

COUNTY OF KAUA'I
Minutes of Meeting
OPEN SESSION

Board/Commission:	Kaua'i Fire Commission	Meeting Date:	May 21, 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: 3:33 p.m.
Present	Chair Rodney Yama; Vice Chair Gary Pacheco; Commissioners: Lori Almarza, Jen Chahanovich, Trevor Ford, Alfredo Garces Jr., Jeff Murray Also present: Boards & Commissions Office Staff: Support Clerk Lisa Oyama; Administrator Ellen Ching; Office of the County Attorney: Deputy County Attorney Laura Barzilai, 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 May 21, 2024, meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. A roll call ensued that quorum was established, seven (7) Commissioners were present to conduct business.	Quorum was established with seven (7) Commissioners present.
Approval of Agenda	Chair Yama called for a motion to approve the agenda as circulated.	Vice Chair Pacheco moved to approve the May 21, 2024, agenda. Commissioner Garces seconded the motion. Motion carried 7:0.
Chair's Announcements	Next Regular Monthly Meeting will be 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at the: Līhu'e Civic Center, Moikeha Building Meeting Room 2A-2B 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. Ms. Ching stated for the record that it would be necessary for Chair Yama to call for public testimony on each agenda item.	
Approval of Minutes	Chair Yama called for a motion to amend or approve the minutes of the April 16, 2024, meeting.	Commissioner Chahanovich moved to approve the April 16, 2024; meeting minutes as

KFC Open Session Minutes
of May 21, 2024, Meeting

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
		circulated. Commissioner Garces seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved. 7:0.
<p>Responder Recognition</p>	<p>Chief Gibson gave a short speech recognizing the First Responders for a Life-Saving Rescue on March 5, 2024.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Kapa'a Green</u> Fire Captain Blair Yamashita Fire Fighter III Christopher Simpson Fire Fighter I Christian Marston Fire Fighter I Matthew Mauricio</p> <p>Councilmember Felicia Cowden expressed her gratitude to those involved in the rescue.</p> <p>Fire Captain Blair Yamashita shared his appreciation of the Administrations, Fire Commission, Council, and the mayor for their continued support.</p>	
<p>Chief's Monthly Bureau Reports and Updates for April 2024</p>	<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 	

KFC Open Session Minutes
of May 21, 2024, Meeting

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p><u>Fire and Ocean Safety</u> Staff was on alert because of a Kona low, fortunately it didn't reach the warning level. Interviews were held for Firefighter Trainee Recruits and selections have been made to fill three positions. Recruit Class is scheduled to begin July 1st. KFD anticipates at least five personnel to retire by the end of 2024. 4/10 schedule went into effect on May 1st for Ocean Safety.</p> <p><u>Resource Updates</u> Kalāheo Fire Engine estimated delivery is sometime in July. KFD will notify the Commissioners of a blessing when the fire engine is delivered. No updates on Kaiākea and Hanapēpē fire engines. 3 Brush Trucks that were approved in FY 2024 budget are still in the bid process.</p> <p><u>Wildfire</u> May has been declared as Wildfire Awareness Month.</p> <p><u>Administrative Bureau</u> Firefighter vacancies, one firefighter on long-term leave due to a work injury, one firefighter on military leave, five on long-term leave for various situations, and quite a few on FMLA. Going back to the pandemic, HR is hearing a grievance from the Hawai'i State Firefighters, and seeking hazard pay.</p>	<p>Commissioner Murray moved to receive the Chief's Monthly Report. Commissioner Almarza seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, motion passes. 7:0.</p>
KFD Resources Presentation	Chief Gibson gave a PowerPoint presentation in an effort to show that KFD needs another fire station between Hanalei and Kaiākea.	
Goals 2024	Chief Gibson presented a draft of the goals and objections for 2024-2025.	Commissioner Garces made a motion to defer to next meeting on June 18, 2024. Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. Hearing no

KFC Open Session Minutes
of May 21, 2024, Meeting

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
		objections, motion passes. 7:0.
Executive Session	None.	
Adjournment	Chair Yama called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.	Commissioner Chahanovich moved to adjourn. Vice Chair Pacheco seconded. Hearing no objections, meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m. 7:0.

Submitted by: _____ *Lisa Oyama* _____
Lisa Oyama, Commission Support Clerk

Reviewed and Approved by: _____
Rodney Yama, Chair

(X) Approved as circulated (June 18, 2024, meeting).

() Approved with amendments.