

**COUNTY OF KAUAI**

Minutes of Meeting  
OPEN SESSION

Board/Commission:		Kaua'i Fire Commission	Meeting Date:	October 17, 2023	
Location	Boards and Commissions Conference Room, Pi'ikoi Building, 4444 Rice Street, Suite 300, Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766		Start of Meeting: 2:00 p.m.		End of Meeting: 3:03 p.m.
Present	Chair Jen Chahanovich; Vice Chair Rodney Yama; Commissioners: Alfredo Garces, Linda Kaauwai-Iwamoto, Trevor Ford, and Gary Pacheco.  Also present: Boards & Commissions Office Staff: Support Clerk Lisa Oyama; Administrator Ellen Ching; Office of the County Attorney: Deputy County Attorney Jenna Tatsey. Kaua'i Fire Department: Fire Chief Michael Gibson, and Chief's Secretary Soncy Tamashiro.				
Excused	Commissioner Alfred Levinthol				
Absent					



SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Meeting Called to Order/Roll Call to ascertain quorum	Chair Chanhanovich called the Fire Commission October 17, 2023, meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. A roll call ensued that quorum was established, six (6) Commissioners were present to conduct business.	Quorum was established with six (6) Commissioners present.
Approval of Agenda	Chair Chahanovich called for a motion to approve the agenda as circulated.	Commissioner Pacheco moved to approve the October 17, 2023, agenda. Commissioner Garces seconded the motion. Motion carried 6:0.
Chair's Announcements	Next Regular Monthly Meeting will be on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at the Office of Boards & Commissions Conference Room.	
Public Testimony	Chair Chahanovich called for public testimony. Being there was no written testimony, or members of the public present at the meeting. Boards & Commissions Administrator Ellen Ching stated for the record that Councilmember Felicia Cowden was present and Chair Chahanovich should call for public testimony on each agenda item.	
Approval of Minutes	Chair Chahanovich called for a motion to amend or approve the minutes of the September 19, 2023, meeting.	Commissioner Garces moved to approve the September 19, 2023, meeting minutes as

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		circulated. Commissioner Kaauwai-Iwamoto seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved. 6:0.
Chief's Monthly Bureau Reports and Updates for September 2023	<p>a) Update on Kaua'i Fire and Ocean Safety, including updates on Partnerships, Covid 19 and Resources Highlights</p> <p>b) Administrative Bureau Update, including updates on the budget, staffing, overtime report, facilities, and fleet</p> <p>c) Fire Operations Bureau Update, including statistics on calls for service and brief description of some of the incidents responded to</p> <p>d) Fire Prevention Bureau Update, including monthly statistics</p> <p>e) Fire Training Bureau Update</p> <p>f) Ocean Safety Bureau Update, including monthly statistics and bureau highlights</p> <p>g) Update on Fire Chief Gibson's progress regarding the Goals and Objectives for FY 2023-2024</p> <p>Councilmember Cowden stated how pleased she is with the Fire Prevention Team and the Kaua'i Fire Department in how well they're working together with KEMA and the National Wildfire Organization.</p> <p><b><u>Administrative Bureau</u></b></p> <p>Fire Chief Gibson stated that in his monthly reports moving forward, each month he will rotate between different bureaus, Ocean Safety and Fire Training, Prevention Bureau to give their reports. By January 2024 he will bring back an employee of the month from both. He gave a brief summary of September 2023 Monthly Bureau Reports. Highlight of the month is the upcoming Recruit Class 32 Graduation on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the County Rotunda. A fulltime position of Account I was filled. Currently in fire promotional recruitment process. Written tests were held over the past few weeks, 18 personnel passed the captains exam, they are scheduled for interviews, 30 fire fighters passed the Fire Fighter 3 written test, 22 for Fire Fighter 2 Rescue, 30 for Fire Fighter 2 Hazmat.</p>	

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	<p>A new process in Ocean Safety is implementing a written test for Lieutenant and a Captain position. Contract with Airborne Aviation has been finalized, they have a new 3-year contract for a pilot and maintenance services for Air1, the old contract averaged out to \$562,000 a year, new contract is \$668,000 a year.</p> <p>Hawaii is the only state that doesn't have a State Fire Marshall, in lieu the state is comprised of a State Fire Council, which includes the Fire Chiefs from the four counties. The council meets quarterly.</p> <p>Chair Chahanovich inquired who the State Fire Marshalls report to. Chief Gibson replied that that hasn't been determined yet.</p> <p><b><u>Fire Operations</u></b></p> <p>Had a one-on-one with each of the councilmembers, except Chair Rapozo, who was out, where they provided Councilmembers with updates on the wildfire mitigation prevention, laying the foundation for what they are going to need in FY 2025. Right now, the Fire Department has only one fire tender, which is located in Lihu'e, and is one of the best resources they have, it holds 3,000 gallons of water. They would like to acquire two more, one centrally, one on the west side, and one near Anahola or at Kaiakea.</p> <p>He also mentioned that they did apply for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant, and they did not get awarded the fire engine.</p> <p>Resource updates: the two fire engines that they were not awarded a bid on, they were given permission from purchasing to do an alternative procurement. A vendor has been found, two fire engines for \$1.87 million, \$933,000 each, which is a fair price in today's market. Delivery date is unknown at this time.</p> <p>Chief Mills is leading the Kapa'a Fire Station renovation, working with the mayor's Capital Improvement Manager, Keith Perry. Currently in selection for the architectural and engineering services.</p> <p>Chief Gibson stated that it's been a busy few months with the Fire Department handling fires. Abandoned vehicles, debris, tires, and trash made the 12-acre brush fire in Anahola more severe than it should've been these factors made the brush fire spread more quickly.</p>	

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	<p>Chair Chahanovich inquired what good intent was.</p> <p>Chief Gibson explained good intent is someone calls in for something they think might be dangerous or a possible fire, but it turns out that it was just something legitimate or not a problem.</p> <p>Commissioner Pacheco asked if there was any progress with the Board of Water Supply to bring in a larger water source being that there is no standpipe at the Kilauea side of Kalihiwai.</p> <p>Chief Gibson stated that he would follow up with Deputy Chief Mills.</p> <p>Deputy County Attorney Jenna Tatsey suggested that if the commission wanted to speak on the topic of the standpipe, then maybe it could be put on the next agenda.</p> <p><b><u>Fire Prevention Bureau</u></b></p> <p>Fire Prevention Captain Justin Kinoshita gave a brief report on an event that the Fire Department had at the Kaua'i Philippine Cultural Center for Fire Prevention Week. They had a great turnout.</p> <p>Vice Chair Yama commended Captain Kinoshita for handling the new requirements, especially wildfire prevention.</p> <p>Chief Gibson stated that at least 300 participants attended the Fire Prevention Kick-off, it was a very successful event.</p> <p>He also commented that the State Department of Transportation has provided help in cutting fire breaks on DHHL land, near Leho Drive. They also worked in Hanapēpē. Chief Gibson said that they will ask the State to help with the grass near Kaiakea Fire Station in Kapa'a. Chief Gibson stated that Team Rubicon, a non-profit organization is willing to spend some of a million dollar grant here on Kaua'i to help the Fire Department to identify some of the areas of nuisance fires.</p>	

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	<p>Commissioner Kaauwai-Iwamoto mentioned that the sugar cane plantation used to have fire management and inquired if some of them were still around today if they could assist or teach the Fire Department about fire control.</p> <p>Chief Gibson replied that Aloun Farms has been doing that within the past year.</p> <p>Vice Chair Yama inquired if the island has an issue with water source for the wildfires.</p> <p>Chief Gibson replied that yes, at some point it will become an issue. The problem would be if a whole neighborhood is on fire and all the residents use the water to hose down their homes and property all at once, the water pressure would be the main problem. This is where the water tenders are a huge help to the Department.</p> <p>Commissioner Kaauwai-Iwamoto inquired if there were locations where water was being held back.</p> <p>Chief Gibson stated that he does not know. He suggested putting it on the agenda and he could research the information, and possibly bring in DOW.</p> <p><b><u>Fire Training Bureau</u></b></p> <p>USLA (United Staes Lifeguard Association) certification for personnel, which is required for all lifeguards who need to pass a certain standard. Kaua'i Fire Department is one of a few dozen in the U.S. that maintain the USLA standard for firefighters because are surrounded by water this is a good standard to have. Required for Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2, but optional for Captains and Firefighter 3. EMT refresher training was completed this year. Aircraft rescue firefighter training was added to the training.</p> <p><b><u>Ocean Safety Bureau</u></b></p> <p>KFD purchased a new truck last month. KFD was able to get \$100.000 from the state to purchase new equipment for the Ke'e Tower. Ke'e Tower is a state beach, but KFD is</p>	

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	<p>reimbursed for providing lifeguard services.</p> <p>Councilmember Cowden expressed her concern that substantial roads don't have appropriate standpipes or fire flow protection.</p> <p>Chief Gibson reported that they have been working with the DOW, who is willing to share their GIS layers and database with KFD. The goal is to acquire a better tool for firefighters to know which fire hydrant has the best flow when called out to a fire.</p>	<p>Commissioner Kaauwai-Iwamoto moved to accept the Chief's Monthly report. Commissioner Pacheco seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, motion passes. 6:0.</p>
Executive Session	None.	
Adjournment	<p>Chair Chahanovich called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.</p>	<p>Commissioner Pacheco moved to adjourn. Commissioner Garces seconded. Hearing no objections, meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.</p>

Submitted by: Lisa Oyama  
Lisa Oyama, Commission Support Clerk

Reviewed and Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jen Chahanovich, Chair

- ( ) Approved as circulated (date of meeting approved).  
( ) Approved with amendments.