

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

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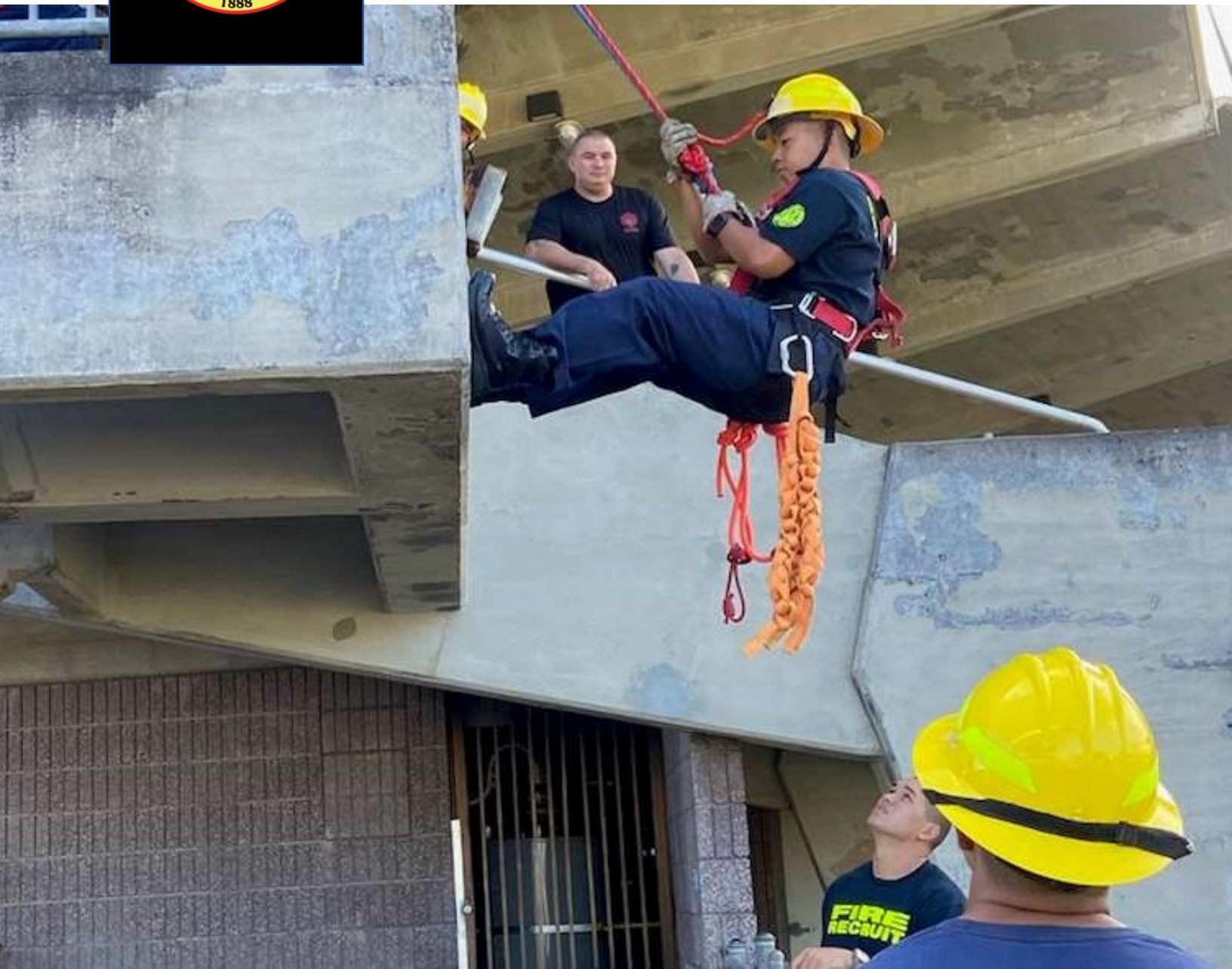


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IN MEMORIAM

Volunteer Captain Steven Grasso, 1966-2023



November 14, 2023, marked a day of profound sorrow for all who knew and cherished Steve, a remarkable individual who dedicated his life to serving his community as a volunteer firefighter since 2007. Steve's passing leaves an irreplaceable void in our hearts, but his legacy as a selfless and heroic firefighter will forever burn brightly in our memories.

Steve was more than just a firefighter; he was a pillar of strength and unwavering dedication in times of crisis. Throughout his 16 years of service, he exemplified the true essence of bravery and selflessness, facing danger with a resolute spirit that inspired everyone around him. His commitment to the safety and well-being of others was unwavering, and he was always willing to put himself in harm's way to protect his community. His calming influence and good-humored nature were the cornerstones of his personality.

Beyond his remarkable service as a firefighter, Steve was known for his kindness, compassion, and the warmth of his friendship. He had an infectious smile that could light up a room and a heart that radiated love and generosity. Steve had a unique ability to make people feel safe, cared for, and valued, whether he was in his firefighter gear or simply sharing a cup of coffee with a friend.

Steve's impact extended far beyond the boundaries of his firefighting duties. He was a loving husband, father, and friend who touched the lives of many. His legacy will continue to inspire future generations of firefighters and community servants to embrace the values of courage, dedication, and service.

As we mourn the loss of Steve, let us also celebrate the incredible life he led and the countless lives he saved and touched. We honor his memory by continuing the work he started, by being there for one another, and by carrying forward the spirit of selflessness and heroism that defined his life.

A celebration of Steve's life will be held January 13, 2024 at Waikii Ranch.

ADMIN DIV: FISCAL BRANCH REPORT

Program Budget Goals	MONTH	YTD	GOAL
Invoice Settlement within 30 days	93.1	90.99	90%
Pay-out of CILV's within 90 days	100.0	87.5%	95%
Records Retention Schedule	0	0%	Mid-Year
Transition to Electronic Records	25.0	25%	25% Qtr
Option Years for Contracts	100.0	100%	45-Days

Budget	Category	Adj Appropriation	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Goal
Fire	S&W	36,921,218.00	13,517,461.98	36.61	37.50
6221-6225	OCE	5,960,567.32	2,510,882.41	42.12	33.33
	Equipment	1,909,736.89	455,280.71	23.84	50.00
Grants & Misc	S&W	1,385,051.00	345,087.89	24.92	37.5
6226	OCE	286,225.00	57,355.26	20.04	33.33
	Equipment	637,669.04	454,320.94	71.25	50.00
EMS	S&W	14,799,686.00	4,823,725.32	32.59	37.50
6227	OCE	2,610,639.77	776,694.61	29.75	33.33
	Equipment	1,510,417.50	113,439.18	7.51	50.00
Ocean Safety	S&W	4,791,124.00	1,431,896.22	29.89	37.50
6228	OCE	306,302.83	197,054.33	64.33	33.33
	Equipment	248,789.31	69,125.31	27.78	50.00
Total Budget		71,367,426.66	24,752,324.16	34.68	

Grant	Update
2023 CDBG	The bid for two brush trucks will open on December 4, 2023, and will close on January 4, 2024. The brush trucks will be purchased for the Ka'ū and Puna volunteer fire stations.
CDBG- MIT Wildfire Mitigation	This grant will be used to purchase a brush truck for Ka'ū , Kea'au, and Laupahoehoe fire stations.
FY 2021 AFG	We received our order of 17 extractors and 21 dryers. Installation pending. The grant is 71% expended as of 11/30/23.
FY 22 USDA Volunteer Fire Capacity Project	The bid for one brush truck for volunteer station 20A awarded, pending delivery.
FY 23 USDA Volunteer Fire Capacity Project	This grant will fund three brush trucks for our volunteer fire stations. The requisition was sent to Purchasing.
Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV) funds	The Bauer mobile breathing apparatus unit was received.
Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)	This grant funds three Fire Captain and six Fire Fighter positions. As of 11/30/2023, we have expended 71.18% of the grant funds with 14 months remaining.

ADMIN DIV: HR BRANCH REPORT

PROGRAM BUDGET GOALS	NOVEMBER	YTD	GOAL
Process actions within 15 working days	24	119	100%
Recruitment Actions >30days	4	11	90%
Promotion Actions >30days	7	16	90%
Personnel Actions within 30 days, <10% error	18	128	10%

Internal Recruitment within Department

Position	Status Report
Battalion Chief	Interview/Assessment Center scheduled on December 19, 2023 for three candidates.
Fire Captain	FEO Christopher Gomes promotion effective November 16, 2023.
Fire/EMS Specialist II	Fire/EMS Specialist I Branden Calicdan, Fire/EMS Specialist I David De Carvalho, Fire/EMS Specialist I Levi Key, Fire/EMS Specialist I Tyson Pili, and Fire/EMS Specialist I Sheldon Uyetake promotion effective November 16, 2023.
Fire Equipment Operator	Fire Rescue Specialist Scott Shiroma promotion effective November 16, 2023.
Fire Rescue Specialist	17 candidates were referred. MQ review completed. Pending Interview/Practical Assessment.
Fire Training Specialist	2 candidates were referred. MQ review completed. Pending Interview/Assessment Center.
Chief Mechanic	Recruitment opened on November 12, 2023 and closed on November 21, 2023. One candidate was referred. MQ review deadline is December 8, 2023.

Open-Competitive Recruitment

Position	Status Report
Fire Communications Officer I	30 candidates participated in the Realistic Job Preview held on November 15, 2023. Interviews/Assessment Center is scheduled during the week of December 11-15, 2023.
Fire Equipment Mechanic	Recruitment opened on November 19, 2023 and is on continuous recruitment. Pending Interview/Assessment Center.
Program Support Technician	Recruitment opened on November 26, 2023 and will close on December 5, 2023.
Fire Fighter Recruit (Temp)	PAE scheduled on December 10, 2023.
Fire/EMS Recruit (Temp)	PAE scheduled on December 10, 2023.
Water Safety Officer I	Pending assignment to positions. PAE needs to be scheduled for one candidate.
Clerk III (Auxiliary Service Branch)	Interview scheduled for one candidate on December 8, 2023.
Clerk III (Ocean Safety Branch)	Interview scheduled for one candidate on December 1, 2023.

OPERATIONS

Emergency Operations

Total Calls for Calendar Year 2023	Nov.	%	YTD	%
Fire	97	4%	1020	4%
Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion- no fire	0	0%	3	0%
Rescue and EMS	1,858	71%	20,470	72%
Hazardous Cond. (no fire)	23	1%	248	1%
Service Call	144	6%	1,809	6%
Good Intent calls	412	16%	4,339	15%
False Alarm / False calls	39	1%	333	1%
Severe Weather	2	0%	11	0%
Special Incident Type	0	0%	16	0%
Other (not completed yet)	0	0%	0	0%
Totals	2,575	100%	28,249	100%

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Est. 2023
Total Calls	25,331	26,869	25,015	27,398	29,594	30,737

Response Times CY 2023

Statistic	Nov.	% that meet...	YTD	% that meet...
Avg. Turn out time (Fire)	2:44	(80 sec.) 12.90%	2:34	(80 sec.) 15.05%
Avg. Turn out time (EMS)	2:28	(60 sec.) 18.43%	2:15	(60 sec.) 17.31%
Statistic	Nov.	% that meet 4 min.	YTD	% that meet 4 min
Avg. Response Time (Fire)	2:37	16.49%	2:31	13.25%
Avg. Response Time (EMS)	2:07	22.58%	2:14	20.81%

Fire Impacts CY 2023

Call Type	Nov.	YTD
Wildland calls (140, 141, 142, 143)	21	199
Acres burned	0	3,422
Structure Fires (110 & 111)	5	79
Property and Contents - Loss	\$289,500.00	\$6,370,030.00
Property and Contents - Save	\$00.00	\$1,685,515.00
Other fires (all other 100 series)	71	742
Property and Contents - Loss	\$44,000.00	\$193,300.00
Property and Contents - Save	\$5,000.00	\$18,000.00

Emergency Operations Highlights

Battalion 1, East Hawai‘i

- 11/9, Inc#26516; Rescue: Ka‘awalii Gulch, O‘okala/District 17, uninjured lost hunters, located next day and extricated, without treatment or transport.
- 11/17, Inc#27176; Rescue: South Point/District 11, uninjured lost hiker, located and taken to her vehicle, without treatment or transport.

Battalion 2, West Hawai‘i

- 11/9, Inc# 26529; Brush Fire: PTA fire, assisted with water supply.
- 11/20 Inc# 27428; Rescue: Missing Person Old A’s. 65 female went missing, 3 day search on land and water with assistance from CG. Personal items found along the beach and in the water. Search suspended after 3 full days on 11/23 with negative findings.
- 11/29 Inc# 28154, Structure Fire: District 6, units responded to a residential, remodel construction, home. Fire and damage was limited to outside garage, storage area, and 20% of home. One party went POV to KCH for burn injuries.

Special Events

- Various companies have participated or have plans to participate in Christmas Parades
- Units participated in Kona ARFF triennial Exercise on 11/13 & 17

Special Operations

Haz-Mat

- Nothing significant to report for Hazmat

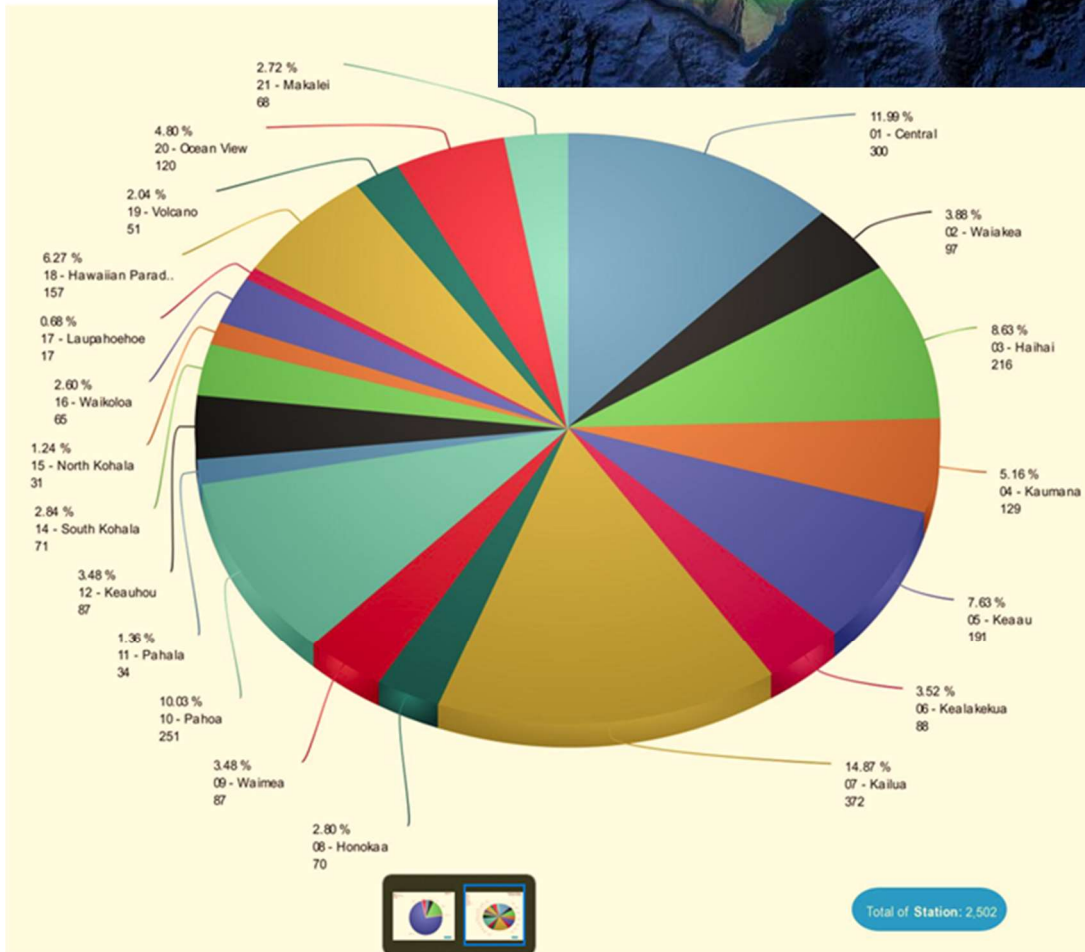
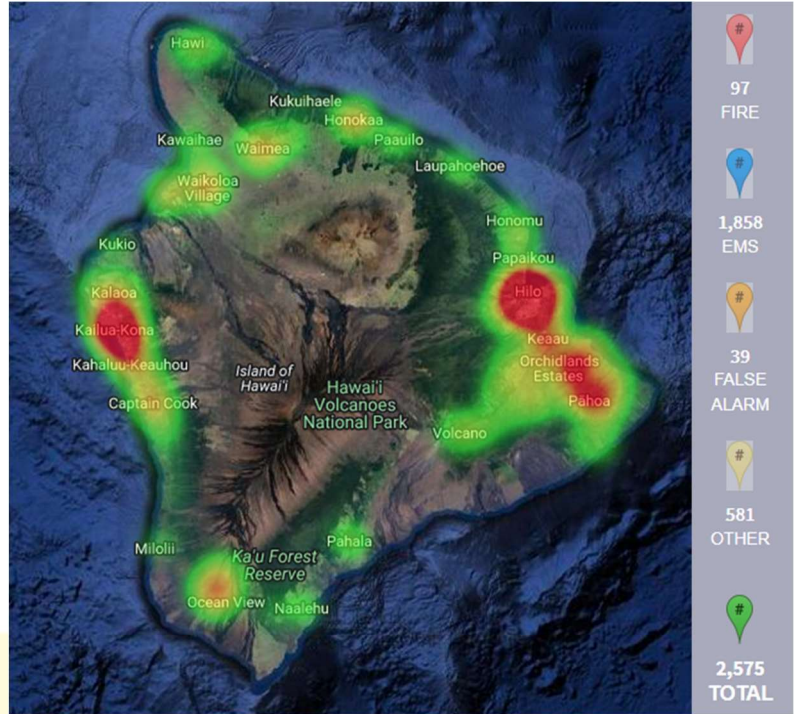
Ocean Safety

- WSO III and V positions continued to be worked with DHR and HGEA.
- Working to complete a make up PAE and interview for 1 WSO I candidate, then hiring process will commence.
- Planning for next WSO I recruitment cycle for Summer hires and additional vacancies.

Rescue

- Rescue companies conducted familiarizing training with new Chopper 2
- Annual off duty Swiftwater training also brought back and have been starting up again
- Continue to proceed with Radon and back up Force repairs/procurement

Incident heat map and YTD stats for November 2023



SUPPORT SERVICES

Emergency Medical Services Branch

MICT Class Update

The Fall 2023 MICT class has completed MICT 171 and students have begun MICT 181.

Active Shooter Training

Active shooter training was held on November 7th – 9th at the Hawaii Community College Campus. This multi-agency training involved the Hawaii County Police Department and the Hawaii County Fire Department. A total of 50 personnel participated in this training.



Recertification

Process

The state licensing and NREMT recertification process has commenced.

Statewide Collaboration

EMS Branch personnel are currently assisting the State Department of Health with development of a template for EMS agencies statewide to submit requested data at the quarterly EMSAC meetings. This statewide collaboration from all of our EMS providers will lead to a stronger EMS system for all four counties.

Product Presentation

EMS Branch personnel attended a product update presentation at the Physio Control headquarters in Redmond, Washington. The focus of this visit was to evaluate new products that will be on the market in the near future. Our current EKG lease plan ends at the end of December 2024.



Annual Ambulance Inspections

The EMS Branch has been assisting the State Department of Health with their annual ambulance inspections. This essential process should be completed by the first week of December. Thank you to everyone who has been involved with these inspections.

Wellness Event Participation

The EMS Branch participated at a wellness event at the West Hawaii Community Center in Kona. At this event, personnel assisted with blood pressure screenings and diabetes awareness.

EMS Advisory Committee Meeting

EMS Branch personnel attended the quarterly Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday, November 20th. We would like to congratulate Captain Michael Lam for being officially appointed as an EMSAC board member.

Procurement Training

EMS Branch personnel participated in procurement training hosted by our County of Hawaii Finance Department and Corporation Counsel personnel.

Training Services Branch

Recruit Class 52 Updates

Hawai'i Fire Department Recruit Class 52 completed Rope Rescue Week led by FEO Paul Kekela and supported by numerous rescue company personnel from Stations 2 and 7. The class learned about ropes, knots, harnesses, anchor systems, rappelling, and raising/lowering victims.



Recruits completed three days of Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) active shooter training alongside current HPD recruits. Instruction was provided by the HPD training staff and our EMS Branch. The training was held at Hawaii Community College, which assisted their security forces in preparing their respective campus emergency response plans.

The International Association of Firefighters provided one week of instruction and Pro-Board certification in Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations for the current recruit class.

Recruit class 52 completed "Swim Week" led by FEO Paul Kekela and FRS Daniel Okumura. The class finished this grueling week of water rescue training with their HFD Aquatics Competency Certification at the Operations level.

Recruits assisted the Surfer's Healing Foundation event at Wai'uli Beach Park in collaboration with Recreation Technician Kalani Kahalioumi of Parks and Recreation. This heart-warming

event provides youth with various challenges the opportunity to catch waves with professional surfers. A video link of the event is provided below.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CODs3qiuk3f/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>

Annual Driver Audits

Many personnel are completing their Annual Driver Audits as part of maintaining their Driver's Certificate of Competency to operate department vehicles.

2023 HFCA Conference

BC Springer attended the Hawaii Fire Chief's Conference with BC Hara, BC Provencal, and Chief Todd. Lectures and workshops attended included sessions on fire suppression flow testing, standpipe operations, fire service leadership, the mission mindset, mentorship, officer development, wildland fire mitigation, and battery emergencies. Vendor displays included various tools, equipment, protective equipment, suppression agents, and cutting-edge technological emergency management innovations.

Repair Technician Certification

Twelve personnel were certified as MSA G1 SCBA repair technicians through a two-day course held at Makalei Fire Station. This will allow HFD to stay up to date with breathing apparatus testing and maintenance.

HIOSH

Training fulfilled one HIOSH request for training, health, and safety records.

Volunteer Training Section

Mahalo to First Responders Participation

Volunteer Companies 7B-Kalaoa, 8A- Pa'auilo, 9A-Waiki'i, 9B-Kanehoa, 14A-Kohala, and 16B-Pu'uanaulu attended the Mahalo to First Responders event put on by the Waimea Community Association.

5-B (Hawaiian Acres)

Longtime volunteer captain Sheldon Lehman retired, and volunteer Abraham Antonio Senior was elected to be the new captain by his peers

7-B (Kalaoa)

Conducted three wet drills focusing on pumping operations and hose evolutions. They also performed station maintenance and maintenance on their apparatus'. Co. 7B participated in both day and night training with Kona ARFF (Aircraft Rescue and Fire-fighting) in their Triex exercise. Co. 7B also responded to a rubbish fire and smoke visible call out.

9-A (Waiki'i)

Volunteer Captain Steve Grasso unexpectedly passed away while at home on November 13. Captain Grasso is remembered as a selfless, courageous, and dedicated individual. Captain Grasso's role along with the Sayre Foundation was instrumental in the acquiring of the 2 new fire apparatus' Co. 9A inherited in 2022 (Brush truck 9A) and 2023 (Tanker 9A). His loss is truly felt by the community and the department.

9-B (Kanehoa)

Conducted three drills in November, focusing on wildland firefighting operations.

10-D (Ainaloa)

10-D has been focusing on directly interacting with their community by supporting the Ainaloa Community Association with additional personnel to assist with the processing, & issuing of 300 newly installed mail boxes. During this time 10-Delta has had the opportunity to field

questions & educate the public, in addition to receiving several applications from interested people. 10-Delta has currently helped 86 neighbors into the much-needed postal boxes & will continue to assist the association whenever possible.

16-B (Pu’uanahulu)

Conducted 10 hours of training on four Saturdays and performed eight hours of equipment maintenance and driver training.

Fire Prevention Branch

Highlights

Investigations

The Fire Prevention Branch investigated two structure fires during November. The fires were located in districts 6 and 20. The fire in District 6 was determined to be Accidental while the structure fires in District 20 was deemed Undetermined.

Complaints

Ten complaints are being investigated on the east side and ten complaints are being investigated on the west side. Majority of these complaints are due to overgrown or unsafe flora on residential property or on large landowner property.

Community Outreach

The hfd_bigisland Instagram account has posted Safety Tips for Turkey frying, Holiday Shopping Safety and Security Tips, Kona Low Weather System information, and the Medical Health Information Form that was initiated by Fire Inspectors Tyson Goo and John Reuelman and completed with the help of the EMS Branch and FEO/MICT Jeremy Tekurio as the spokesperson on IG.

Fire Prevention Inspections

Inspection Type	November	FYTD
Fireworks Site and Storage	1	13
Certificate of Occupancy	8	25
Commercial	31	168
Re-Inspections Commercial	11	96
Educational	7	22
Re-Inspections Educational	0	2
Fire Protection System Acceptance Testing	19	89
Complaint Investigation	20	114
DOH Ag Burn Site Inspection	0	0
AST/UST/LPG Site Inspection	18	24
Tent Site Inspection	2	10
Occupancy Load Enforcement	1	1
Total	118	564

Logistics, Emergency Communications, and Vehicle Maintenance Section

Emergency Communications

Fire Communications Control Center Updates

The four FCO I continue to make progress with FCO mentors, they are currently working live call taking and dispatching.

Purchasing Updates

Bids have gone out for various projects, extrication tools, ice machine, and replacement beds.

Clerk III Vacancy

We are actively working to fill the clerk position in auxiliary services.

Final Inspections

Extractors and dryers for the stations have come in. AC2 is actively working to get some installation issues resolved.

Vehicle Maintenance Shop

Apparatus and Equipment Repair Updates:

Type	November
Repairs/Service Completed	91
Service/Trouble Calls	17
Contracted Out and Tows	10

Information Technology Highlights

- EPR FireWorks transition meetings.
- Setup and break down for EPR in person training at Department of Information Technology Kinoole St. location.
- EPR FireWorks in person training.
- Fiberoptic network connection for Kaumana Fire Station completed.
- Joint Communication Center meeting.
- County GIS planning meeting.

END REPORT