

# FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

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## HAWAI'I WILDFIRE SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

Hawai'i, known for its breathtaking landscapes and idyllic scenery, is not immune to the threat of wildfires. To address this growing concern and foster a proactive approach to wildfire management, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) organized the Hawaii Wildfire Safety Symposium, held at the West Hawaii Civic Center, December 6-8, 2023.

The symposium and training focused on knowledge sharing and collaboration among diverse groups, including firefighters, land managers, conservationists, government agencies, and residents. It provided a forum for these stakeholders to exchange insights, best practices, and lessons learned from past wildfire incidents. This collaborative approach helps create a comprehensive strategy for wildfire prevention, response, and recovery.



Beyond sharing practical knowledge and strategies, the NFPA Hawaii Wildfire Symposium plays a crucial role in raising awareness about the wildfire risk in Hawaii. By engaging communities and promoting resilience, the symposium empowers individuals to take proactive steps in safeguarding their homes and the environment they cherish.

# ADMIN DIV: FISCAL BRANCH REPORT

Program Budget Goals	December	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	50.0	50%	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	19,613,703.11	53.12	54.17
6221-6225	OCE	5,966,067.32	3,381,735.83	56.68	50.00
	Equipment	1,909,736.89	650,302.28	34.05	50.00
Grants & Misc	S&W	1,408,679.03	498,443.34	35.38	54.17
6226	OCE	365,325.24	57623.63	15.77	50.00
	Equipment	766,035.63	425,602.42	55.56	50.00
EMS	S&W	14,799,686.00	6,985,953.26	47.20	54.17
6227	OCE	3,084,647.77	1,118,063.35	36.25	50.00
	Equipment	1,510,417.50	1,397,433.61	92.52	50.00
Ocean Safety	S&W	4,829,638.07	2,071,117.70	42.88	54.17
6228	OCE	307,762.83	206,347.58	67.05	50.00
	Equipment	840,857.16	69,125.31	8.22	50.00
Total Budget		72,710,071.44	36,475,451.42	50.17	

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 12/31/23.
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. This will be rebid.
Kohanaiki Lifeguard Tower (Fair Share funds)	The bid for a lifeguard tower at Kohanaiki was awarded to Newport Laminates, Inc. Pending delivery.
Leleiwi Lifeguard Tower (Fair Share Funds)	Ordinance 23-86 was adopted on November 17, 2023. We can now purchase the tower for Leleiwi Beach Park.
Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)	This grant funds three Fire Captain and six Fire Fighter positions. As of 12/31/2023, we have expended 74.59% of the grant funds with 13 months remaining.

# ADMIN DIV: HR BRANCH REPORT

Program Budget Goals	DECEMBER	YTD	GOAL
Process actions within 15 working days	37	156	100%
Recruitment Actions >30 days	2	13	90%
Promotion Actions >30 days	0	16	90%
Personnel Actions within 30 days, <10% error	22	150	10%

## Internal Recruitment within Department

Position	Status Report
<b>Battalion Chief</b>	Interview/Assessment Center was held on December 19, 2023 for three candidates.
<b>Fire/EMS Specialist I</b>	Fire Fighter Caleb Manuel reallocation effective December 1, 2023.
<b>Fire Rescue Specialist</b>	Pending Interview/Practical Assessment.
<b>Fire Training Specialist</b>	Pending Interview/Assessment Center.
<b>Chief Mechanic</b>	DHR referred two names. Interviews are scheduled on January 5, 2024 for two candidates.
<b>Water Safety Officer II</b>	Water Safety Officer I Kalani Awo reallocation effective December 16, 2023.

## Open-Competitive Recruitment

Position	Status Report
<b>Fire Communications Officer I</b>	Interview/Assessment Center was held December 11-15, 2023 for 19 candidates. Pending conditional offers.
<b>Fire Equipment Mechanic</b>	DHR referred seven names. On continuous recruitment. Pending Interview/Assessment Center.
<b>Program Support Technician (EMS Service Branch)</b>	DHR referred eight names. Interviews were held on December 27, 2023 for six candidates. Hired Camie Takamune effective January 16, 2024.
<b>Program Support Technician (Auxiliary Service Branch)</b>	Recruitment opened on December 15, 2023 and is on continuous recruitment. DHR referred eight names. Interviews scheduled on January 4, 2024 for six candidates.
<b>Fire Fighter Recruit (Temp)</b>	FFR Application for Employment due December 29, 2023.
<b>Fire/EMS Recruit (Temp)</b>	Fire/EMS Recruit Application for Employment due December 29, 2023.
<b>Water Safety Officer I</b>	Pending assignment to positions. PAE cancelled for one candidate who withdrew from recruitment.
<b>Clerk III (Auxiliary Service Branch)</b>	Interview held on December 8, 2023 for one candidate and was not selected. Requested additional names. DHR referred two names. Interviews were held on December 29, 2023 for two candidates and they were not selected.
<b>Clerk III (Auxiliary Service Branch)</b>	Interview held on December 1, 2023 for one candidate. Pending reference checks.

## Classification

- One Water Safety Officer I position reinstated to Water Safety Officer II effective December 16, 2023.
- Three Water Safety Officer II positions temporarily reallocated to Water Safety Officer I effective December 16, 2023.

# OPERATIONS

## Emergency Operations

Total Calls for Calendar Year 2023	Dec.	%	YTD	%
Fire	65	3%	1085	4%
Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion- no fire	1	0%	4	0%
Rescue and EMS	1,804	72%	22,274	72%
Hazardous Cond. (no fire)	19	1%	267	1%
Service Call	142	6%	1,951	6%
Good Intent calls	385	15%	4,724	15%
False Alarm / False calls	41	2%	374	1%
Severe Weather	1	0%	12	0%
Special Incident Type	7	0%	23	0%
Other (not completed yet)	24	1%	24	0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,489</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>30,738</b>	<b>100%</b>

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Calls	25,331	26,869	25,015	27,398	29,594	30,738

### Response Times CY 2023

Statistic	Dec.	% that meet....	YTD	% that meet...
Avg. Turn out time (Fire)	3:01	(80 sec.) 12.73%	3:27	(80 sec.) 28.57%
Avg. Turn out time (EMS)	2:19	(60 sec.) 14.40%	2:13	(60 sec.) 15.38%
Statistic	Dec.	% that meet 6 min.	YTD	% that meet 6 min
Avg. Response Time (Fire)	2:36	21.54%	2:31	13.75%
Avg. Response Time (EMS)	2:05	19.37%	2:13	20.70%

### Fire Impacts CY 2023

Call Type	December	YTD
<b>Wildland calls</b> (140, 141, 142, 143)	6	205
Acres burned	51	3,473
<b>Structure Fires</b> (110 & 111)	2	81
Property and Contents - Loss	\$500.00	\$6,370,530.00
Property and Contents - Save	\$00.00	\$1,685,515.00
<b>Other fires</b> (all other 100 series)	57	799
Property and Contents - Loss	\$92,103.00	\$285,403.00
Property and Contents - Save	\$1.00	\$18,001.00

# Emergency Operations Highlights

## Battalion 1, East Hawai‘i

- 12/14, Inc#29364, **Fire:** Kama‘aina Motors Hilo, Hilo/District 2, multiple vehicles on lot on fire, no injuries reported.
- 12/21, Inc#29945, **Rescue:** Kahaulea Rd/District 19, uninjured lost hiker, guided by siren and horns to safety, no treatment or transport.
- 12/23, Inc#30118, **Fire:** Shipman St/District 1, Dumpster fire in alley, no spread to exposures, no injuries reported.

## Battalion 2, West Hawai‘i

- 12/10, Inc. #29075; **Brush Fire:** Kawaihae Rd near 66MM. Upon arrival found numerous spot fires along the roadway, suspicious in nature. 50 acres
- 12/14 Inc. #29421; **Rescue:** Missing Paddler – Honokohau. Male paddler failed to return with 4 other paddlers. HFD and USCG response. Male party found swimming 2½ miles out by Good Samaritan boat 3 hrs later. Transported to KNER.
- 12/27 INC# 30492; **Vessel run aground:** 35ft Sailboat beached at Fairmont Orchid. No souls on board, DLNR advised, private company towed boat off reef and vessel sunk in deeper waters.

## Special Events

- 12/11, BC Barco attended the Kohala Coast Resort Association meeting, where they donated \$400k to the Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation.

## Special Operations

### Haz-Mat

- Worked on identifying and acquiring PPE for Confined Space rescue operations
- Researching potential CAMEO training for Hazmat personnel

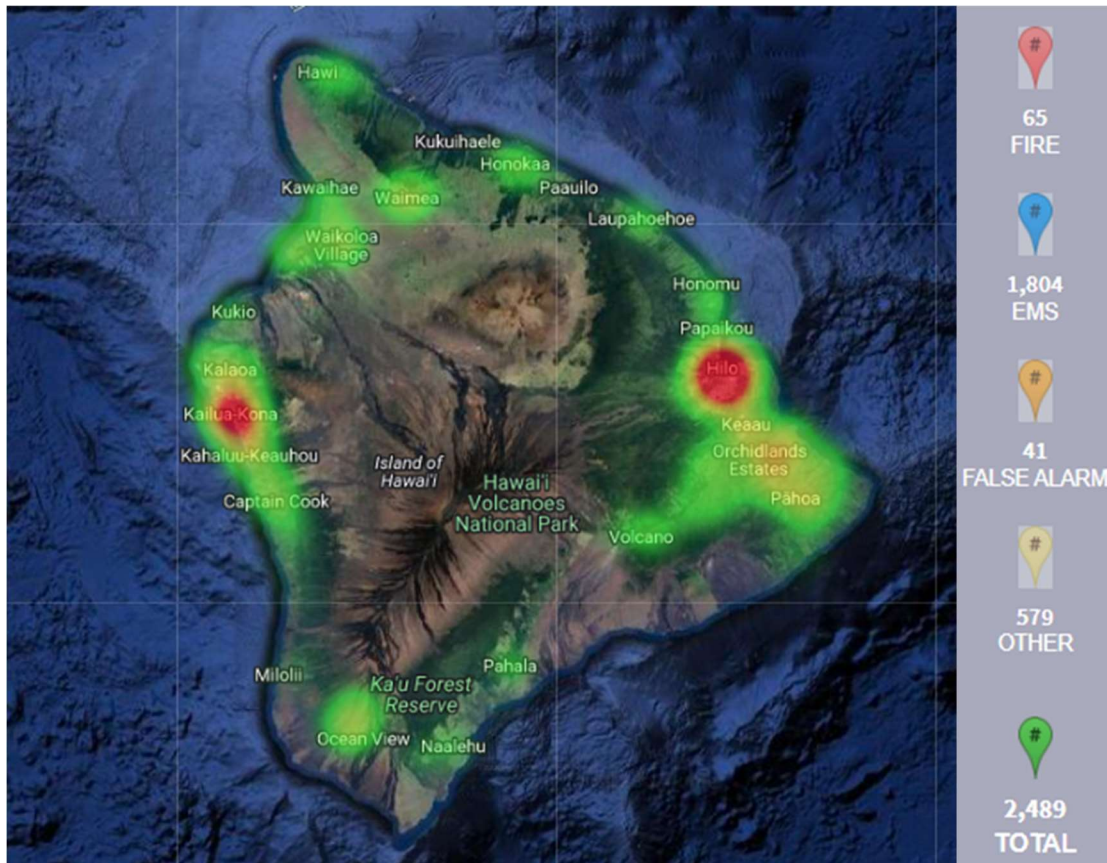
### Ocean Safety

- Remaining WSO I candidate declined offer for PAR, moving forward with new hire offers.
- Received donation of Vertra sunscreen for all Ocean Safety personnel.

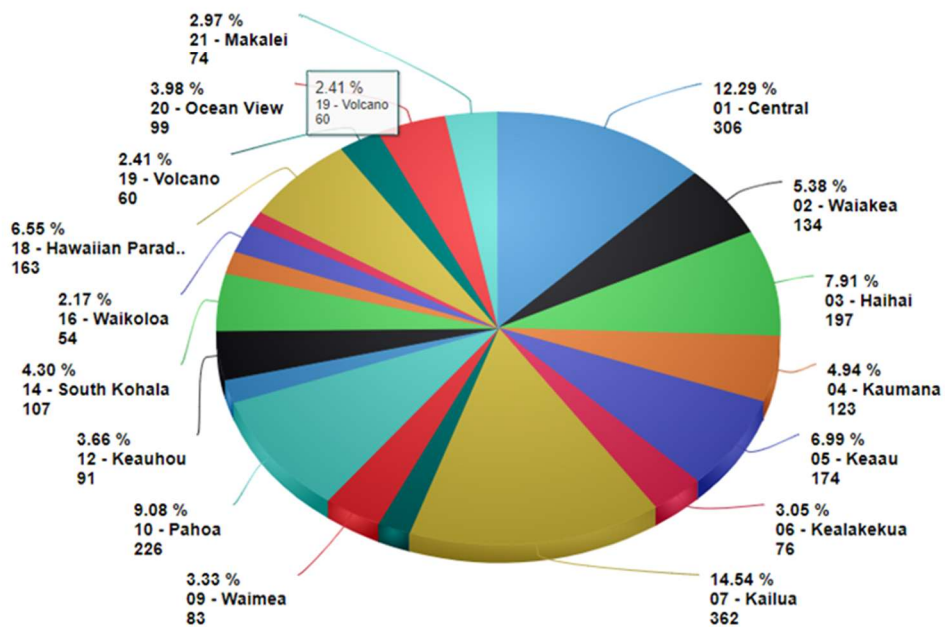
### Rescue

- REV-1 submitted for radon fuel tank replacement
- Scheduled engine removal with Boat House Hawaii for RB2-2 Force January 24
- FRS PAE and Interviews scheduled for January 18, 23, and 24.

## Incident heat map and YTD stats for December 2023



Incidents by Stations  
12/01/2023-12/31/2023



Total of Station: 2,489

# SUPPORT SERVICES

## Emergency Medical Services Branch

The EMS Branch would like to thank everyone for their service and dedication to the community. As we welcome the new year, we would like to express gratitude for your hard work and commitment to saving lives. Your bravery and selflessness are truly inspiring. We hope this new year brings you joy, peace, and prosperity. Stay safe and take care.

### Personnel Update

We would like to congratulate Tom Clark on his retirement from the EMS Warehouse! Tom will be missed by our HFD Ohana and the community he served. We hope he enjoys his well-deserved retirement and has many happy years ahead of him.

### Warehouse Operations

We would like to send out a big MAHALO to those who have been assisting with the EMS Warehouse operations. We would also like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during this time of transition.

### MICT Class Update

The 2023 Fall MICT class has completed their MICT 190/191 portion of training. They will begin their clinical and internship phase of training in January 2024.

### EMT Prep Class

Through collaborative efforts of the Training and EMS Branches, a one-week comprehensive EMT preparation class was held for the 52<sup>nd</sup> fire recruit class. This training prepared the recruits with a sound foundation for success in their upcoming EMT training that begins in January.

### NREMT Testing

The EMS Branch has been in multiple meetings with providers across the state, as well as Kapiolani Community College in regards to the upcoming changes with the NREMT psychomotor testing.

### EMS Standby

EMS Branch personnel assisted with an EMS standby at the West Hawaii Civic Center's Magic of the Season event held on December 15, 2023.

### Sapphire Medication Pumps

We have updated all of our Sapphire medication pumps with the current pharmaceutical dosages and concentrations to align with the state's operational protocols. We would like to thank Captain K. Kanae and FMS II C. Kawazoe for their hard work with this process.

### Pulsara Pilot Project

Our Pulsara pilot project with Queen's North Hawai'i Community Hospital catchment medics continue. Pulsara is a telehealth communication platform that connects our EMS teams with our base station hospitals. We are actively involved with weekly workflow meetings with the Queen's Medical Center. We are also currently working on expanding this project to include Hilo Medical Center in the near future. In the month of December, we had a total of 4 Pulsara stroke activations via EMS. We have had overwhelmingly positive feedback from both EMS personnel and the Queen's Medical Center's Neurologists. [Pulsara for EMS](#)

### Firefighter Recruit PAE

The EMS Branch assisted with the firefighter recruit agility testing on Sunday, December 10, 2023.

## Recruitment

On Wednesday, December 27, 2023 the EMS Branch held an interview for 7 candidates to fill our warehouse Program Support Technician position.

## Training Services Branch

### Recruit Class 52 Updates

Hawai'i Fire Department Recruit Class 52 reached several milestones in their training this month as follows.



Completed Rapid Intervention Training (RIT) under the instruction of FEO Jeremy Tekurio with assistance from Operations personnel, Pohakuloa Fire and Emergency Services, and State ARFF. All recruits were successfully trained in the rescue of a downed firefighter through challenging scenarios and evolutions.

Recruits completed their initial forty-hour Driver Training classroom and closed course training in order to acquire their Driver Training Permit. A special thank you goes out to Captain Kyle Toma for his assistance with instruction of the class.

All recruits passed their final Pro-Board examination and are certified to the level of Firefighter II.



# Volunteer Training Section

## Driver Training Course

Six volunteers from various companies island wide attended the 40-hour driver training course with the current HFD recruit class.

## Quarterly Captains' Meeting

The quarterly Captain's meeting was held on December 2nd at the Kona Palisades Community Pavilion. Many new volunteers took an oath of enlistment, some volunteers were promoted, and there were a few service retirements. Many issues were discussed and the next Captain's meeting will be hosted by Company 10D – Ainaloa in March.

## 1-A (Pepeekeo)

Pepeekeo Volunteer Company had a busy month filled with public relations opportunities and represented the Volunteers and the County in the annual Christmas parade, "Heroes and Helpers" at Target, and the "Walk Through Christmas Town" at the Civic Auditorium grounds.



## 5-C (Fern Forest)

Actively engaged in 40 calls over 2023, up from 25 the previous year. They continue to provide crucial response coverage in the Eden Roc/Fern Forest subdivisions.

## **7-B (Kalaoa)**

Conducted four trainings which consisted of wildland fire training, fire shelter training, pump operations, and reviewed various topics from IFSTA Essentials 7th edition. They also participated in the Kona Christmas Parade and responded to one call out for a rubbish fire.

## **9-A (Waiki'i)**

Responded to one call out for a brushfire on Highway 19 at the 66-mile marker.

## **9-B (Kanehoa)**

Kanehoa participated in the Waimea Christmas Parade, conducted three trainings on hose lays, turret operations, and drafting operations, and responded to the brushfire on Highway 19 at the 66-mile marker.

## **10-D (Ainaloa)**

10-D did station cleaning and went through years of accumulated equipment and files.

## **11-A (Naalehu), 11-C (Discovery Harbor), 11-D Pahala**

Participated in the Pahala Christmas Parade.



*Volunteer personnel pose with Mayor Mitch Roth and wife Noriko at the Pahala Christmas Parade*

## **14-A (Kohala)**

Had 2 call outs, one rubbish fire in Kohala Ranch and they also responded to the brushfire on Highway 19 at the 66-mile marker.

## **19-A (Volcano)**

Volunteers contributed 23-man hours this month with response to two fire calls.

# **Fire Prevention Branch**

## **Highlights**

### **Investigations**

The Fire Prevention Branch investigated two structure fires during December. The fires were located in Districts 2 and 5. Both fires were deemed undetermined.

## Magic of the Season

Fire Prevention personnel participated in the Magic of the Season event on the east and west side. It was a great week filled with decorations, food, activities for the keikis and awesome holiday spirit! As always, Captain Henderson and the east side team did an outstanding job with the construction of the activity board, tree, and activities. Gina Fuhrer and BC Kurashige handled the events at the West Hawaii Civic Center with a good community turnout.



## Community Outreach and Education

The “hfd\_bigisland” Instagram account has posted a message from Mayor Roth and Division Heads regarding Safety Tips, Lithium-Ion Batteries, Fireworks Permits information and Fireworks Safety Tips.

## New Year’s Eve Firework Shows

Six fireworks shows were permitted on New Year’s Eve at Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, Mauna Lani Hotel, Hilton Waikoloa, Kona Village, Four Seasons Hualalai, and Kohanaiki. All were safe and successful to ring in the New Year!

There were 13 fireworks related calls on the December 31, 2023 shift. No reports of anyone sustaining injury from fireworks that needed transportation to a hospital by our medics.

## Fire Prevention Inspections

Inspection Type	December	FYTD
Fireworks Site and Storage	8	13
Certificate of Occupancy	3	25
Commercial	9	168
Re-Inspections Commercial	0	96
Educational	2	22
Re-Inspections Educational	2	2
Fire Protection System Acceptance Testing	7	89
Complaint Investigation	12	114
DOH Ag Burn Site Inspection	0	0
AST/UST/LPG Site Inspection	2	24
Tent Site Inspection	5	10
Occupancy Load Enforcement	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>615</b>

## 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	December
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.



*Chief Todd and Chief Moller pose with volunteer personnel at the Heroes and Helpers event held at the Hilo Target store December 9, 2023.*

## END REPORT