

A GOAL WITHOUT A METHOD IS NONSENSE

W. Edward Deming



FIRE CHIEFS REPORT FY21-22: FEBRUARY

Hawai'i Fire Department

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TO THE FIRE COMMISSION

Department Profile Highlight

The Fire Department welcomes Chris Cerrone as the new Information Systems Analyst IV. This position has been sought after for several years and will have an immediate positive impact on operations and data collection. Chris is no stranger to the County IT field, as he comes to us from the County Department of Information Technology. His initial duties has him bringing the Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's) on line and ensure that they are properly communicating. These MDT's are located in all primary response apparatus and will greatly enhance the responder's capabilities in hazard identification, pre-fire planning, in-field reference library, accountability and Incident Command functions.



Audit Readiness

For the last several months, the County Audit Agency has been conducting an in-depth review of the Fire Department and reviewing its policies and procedures. It additionally reviewed how the budget was being managed, to include overtime expenditures. The initial findings report has been pulled together and is being finalized. The full report should be available for next month's meeting.



A Bittersweet Farewell

Saying goodbye is never an easy endeavor, especially when the one leaving has left such an indelible mark on the men and women of the Hawai'i Fire Department. Lizzy Stabo has been a symbol of courage and strength since her injury at the Honu Apo fire last September 3rd. Her heroism resulted in her being honored by the Sayre Foundation on 19 February. Her great strength and good nature have been a role model for all. Recovering from burns cannot be sufficiently explained. The harsh treatments and hellish pain can break even the strongest person. The mental and physical trauma takes a long time to cope with. Lizzy has been a rock through it all. She has kept the smile on her face and good attitude throughout. Not because there was no pain, but because she is tough, and

determined to not let this set her back. Lizzy is returning to the Mainland on the 25th of this month. To quote a wise poet, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." *Winnie-the-Pooh*

HIGHLIGHTS

The following are the highlights for the last 5-months. The complete list of responses will be provided in the Emergency Operations Division Update.

- The Budget reorganization was approved. This will be instrumental in better expenditure tracking and distribution of funds.
- The annual report was completed and submitted. This wrap up of the 2021 expectations has helped direct the Departments objectives for 2022.
- The Chief has conducted his 3 Station Visitation of all districts. The information collected will be utilized to resolve issues and help steer policy in a more efficient manner.
- Chopper 2 has been funded and is on the assembly line. We expect to take delivery this year.
- Land for the new Central Fire Station has been identified and is being allocated.
- The Hawaii Fire Chief's Conference will be hosted by the HFD in December 13-18, 2023.
- Chief Todd has been accepted into the FSEDI.



Community Outreach

- February 1st Attended the Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization meeting.
- February 3rd Attended the State Fire Council Meeting.
- February 7th Alan Ah Heong Retirement Ceremony
- February 8th Attended meeting with Representative Todd
- February 11th HCFA Budget Meeting
- February 14th Attended the County Emergency Communication Center meeting
- February 16th Attended a Step 1 Grievance meeting (COVID Compensation)
- February 16th Attended meeting with HFD (Wildland).
- February 18th Participated in the Friends of First Responders Breakfast
- February 22nd S. Hayashida Retirement.
- February 22nd Haweo Award WSO K. Ching
- February 25th Meeting with HGEA for Dispatchers



BUDGET

FY 2021-2022

FY 2021-2022 - County Budget:

Total spending through February 28, 2022 is at 72.55% with 66% of the fiscal year completed.

County funded budget

Salaries & Wages closed at 78.72% Fire.

OCE expenditures closed at 100.04% in Fire.

Mana Road expenditures continue to skew OCE expenditures. FEMA approved costs for the period August 1 - 3, 2021 for potential reimbursement. As of 1/31/2022, the County transferred out \$471,217 in dozer and helicopter expenses to the FEMA fund (this is an estimate of expected recovery funds). HFD submitted \$1,275,921.75 of costs to HIEMA for submission to FEMA for Mana Road. Costs are summarized as follows:

Labor* - Direct Administrative Costs \$ 1,506.61

Labor* - Fire suppression \$ 188,160.44

Labor - Volunteer firefighters \$ 32,320.02

Equipment usage \$ 121,165.90

Helicopter usage \$ 16,847.50

Materials \$ 7,077.10

Dozer and helicopter services \$ 908,844.18

**includes fringes*

Direct costs to contain the Mana Road Fire (entire period) amount to \$1,504,947.97.

Labor (2,959 hours) \$ 138,048.39

Dozer and helicopter services \$1,355,599.47

Fuels & Lubricants \$ 7,442.85

Meals \$ 3,857.26

State Funded Budget Items:

1st Quarter FY 2022 will be billed to the State in February. Current projections estimate the expenditures at 63.19%.

FY 2022-2023

The FY 2023 budget was submitted to Finance in January. The total budget is \$55,824,453, of which \$18,797,158 is grant funded. Our budget increased by \$3.3 million from last year. The changes include a realignment and renumbering of all expenditure accounts and realignment of the personnel home departments to better track and account for expenditures by program.

Alternative Funding and Grants

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant

Federal Grant for six (6) Captain positions and three (3) Fire Fighter positions. The grant award is \$3,511,641 for three years beginning February 1, 2022. No County match.

USDA, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, State & Private Forestry

Federal grant award of \$197,637 (with County match of \$197,637) for FY 2022. Funds will be used to purchase a brush truck, fire shelters, and supplies.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program FY 2020 (AFG-S) COVID-19 Supplemental

Federal grant award in the amount of \$379,910.66 for the period 8/6/2020 - 8/5/2022 (\$345,373.33 Federal funds, \$34,537.33 County match). We have spent 71.3% of the grant award and expect to expend all funds by the end of the current fiscal year.

Hāpuna Beach State Park

State grant award of \$895,505 for lifeguard services for FY 2022. Total Personnel Costs at 53.82% as of January.

Kua Bay, Kekaha Kai State Park

State grant award of \$480,000 for lifeguard services for FY 2022. Total Personnel Costs at 36.22% as of January.

FY 2021 Assistance to Firefighters: Grant application was submitted 12/17/21 to FEMA to purchase extractors for all fire stations.

CDBG-MIT: HFD has been allocated \$1.8 million and will be purchase 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.

HIEMA HMGP Funding: Request submitted to HIEMA for excess Federal funding to cover station hardening, generators, and a portable station. Ask is approximately \$4,420,000.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Internal Recruitment within Department

- Fire Rescue Specialist – Fourteen candidates participated in the PAE on February 23, 2022. Interviews were held on February 24, 2022.
- Fire/Emergency Medical Services Specialist II – Recruitment opened on February 6, 2022 and closed on February 15, 2022. Two candidates participated in the interview/assessment on February 28, 2022.

Internal Recruitment within the County

- Storekeeper – Recruitment opened on February 13, 2022 and closed on February 22, 2022. Pending referred names.

Open-Competitive Recruitment

- Fire Communications Officer I – Seven names were referred. Five candidates will be participating in the interview and practical assessment on March 2, 2022.
- Water Safety Officer I – Recruitment opened on January 16, 2022 and closed on January 25, 2022. Thirty-five names were referred to schedule the performance assessment exercise.
- Fire Fighter Recruit – Recruitment opened on January 30, 2022 and closed on February 8, 2022. The candidate's applications are being screened by the Department of Human Resources.
- Account Clerk – Recruitment opened on February 13, 2022 and closed on February 22, 2022. Pending referred names.

Classification

- Transfer of three Fire Fighter positions from Laupahoehoe Fire Station to Pahoia Fire Station effective February 16, 2022.
- One Fire Fighter position reallocated to Fire/Emergency Medical Services Specialist I effective March 1, 2022.

Labor Relations

- Verbal Reprimand – One verbal reprimand for noncompliance with COVID-19 testing requirements.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS DIVISION

Total Calls for CY 2021

Type	February	YTD
Fire	95	212
Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion- no fire	0	0
Rescue and EMS	1,616	3,397
Hazardous Cond. (no fire)	11	2
Service Call	144	336
Good Intent calls	324	701
Fire Alarm / False calls	23	59
Severe Weather	0	1
Special Incident Type	1	3
Other	7	7
Totals	2221	4718

Updates:

- PGV fund SCBA compressor procurement: the resolution to allocate the funds to HFD has been placed on the March County Council Agenda.
- SCBA compressor procurement. Delivery scheduled for March 2. This unit will be assigned to West Hawaii.
- CDBG-MIT grant funding update: Status Quo building out specifications for the apparatus and equipment that will be procured.
- In discussions with County R&D grant specialist for an additional FEMA grant funding opportunity through HIEMA to support HFD needs.
 - a) Submitted projects for Power Redundancy and hardening for our stations, and temporary modular building units that can be stood up in the event of a catastrophic incident where a temporary structure is needed. (\$3 million)
- Apparatus updates
 - a) New Brush Truck (Waikii Ranch) is scheduled for registration and radio install on the week of March 23-25. Then will be placed in service.
 - b) Working on specifications for a new Brush Truck for Volunteer Company 20A though
- Honuapo Brush Fire scene update: The fence line has been completed by DPW and new drone survey by UHH came back with no current heat signatures. The area has been re-opened to the general public and incident has been closed.
- In discussions with DHHL regarding South Point Wildfire mitigation efforts. Looking to identify the feasibility of installing fire breaks and water supply sources in the area.
- We were contacted by the Mauna Kea Beach/Hapuna Resorts with a potential offer to donate equipment for Ocean Safety. Currently in discussions on items and connecting with the Sayre Foundation for donation routing.
- Assisting with the revisions of all Operations Positions duties and Responsibilities in the Rules and Regs manual



Battalion 1, East Hawai'i

- February 5, 2022, Inc#002839, **Rescue-Search & Recovery**: Nanue Bridge Highway 19/District 17, MVA, one (1) fatality.
- February 6, 2022, Inc#002923, **Ocean Rescue**: Highway 137, Kalapana, Swimmer in distress, 1 rescued.
- February 11, 2022, Inc #03123, **Rescue-Medical**: Narnia/District 4, Fall from waterfall w/ arm injury, Chopper 1 extrication to Medic 1 for transport, 1 injury, no fatalities.
- February 12, 2022, Inc #03378, **Fire**: Maui St/District 5, Structure Fire, no injuries or fatalities.
- February 13, 2022, Inc #3529, **Fire**: Rd 5 Eden Roc/District 5, Structure Fire, no injuries or fatalities.
- February 14, 2022, Inc #03549, **Fire**: 15th Ave/District 18, Structure Fire, no injuries or fatalities.
- February 15, 2022, Inc #003711, **Ocean Search & Rescue**, Beach Rd, Hawaiian Paradise Park, Swimmer in distress, no injuries or fatalities.
- February 16, 2022, Inc #03755, Search & Rescue, Narnia/District 4, CODE 500, no injuries or fatalities.
- February 19, 2022, Inc #04024, **Fire**: E Rd & 5th Rd, Hawaiian Acres/District 5, Structure Fire, no injuries or fatalities.
- February 23, 2022, Inc #04279, **Fire**: Kaku Street/District 10, Structure Fire, no injuries or fatalities.
- February 24, 2022, Inc #004401, **Cliff Rescue**: Kamalii Gulch, Ookala, Tree trimmer stuck on cliffside, 1 rescued.
- February 24, 2022, INC #4414, **Fire**: Government Rd, Papaikou, Structure Fire, no injuries or fatalities.



Battalion 2 West Hawai'i

- February 8, 2022, Inc#3065, **Brush Fire**, Akoni Pule hwy., fronting Kohala Ranch District 14. Approx. 4 acres contained and extinguished in a few hours.
- February 8, 2022 Inc#3100; **Brush Fire**: Pottery Terrace District 7, Multi-Day incident. Approx 50 acres burned with evacuations on the initial day. All roads were reopened and evacuations lifted by 1800hrs that evening. No injuries to the public, but 2 Fire personnel received injuries.
- February 22, 2022 Inc # 4238; **Fire**: Four Seasons Resort, Maintenance shed structure fire. Units responded for possible structure fire. Hualalai Volunteers at Four Seasons able to knock down initial fire, additional companies there for containment and overhaul. No deaths or injuries.
- February 25, 2022 INC #4473; **Brush Fire**: Hwy 11 - 98MM Units responded for approximate 2 acre brush fire in district 6. Highway shut down for approximately 1 hour for extinguishment and mop up operations. No deaths or injuries.



- February 27, 2022 Inc #4628; **Rescue:** Kohala Mtn. Rd, Koai'a Tree Sanctuary - Lost Hiker. Units responded for 29 y.o. female lost hiker. C2 able to locate party through GPS and cell contact. C1 able to long line, Billy Pugh net, and extricate party to safety. No injuries or EMS needed.

Special Operations:

Hazmat

- Planning for annual 93rd CST drill exercises with Hazmat companies. Scheduled for April 2022
- Two personnel, attended a CBRNE Hazard Protection and Mitigation Training exercise on Maui with the 93rd WMD CST on February 16-18. The feedback was positive, and it was beneficial to see how other counties Hazmat teams operate.

Ocean Safety

- Starting discussions for Jr. Lifeguard program for 2022.
- Held a meeting with P&R for Waiakea Rec office space use by S. Hilo WSO's. Beneficial to have a more centralized location for guards to muster and pick up equipment.
- Continuing to Plan for RWC Operator Training for Water Safety Officers. We are currently working on program development. **Status Quo**

Rescue

- Rescue Boat 2 (Force) engine replacement. Currently working on the Bid Specifications for procurement.
- RB7-7 repairs: Status Quo, Vendor still have not received the new fuel tanks.
- RB7 (Radon) O/C due to oil leak, parts are on back order.
- Fire Rescue Specialist Assessment: Was completed on February 23-24. Looking to do promotions by April 1.

Sayre Foundation

- Funding of additional Apparatus.
 - New Engine at South Kohala. Awaiting build.
 - Volunteer Fire Company (9A) BT. Registration scheduled for March 23, then radio install, and place in service.
 - Replacement for C-2: being built
- New Rescue Watercrafts and Rescue Sleds have been purchased. Awaiting delivery timeline for RWC. **Status Quo**
- The Sayre Foundation reached out to Ocean Safety to solicit additional needs. A list of items were sent for consideration.
- Private donors made specific donations to Honokaa fire stations, and S. Kohala, Waikoloa, Makalei, Kailua and Keauhou fire stations for appreciation.
 - Working with the stations on needs.

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

Emergency Medical Services Branch:

- The 50th fire recruit class is currently in their 4th week of EMT training.
- Paramedic students have entered the internship portion of training. This phase of training is four months long.
- Our first base station meeting for 2022 was held on February 24th at Hilo Medical Center. Educational topics focused on stroke, heart attack, and trauma cases. We also included a Q&A session with our HEPA physicians and an EMS Branch update.
- We are currently working on the renewal process for our mandatory National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians certified personnel.
- A Fire Medical Specialist II assessment center was held on February 28th.
- Preventive maintenance for our Lifepak 15 heart monitors and LUCAS compression devices is currently ongoing and is projected to be completed by mid-March.
- The EMS Branch participated in the first annual Fentanyl Summit in Kona on Tuesday February 22nd. This summit was hosted by the West Hawai'i Community Health Center.
- An educational ESO patient charting presentation was conducted for the current EMT class by the EMS Branch personnel.
- All personnel in the 50th recruit class have completed Mental Health First Aid training.
- In the month of February, 150 students at Konawaena High School participated in our Hands Only CPR and AED program.
- EMS Branch personnel participated on a panel for a broadcast discussion for the nonprofit "Friends of First Responders". This discussion was brought forward to raise awareness in the community for the work that the peer support team does.

Training Branch:

- The 51st Recruit Class has completed their initial Pro-Board Fire Fighter I classroom and skills training with support from State ARFF and Pōhakuloa Fire and Emergency Services. Recruits were instructed in the basics of personal protective equipment, throwing ground ladders, forcible entry, structural search, rescue, and live fire training.
- The 50th Recruit Class successfully completed Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting training and certification. The class has started the didactic portion of Emergency Medical Technician training with Kapi'olani Community College.
- Conducted a second on-boarding training for an additional 14 Driver Auditors tasked with providing education, skill development, and compliance with competencies and skills for the Driver Improvement Program. The class also reviewed the Driver Improvement Manual for final feedback prior to dissemination to all members. We now have a team of thirty personnel to conduct annual audits. Final comments on the Driver Improvement Manual were received, analyzed, and integrated. The manual serves as a reference for all personnel, and includes information on training, certification, safe driving practices, vehicle inspection, and maintenance. Four new safe driving polices have been implemented and assigned for personnel to review.

- Personnel were assigned Driver Improvement Program training modules to improve responder and public safety during traffic incidents. Over the next two annual training cycles, personnel will complete 10 virtual courses which will result in a Traffic Incident Management certificate on completion.
- Approximately 20 additional volunteer members are scheduled to attend National Wildfire Coordinating Group Basic Firefighter training hosted by Pōhakuloa Fire and Emergency Services. This training will help to ensure the safety and uniformity of wildland firefighting operations for our volunteers. The goal is to eventually train and certify all career and volunteer operations personnel.
- Initiated a trial of Fire Dex Tec-Gen structural PPE. Due to global raw material shortages and supply chain issues, this manufacturer is one of few which are able to fulfill orders within reasonable time frames. We will be assessing and evaluating for fit, performance, durability, heat dissipation, and other qualities

Volunteer Training Section:

- Company 1A, Pepe'ekeo responded to a structure fire in Papa'ikou in the early morning hours of February 25th. They provided much needed support to Company 1 with fire suppression and overhaul operations.
- Added 5 new volunteers to the East side and 3 to the West side of the island. Several additional members are in different stages of the volunteer training process.
- Obtained vehicle from the Highways Division of DPW for use as potential Volunteer Brush Truck. The truck is a Ford F-350 and will be outfitted with a slip in pump. Once completed it will be assigned to an east side company.
- Preparing for an upcoming volunteer training opportunity for NWCG wildland classes at PTA. Approximately 20 volunteers completed the online training (L180, S130, & S190) required to attend the classroom portion and will achieve their Basic Wildland Fire Fighting Certificate after completing the "in person" training next month.
- Company 7B and 9B assisted with the Pottery Terrace Brush Fire. Both companies performed fire suppression/extinguishment, exposure protection, and mop up operations.
- Volunteers island-wide continue to receive "UXO" - unexploded ordnance safety education from Na Ali'i and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Fire Prevention Branch:

- The Fire Prevention Branch investigated four structure fires during the month in fire districts 1, 7, 5, and 14. All fires have an undetermined cause.
- The Fire Prevention Branch conducted nine public education presentations and reviewed 42 plans in West Hawai'i and 41 plans in East Hawai'i for a total of 83 plans reviewed. The plan reviewers have been doing a good job in reviewing plans within 7-10 days, upon receipt.
- Fire Prevention Branch personnel conducted 239 inspections to include commercial inspections, commercial re-inspections, carbon monoxide, educational, education re-inspections, fire protection system acceptance, site inspections, fireworks shows, tent, and tank inspections.

- Fire Prevention Branch also investigated 12 complaints and completed 28 Request-For-Information and/or comments on properties requested by third parties.
- The Fire Prevention Branch has been assisting the Fire Auxiliary Services Branch with requests for fire investigation records/reports. Seventeen fire investigation records were researched and sent to the requesting party.
- The final draft for the 2018 Hawai'i County Fire Code Amendments Chapter 26 were sent to the Legislative Research Board to prepare for submittal to Hawai'i County Council for review and adoption.
- Currently working on reviewing the proposed NFPA 1 (2021 edition) Hawai'i State Fire Code Amendments.
- Battalion Chief Palani Kurashige, Captains Clinton Baybayan and Kyle Vares, and Lieutenants Royd Henderson and Ed Kawasaki completed the mandatory Performance Appraisal Report (PAR) training. This training assists supervisors in documenting the performance of employees during a probationary or annual period.
- Fireworks permits that were sold in Hawaii County for 2021 are:

Consumer Permits	2318
Display Permits	13
Cultural Permits	4

Logistics, Emergency Communication, and Vehicle

Maintenance Sections:

- Reallocation of Fire radio dispatcher to Fire communication officer is complete and start date is set for March 1st.
- The assessment for the hiring of Fire Communication Officer I is set for March 2nd.
- The Fire Control Communications Center was heavily impacted by COVID 19 again. Three dispatchers were affected along with several other sick leaves. This made for a very challenging month.
- The Vehicle Maintenance Section is operating shorthanded due to an injury.
- The in-house Information Systems Analyst IV started on February 1st. He has started working on the mobile data terminal roll-out project and has been assisting AC2 with getting our FireRMS data transferred over to a new, more reliable server and is taking the initial steps involved with upgrading our FireRMS version. If all goes well, the new version will be rolled out to all stations in March or April.
- Due to supply chain issues, The Logistics Section is slowly receiving orders, but we are still back logged.
- The storekeeper position recruitment closed, and we are hopeful to hire a storekeeper in March.
- Apparatus and equipment repair:
 - Fifty-seven (57) total repairs/service.
 - Ten (10) service calls or trouble calls.
 - Two (2) contracted out and tows.

End of Report