

# FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

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# MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

## HFCA Meeting

The Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association (HFCA) recently convened to address various critical issues in the state's fire service, with Chief Samala leading discussions on the 2024 Training and Business Conference. Attention was given to updating the Hawaii Incident Management Assistance System (IMAS) Plan and migrating HFCA documents to the

Honolulu Fire Department for efficiency. Legislative initiatives were reviewed, and support votes were conducted. Discussions also focused on allocating funds for mental health services in the Maui Fire Department and selecting reviewers for Assistance to Firefighters Grant applications. Overall, the meeting showcased HFCA's dedication to advancing firefighter welfare and initiatives in Hawaii's fire service landscape continues to evolve, the HFCA remains steadfast in its mission to ensure the safety and well-being of communities throughout Hawaii.



HAWAII FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

"SERVING FIRE LEADERS"

## Quarterly Chiefs'/Leadership Meeting

During the Quarterly Chiefs'/Leadership Meeting held on February 9, 2024, at the Office of Aging in Hilo, HI, Chief Todd discussed the implementation of Single Threaded Cadres with a focused leadership and reporting structure, alongside the introduction of a new metrics system

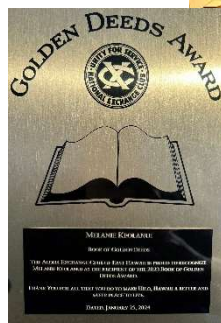


for enhanced department accountability and efficiency that is to be built into program budget and monthly reporting. The

session also covered the development of an updated mission, vision, and leadership principles, marked by the unveiling of a new poster, and the transition to a unified internal website. Chief Brown highlighted issues regarding dispatch staffing and concerns from line personnel. Additionally, there were discussions by Chief Springer on the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) grants, and Chief Barco brought up policy and procedures for extended leave and sick leave management. Also discussed were issues of vehicles aging, mechanical issues, and the department's general fleet replacement plan.

## Book of Golden Deeds Award

The Aloha Exchange Club of East Hawaii recognized Fire Captain Melanie Keolanui as the recipient of the 2023 Book of Golden Deeds Award. This prestigious award is given to those who lend their time and talents to make their communities a better place to live. Capt. Keolanui was recognized for her achievements as a member of HFD, as well as for her involvement as a volunteer in the community. Congratulations, Capt. Keolanui!



# ADMIN DIV: FISCAL BRANCH REPORT

Program Budget Goals	February	YTD	GOAL
Invoice Settlement within 30 days	91%	91%	90%
Pay-out of CILV's within 90 days	60%	78%	95%
Records Retention Schedule	0	0%	Mid-Year
Transition to Electronic Records	75.0	75%	75% Qtr
Option Years for Contracts	100.0	100%	45-Days

Budget	Category	Adj Appropriation	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Goal
Fire	S&W	36,958,536	25,964,625.05	70.25	70.83
6221-6225	OCE	5,750,476.32	4,287,516.28	74.56	66.67
	Equipment	2,156,787.89	1,324,684.70	61.42	66.67
Grants & Misc	S&W	1,408,679.03	653,972.29	46.42	70.83
6226	OCE	365,325.24	57,874.43	15.84	66.67
	Equipment	766,035.63	425,602.42	55.56	66.67
EMS	S&W	14,799,686.00	9,802,904.98	66.24	70.83
6227	OCE	2,886,647.77	1,565,699.9	54.24	66.67
	Equipment	1,708,417.50	1,423,839.46	83.34	66.67
Ocean Safety	S&W	5,273,052.07	2,715,263.68	51.49	70.83
6228	OCE	307,762.83	221,464.84	71.96	66.67
	Equipment	397,443.16	69,125.31	17.39	66.67
Total Budget		72,778,849.44	48,512,573.34	66.66	

Grant	Update
2023 CDBG	We received an additional award of two brush trucks, for a total of four brush trucks. Purchasing reposted the bid and it will close on March 28, 2024. Three brush trucks are for Puna volunteer fire stations, and one is for the Ka'ū volunteer fire station.
CDBG- MIT Wildfire Mitigation	This grant will be used to purchase a brush truck for Ka'ū , Kea'au, and Laupahoehoe fire stations, a mobile command vehicle, and a fuel service/maintenance support trailer. The Planning Department is tasked with acquiring this equipment.
FY 2021 AFG	We received our order of 17 extractors and 21 dryers. Installation pending. The grant is 71% expended as of 2/29/24.
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. Purchasing reposted the bid and it will close on April 1, 2024.
Kohanaiki Lifeguard Tower (Fair Share funds)	The bid for a lifeguard tower at Kohanaiki was awarded to Newport Laminates, Inc. Delivery expected at the end of the year.
Leleiwi Lifeguard Tower (Fair Share Funds)	Ordinance 23-86 was adopted on November 17,2023. Pending set up of GL ledger fund by Finance Dept.
Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)	This grant funds three Fire Captain and six Fire Fighter positions. As of 2/29/2024, we have expended 81.45% of the grant funds with 11 months remaining.

# ADMIN DIV: HR BRANCH REPORT

Program Budget Goals	February	YTD	GOAL
Process actions within 15 working days	73	253	100%
Recruitment Actions >30 days	3	20	90%
Promotion Actions >30 days	4	21	90%
Personnel Actions within 30 days, <10% error	50	220	10%

## Internal Recruitment within Department

Position	Status Report
<b>Battalion Chief (Emergency Operations)</b>	Fire Captain Daniel Volpe promotion effective February 1, 2024.
<b>Battalion Chief (Emergency Communications)</b>	Recruitment opened on February 4, 2024 and closed on February 13, 2024. DHR referred two names. Pending scheduling of interviews.
<b>Fire Captain</b>	Fire Equipment Operator Sean I. Tamura promotion effective February 1, 2024.
<b>Fire Prevention Inspector II</b>	Fire Prevention Inspector I Tyson Goo reallocation effective February 1, 2024.
<b>Fire Equipment Operator</b>	Written exam was held on February 26, 2024 in Hilo and Kona for 40 candidates. Pending referred names.
<b>Fire Rescue Specialist</b>	Assessment Center scores were distributed.
<b>Fire/Hazardous Materials Specialist</b>	Recruitment opened on February 11, 2024 and closed on February 20, 2024. DHR referred 16 names. MQ review to be completed prior to scheduling written exam.
<b>Accountant I</b>	Professional Trainee I Nicole Konanui reallocation effective February 1, 2024.
<b>Water Safety Officer III</b>	Recruitment opened on January 28, 2024 and closed on February 6, 2024. DHR referred 12 names. Pending scheduling of interviews.

## Open-Competitive Recruitment

Position	Status Report
<b>Fire Communications Officer I</b>	Five candidates completed pre-entry medical examinations and received formal offers. Targeted hire date is March 18, 2024.
<b>Fire Equipment Mechanic</b>	Interviews held on February 14-16, 2024 for seven candidates for two positions. Conditional offer provided to one candidate. Pending results of medical screening process. The second candidate declined a job offer. Second interview scheduled for March 1, 2024 for three candidates for second position.
<b>Water Safety Officer I</b>	Three candidates completed pre-entry medical examinations and received formal offers. Hired Kainoa Bahasa, Maxwell Ostrowski, and Kua Yarush-Salinas effective March 1, 2024.
<b>Fire Fighter Recruit (Temp)</b>	Accuplacer exam was held on February 21, 26, & 28, 2024 for 35 recruits. Pending scheduling of interviews.
<b>Fire/EMS Recruit (Temp)</b>	Pending scheduling of interviews.
<b>Clerk III (Auxiliary Service Branch)</b>	Interviewed one candidate on February 7, 2024 and received a formal offer. Hired Maria Angela Kreit-Henson effective March 4, 2024.
<b>Clerk III (Ocean Safety Branch)</b>	Interviewed one candidate on February 16, 2024 and received a formal offer. Hired Lei Anna Nakashima effective March 1, 2024.

# OPERATIONS

## Emergency Operations

Total Calls for Calendar Year 2024	Feb.	%	YTD	%
Fire	65	3%	179	3%
Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion- no fire	3	0%	3	0%
Rescue and EMS	1783	74%	3777	73%
Hazardous Cond. (no fire)	16	1%	43	1%
Service Call	137	6%	317	6%
Good Intent calls	353	15%	754	15%
False Alarm / False calls	29	1%	77	1%
Severe Weather	1	0%	1	0%
Special Incident Type	3	0%	8	0%
Other (not completed yet)	11	0%	14	0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2401</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5170</b>	<b>100%</b>

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (est.)
Total Calls	26,869	25,015	27,398	29,594	30,738	31,020

### Response Times CY 2024

Statistic	Feb.	% that meet...	YTD	% that meet...
Avg. Turn out time (Fire)	2:46	(80 sec.) 15.63%	2:47	(80 sec.) 13.37%
Avg. Turn out time (EMS)	2:09	(60 sec.) 15.89%	2:13	(60 sec.) 16.90%
Statistic	Feb.	% that meet 6 min.	YTD	% that meet 6 min
Avg. Response Time (Fire)	2:46	11.58%	2:44	12.29%
Avg. Response Time (EMS)	2:12	19.10%	2:14	18.81%

### Fire Impacts CY 2024

Call Type	February	YTD
<b>Wildland calls</b> (140, 141, 142, 143)	6	34
Acres burned	23	26
<b>Structure Fires</b> (110 & 111)	4	11
Property and Contents - Loss	\$620,000.00	\$1,153,000.00
Property and Contents - Save	\$1,441,900.00	\$1,649,600.00
<b>Other fires</b> (all other 100 series)	55	134
Property and Contents - Loss	\$35,900.00	\$1,628,600.00
Property and Contents - Save	\$29,600.00	\$30,100.00

# Emergency Operations Highlights

## Battalion 1, East Hawai‘i

- 2/14, Inc #03872, Hazmat: Hilo Downtown Post Office/District 1, Call for hazardous condition. Hazmat Company made entry and discovered chlorine tablets exposed to water. Substance secured, building ventilated and turned over to occupants. No injuries reported.
- 2/17, Inc #04208, Rescue: Paradise Dr & Beach Rd/District 18, Person fell off cliff into water. Upon arrival of HFD personnel, female party was spotted to track her. Male party on scene threw a raft which female party climbed into, however current then took her out of sight prior to arrival of rescue boat. Boat searched area with no findings. At daylight chopper launched and about 4 miles down coastline from original location was able to locate female party who was deceased. 1 fatality. No other injuries.
- 2/24, Inc #04759, Rescue: South Point/District 11, Vehicle off cliff with one occupant. Rescue Co. 2 rappelled down to extricate patient. Patient transported to Kona ER via Chopper 2. 1 injury. No fatalities.
- 2/26, Inc #04901, MVC/Fire: Hwy 19 near Honomu/District 1, 2 vehicle accident. 1 person pinned and burned in vehicle prior to arrival of HFD units. 2 other persons injured and transported to Hilo ER. 1 fatality, 2 injuries.

## Battalion 2, West Hawai‘i

- 2/4, Inc# 240003058; Structure Fire: Aalu Pl. Dist 16, 50% involved. Possible candle ignition. No residents injured, one family pet lost.
- 2/19, Inc# 240004354; Structure Fire: Malina St. Dist 16, 50% involved. Possible Lithium Ion ignition. No residents injured, one family pet saved.
- 2/25, Inc# 24004804; Brush Fire: Akoni Pule Hwy at Lapakahi State Park. 20 acres involved, 3-day incident.

## Special Operations

### Haz-Mat

- Specifications for replacement Hazmat 4 were submitted to Finance for procurement
- Hazmat X-vehicle replacement ongoing, specifications submitted to purchasing for procurement.
- Five Hazmat Specialists attended CAMEO training on Oahu

### Ocean Safety

- 3 WSO I candidates were hired on March 1.
- 2024 WSO I recruitment ongoing with PAE scheduled for March 21.
- OluKai footwear donations distributed to all Ocean Safety personnel.
- Clerk III recruitment completed and hire date effective March 1.
- WSO III recruitment ongoing, scheduling of interviews is next
- Long time WSO IV, East HI Captain John Baehr retired on February 29

### Rescue

- Radon repair pending schedule availability at Riddle Marine, has not started yet.
- FRS promotion scheduled for April 1, 1 position being filled (Kailua)
- Contract for Rescue X-Vehicles has been awarded to Orchid Isle Auto Center.

## Other Apparatus procurement updates

- Initiated the specification process for the next 2 Type I pumper replacements (Pahoa and Volcano)
- Specifications for CDBG-MIT grant vehicle purchases have been submitted to Planning for procurement. Mobile Command Vehicle, 3 Brush Trucks, Mobile fueling/maintenance trailer.
- Brush Truck 20A (VFA grant funded), is currently in the build process.
- Invitation for Bids (IFB) for 4 (CDBG funded) Brush Trucks has been posted. Deadline set for end of March.
- Specifications for 3 (VFA funded) Brush Trucks have been submitted to Purchasing for procurement.
- New SCBA Compressor for Pahoa Fire Station (PGV community fund funded) acquired and set to be placed in service mid-March following training.
- New X-Vehicle for Pahoa in procurement, contract has been awarded. Also PGV community fund funded.

## Sayre Foundation donation update

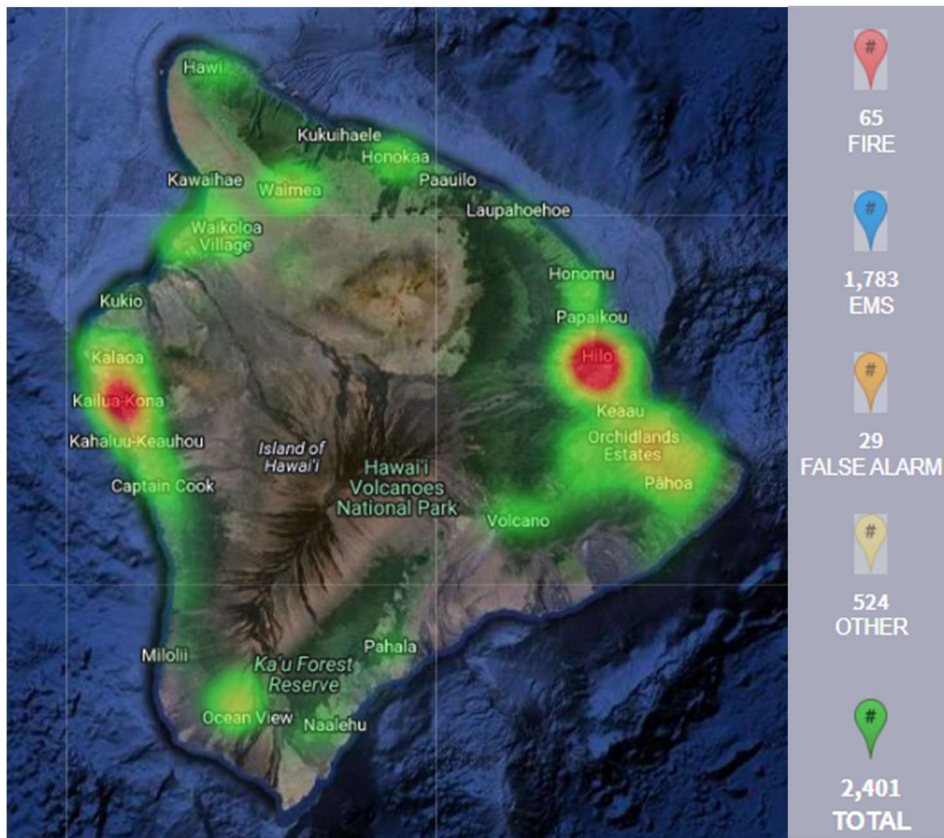
- 2 new Brush Trucks have been received, currently finalizing radio installations and minor warranty work. These will go to North and South Kohala stations.



- 2 additional Brush Trucks have completed build, and are set to be shipped with an anticipated arrival date of March 27. These will be assigned to Waimea and Waikoloa stations.
- New Rescue Boat for Kailua Fire Station is nearly complete. Tentative completion date is mid-April.
- 4 additional Tanker apparatus has also been funded by through generous donors, which have yet to be built. Locations have not been designated yet.

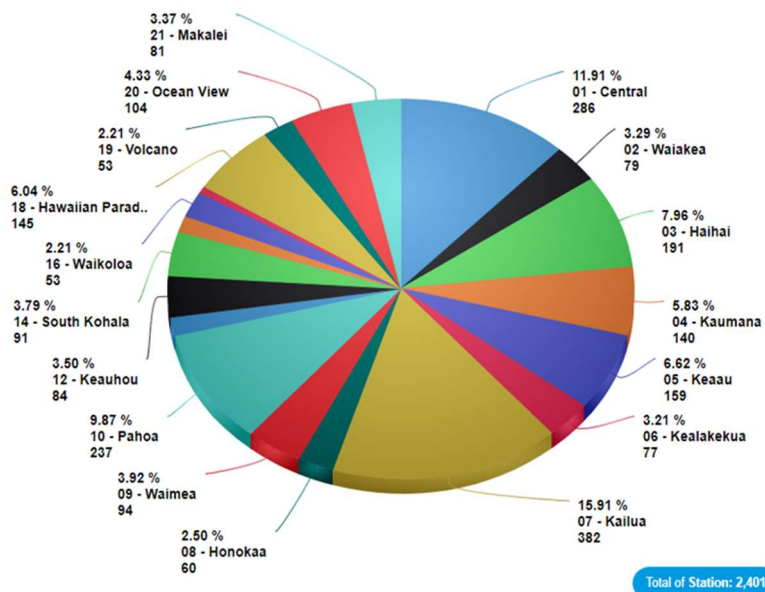


## Incident heat map and YTD stats for February 2024



[Link for Station Call Volume Breakdown](#)

Incidents by Stations  
02/01/2024-02/29/2024



# SUPPORT SERVICES

## Emergency Medical Services Branch

### STARS Air Ambulance Site Visit

Captain K. Kanae participated in a site visit to STARS Air Ambulance in Canada. The objective for this visit was to gain an overview and acquire some education on STARS aeromedical program. This included gathering information on the Airbus H145 equipment and the aerolite medical interior.

### Pulsara Pilot Project Update

The Pulsara pilot project with the Queen's North Hawai'i Community Hospital catchment medics continues. We have been conducting weekly workflow meetings which have been very productive. Queen's Medical Center and Pulsara are looking to expand this project with Hilo Medical Center. We have had a total of 22 Pulsara stroke activations by our paramedics with overwhelmingly positive feedback from both our EMS personnel and the Queen's Punchbowl Neurologists.

### Keynote Speaking Engagement on Fentanyl Training

Captain A. Mitchell did an excellent job as one of the keynote speakers at this year's statewide Coalition Training on Fentanyl held at the Grand Naniloa Hotel in Hilo on February 22nd and 23rd. This training was led by the Hawai'i Island Fentanyl Task Force and involved multiple agencies from across the state.



### Fall 2023 Paramedic Internship Progress

The Fall 2023 paramedic students have started their first month of internship and are doing well. This first rotation internship will end in mid-March.

### Pulmodyne Sales Meeting

EMS Branch personnel met with the sales representative from Pulmodyne. Pulmodyne is the main vendor for the disposable CPAP products that our department uses.

### Zoll Product Presentation

On February 5th, the EMS Branch participated in a product presentation by Zoll. At this presentation we were introduced to their new ventilators and heart monitors.

### Orchid Isle Ford Repower Project for Medic 12

Orchid Isle Ford has been awarded the repower project for Medic 12. We will be replacing the motor and transmission on this 2017 F-350 ambulance. The cost of this repair is \$42,000 and the projected timeline for this project is 90 days.

## ESO Controlled Medications Software Meetings

We have been involved in multiple meetings with ESO regarding our new controlled medications software program. We hope to launch this new program in early April.

## Hands-Only CPR and AED Training

Hands-Only CPR and AED training classes were held at the State of Hawai'i Judiciary Court Houses in Hilo and Kona. 70 individuals participated in this training.

Hands-Only CPR and AED training classes were held in Kona and Hilo for the Community Action Network Committee and the Kona Homeowners Association. Approximately 30 people participated in this training.



## Training Services Branch



## Driver Auditor Onboarding Training

Sixteen new Driver Auditors attended a 2-day on-boarding training for the Driver Improvement Program. Topics included legal requirements, vehicle pre-trip inspections, safe driving practices, audit procedures, and training documentation. Twenty-two veteran auditors attended the second day as a refresher.

## Basic CAMEO Training for HazMat Personnel

Five HAZMAT company personnel attended "Basic CAMEO for Hazmat Technicians and First Responders" hosted by the Honolulu Fire Department. Members were trained to use this software program to identify and analyze chemicals, plot safety control cones on a map, evaluate facilities with chemicals, and create models for various chemical release scenarios.

## Volunteer Training Section

### 1-A (Pepeekeo)

Responded to a total of 7 alarms and conducted a wet drill and hose evolutions at KMR.



### 7-B (Kalaoa)

Responded to smoke visible, rubbish fire, and a vehicle fire. Company 7B-Kalaoa focused training on pump operations during the month of February.

### 8-A (Pa'auilo)

Responded to a brush fire on HWY 19 and also conducted driver training.

### 9-B (Kanehoa)

Responded to the Lapakahi brush fire with Big Dog 9B and Tanker 9B. Volunteer Company 9B also conducted timed hose deployment trainings.

## 10-A (Ainaloa)

Focused on wet drills and hose handling skills in the month of February.



## 11-C (Discovery Harbour)

Responded to three alarms and performed driver training and annual maintenance on their three vehicles.

## 14-A (Kohala)

Responded to the Lapakahi brush fire.

## 19-A (Volcano)

Volunteered 57 hours during the month of February and conducted wet drills to enhance their hose handling and pumping skills.

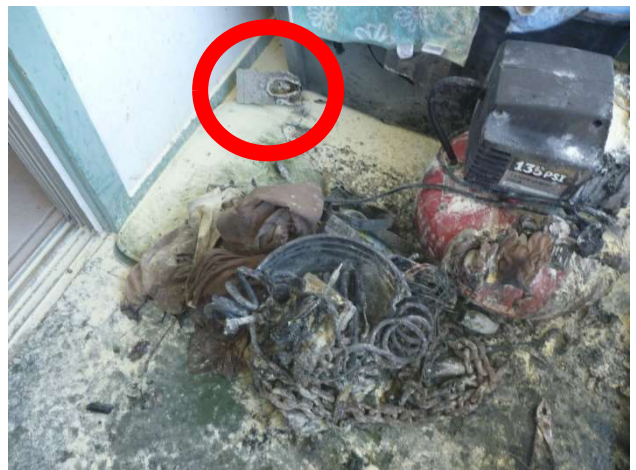
## Fire Prevention Branch

### Structure Fire Investigations in February

The Fire Prevention Branch investigated 2 structure fires during February. The fires were located in Districts 1 and 8. The fire in District 1 was determined as Accidental as it appeared that a houseless person was attempting to cook next to a structure. The Structure Fire in District 8 was suspected to be Arson, due to an incendiary device found on the lanai of an apartment building.

### EPR Fireworks Systems

Fire Prevention personnel are continuing to develop the property lists and associated information for the new EPR Fireworks systems. We are projecting a 2-3 year timeframe for the project. We are also assisting the committee with the build out of the Pre-plan modules for Operations personnel.



### DOT Harbors Partnership

The DOT Harbors Division is working with Fire Prevention Staff on consistent maintenance of all Fire Protection fixtures of both the Hilo and Kawaihae Piers.

### Wildland Risk Reduction Efforts

We continue to push forward with our Wildland risk reduction efforts. We have met with HWMO and are forging forward to provide the community information with ways to protect their property from the negative effects of Wildfire.

### Promotion of Fire Inspector Tyson Goo

Fire Inspector Tyson Goo was Promoted from Inspector I to Inspector II (Fire Plan Reviewer) on February 1, 2024. We truly appreciate all his efforts and look forward to what comes next in his career!



### Wildfire Preparedness Meeting

Met with Kona Paradise Community Residents and Holoholo Ku Residents regarding wildfire preparedness such as defensible spaces, hardening their homes, creating a safe home in the Wildland Urban Interface area, Evacuation Plans, Fire Department Resources, and tour of the subdivisions to point out areas of concerns.

### Fireworks Annual Report

Work on Fireworks Annual Report and later submitted to Senate President Ronald Kouchi based on data and permit sales for Hawaii Island.

### Assistance with AFG Grant Letter

Assisted Training Bureau with AFG Grant letter concerning Fire Prevention data.

### Deployment of New Vehicles

Received two 2024 Toyota Rav4 vehicles for Fire Prevention personnel to utilize for their daily duties.

### Fire Prevention Inspections and Plan Reviews

Inspection Type	February
Fireworks Site and Storage	0
Certificate of Occupancy	2
Commercial	8
Re-Inspections Commercial	26
Educational	11
Re-Inspections Educational	4
Fire Protection System Acceptance Testing	29
Complaint Investigation	2
DOH Ag Burn Site Inspection	0
AST/UST/LPG Site Inspection	14
Tent Site Inspection	3
Occupancy Load Enforcement	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Plan Review</b>	<b>81</b>

# Logistics, Emergency Communications, and Vehicle Maintenance Section

## Emergency Communications

### New FCO I Class

FCO I new class scheduled to start 3/16.

### Radio Installation

BME Brush Trucks from Sayre donation have gotten radios installed and will be out online soon.

### Fire Communications Control Center Updates

The new JCC building is coming along with AC and workstations installed.



### Warehouse Updates

The Auxiliary Services clerk III position has been filled.

### Apparatus and Equipment Repair

- One-hundred thirteen (113) total repairs/service.
- Twenty-seven (27) service calls or trouble calls.
- Fourteen (14) contracted out and tows.

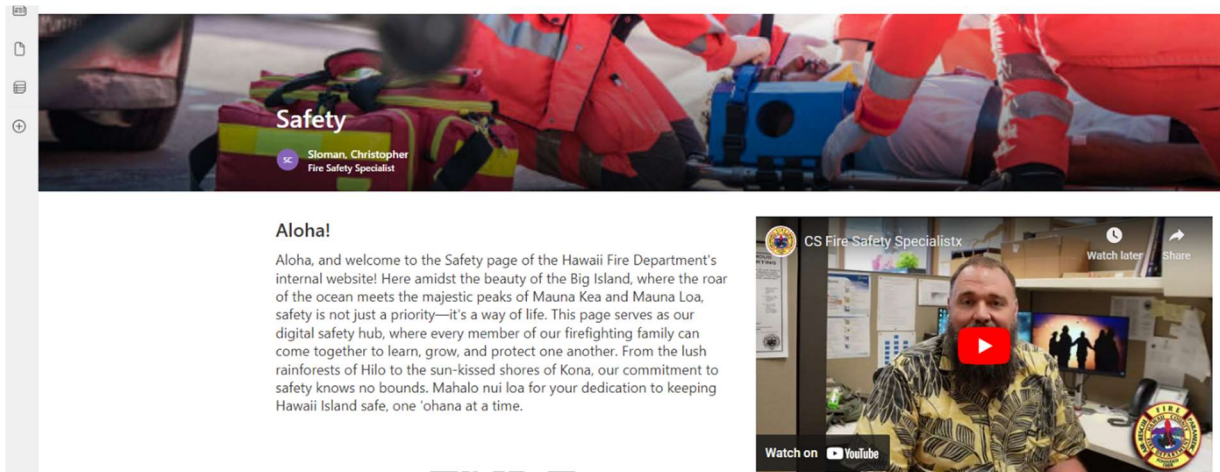


## Information Technology Highlights

- Joint Communication Center (JCC) meeting.
- Site visit of JCC and CAD console furniture.
- MDT Setup for HFD 624.
- ProQA Quality Performance Review (QPR) setup and go live.
- ProQA cutover to new server on 2/27/24.

- FireWorks guides created for hydrants and vehicle maintenance.
- FireWorks access rights changes for hydrant subcommittee members.
- Department of Information Technology intern Skylar Soultz started working with HFD under supervision of ISA IV Chris Cerrone.

## SAFETY SPECIALIST REPORT



**Safety**  
Sloman, Christopher  
Fire Safety Specialist

**Aloha!**

Aloha, and welcome to the Safety page of the Hawaii Fire Department's internal website! Here amidst the beauty of the Big Island, where the roar of the ocean meets the majestic peaks of Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa, safety is not just a priority—it's a way of life. This page serves as our digital safety hub, where every member of our firefighting family can come together to learn, grow, and protect one another. From the lush rainforests of Hilo to the sun-kissed shores of Kona, our commitment to safety knows no bounds. Mahalo nui loa for your dedication to keeping Hawaii Island safe, one 'ohana at a time.

CS Fire Safety Specialistx  
Watch later Share  
Watch on YouTube

In February, the Fire Safety Specialist oversaw various safety initiatives and addressed concerns within the Hawaii Fire Department. An inspection of the Administration Section revealed multiple minor issues, most of which were promptly corrected. A work order was submitted to abate a minor leak with mold in the ceiling, with repairs scheduled for March 15th. The HFD/HFFA Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for March 13th. The agenda is posted on the Safety page of the internal website, along with access to Incident/Accident forms and other safety-related guides and references. Two incidents occurred in February, totaling eight for the year. All necessary actions to address the HiOSH Notice of Citations for St. 18 were completed, with the abatement certificate and penalties postmarked on February 22nd. Awaiting scheduling for a facility inspection of the Central Fire Station with HiOSH. Received one new safety inquiry, which is currently ongoing.

**END REPORT**