Equipment Mechanic	1
*Fire Equipment Mechanic	1

**TRAINING BUREAU**

Fire Captain	1
Fire Fighter III (Trainer)	2

**FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

Fire Captain	1
Fire Fighter III (Prevention Inspector)	3

**FIRE SUPPRESSION & HAZMAT/RESCUE**

Battalion Chief	3
Fire Captain	27
Fire Fighter III	27

Fire Fighter II (Rescue)	6
Fire Fighter II (HazMat)	9
Fire Fighter I	55
Fire Fighter Trainee	8
<b><u>OCEAN SAFETY BUREAU</u></b>	
Ocean Safety Officer V	1
Ocean Safety Officer IV	4
Ocean Safety Officer III	4
Ocean Safety Officer II	42
Ocean Safety Officer I	8
*Program Support Technician II	1
<b>SUB-TOTALS</b>	
Uniformed Personnel – Fire	145
Uniformed Personnel – Ocean Safety	59
*Civilian Personnel	<u>8</u>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b><u><u>212</u></u></b>