



Fire Department

Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

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 225 employees--145 uniformed fire personnel, 72 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 include 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 at delivering emergency responses 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 offshore 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 comprises 135 Fire line personnel (three Battalion Chiefs, 21 Fire Suppression Captains, three Hazmat Captains, three Rescue Captains, 27 Fire Apparatus Operators, six Fire Rescue Specialists, nine Hazardous Materials Technicians, and 63 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 three platoons, each consisting of 45 fire fighters. Each platoon staffs eight 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, with the exception of the Līhu‘e Fire Station which has a Suppression Captain and Rescue Captain, two Fire Apparatus Operators and two 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 are at five with the exception of Līhu‘e which is a nine-person station.

HIGHLIGHTS

July 2024

- 7/4: E7, T7; Traffic Collision SUV/Motorcycle, 1 pt. critical Kaumuali‘i Hwy. Resident.
- 7/5: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift Injured Hiker, Kalalau Beach. Non-Resident.
- 7/7: E5, T5, E6, T6, E3, R3, Tender 1, BC3; Struct. Fire Kalāheo.
- 7/7: E7, T7; Brush Fire, Russian Fort.
- 7/8: E1, T1; Drowning, Secret Beach. Non-Resident.
- 7/11: E7, T7, BC3; Brush Fire, PMRF Ordinance Gate.
- 7/11: E7, T7, T6, Tender1, Air2, BC3; Brush Fire, Boy Scout Camp Rd., Kōke‘e.
- 7/11: E1, T1, Z1, ST1 Blue Ski, ST4 Red Ski R3, Radon, Air1, OSB North Rove; Helicopter Crash, 1 remains retrieved. 2 others are missing, Hanakoa (Ocean). 1 Pilot / 2 Passengers.
- 7/12: T7, Mule7, R3, Air1; Pu‘u Lua Reservoir. Missing person Found. Resident.
- 7/13: T7, R3; Kaluapuhi Trail. Missing Person Found. Non-Resident.
- 7/15: E6, T6, E3, R3, Truck3, T4, E5, T5, E7, T7, Tender1, Training1, Air1, Air2, Air3, BC1; Brush Fire 1000 acre., Hanapēpē.
- 7/16: E2, T2, E3, R3, E8, T8, Tender1, Air1, Air2; Brush Fire. Kapa‘a Bypass.
- 7/18: E7, T7, T2, R3, E5, T5, T6, Tender1, Air1, BC3; Brush Fire. Kōke‘e.

7/23: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Hanakāpī'ai Falls. Residency N/A.
7/29: E8, T8, E2, T2, Truck3, Tender1, Prev4; Storage Shed Fire. Dist. 8 Moloa'a Area.
7/30: E8, T8, E2, T2, E3, R3, Truck3, BC2; Structure Fire, Kapa'a.

August 2024

8/4: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Sealodge Beach. Non-Resident.
8/5: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift sick person, Kalalau Beach. Non-Resident.
8/8: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift sick person, Hanakāpī'ai Beach. Non-Resident.
8/21: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker. Kalalau Beach. Non-Resident.
8/21: T2, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker. Uluwehi Falls. Non-Resident.
8/22: E8, T8, E2, T2, R3, Truck3, Tender1, Air1, BC1; Brushfire, Anahola.
8/24: E2, T2, R3, Truck3, Air1, BC2; Missing snorkeler, Nukoli'i Beach. Non-resident.
8/25: E2, T2, R3, Truck3, Air1, BC3; Missing snorkeler search cont. (never found),
Nukoli'i Beach. Non-Resident.
8/29: E2, T2, E8, T8, Truck3, BC1; Kitchen Fire, Plantation Hale.
8/30: E2, T2; Injured hiker assisted out, Uluwehi Falls. Non-Resident.
8/30: T7, R3, Air1; Lost hiker found, Awa'awapuhi Trail. Non-Resident.

September 2024

9/1: E7, T7, R3, Air1; Airlift sick hiker, Kalalau Beach. Non-Resident.
9/3: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Hanakāpī'ai Beach. Non-Resident.
9/4: E7, T7, R3, Air1; Airlift sick hiker, Kalalau Beach. Non-Resident.
9/5: E8, T8, T2, Tender1, BC1; Brush fire, Anahola.
9/6: E1, T1, R3; Injured person carted out, Queen's Bath. Non-Resident.
9/8: E3, R3, E2, T2, Air1, BC3; Ocean/Surf Rescue 2 Adults and 2 Children (all safe),
Nukoli'i Beach. Non-Residents (4).
9/10: R3, Air1; 4 persons & 2 dogs stranded at Honopu Beach, Airlifted to boat. 3 Non-
Residents & 1 Resident.
9/13: E2, T2; Injured hiker assisted out of trail, Secret Falls. Resident.
9/13: E3; Swimmer in distress safe, Running Waters. Non-Resident.
9/15: E3, R3, E2, T2, Tender1, BC2; Brush Fire, Kālepa Village.
9/16: E2, T2, E8, T8, E3, R3, Truck3, L4, T4, BC1; Structure Fire- Commercial, Kapa'a.
9/19: E1, T1, R3, E8, T8, Tender1, Air1, Air2, Jack Harter, BC3; Brush Fire, Wainiha.
9/30: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Hanakāpī'ai Trail. Non-Resident.

October 2024

10/1: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Kalalau Trail. Non-Resident.
10/7: E3, R3, Truck3, BC3; Res. Structure Fire (kitchen), Līhu'e.
10/11: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Hanakāpī'ai Trail. Non-Resident.
10/12: E7, T7, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Kalalau Beach. Non-Resident.

10/13: E7, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hikers (2), Kalalau Beach. Non-Residents (2).
10/14: E1, T1, R3; Airlift sick hiker, Kalalau Beach. Non-Resident.
10/17: E8, T8, T2, Tender1, Air1, BC2; Brush Fire, Anahola.
10/17: E2, T8, Air1, BC2; Brush Fire, Anahola.
10/30: E2, T2, Whaler2; Boat out sick patient, Wailua River.

November 2024

11/1: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift Injured hiker, 'Ōkolehao Trail. Non- 'Anini Back Channel. Non-Resident.
11/5: E1, T1, R3, Fire Ski 1 & 2, OSB; Missing Snorkeler search continued- not found, 'Anini Back Channel. Non-Resident.
11/6: E1, T1, R3, Air1, BC2; Missing Snorkeler search continued-not found, 'Anini Back Channel. Non-Resident.
11/7: E7, T7, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Kalalau Beach. Non-Resident.
11/9: E7, T7, E6, T6, Tender1, BC3; Brush Fire, Kōke'e.
11/10: R3, Air1; Airlift injured motorcyclist, Kalepa Ridge. Resident.
11/13: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Hanakoa Falls. Unknown Residency.
11/15: E1, T1, R3, Air1; airlift injured hiker, Hanakāpī'ai Falls trail. Non-Resident.

December 2024

12/11: E1, T1, R3, Fire Ski 1, OSB; Swimmer in distress- no findings, Hanakāpī'ai Beach.
12/16: E6, T6, Tender1; Brush Fire, Pakala.
12/16: T7; Injured hiker carried/wheeled out of trail, Waimea Canyon Lookout.
12/18: E1, T1, T5, E8, T8, R3, Tender1, Air1, Air2, BC3; Brush Fire, Kahiliholo Rd., Kīlauea.
12/19: E1, T1, E2, T2, E8, T8, Prev3, BC2; Structure Fire, Kalihiwai Valley.
12/20: E1, T1; injured Hiker wheeled out, Windy Point, Hanakāpī'ai Trail. Non-Resident.
12/21: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Kalalau trail. Residency Unknown.
12/21: L4, T4, OSB; Poss. Seizure while surfing, Po'ipū Lifeguard Tower. Resident.
12/21: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Hanakāpī'ai Falls. Non-Resident.
12/24: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Hanakāpī'ai Falls. Non-Resident.
12/27: E1, T1, Tender1; Brush Fire, Mauka Tourist Lumaha'i.

January 2025

1/5: E3, R3; Swimmer in distress, Kalapakī Beach. Residency unknown.
1/6: E7, T7, R3, Air1; Carry injured Hiker, Awa'awapuhi Trail. Non-Resident.
1/7 : E8, T8, T2, E3, R3, Tender1, Air1, Air2, BC3 ; Brush Fire, Anahola.
1/15: E6, T6, T5, R3, Air1, BC2 ; Brush Fire, Salt Pond/Cemetery area.
1/17: L4, T4, OSB; Swimmer stuck on rocks, Shipwreck's Beach. Non-Resident.
1/20: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Kalalau Beach. Non-Resident.
1/20: E3: R3, Truck3, E2, T2, E5, T5, BC3; Commercial Structure Fire, Līhu'e.

February 2025

- 2/3: E2, T2, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Kamokila Trail. Non-Resident.
- 2/8: E2, T2, R3, Air1; Airlift hiker (medical), Sleeping Giant Trail. Non-Resident.
- 2/15: R3, Air1; Missing hiker, Hanakoa Campsite. Non-Resident.
- 2/17: E8, T8, R3, Air1; Airlift hiker (medical), Kalalau Beach. Non-Resident.
- 2/24: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift hiker (medical), Kalalau Beach. Non-Resident.
- 2/25: E7, T7, R3, Air1; Airlift 2 hikers (medical), Kalalau Beach. Non-Residents (2).
- 2/28: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Kalalau Beach. Non-Resident.

March 2025

- 3/2: T7, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Kukui Trail. Resident.
- 3/10: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift 7 stranded hikers (trail washout due to weather), Kalalau Trail. Non-Residents (7).
- 3/14: E1/T1; Injured hiker assisted out of trail. Non-Resident.
- 3/14: E8, T8, E2, T2, R3, Air1, OSB; Missing Snorkeler (drowning), Larsen's Beach. Non-Resident.
- 3/14: E8, T8, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Hanakāpī'ai Falls. Non-Resident.
- 3/14: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift hiker (medical), Hanakāpī'ai Falls. Non-Resident.
- 3/15: R3, Air1; Airlift 2 distressed hikers due to rising stream levels, Makaleha Falls Trail. Non-Residents (2).
- 3/23: E8, T8, R3, Air1; Airlift critical hiker, Makaleha Falls Trail. Residency Unknown.
- 3/23: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Kalalau Trail. Residency Unknown.
- 3/24: E2, T2, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hikers (2), Blue Hole. Non-Residents (2).
- 3/27: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker. Hanakāpī'ai. Non-Resident.
- 3/28: L4, T4, OSB; Swimmer pulled from water with possible spinal injury, Brennecke's Beach. Non-Resident.

April 2025

- 4/1: E2, T2, T8, R3, Air1; Airlift hiker (medical), Secret Falls. Non-Resident.
- 4/3: E1, T1, R3; Stranded hikers (49 est. No injuries) due to high water level, Hanakāpī'ai Stream.
- 4/3: E1, T1; Hotel Laundry Room Fire, Princeville.
- 4/4: E7, T7, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hikers (3), Kalalau Beach. Non-Residents (3).
- 4/7: E7, T7 Carry Injured hiker off trail, Camp 10 Rd., Ditch Trail. Residency Unknown.
- 4/8: E1, T1, OSB; Assist hiker off trail. Hanakāpī'ai Trail. Non-Resident.
- 4/12: E2, T2, R3, OSB, BC3; Rescue distressed swimmers (6)/1-person cardiac arrest, Lydgate. Non-Residents.
- 4/14: E3, T3, Truck3; Apartment Room contents fire, Līhu'e.
- 4/18: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift hiker (medical), Hanakoa Valley. Residency unknown.
- 4/23: E8, T8; Assist injured hiker, Ho'opi'i Falls. Non-Resident.

May 2025

5/2: E3, R3, Tender1; Brushfire, near Lighthouse rd., Līhu'e.
5/7: E7, T7, E6, T6, Spare7, R3, Tender1, BC2; Brushfire, Kōke'e.
5/10: E1, T1; Carry Injured Hiker off trail. Hanakāpī'ai Trail.
5/11: E3, R3, Truck3, E2, T2, E5, T5, Prev3, BC3; Structure Fire, Hanamā'ulu.
5/11: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Hanakoa Valley. Non-Resident.
5/12: L4, T4; Swimmer in distress, Po'ipū. Non-Resident.
5/12: L4, T4; Kayaker in distress, Kukui'ula. Resident.
5/13: E7, T7, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker. Non-resident.
5/16: L4, T4, OSB; Possible swimmer in distress, Kukui'ula. Residency Unknown.
5/23: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker. Non-Resident.
5/30: L4, T4, OSB; Swimmer in distress, Po'ipū. Non-Resident.

June 2025

6/1: E7, T7, R3, Air1; Airlift hiker (medical), Kalalau Beach. Non-Resident.
6/1: E7, T7, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Waipo'o Falls. Non-Resident.
6/5: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hikers (3), Kalalau Beach. Non-Residents (3).
6/5: E7, T7, Truck3, BC3; Structure Fire. Waimea.
6/6: E8, T8, E2, T2, E3, R3, Truck3, Tender1, Air1, Air2, BC1; Brush Fire, Kealia Kai.
6/8: E7, T7, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Waipo'o Falls. Non-Resident.
6/12: E7, T7, E6, T6, R3, Tender1, Training2, BC2; Brush Fire, Kōke'e.
6/12: E2, T2, R3; Wheel out injured hiker. Secret Falls.
6/12: E1, T1, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker. Hanakāpī'ai Beach. Non-Resident.
6/17: T7, R3, Air1; Airlift injured hiker, Kukui Trail.
6/21: E1, T1, E8, T8; Wheel/Carry Near Drowning/Injured on Rocks Patient, Queens Bath. Residency Unknown.
6/25: E3, R3, Truck3, Tender1; Shed Fire, Līhu'e.
6/26: L4, T4; Near Drowning, PK's Surf Break. Non-Resident.
6/29: E1, T1, E8, T8, R3, BC1; Missing Diver (retrieval during search), Larsen's Beach First Channel.
6/29: E2, T2, E3, R3, E8, T8, Truck3, BC1, Prev1, Prev3; Structure Fire, Kapa'a.

EMERGENCY CALL REPORT BY INITIAL DISPATCHED UNIT

Incident Type	Sta 1	Sta 2	Sta 3	Res 3	Sta 4	Sta 5	Sta 6	7 Sta	Sta 8	Total
Fire	41	92	44	25	28	19	57	68	145	519
Rupture/Explosion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EMS/Rescue	582	807	625	605	588	399	292	377	588	4863
Hazardous Condition	11	8	8	5	2	3	4	8	12	61
Service Call	65	64	68	63	32	44	29	84	38	487
Good Intent	192	118	229	177	190	45	19	81	155	1206
False Call	37	26	35	15	38	17	7	7	11	193
Severe Weather	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1	9	4	2	0	3	0	1	0	20
Totals:	929	1124	1013	892	878	530	408	626	949	7349

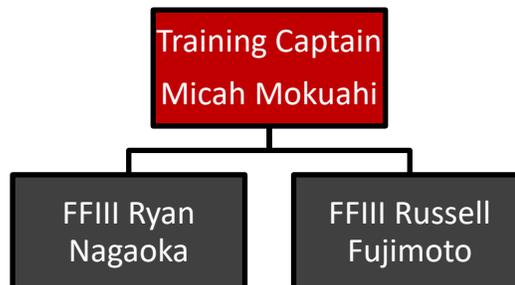
TRAINING BUREAU

PURPOSE

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

In FY 2025 the Training Bureau executed the 2024 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 is 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 that 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 Recruit Class 34 and 35
 - b. Fire Ground Command (FGC) Cadre – Program implemented to standardize department communications at emergency scenes.
 - i. All Captains and FFIII receive annual dedicated training.
 - ii. The FGC cadre continues Expanded Sets and Reps in FY2025 to provide officers and crews with the opportunity to build their skill sets and improve communications.
 - c. Driver Training – Provides initial training to DOT standards for new hires. Also conducts refresher training.
 - i. Annual refresher for all personnel done in/near district due to spare fire engine shortage and Vidinha parking lot availability.
 - ii. In 2025 one week with Recruit classes.
 - 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 on 8/2025
 - ii. Trained Recruit Class 34

- e. Fire Ground Operations – Program provides initial attack training for Fire Fighter Recruits.
 - i. Annual on duty refresher to KFD 3/2025
 - ii. Trained Recruit Class 34

- 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 old Water Dept building has been an incredible asset and is used to give crews realistic training scenarios. Previous years we have used the now demolished UPW log building next to Station 3.
 - iii. Props were upgraded 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. Annual HazMat refresher is designed to assist crews with preplanning hazards in their district.
 - ii. Received OSHA's Train the Trainer certification to certify Firefighters to HAZTECH level.
 - iii. Trained Recruit Class 34 to HAZMAT Ops / Awareness level/ HAZTECH level.
 - iv. 93rd CST Multi-agency training 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. Trained RC 34.

- 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:
 - ii. RC 34 three KFD enrolled and certified in NREMT

- j. PADO/AADO – Cadre tasked with training line personnel to IFSAC standards for Pumping Apparatus Driver Operator. A new curriculum was added in 2019 to raise department skill levels by using Pumping Apparatus to supply water on the fire ground.
 - i. Skill sheets were created and used to hold new standards. Continuing progress towards IFSAC certification
 - ii. Two classes are conducted annually to raise standard of service.
 - iii. RC 32 participated in one week class to TA up to FAO if needed.
 - iv. Unable to perform PADO Keystone drill until we have a dependable Spare training fire engine.

- 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 is 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

- I. Swift Water
 - i. Recruit Class Training to Dive Rescue International standard.
 - 1. Recruit class 34 Trained.

- 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 2024)
 - i. Annual Refresher off duty held for all personnel 8/2025. Officers and operators invited to attend.
 - ii. Trained RC 34.
 - iii. Annual Keystone Drill for this year was Rescue of two victims. One conscious and one unconscious. OSB roving ski also was a part of the drill. Swim distance was expanded to 300yd from 100yds the previous year.

- II. Budget - FY 2025
 - a. Original budget: \$1,510,203
 - b. Revised budget: \$1,602,837

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- I. Certifications were awarded in the following disciplines.
 - a. IFSAC Firefighter I and II
 - b. IFSAC HAZMAT Awareness and Operations
 - c. HAZTECH – 12 KFD Firefighters

- II. Recruit Training
 - a. 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.
 - b. Continued the use of Monthly KFD specific JPR forms created by KFD line personnel for Training Bureau use.

- III. Implementation of the 2025 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 are 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.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

PURPOSE & INTENT

The Kaua'i Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau (FPB) is proud to serve our community by working to reduce the risk of fires and life safety hazards across the island. Our core mission is to protect lives and property by raising public awareness, promoting fire safety education, and ensuring safe building practices and occupancies throughout the county.

From inspecting schools and businesses to reviewing building plans and educating keiki and kūpuna, the FPB is committed to creating a safer Kaua'i for all. We continue to work closely with partner agencies and community organizations to uphold the Kaua'i County Fire Code and to respond effectively to the evolving needs of our residents and visitors.

DUTIES

1. Promote fire prevention and life safety awareness through education and outreach.
2. Identify and reduce fire hazards in homes, schools, and businesses.
3. Investigate the origin and cause of fires to support prevention and prosecution when necessary.
4. Enforce the Kaua'i County Fire Code and ensure compliance through inspections and plan reviews.
5. Manage permitting processes including Public Display & Consumer fireworks, flammable tank installations.



Plans Review (Commercial & Residential)

Plan Reviews remain the FPB’s largest and most resource-intensive area of responsibility. Through the County’s Electronic Plan Review (EPR) system, our team reviews all commercial and residential building permit applications to ensure compliance with fire code requirements. This includes evaluating fire sprinkler systems, alarm and suppression systems, emergency access for fire apparatus, and adequate water supply.

We implemented an online payment system for our plan review fees (commercial and residential) which was a breakthrough process for our Bureau. This helps our customers to have a convenient way of paying, while allowing us to serve our customers in a more efficient manner.

We collaborate regularly with the County’s Building Division, Department of Water, Planning Department, Engineering Division, and various private partners. As part of our review process, we conduct Witnessed Acceptance Testing (W.A.T.) to confirm that approved fire protection systems are properly installed and function as intended.

Yearly Plan Review Totals

- 2025 (YTD): 2,006
- 2024: 1,213

The significant increase in 2025 is largely due to a positive shift in policy: as of June 2024, the FPB now reviews all residential plans identified by the Building Division as involving fire department concerns. This change ensures consistency and enhances public safety. To meet the growing demand, FPB added two plan reviewers: Captain Kao Kinoshita (general reviews) and FF3 Ray Keahi (solar PV systems), supporting lead reviewer FF3 J. Minei.

Fire Inspections

The FPB continues to conduct annual inspections of public and commercial occupancies,

with a strong focus on life safety. We work closely with the State of Hawai'i to inspect all DOE schools, charter schools, childcare centers, and after-school programs between August and February.

In addition to school inspections, we prioritize higher-risk occupancies such as restaurants, hotels, and condominiums. These inspections help reduce potential hazards and ensure compliance with state and county fire codes.

Annual Inspections Completed

- FY 2025: 173
- FY 2024: 192

Fire Investigations

This year, we strengthened our partnerships with the Kaua'i Police Department and the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney (OPA) to enhance our fire investigations, particularly those related to suspected arson.

While KFD does not have a full-time investigator, members of the FPB with proper training and experience share this responsibility. Our goal is to hold quarterly meetings with KPD and OPA to ensure smooth coordination and effective investigation procedures.

FPB personnel are active members of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) and participate in annual professional development training on O'ahu.

Fire Damages by Address

Address	Fire Damages
Alohi Place	\$25,000
Mahuahua Rd	\$20,000
Kalihiwai Rd	\$9,500
Kalalea Rd.	\$50,000
Kahuna Rd	\$750,000
Ulu St	\$1,200,000
Papaloa Rd	\$50,000
Ikena Pl #36	\$100,000
Okupu Street	\$15,000
Kauai Palms	\$90,000
Namaheka	\$118,000
Hehi	\$53,000
Hoi	\$353,000

Community Outreach & Education

Community education remains a cornerstone of our fire prevention mission. We proudly participated in numerous events to share fire safety knowledge and engage with residents of all ages.

Highlights:

- Fire Prevention Week (October 6–12, 2024): "Cooking Safety Starts with You"; Distributed over 5,000 booklets to K–5 students, including a Hawaiian language version.

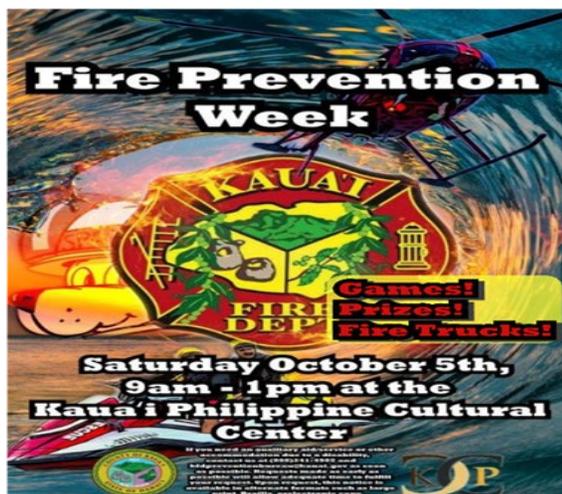
Introduced the inflatable Fire Safety House at elementary schools' island wide.



Community Events Attended:

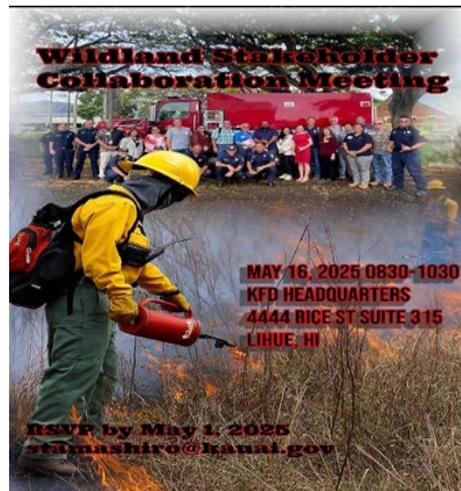
- KPD "Touch a Truck"
- Stop the Bleed @ Corteva
- Lights on Rice Parade
- Kōloa Plantation Days
- Multiple school career days
- DHS Senior Safety Presentations
- Girl Scouts Fire Safety Program
- Health fairs at Kaua'i Veterans Memorial Hospital & Mahelona Hospital
- Kamehameha Day Parade

Fire Prevention Week Kick-Off October 2024



In October, KFD held its 2nd annual large-scale public event titled to bring in Fire Prevention month. Approximately 500 people attended throughout the day. Food, games, and prizes were given to all ages. Activities included fire extinguisher training, fire engines, Sparky appearances. Amongst the organizations represented were Hawai'i Wildland Management Organization who promoted the Firewise program to help residents prepare for wildfires and KEMA who discussed the importance of emergency notification and preparation.

Wildland Stakeholder Collaboration



KFD hosted a Wildland Fire Stakeholder Meeting to coordinate wildfire planning, response, and mitigation strategies with key partners.

Participating Organizations:

KEMA, NOAA, KIUC, DHHL, ADC, USDA, Grove Farm, Team Rubicon, Kaua'i Coffee, Gay & Robinson, and more.

County agencies: Mayor's Office, Planning, Public Works, DOW, Council

Topics Discussed:

- KFD Wildfire updates
- Seasonal weather outlooks
- Grant opportunities
- New development concerns

Updating the State Fire Code

FPB members participated in a multi-agency working group on O'ahu, alongside fire prevention leaders from across the state and NFPA representative Gary Honold, to discuss Hawai'i-specific amendments to the 2024 NFPA 1 Fire Code edition.

Firecracker Permits 2024

This year's firecracker permitting process focused on improving efficiency and customer service. A major goal was to minimize the burden on the County's DMV offices by

streamlining the application process. We also incorporated fire safety messaging to help customers enjoy their celebrations safely and responsibly.

KFD Social Media Outreach

Our partnership with the Mayor's Office has allowed the Fire Prevention Bureau to expand its presence on social media. We post weekly content to keep our community informed about:

- Upcoming events
- Fire safety tips
- Press releases
- Prevention success stories

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 lifeguarding service. There are 66 full-time positions, and six part-time positions, in the Ocean Safety Bureau; five of the full-time positions and one part-time position are State funded for Kē'ē Beach. OSB has a three-district operation, District #1 = North district, District #2 = East district, and District #3 = South/West district, with one lieutenant supervisor, and one Captain in each district. A prevention/training Ocean Safety Officer (OSO) IV Captain oversees an OSO III training position, responsible for keeping all mandatory certification training, prevention, and education programs, and creating training to the highest effective level. The Ocean Safety Bureau also has an Administrative Assistant I assist with all office duties, with an overall bureau operations supervisor overseeing all operational tasks.

There is 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 Kaua'i 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 Kaua'i 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 increase the chain of survival by upgrading to the state-of-the-art equipment.
- To integrate smoothly with current emergency response units.

ACTIVITIES

OSB are back into full force with training with the Keiki & Junior Lifeguard program. Scheduling six weeklong sessions at Salt Pond, Hanalei, and Kalapaki beaches. OSB is pleased to have serviced and trained over 600 of Kaua'i's youth ranging from 8 -17 years of age. Without a doubt, the best youth program in the County system.

The Ocean Safety Bureau participated in the 3rd annual Touch a Truck event at the Vidinha Stadium sponsored by the Kaua'i Police department.

OSB Supervisors attended *Reasonable Suspicion for Alcohol and Controlled Substances training*, and OSB Chief Vierra, together with Human Resources, conducted Supervisor Training.

Full-time OSO's who worked during the Covid pandemic have received their Temporary Hazard Pay.

The second annual Train the Trainer Rescue Watercraft training course was held at the Kaneohe Marine Base on O'ahu with partnerships of all counties and by the Hawaiian Lifeguard Association. Representatives from each county, military organizations, private, and the Okinawa Lifesaving Association participated in a one-week training

course.

The State Junior Lifeguard Championship was held at Kā'anapali Beach on Maui with a giant south swell that created challenging conditions. And Kaua'i came in a strong 3rd place behind Big Island, and the top honors were to Team O'ahu.

The State Drowning Prevention Conference was held at the Queen Kapi'olani Hotel. A sold-out event of all different agencies attended with great water safety information.

A Hawai'i Water Safety Coalition group was formed to assist with Hawai'i's drowning and aquatic injuries preventative strategies. Creating the first 2025 Water Safety Action Plan booklet.

1st Annual Lifeguard Exchange program with partnerships with the Kaua'i County, the Okinawa Lifesaving Association, and the Hawaiian Lifeguard Association. This one-week training session brought different cultures, experiences, and skills to the table so both organizations could learn from one another. Nine lifesavers from Okinawa participated with the Ocean Safety Bureau on drowning prevention techniques while experiencing different parts of the island. We are working on conducting the 2nd annual lifeguard exchange in February of 2026.

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. Also, events like the Hanalei Swim, and the annual Kamali'i Fishing youth Challenge. Sharing valuable ocean safety information about Kaua'i's beaches, pools, and rivers.

Junior Lifeguard Internship program with the support of the County of Kaua'i and the Hawaiian Lifeguard Association. Four individuals participated in the first week-long Junior Lifeguard Internship program who were chosen by their coaches from the 2024 program season. These four individuals, two males and two females, between 14 and 16 years of age challenged themselves through ocean conditions, rescue skills, CPR/AED techniques, and even rescue watercraft rescue scenarios. We hope to grow this internship program in the upcoming years.

An interagency rescue watercraft training was conducted in April with personnel from the PMRF, DLNR, Fire, & OSB agencies who covered various locations around our island with new rescue watercraft techniques. They prepared for all major emergencies that might arise on our island and standardized procedure and protocols for any major rescue incident.

Ocean Safety Bureau 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 parking and permitting management in Hā'ena. The Ocean Safety Bureau has purchased a fiberglass permanent lifeguard tower for Wanini beach due to the high beach daily attendance and ocean activities year round. A few CPR saves have been accomplished due to being present at this highly populated beach.

The Queens Bath trail in Princeville continues as an ongoing issue due to high traffic during hazardous ocean conditions. OSB continues to monitor ocean forecasts and partner with Princeville Security on opening and closing the Queens Bath gate. The gate will be closed during winter months from October through March due to safety concerns. With the support from the Kaua'i Lifeguard Association & the Hawaiian Lifeguard Association, a Safety Information Kiosk at the trail head continues to provide safety information to residents and visitors for this area.

Mandatory training continues to guarantee 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 continuing 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/four times a day or as needed. These stats are also available at real time on the "Safe beach day" Website <https://safebeachday.com/county/Kaua'i/> for the public to view. This data collection system has been implemented called "WatchTower" <https://www.yourwatchtower.com/> joining other lifeguard agencies across the state as well as 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 prevention 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.

The OSB continues to partner and collaborate with nonprofit organizations like the Kaua'i Lifeguard Association, The Hawaiian Lifeguard Association, the Kaua'i visitor bureau, Ho'iike Television. A newly updated ocean safety video is up and playing at the two baggage claim areas at the Lihue airports.

There were six deaths related to drowning from snorkeling, fresh water, or scuba diving accidents. Most of the drownings occurred at unguarded beaches. With 465 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

Tower Activity – Summary

Drownings	6
Rescues/Assist	465
Public Contact	179,547
Preventative Action	175,458
Minor First Aid	5,649

Roving Mobile Units - Summary

Jet Ski Rescues/Assist	196
Public Contact	57,733
Preventative Actions	33,810
Minor First Aid	2,233

Total beach participants on Guarded Beaches and Mobile Patrol: *2,319,128

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 2024-2025
As of June 30, 2025

Includes payroll dates 06/30/2025 & 07/14/2025

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

ACCOUNT	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Total Expenses To Date	Bal of Approp Incl Encumbr
ADMINISTRATION TOTALS	\$ 2,951,136.00	\$ 3,295,589.17	\$ 3,021,714.44	\$ 273,874.73
OPERATIONS TOTALS	\$ 31,682,030.00	\$ 32,109,947.00	\$ 31,460,517.53	\$ 649,429.47
PREVENTION TOTALS	\$ 1,154,860.00	\$ 1,053,482.00	\$ 751,463.91	\$ 302,018.09
TRAINING BUREAU TOTALS	\$ 1,510,203.00	\$ 1,572,936.00	\$ 1,519,623.01	\$ 53,312.99
OCEAN SAFETY TOTALS	\$ 8,102,902.00	\$ 9,112,358.00	\$ 8,868,928.48	\$ 243,429.52
	\$ 45,401,131.00	\$ 47,144,312.17	\$ 45,622,247.37	\$ 1,522,064.80

AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL
June 30, 2025

ADMINISTRATION

Fire Chief	1
Deputy Fire Chief	1
Fire Assistant Chief	1
*Administrative Services Officer	1
*Private Secretary	1
*Accountant II	1
*Accountant I	1
*Senior Clerk	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	56
Fire Fighter Trainee	7

OCEAN SAFETY BUREAU

Ocean Safety Officer V	1
Ocean Safety Officer IV	4
Ocean Safety Officer III	4
Ocean Safety Officer II	53
Ocean Safety Officer I	4
Ocean Safety Officer (Temp)	6
*Administrative Assistant I	1

SUB-TOTALS

Uniformed Personnel – Fire	145
Uniformed Personnel – Ocean Safety	72
*Civilian Personnel	<u>8</u>

GRAND TOTAL

225