

COUNTY OF KAUA'I

Minutes of Meeting
OPEN SESSION

Board/Commission:	Kaua'i Fire Commission	Meeting Date:	January 16, 2024	
Location	Līhu'e Civic Center, Moikeha Building Meeting Room 2A/2B. 4444 Rice Street, Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766	Start of Meeting: 2:00 p.m.	End of Meeting: 2:43 p.m.	
Present	Chair Rodney Yama; Vice Chair Gary Pacheco; Commissioners: Jen Chahanovich, Trevor Ford, Alfredo Garces, Linda Kaaui-Iwamoto (entered meeting at 2:03 p.m.), Alfred Levinthol 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				
Absent				



SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Meeting Called to Order/Roll Call to ascertain quorum	Chair Yama called the Fire Commission January 16, 2024, 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 Yama called for a motion to approve the agenda as circulated.	Commissioner Chahanovich moved to approve the January 16, 2024, agenda. Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. Motion carried 6:0.
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	Commissioner Kaaui-Iwamoto joined the meeting at 2:03 p.m.
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.	

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Approval of Minutes	Chair Yama called for a motion to amend or approve the minutes of the December 19, 2023, meeting.	Commissioner Ford moved to approve the December 19, 2023; meeting minutes as circulated. Commissioner Kaauwai-Iwamoto seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved. 7:0.
First Responder Recognition	Chief Michael Gibson stated that this month there is no First Responders Recognition, but there are pending ones for the next 3 months.	
Chief's Monthly Bureau Reports and Updates for December 2023	<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 f) Ocean Safety Bureau Update, including monthly statistics and bureau highlights g) Update on Fire Chief Gibson's progress regarding the Goals and Objectives for FY 2023-2024 <p><u>Fire and Ocean Safety</u> Fire Chief Gibson stated the promotional eligibility listed for the rank of Captain has been finalized and certified. Due to a retirement, there is a Captain vacancy. Firefighter 3, Russell Nohili Vierra will be promoted to Captain, starting February 1, 2024. There are 2 vacancies for Firefighter 3, Chief anticipates by March 1, 2024, those positions will be filled. Chief stated that sometime in mid-March there will be a Promotional Ceremony for those being promoted. Firefighter trainee recruitment application period opens on January 29th-</p>	

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p>February 7th, with a written exam scheduled for the week of February 26th- March 1st, and agility testing the week of March 4th- 8th. Currently, there are 3 Firefighter vacancies that they need to fill. There are still 2 long-term injuries from last year. Working with HR on OSO 3 and OSO 4, Lieutenant and Captain written and promotional exams.</p> <p><u>Partnerships</u> Deputy Chief Mills is the point of contact for the new Air1 Helicopter hangar at the airport. He’s been working with the County Attorney’s Office and working on submitting the plans to the Planning Department. Kaiākea is an ongoing project to clear about 6-10 acres of land behind the fire station. The project will cost about \$110,000, Fire needs to fund 50% of that.</p> <p><u>Resource Updates</u> Air1’s engine and turbine overhaul is complete and KFD has received it back. Brush Truck for Station 6, ordered in December 2021, will be shipped out on the next barge.</p> <p><u>Wildfire</u> United States Fire Administration will be donating 20 particular fire sensors for KPD to put across Kaua’i. These will be put in the most hazardous areas, meaning areas that are one way in and one way out. KPD will be testing these sensors out for now.</p> <p><u>Council</u> KFD will be asking for this year is their support for a State Fire Marshall. Asking the state for an EMS-capable, fire-capable helicopter. For the last two years, in their budget, they have been asking for a twin-engine helicopter. They currently have a single-engine helicopter that can only carry a little over 600 pounds, which means less fuel, and less time in the air, rescue is a big issue because of the weight capacity of the helicopter. A twin-engine helicopter can carry everything at once, the people at once, the equipment needed for a rescue or a fire.</p>	

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p>Commissioner Kaauwai-Iwamoto inquired how many pounds a twin-engine helicopter can carry.</p> <p>Chief Gibson stated that it could carry 1,000 gallons of water, so he estimated that it could carry a total weight of 6,000 to 7,000 pounds.</p> <p><u>Administrative Bureau</u> The biggest workload for KFD has been the FY 2025 process. There is a 4% inflationary increase from last year. The total budget is 41 million of that just over 3 million is the operating. They were able to go up \$120,000 over last year. The life span of most of their equipment is ten years. 8 front line units, plus rescue, the department has 9 sets of everything. Chief stated that the department has to buy one of everything every year.</p> <p><u>Fire Prevention Bureau</u> 494 Firecracker Permits were sold for the New Year. Only 3 approved and permitted professional aerial fireworks shows this year, one in Po'ipū, one in Princeville, and a private one.</p> <p><u>Ocean Safety Bureau</u> Anahola Beach is eroding near where the tower is. KFD is working with Public Works to get that tower moved back. The disadvantage is it changes the line of sight for the lifeguards, due to trees blocking the views.</p>	<p>Commissioner Chahanovich moved to accept the Chief's Monthly report. Commissioner Levinthol seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, motion passes. 7:0.</p>

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
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 2:43 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Lisa Oyama, Commission Support Clerk

Reviewed and Approved by: _____
Rodney Yama, Chair

- (X) Approved as circulated (February 20, 2024 meeting).
- () Approved with amendments.