

Communication works for those who work at it

John Powell



FIRE CHIEFS REPORT December 8 2021

Hawai'i Fire Department

kazuo.todd@hawaiicounty.gov

808-932-2900

25 Aupuni St, Hilo, HI, 96720



TABLE OF CONTENTS

TO THE FIRE COMMISSION	3
Can You Hear Me Now? _____	3
Highlights _____	4
Community Outreach _____	4
BUDGET	5
FY 2021-2022 _____	5
Alternative Funding and Grants _____	5
HUMAN RESOURCES	6
Internal Recruitment within Department: _____	6
Open-Competitive Recruitment: _____	6
Classification: _____	6
Labor Relations: _____	6
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS DIVISION	7
Battalion 1, East Hawai'i _____	7
Battalion 2 West Hawai'i _____	8
Special Operations: _____	9
SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION	10
Emergency Medical Services Bureau: _____	10
Training Bureau: _____	10
Volunteer Training: _____	11
Fire Prevention Bureau: _____	11
Fire Auxiliary Services: _____	12
Maintenance Shop: _____	13
Capital Improvement Projects: _____	13
LAND FOR A NEW STATION?	14
AUDIT UNDERWAY	14

TO THE FIRE COMMISSION

Can You Hear Me Now?

The hallmark of any good organization is the ability to communicate clearly and effectively. The ability of management to articulate its goals, objectives, and ethics helps to secure the buy in of its employees and the streamlining of efforts. Communications do not happen by accident. They need to be planned for and routinely reviewed to ensure that the process is meeting expectations. This feedback loop helps create synergy in the sharing of information.

There are several initiatives that the Fire Department is taking to address these issues. In the upcoming months, several efforts are underway to solicit and engage the Department. The Administration is working to have a more horizontal model of communications which will motivate greater inter-departmental interactions.

Coffee with the Chief - One of the first initiatives will be held in December. This will be a livestreamed conversation with the Fire Chief. A one question survey monkey was sent out to the Department to get an idea of topics the employees would like addressed. The response to this request was prompt and telling. There were several issues that were reoccurring in the responses and warranted explanation. It also highlighted where there were gaps in the information distribution. The planned Coffee with the Chief is scheduled for 11 December.

Online Surveys - The Fire Chief's office intends to utilize this format for future polling of the Department. These quick surveys allow the Department to anonymously respond to queries and pulse checks of current programs. This provides invaluable and unfiltered feedback that can be utilized to hone programs and make changes as needed.

Station Visitations - There is no better way to grasp the challenges of the personnel than to spend some time in their shoes. To this end, it is the objective of the administration to get to all of the stations on all shifts annually. This provides the opportunity for the Firefighters and Ocean Safety Personnel to talk directly with the Fire Chief. The information that is shared at these meetings are candid and held in a no fault atmosphere.

Monthly Fire Commission Report - One of the foundational values this administration has stressed is transparency. Every member of the Department has direct access to the monthly Fire Commissioners Report. This keeps the membership informed on what is being reported and the types of information that is being tracked.

These are just a few of the programs that are in effect to help foster better communication. Use of social media, streaming of fire commission meetings, and in station status boards are also being looked at as ways to bridge the communication gap. A well informed staff, that understands the vision and principles of the leadership will result in a more efficient and resilient organization. This will lead to a better service provided and prove to have a positive impact on the lifesaving mission.

Highlights

The following are the highlights from November 2021. The complete list of responses will be provided in the Emergency Operations Division Update.

- Hawaii Island and HFD will be hosting the next Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association Conference. The dates are December 15-18 at the Fairmont Orchid in Waikoloa
- The Fire Chief attended a leadership meeting with directors from across the County of Hawaii. One of the results from the leadership meeting is that we will be arranging for the Mayor, Managing Director, and Deputy Managing Director to be firefighters for a day to learn more about the day to day operations and needs of the Hawaii Fire Department.
- Telecommunicator reclassification. We are currently in talks with the Department of Human Resources as they look at reclassifying the dispatcher position for our 911 telecommunicator to better match their current job duties. This has seen a lot of progress and we hope to have a concrete implementation date sometime at the beginning of next year.



Community Outreach



- November 9th was the virtual Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association Convention. Maui Fire Department and Chief Brad Ventura conducted an 8 hour virtual conference with many presenters discussing pertinent topics in the fire industry.
- Visited Station 8 (Honokaa) to wish a well-deserved retirement to Captain Glen Sumida who retired at the end of November.
- Of the 27th of November the department turned up at Bayfront for a reverse parade where we did sign waving to honor First Responders.
- The new dispatch center construction continues, and we met this month to finalize details on the IT layout, raised flooring, and video walls.

BUDGET

FY 2021-2022

FY 2021-2022 - County Budget:

Total spending through November 30th is at 49.22% with 41.66% of the fiscal year completed.

Salaries and Wages

Closed at 50.54% Fire and 44.79% EMS.

OCE expenditures closed at 88.30% in Fire (Mana Road expenditures skew percent, this will probably be adjusted in future reports), and 39.93% in EMS.

State Funded Budget Items:

EMS reimbursements for FY 20-21 have been completed. Authorization for this year's reimbursements have not been given, but paperwork is being completed.

FY 2022-2023

Deanna Sako has given approval to a rebuild of the entire HFD budget. This will result in a renumbering of line items from 5221-8 to 6221-8 and a realignment of line items under program categories to better track and account for expenditures versus outcomes.

Alternative Funding and Grants

SAFER Grant - Grant submitted for six (6) Captain Positions and three (3) FF positions will be starting on February 1st.

National Forest Service Grant (50/50 matching for \$50,000).

- Submitted for reimbursement for FY 19-20 (Pending).
- Submitted for reimbursement for FY 20-21 (Pending).
- Working on application for FY 21-22 (approved and being expended).
 - An additional \$147k has been granted for FY 21-22
 - We will be pursuing the purchase of a brush truck and fire shelters

FEMA AFG for Covid-19 - grant period extended another year. No Updates.

FEMA AFG for 2022 has opened, we will be submitting for extractors for all of our fire stations.

Grant from State of Hawai'i, Department of Health, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division. Training has started.

CDBG-MIT: HFD has been allocated 1.8 million and will be pursuing the purchase of an incident command vehicle, brush trucks, and a trailer.

HMGP – Post Fire Grant. FM-5404-HI is set at \$584,083.00 for post fire recovery. Currently looking at applicable uses of this grant.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Internal Recruitment within Department:

- Fire Captain (Emergency Operations) - Fire Equipment Operator Michael Jackson and Fire Equipment Operator Tyler Nishimura promoted effective December 1, 2021.
- Fire/Emergency Medical Services Specialist III - Fire/Emergency Medical Services Specialist II Kilipaki Kanae promoted effective December 1, 2021.
- Fire Equipment Operator - Interview and assessment center was held on November 29-December 2, 2021.
- Fire Rescue Specialist - 16 candidates referred to participate in the Physical Assessment Exercise. PAE to be announced.

Internal Recruitment within the County:

- Information Systems Analyst IV - No internal applicants. Submitted a request for open competitive recruitment.

Open-Competitive Recruitment:

- Fire Fighter Recruit - 15 FFR candidates completed medical appointments, hearing exam, and back x-ray. Formal offers to be sent out in early January 2022. Targeted hire date is February 1, 2022.

Classification:

- Allocation of six Fire Captain positions effective February 1, 2022. Two positions awarded under the SAFER Grant. Four positions were included in FY 07-08 Budget Ordinance No. 07-82.
- Allocation of three Fire Fighter positions effective February 1, 2022. Positions awarded under the SAFER Grant.

Labor Relations:

- Verbal Reprimand - Five verbal reprimands for noncompliance with COVID-19 testing requirements.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS DIVISION

Total Calls for CY 2021

Type	November	YTD
Fire	94	968
Rescue and EMS	1,681	17,956
Hazardous Cond. (no fire)	9	197
Service Call	158	1,896
Good Intent calls	315	3,478
Fire Alarm / False calls	45	317
Severe Weather	1	12
Special Incident Type	0	5
Other	70	74
Totals	2,373	24,903

Updates:

- PGV fund SCBA compressor procurement: no changes, awaiting community meeting with Councilmember Kierkiewicz.
- Bid awarded for internal SCBA compressor purchase. Timeline for delivery is anticipated in Jan-Feb 2022.
- Post Incident Analysis for the Mana Rd Brush Fire scheduled for December 8.
- CDBG-MIT grant funding update: Working with vendors to build out specs for apparatus.
- Apparatus updates
 - a) Rosenbauer build (BT-17), Status Quo: still in the body shop for paint issues.
- Ongoing mitigation planning for Honuapo Brush Fire scene. Awaiting scheduling of fence install with DPW.

Battalion 1, East Hawai'i

Incidents:

- October 29, 2021, Inc#22426, **Reconnaissance:** Mauna Loa/District 4, Aircraft crash site, unknown injuries/fatalities.
- November 3, 2021, Inc#22801, **Fire:** Ainaloa/District 10, Structure fire, 1 injury / no fatalities



- November 5, 2021, Inc#22987, **Rescue:** Piihonua/District 4, Drowning, 1-fatality.
- November 3, 2021, Inc#23005, **Fire:** Fern Forest/District 19, Structure and vehicle fires, no injuries/fatalities.
- November 6, 2021, Inc#23040, **Hazmat:** N. Aohoku PI, Subaru Telescope/District 1, fire alarm w/ suppression system release. No signs of fire. Building ventilated, no injuries or fatalities.
- November 7, 2021, Inc#23140, **Fire:** 505 Kilauea Avenue/District 1, structure fire, no injuries/fatalities.
- November 10, 2021, Inc#23348, **Rescue:** Waimanu Valley/District 8, Injured Hiker airlifted.
- November 13, 2021, Inc#23584, **Fire:** Keawe St, smoldering fire to business rear entryway. Extinguished and no injuries or fatalities.
- November 21, 2021, Inc#24252, **Rescue/Recovery:** Makuu Cliffs at Hawaiian Paradise Park/ District 18, two swimmers in distress, one body recovered, and one swimmer rescued uninjured.
- November 22, 2021, Inc#24287, **Rescue:** Beach Dr at Hawaiian Paradise Park/District 18, Person fell from cliffside, High angle rescue, 1 person injured.
- November 22, 2021, Inc#24316, **Recovery:** Shoreline below Pa`auhau Camp, 1 fatality, body recovery from ocean, person missing since 11/20/21. No other injuries or fatalities.
- November 24, 2021, Inc#24522, **Fire:** Haina Camp/District 8, Structure Fire, no injuries or fatalities.
- November 26, 2021, Inc#24681, **Fire:** Nanawale Estates/District 10, Structure fire, no injuries or fatalities.

Battalion 2 West Hawai'i

Incidents:

- November 19, 2021, Inc#024037, **Aircraft Emergency:** Puakea Subdivision District 15. Cessna made emergency landing, 4 souls, and no injuries.
- November 28, 2021 Inc# 024784, **Brush Fire:** South of Waiemi Street and Kawaihae Road. 33 Acres no structures involved.



- November 29, 2021, Inc# 24889, **Brush Fire:** Kawaihae Rd. 563 acres from Waiemi St. down to Sunshine helicopters. No structures were lost, and property saved at Sunshine Helicopters included 1 helicopter, 2 fuel trucks, and 1000sq ft office building.



Special Operations:

Hazmat:

- CAMEO training for Hazmat personnel scheduled. January 18-21, 2022. Funding requested through the LEPC to cover costs of instructor and OT.
- Communications headsets (2) purchased for Kaumana. Replace old and inoperable units.

Ocean Safety:

- Street LG program going live on Dec 1
- Continue to Plan for RWC Operator Training for Water Safety Officers. Working with USLA for program development and certification.
- Pohoiki storage container has been relocated to the Pahoia Fire Station. This was in conjunction with the termination of overnight security services at Isaac Hale Beach Park.
 - a) Used truck acquired through DPW for Pohoiki UTV transport to and from IHBP and S-10.
- New utility trailer also purchased to transport UTV for Pohoiki

Rescue:

- Rescue Boat 2 (Force) engine replacement. No new updates, awaiting processing of requisition.
- Reached out to Force Marine for RB7-7 repairs. Still have not received the new fuel tanks.
- Working with Sealegs rep for an annual maintenance of the Sealegs-7 vessel.
- Working with Rescue Captains to build out an equipment replacement calendar to better track and budget needs.
- Working on building Fire Rescue Specialist Assessment.

Sayer Foundation:

- Funding of additional Apparatus.
 - a) Discussions ongoing for a new Engine at South Kohala. Building out specifications for the apparatus. Pierce Mfg. chosen for the build by the donor.
 - b) Received the new donated Tanker apparatus, awaiting registration of vehicle. Discussions on going for determination on assignment. Possibly Volunteer Company 9-B in Kamuela-Kanehoa
- Continue to await the availability of a new Watercraft from local vendors. Timeline has been pushed back to possibly February 2022.

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

Emergency Medical Services Bureau:

- Fire Medical Specialist II Vern Hara has been promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief and is assigned to the FASO position. We are very proud of BC Hara and thank him for all that he has done for EMS while serving in the EMS Bureau.
- The EMS Bureau has conducted a Fire Medical Specialist III promotion assessment center. We had five (5) personnel apply for the position. FMS II Kilipaki Kanae ranked number one on the assessment and will be promoted to the FMS III position on December 1, 2021.
- We are happy to announce that our Fall 2021 paramedic class has successfully completed the Kapiolani Community College paramedic program. They are set to take their National Registry psychomotor testing on December 3, 2021. Six (6) of these individuals are currently in the FMS II orientation portion of their training and have all received their temporary state paramedic license.
- On November 8th, the DCCA began accepting recertification applications. We are working on the reimbursements for our personnel and assisting individuals that have been selected to be audited by the DCCA.
- With the successful execution of our latest budget modification, we have removed the NTE status for our third FMS III position in the EMS Bureau.
- The EMS Bureau has been assisting with the KCC EMT registration process for the 50th fire recruit class. We have also started collecting titers paperwork and filtering through vaccination records from the 51st fire recruit class.
- The EMS Bureau has been assisting with EMT clinical coordination with multiple different agencies. These agencies include a civilian KCC EMT class, HCC fire science national registry EMT class, and reciprocity civilian ride along requests.
- We have started working on our annual State of Hawai'i Ambulance License renewal process. The first step for this renewal process entails auditing all frontline vehicles and the aeromedical helicopter for chapter 72 compliance. .

Training Bureau:

- Hosted county auditors to discuss areas of concern and potential improvement. Working with lead auditor Tyler Benner to provide an accurate report to the County of Hawai'i. We have invited the auditors to return in December to complete this task.
- 50th Firefighter Recruits completed two service projects including Higashihara park restoration and COVID-19 PPE distribution with the Hawai'i Dental Association.



- 50th Firefighter Recruits completed Hazardous Materials Operations Pro-Board certifications, Fire Ground Survival, and Rapid Intervention Team (Down Firefighter Rescue) training.
- Collaborating with HFD Human Resources to hire the 51st Firefighter Recruit Class for increased staffing in Emergency Operations. This will improve our ability to provide emergency response to our community and comply with the recent Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant award (SAFER). BC Hara is assisting us in acquiring compliant structural firefighting personal protective equipment for this class.
- Completed off-road tender (formerly off-road tanker) task book to ensure safe, effective, consistent training and operations. This will be for Waimea, South Kohala, Waikoloa, North Kohala, and Pahala tender operators. Once approved by Administration, completion will be required for all off-road tender operators.
- Four (4) sets of hydraulic powered vehicle extrication tools have been donated by the Honolulu Fire Department. These units will serve as back up units for Emergency Operations and for recruit training.
- Genesis battery powered vehicle extrication tools remain on island and continue to be requested for trial by fire companies.



Volunteer Training:

- All Volunteer companies given a class on personal protective equipment care and maintenance followed by a wet drill.
- Volunteer mobile and portable radio update project has been completed.
- Submitted preliminary Volunteer Training Section budget for fiscal year 2022-2023.
- Finalized training schedule for 2022.
- Rough draft for new Volunteer Training Captain Guidebook and guidelines for new volunteer fire fighter response.
- On-boarded new Volunteer Training Captain Michael Jackson to replace outgoing Captain Brysen Heidenfeldt.
- Conducted area beautification and monument enhancement for the CPT Mann Memorial.

Fire Prevention Bureau:

- The Fire Prevention Bureau investigated four (4) structure fires.
 - a. Two (2) of the fires were in the Pahoia district with one of them identified as an incendiary cause and the other cause was undetermined.
 - b. One (1) fire was in the Honokaa district. The cause of the fire is currently undetermined.
 - c. One (1) fire was in the Kailua district, fireworks related, and determined to be accidental.

- The Fire Prevention Bureau conducted six (6) Public Education presentations and reviewed seventy-five (75) plans.
- Inspections are as follows:

Fireworks Site and Storage:	4
Certificate of Occupancy:	8
Commercial:	85
Re-inspections, Commercial:	52
Educational:	8
Re-inspections, Educational:	2
Fire Protection System Acceptance Testing:	48
Complaint Investigation:	10
DOH Ag Burn Site Inspection:	0
AST/UST/LPG Site Inspection:	18
Tent Site Inspection:	3

Total Inspections: 238

- Met with Department of Water Supply (DWS) Operations Chief Greg Goodale regarding DWS state of water supply and concerns. DWS will come up with a plan to change out several old fire hydrants on upper Walua road in Kona which has 2 ½" discharge openings to new fire hydrants with 4" discharge openings. This situation arose due to a large structure fire in September within District 12, which hampered fire suppression operations. Also looking at implementing an electronically based system to expedite the reporting process for faulty fire hydrants that are damaged and/or not operating after conducting fire hydrant detail.
- Fire Chief Kazuo Todd promoted Fire Captain Palani Kurashige to Battalion Chief of the Fire Prevention Bureau on November 1st.
- Fire Chief Kazuo Todd promoted Fire Inspector I Royd Henderson and Fire Inspector I Edward Kawasaki to Lieutenant Fire Inspector II positions on November 1st. Both will be responsible for prioritizing plan reviews. The County's new electronic plan review system continues to be a challenge, however, the County is actively working on addressing these challenges.

Fire Auxiliary Services:

- The personal protective equipment decontamination and refurbishing project has begun and there have been many positive reviews.
- Due to extreme shortages in the Fire Control Communication Center, we have altered their schedule in December to be comprised of two (2) personnel per shift.
- FEMA approved our request to amend our Assistance to Fire Firefighter Grant award. The grant has been amended to now include P-100 masks and filters for all career and volunteer personnel. The procurement process has been initiated.
- We are still looking into alternatives for a replacement program for TradeGekco, our current inventory system.

Maintenance Shop:

Apparatus and equipment repair

- Eighty-three (83) total repairs/service.
- Twenty-six (26) service calls or trouble calls.
- Twelve (12) contracted out and tows.
- Received three (3) used Ford trucks from Department of Public Works that will be used for Operations, Support Services, and Ocean Safety Divisions.

Capital Improvement Projects:

- Hawai'i County Emergency Communications Center
 - Ground Preparation has commenced on this project
- Waiakea Fire Station Electrical Upgrade
 - Engineering Partners Inc (EPI) is the engineering firm.
 - HELCO application for service upgrade submitted on June 28, 2021.
- Pāhala Fire Station
 - Engineering Partners is the architect/engineer.
 - Contract and funding approved. Awaiting schedule by consultant.
- Hawaiian Paradise Park Fire Station Dormitory Addition
 - Department of Public Works (DPW) is the lead. EPI is the supporting the engineering firm for mechanical and electrical.
 - In receipt of civil and plumbing proposal. According to the Purchasing Division, we have to go thru procurement again for the civil engineering portion.
- Central Fire Station Rehabilitation Project
 - Scott Fleming is the Architect.
 - The design contract has been approved and funding for the design phase has been allotted.
- Kailua Fire Station
 - Will be purchasing a new generator through emergency procurement.
 - Civil Defense will loan us a generator. DPW to install temporary transfer switch.
- Waikoloa Fire Station/ Civil Defense Antenna
 - DPW is the architect/engineer.
 - The design is complete. Drawings are in the pre-final stage and being reviewed by project coordinator.
- Kaumana Fire Station Plumbing Improvements
 - Inaba Engineering is the engineering firm
 - Design contract approved and we are waiting on the schedule for the design phase.
- Kaumana Fire Station Improvements
 - Scott Fleming is the Architect.
 - The contract has been awarded.
 - Awaiting funding.
- Waiakea Fire Station Improvement
 - Scott Fleming is the Architect.
 - The contract has been awarded and we are waiting for funding for the design phase.

LAND FOR A NEW STATION?

Central Fire Station has long been in need of serious maintenance and repair, but after much consideration the consensus has been to relocate the station out of the Tsunami Inundation Area, and rebuild to current standards. To this end we have been searching for a place to relocate to. Currently we are considering several plots of land, with the most likely to be a plot off of Mohouli, west of where our new combined 911 dispatch center is



being built. The parcel is owned by the State of Hawaii (DLNR) and initial discussions have been positive and we are looking to formally ask for three to five acres this month for the relocation of Central Fire Station. The Matsuura property above is also being considered, and the new road that will connect Mohouli to Ponohawai is in orange.

AUDIT UNDERWAY



Tyler Benner is the new Hawaii County Auditor. Recently he has been seen touring our Fire Stations as he and his team put together an independent audit of the Hawaii Fire Department. This audit was in part initiated by Chief Todd after meeting with Tyler as he went around introducing himself to the different county directors. The goal of the audit is to have an independent report that can be used to shed light on the financial state and various needs of the department. It is the

hope of Chief Todd that this report will assist us in setting a foundation of where we stand good and bad as we chart a direction forward.

End of Report