

COUNTY OF KAUA'I

Minutes of Meeting
OPEN SESSION

Board/Commission:	Kaua'i Fire Commission	Meeting Date:	February 20, 2024	
Location	Boards and Commissions Conference Room, Pi'ikoi Building 4444 Rice Street, Suite 300, Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766	Start of Meeting: 2:00 p.m.	End of Meeting: 2:55 p.m.	
Present	Chair Rodney Yama; Vice Chair Gary Pacheco; Commissioners: Jen Chahanovich, Trevor Ford, Alfred Levinthol, Alfredo Garces (joined the meeting at 2:11 p.m.) 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 Linda Kaauwai-Iwamoto			
Absent				



SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Meeting Called to Order/Roll Call to ascertain quorum	Chair Yama called the Fire Commission February 20, 2024, meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. A roll call ensued that quorum was established, five (5) Commissioners were present to conduct business.	Quorum was established with five (5) Commissioners present.
Approval of Agenda	Chair Yama called for a motion to approve the agenda as circulated.	Commissioner Chahanovich moved to approve the February 20, 2024, agenda. Commissioner Levinthol seconded the motion. Motion carried 5:0.
Chair's Announcements	Next Regular Monthly Meeting will be 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at the: Boards and Commissions Conference Room, Pi'ikoi Building 4444 Rice Street, Suite 300, Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766	
Public Testimony	Chair Yama 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 it would not be necessary for Chair Yama to call for public testimony on each agenda item.	

KFC Open Session Minutes
Of February 20, 2024, Meeting

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Approval of Minutes	Chair Yama called for a motion to amend or approve the minutes of the January 16, 2024, meeting.	Due to equipment issues, motion and second was not recorded.
First Responder Recognition	<p>Chief Michael Gibson gave a short speech recognizing First Responders for a CPR incident at Nukumoi Tower.</p> <p>AMR/MEDIC Tina Hamayasu EMT - Jeff Eisenbach</p> <p>Kōloa Fire Fire Captain Aaron Hawthorne Firefighter III Chad Tabuchi Firefighter I Jetsen Wakuta Firefighter I Shea Hardy</p> <p>Ocean Safety OSO II Triston Pono Bukoski OSO II Nicholas Hudson OSO II Manalani Medeiros OSO II Phillip Pembroke</p>	Commissioner Garces joined the meeting at 2:11 p.m.
Chief's Monthly Bureau Reports and Updates for January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Update on Kaua'i Fire and Ocean Safety, including updates on Partnerships, Resources Highlights, and Wildfire/Council b) Administrative Bureau Update, including updates on the budget, staffing, overtime report, facilities, and fleet c) Fire Operations Bureau Update, including statistics on calls for service and brief description of some of the incidents responded to d) Fire Prevention Bureau Update, including monthly statistics e) Fire Training Bureau Update, including monthly statistics 	

KFC Open Session Minutes
 Of February 20, 2024, Meeting

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	<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><u>Fire and Ocean Safety</u></p> <p>Fire Chief Gibson reported that one of the frustrations has been their promotions process. Promotion process started in October 2023, mid-October a written test, short break for Fire Fighters seeking to be Rescue, which involves a physical agility test. Interviews are scheduled after that for each rank, Captain, and Fire Fighter III, which are the drivers, and Fire Fighter II Hazmat, and Rescue. 18 on the captains list, 30 for the Fire Fighter III position, and 30 for Hazmat, and 15-16 for Rescue. Calculating the scores took some time. Fire Department runs interview panels, each of the panels will have about 4 or 5 raters, 9 or 10 questions for every interview. Each rater tallies their scores, and the FD turns it in to HR. HR then calculates the scores for each candidate, with around 90 candidates, the process took some time. Typically, in the past the process takes about 2 ½ months. This year the FD didn’t receive the list for captain until mid-January.</p> <p><u>Partnerships</u></p> <p>Land clearing project at Kaiākea to begin on March 19th by Public Works. Objects to be removed are, overwhelming number of tires, pressurized cylinders, 25 vehicles, vehicle engines, appliances, and electronics. Estimating 3 weeks for cleanup. At one point it was estimated that there were 150 people camping/living in that area.</p> <p>Finalized the lease agreement for the Air1 Hangar.</p> <p><u>Resource Updates</u></p> <p>Several vehicles have been delivered. Truck 6, Brush Truck at Station 6, ordered in December 2021, has arrived.</p> <p>Commissioner Chahanovich inquired if it is 2024.</p>	

KFC Open Session Minutes
 Of February 20, 2024, Meeting

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	<p>Chief Gibson stated that it is most likely 2022 or 2023.</p> <p>Fire mechanics vehicle arrived. Deputy Chief Mills command vehicle has also arrived.</p> <p>Still waiting on High Wire Rescue Vehicle, BC Vehicle, Trainings Vehicle, two Fire Engines, Water Tender, three Brush Trucks, and the Kalaheo Fire Engine.</p> <p><u>Wildfire</u> On Sunday February 18, between 11:30 p.m. and 4:30 a.m. Monday, there were 5 separate brush fires in the area from KIUC Anahola Solar Panels, Anahola Church, and Spaulding Monument. The first one was at about 11:30, and it was about a 40x60 brush fire, obviously intentionally set by flammable liquids, then 2 abandoned vehicle fires near Anahola Church, firefighters put those out, went back to the station, then about 30 minutes later a fire by Spaulding Monument, about 100 yards long, looked to be set intentionally by flammable liquids. KPD was notified, they did talk to someone, but it is still unknown who intentionally set the fires.</p> <p><u>Administrative Bureau</u> There are 3 overall vacancies for Firefighter Trainee, one in Prevention, and one Firefighter III. 1 full-time position in Ocean Safety needs to be filled and 3 short term.</p>	<p>Vice Chair Pacheco moved to receive the Chief’s Monthly Report. Commissioner Chahanovich seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, motion passes. 6:0.</p>
Executive Session	None.	
Adjournment	Chair Yama called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.	Commissioner Ford moved to adjourn. Vice Chair Pacheco seconded. Hearing no objections, meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

