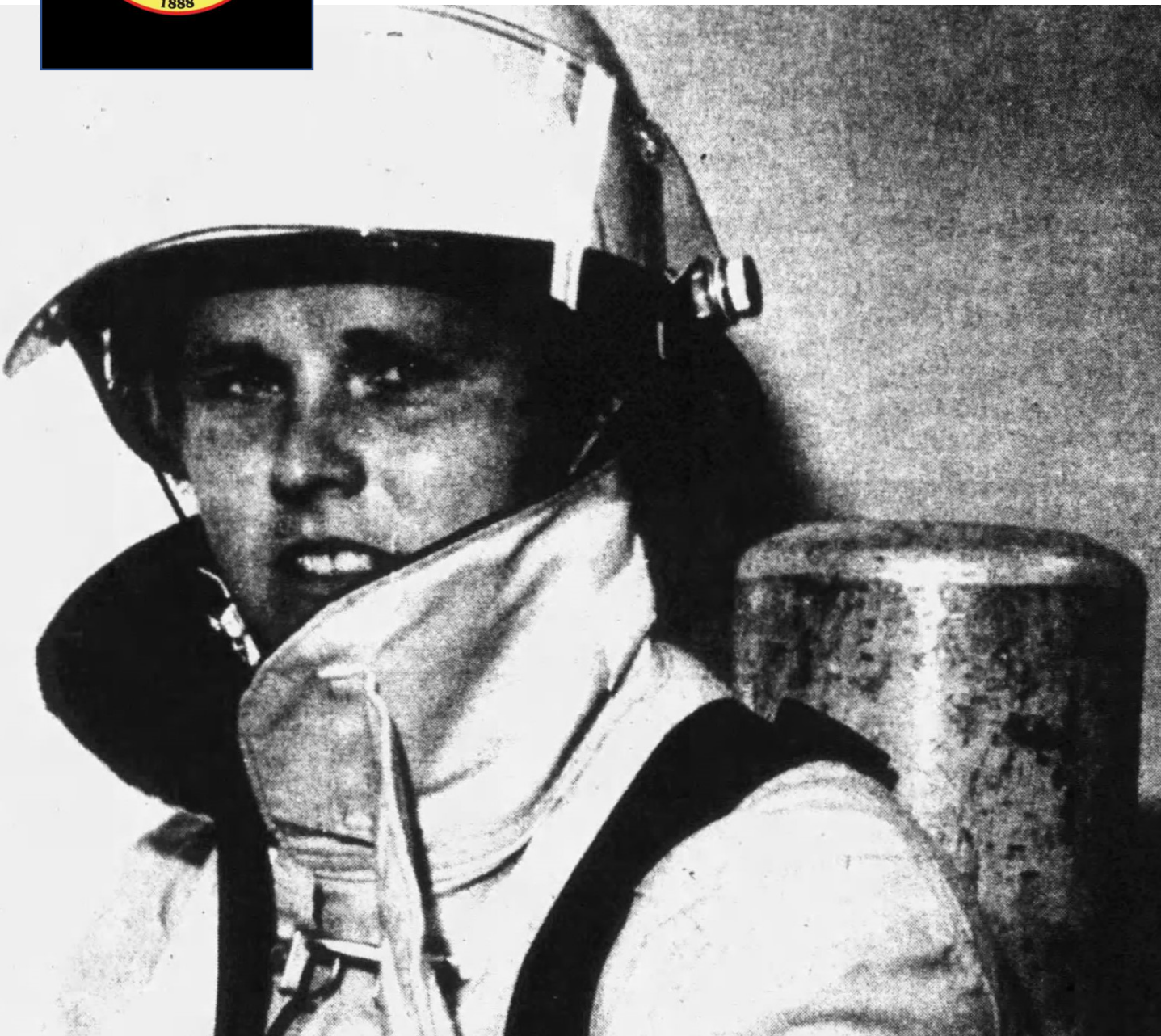


FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Hawai'i Fire Department
25 Aupuni St., Suite 2501
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
fire@hawaiicounty.gov



Women's History Month | HFD's first female firefighter featured in the Hawai'i Tribune Herald (May 1988)

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- Recognizing Excellence 2
- Admin Div: Fiscal Branch Report 3
 - Program Budget Goals..... 3
- Admin Div: HR Branch Report..... 4
 - Program Budget Goals..... 4
 - Internal Recruitment within Department 4
 - Open-Competitive Recruitment 4
 - Classification 4
- Operations 5
 - Emergency Operations 5
 - Emergency Operations Highlights..... 6
 - Battalion 1, East Hawai‘i..... 6
 - Battalion 2, West Hawai‘i 6
 - Special Operations 6
- Support Services..... 8
 - Emergency Medical Services Branch..... 8
 - Training Services Branch 10
 - Volunteer Training Section..... 11
 - Fire Prevention Branch 12
 - Logistics, Emergency Communications, and Vehicle Maintenance Section 13
 - Emergency Communications 13
 - Information Technology Highlights 14
- Safety Specialist Report..... 14

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

Aloha Exchange of East Hawai'i Firefighter of the Year

In a heartfelt recognition of his exceptional dedication and service, Anson Arakaki earned the prestigious Firefighter of the Year Award by the Aloha Exchange Club of East Hawaii.



On March 17, 2023, while guiding a reversing engine to set up fire suppression efforts for a brush fire, he was viciously attacked by five dogs. With the help of another firefighter and neighbors, the dogs were removed and secured. Meanwhile, the fire was

spreading, posing a threat to nearby structures. Despite his injuries, Firefighter Arakaki continued to pull hose and suppress a corner of the fire. In total, he worked for an impressive six hours at full capacity, in difficult terrain, laying long hose lines and supporting an understaffed Company 5. Only upon returning to quarters did Firefighter Arakaki seek treatment for his injuries. According to his captain, "Firefighter Arakaki's main concern was incident stabilization and not leaving his brothers in the field shorthanded."

Firefighter Arakaki's valor serves as a testament to the indomitable spirit of the firefighting community. Congratulations, FF Arakaki!



Hāweo Award

The Hāweo Award shines a spotlight on those who above and beyond the call of duty. FMS II Ericksen Kohatsu's commitment to his role as a paramedic is nothing short of commendable. In the face of paramedic shortages, he consistently chooses to extend his duty, ensuring that Advanced Life Support is readily available to patients in need, but

what truly sets Kohatsu apart is his exemplary bedside manner. Regardless of the circumstances, he treats every patient with the utmost dignity, professionalism, kindness, and even humor, bringing comfort and reassurance during times of distress. His ability to maintain this compassionate approach, even during back-to-back calls, is a testament to his dedication to providing quality care. Congratulations, FMS Kohatsu!



Certificate of Commendation

Fire Communications Officer II Allison Ford was recognized by Mayor Mitch Roth for her proficiency and remarkable handling of a critical call. Mayor Mitch Roth said, "Today, we had the privilege of honoring Allison for her outstanding work in providing critical assistance to someone in need, resulting in a saved life and a family at ease." The patient and her family were present to thank FCO Ford for the compassionate and effective care she provided. Congratulations, FCO Ford!

ADMIN DIV: FISCAL BRANCH REPORT

Program Budget Goals	March	YTD	GOAL
Invoice Settlement within 30 days	95%	93%	90%
Pay-out of CILV's within 90 days	71%	84%	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	28,477,200.96	77.05	79.17
6221-6225	OCE	5,750,476.32	4,754,762.02	82.68	75.00
	Equipment	2,156,787.89	1,336,690.07	61.98	75.00
Grants & Misc	S&W	1,408,679.03	731,705.98	51.94	79.17
6226	OCE	365,325.24	57,874.43	15.84	75.00
	Equipment	766,035.63	430,164.93	56.15	75.00
EMS	S&W	14,799,686.00	11,409,903.56	77.10	79.17
6227	OCE	2,870,647.77	1,881,392.59	65.54	75.00
	Equipment	1,724,417.50	1,423,839.46	82.57	75.00
Ocean Safety	S&W	5,273,052.07	3,080,186.04	58.41	79.17
6228	OCE	307,762.83	224,646.18	72.99	75.00
	Equipment	397,443.16	148,232.56	37.30	75.00
Total Budget		72,778,849.44	53,956,598.78	74.14	

Grant	Update
2023 CDBG	The bid closed on March 28, 2024, bid results pending
CDBG- MIT Wildfire Mitigation	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 3/31/24.
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	The bid closing date was extended to April 3, 2024.
Kohanaiki Lifeguard Tower (Fair Share	Delivery expected at the end of the year.
Lelewi Lifeguard Tower (Fair Share	Ordinance 23-86 was adopted on November 17, 2023. Pending specs.
Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)	This grant funds three Fire Captain and six Fire Fighter positions. As of 3/3/2024, we have expended 84.88% of the grant funds with 10 months remaining. Funding expected to run out in August 2024.

ADMIN DIV: HR BRANCH REPORT

Program Budget Goals	March	YTD	GOAL
Process actions within 15 working days	34	287	100%
Recruitment Actions >30 days	2	22	90%
Promotion Actions >30 days	1	22	90%
Personnel Actions within 30 days, <10% error	14	234	10%

Internal Recruitment within Department

Position	Status Report
Battalion Chief (Emergency Communications)	Letters sent out to two candidates for interviews scheduled on April 5, 2024.
Fire Captain	Recruitment opened on March 3, 2024 and closed on March 12, 2024. DHR referred 24 names. Completed MQ review. Written exam letters need to be sent out.
Fire Equipment Operator	21 candidates passed the written exam. Pending interview/Assessment Center schedule.
Fire/Hazardous Materials Specialist	Written exam was held on March 28, 2024 in Hilo and Kona. Pending referred names.
Water Safety Officer V	Recruitment opened on March 31, 2024 and closed on April 9, 2024. Pending referred names.

Open-Competitive Recruitment

Position	Status Report
Fire Communications Officer I	Hired Nicole Albright, Jana Ancheta, Carlos Navor, Jr., Ciera Pacheco, and Valerie Weaver effective March 18, 2024. Recruitment is on continuous recruitment and closed on March 31, 2024.
Fire Equipment Mechanic	Hired Rhemart Supnet effective March 20, 2024.
Water Safety Officer I	New open recruitment opened on March 31, 2024 and closed on April 9, 2024. Pending referred names.
Fire Fighter Recruit (Temp)	Letters sent out to 36 candidates for interviews scheduled on April 1-3, 2024.
Fire/EMS Recruit (Temp)	Letters sent out to two candidates for interviews scheduled on March 25, 2024.

Classification

Allocation of one Water Safety Officer V effective March 1, 2024.

OPERATIONS

Emergency Operations

Total Calls for Calendar Year 2024	March	%	YTD	%
Fire	69	3%	248	3%
Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion- no fire	0	0%	3	0%
Rescue and EMS	1874	75%	5651	74%
Hazardous Cond. (no fire)	15	1%	58	1%
Service Call	153	6%	470	6%
Good Intent calls	341	14%	1095	14%
False Alarm / False calls	31	1%	108	1%
Severe Weather	0	0%	1	0%
Special Incident Type	0	0%	8	0%
Other (not completed yet)	4	0%	4	0%
Totals	2487	100%	7646	100%

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (est.)
Total Calls	26,869	25,015	27,398	29,594	30,738	30,584

Response Times CY 2024

Statistic	March	% that meet...	YTD	% that meet...
Avg. Turn out time (Fire)	2:53	(80 sec.) 10.45%	2:47	(80 sec.) 12.76%
Avg. Turn out time (EMS)	2:17	(60 sec.) 15.58%	2:16	(60 sec.) 16.00%
Statistic	March	% that meet 6 min.	YTD	% that meet 6 min
Avg. Response Time (Fire)	2:48	13.04%	2:45	12.50%
Avg. Response Time (EMS)	2:16	19.27%	2:15	18.96%

Fire Impacts CY 2024

Call Type	March	YTD
Wildland calls (140, 141, 142, 143)	12	46
Acres burned	22	48
Structure Fires (110 & 111)	3	14
Property and Contents - Loss	\$1,412,000.00	\$2,565,000.00
Property and Contents - Save	\$640,500.00	\$2,290,100.00
Other fires (all other 100 series)	54	188
Property and Contents - Loss	\$22,101.00	\$1,650,701.00
Property and Contents - Save	\$0.00	\$30,100.00

Emergency Operations Highlights

Battalion 1, East Hawai‘i

- 3/2, Inc #24005322; **Rescue:** Opihikao/District 10, Call for missing hiker. Lost hiker located 45min off trail and returned safely to vehicle. No injuries reported.
- 3/16, Inc #24006465; **Hazmat:** Safeway/District 2, Refrigerant leak. Hazmat personnel entered to monitor air quality. Leak was sealed and structure ventilated using their HVAC unit until safe to reoccupy facility. 1 person was injured and transported. No other injuries reported.
- 3/19, Inc #24006722, **Structure Fire:** Pele’s Kitchen/District 10, fire in the rear kitchen area after business hours. Fire was extinguished and overhauled. No injuries. Pet tortoise was located during search and returned to owners appearing to be in good condition.

Battalion 2, West Hawai‘i

- 3/7, Inc#24005730; **Brush Fire:** 8mm Akoni pule Hwy. Approx. 15 acres. Companies 14, 15, 16, 8, Vol. 9B, 9A & BC2
- 3/15, Inc# 24006411; **Structure Fire:** 68-1714 Akaula St. Companies 14,16,9, & BC2. 50% involved, no deaths or injuries. Suspected arson.

Special Operations

Haz-Mat

- Final planning for CST training for Hazmat companies in April 15-19
- Hazmat X-vehicle replacement bid awarded
- Planning for Annual Hazmat Refresher trainings

Ocean Safety

- 1 additional WSO I candidate to be hired on April 16.
- WSO I PAE completed with only 1 candidate passing. Recruitment was re-opened for another round.
- WSO III recruitment interviews scheduled for April 23-24.
- WSO V application period closed, next step is to schedule the assessment
- Received confirmation from Anetik clothing for a donation of three shirts per WSO. Currently working on MOA.
- Planning for Jr Lifeguard program, and State Championships to be held on Hawai‘i Island this year.
- Finalizing annual equipment purchases, which includes the new Kohanaiki lifeguard services.

Rescue

- Radon repair status quo, awaiting Riddle Marine, has not started yet.
- Planning for new Rescue boat acceptance (Sayre Donation)
- Voluntary training with CERFP unit for all Rescue personnel if interested, Scheduled for April 17-18 at KMR. Part of training cadre with the CST

Other Apparatus Procurement Updates

- Awaiting approval from Finance to proceed with procurement for 2 Type I pumper replacements (Pahoa and Volcano)

- Brush Truck 20A (VFA grant funded), is currently in the build process.
- 4 (CDBG funded) Brush Trucks IFB closed. Cost too high for 4 trucks, only able to purchase 3. Contract has been awarded.
- 3 (VFA funded) Brush Trucks IFB also closed and cost was higher than expected, so just 2 will be purchased. Contract has been awarded.
- New SCBA Compressor for Pahoia Fire Station (PGV community fund funded) has been placed in service.
- Working on Specification for a new West HI Ocean Safety Captain truck.

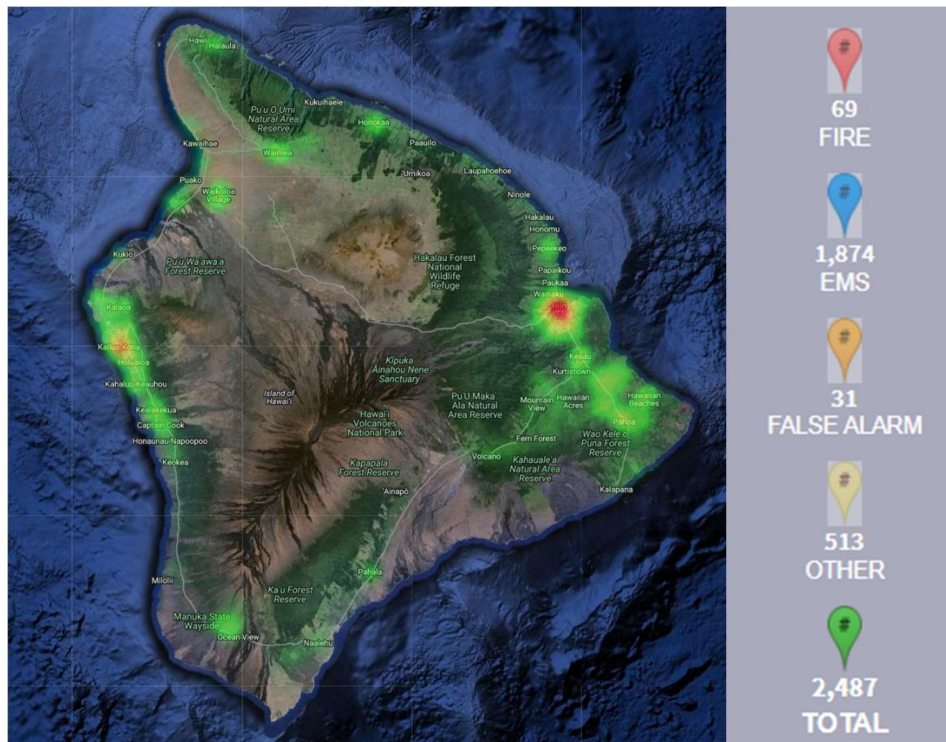
Sayre Foundation Donation Update

- Gifting Ceremony held for the 4 new Brush Trucks that were recently received.
 - 2 BME Brush Trucks: 1 ready for service, the second still waiting on warranty work.
 - 2 Rebel Brush Trucks arrived on March 29. Awaiting titles so they can be registered and have the radios installed.

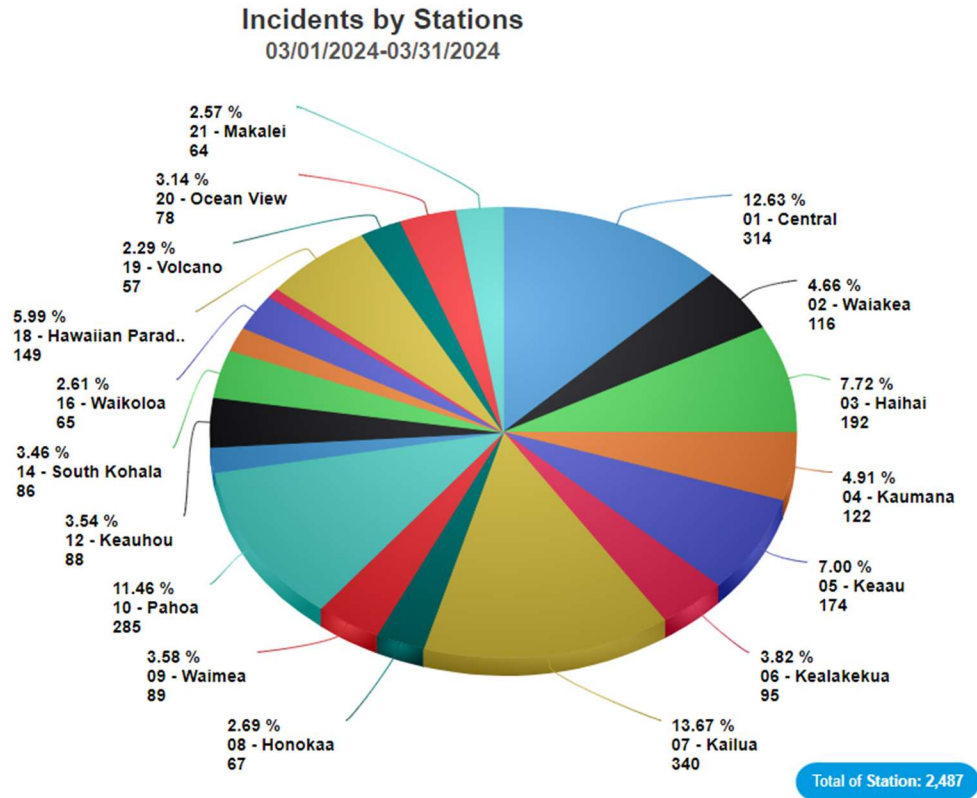


- New Rescue Boat for Kailua Fire Station gifting ceremony scheduled for April 29.
- 4 additional Tanker apparatus has also been funded through generous donors, which have yet to be built. Locations have not been designated yet.
- New Airbus H-145 aircraft planning in the works, funding for the aircraft secured, working to draft operational plan and secure funding with State and County stakeholders.

Incident heat map and YTD stats for March 2024



[Link for Station Call Volume Breakdown](#)



SUPPORT SERVICES

Emergency Medical Services Branch

Paramedic Students Complete First Rotation

On March 22nd, the Fall 2023 paramedic students completed their first rotation of internship. They will begin their second rotation during the last week of March.

EMT Clinical Rotations

The 52nd firefighter recruit class is currently doing their EMT clinical rotations in the 1st and 2nd battalion. As part of their clinical requirements, students are also participating in clinical shifts at the Hilo Medical Center's Labor and Delivery Unit and Emergency Room.

Rollout of New i-gel Supraglottic Airway Device to Medics

The new i-gel Supraglottic Airway device has been rolled out to the medics as a back-up airway adjunct. A follow up email will be sent to our providers shortly. This will include additional product information and solicitation of overview by the EMS Branch for personnel who feel they need additional help or training.

Base Station Meeting Highlights

The first quarter base station meeting was held on March 11th at Hilo Medical Center. Listed below are the guest speakers who presented at this base station. The next quarterly base station meeting will be held at the Kona Community Hospital, and we are excited to have Dr. Michael Brigoli from Stanford as one of our guest presenters. More details regarding this upcoming base station meeting will be coming out soon.

Hawaii Care Choices

Presenters: Helena Andrews and Qiana Foster

Handtevy for Emergency Providers

Presenter: Dr. Peter Antevy, Founder of the Handtevy System

Trauma Case Review

Presenter: Daniel Scott, HMC Trauma Program Manager

STEMI Case Review

Presenter: Rebecca Moore, HMC STEMI Coordinator

Stroke Case Study Review

Presenter: Caitlyn McAllister, HMC Stroke Coordinator

Pulsara Implementation Meeting

EMS Branch personnel participated in a Pulsara meeting with Dr. Koenig and Hilo Medical Center personnel. This meeting was about the implementation and sustainability of Pulsara in future operations within the Hilo Medical Center’s ambulance catchment area.

Ventilator Replacement Program

As part of the ventilator replacement program, EMS Branch personnel participated in two prehospital portable ventilator presentations. The two vendors that presented were Airon and Ventway Sparrow. Our goal is to move forward with this project this fiscal year.

Quarterly Fentanyl Task Force Meeting

EMS Branch personnel participated in the quarterly Fentanyl Task Force Meeting held on March 18th.

Fire/EMS Interviews

Fire/EMS recruitment interviews were held on March 25th

Hands-Only CPR/AED Training

The EMS Branch held a Hands-Only CPR/AED training on March 27th at the Mayor’s Cabinet Meeting. Approximately 40 people participated.



Training Services Branch



Fire Instructor II Certification Course

Seventeen personnel attended a forty-hour Fire Instructor II ProBoard certification course. The course provides the skills and knowledge needed for the intermediate level professional instructor to perform his or her duties safely, effectively, and competently. The curriculum is based on NFPA 1041 “Standard for Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications.” Candidates were taught to create lesson plans and evaluation instruments, teach and deliver instruction, evaluate and coach other instructors, analyze resources, and formulate a program budget. This training provides a method of approach for Department personnel to assist in the creation of cadre-based in-house training programs.

Auto-Extrication Training Sessions at Honoka’a Fire Station

Captain Keone Roback, and Fire Training Specialist Adam Veloria provided two auto-extrication training sessions to career personnel at Honoka’a Fire Station. Training provided a general review of extrication principles and practice, along with demonstrating new rescue methods and techniques.



CPR and Basic First Aid Instruction

FTS Adam Veloria and Firefighter Recruits Nicholas Tran, Nainoa Bishaw-Mokiao, and Peter Matsuura assisted Recreation Specialist Kalani Kahalioumi with CPR and basic First Aid instruction at the “Ike Kai” youth spring break program through Parks and Recreation.



Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Submitted Assistance to Firefighters Grant to FEMA to provide “Mastering Fire Ground Command: Calm the Chaos” incident command training to supervisory personnel. We are requesting \$537,595 in funding to establish a Hazard Zone (IDLH) Incident Command and a Control Training Program to provide safe, effective, and efficient HFD emergency response operations. This project will align our hazard zone incident command practices with the OSHA General Duty Clause and NFPA Training Standards 1021, 1026, and 1561 in support of our mission, "To provide exceptional, all-hazards emergency services to the residents and visitors of Hawai'i Island."

https://youtu.be/Hki1yPaaGT0?si=7N0pLLfmwZ6uVx_n

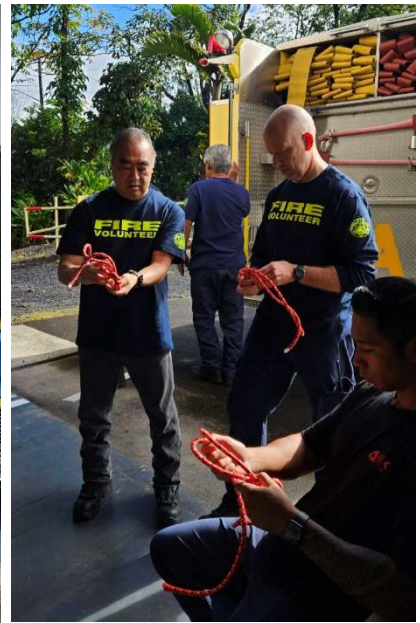
Volunteer Training Section

1-A (Pepeekeo)

Responded to one alarm. At a supplemental training they worked on ropes and knots and ladders.

10-A (Ainaloa)

Added one new volunteer and completed painting the exterior of their station.



7-B (Kalaoa)

Responded to two smoke visible calls and one brushfire call. Company 7B did four trainings focusing on friction loss and hose evolutions.

16-B (Pu'uanahulu)

Performed 20.5 hours of training over the course of 3 training days.



Fire Prevention Branch

Structure Fire Investigations in March

The Fire Prevention Branch investigated 3 structure fires during March. The fires were located in Districts 10, 15 and 16. The fire in District 10 was undetermined, as there were unpermitted additions to the property. The fire in District 15 is also classified as Undetermined, as the structure was not stable enough for Investigator entry. The fire in District 16 was Undetermined, although evidence of squatters was present in a home that had been boarded up.

Highlighting Women's History Month

Our social media team has been very active, also acknowledging Women's History Month. The goal was to highlight Women in our department including an interview with the first Female Firefighter in HFD history, Joan Fagerness. See the interviews on our YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/@HawaiiFireDepartment>



Community Collaboration for Wildfire Preparedness

Prevention personnel held a meeting with the Kawaihae Village Subdivision residents, HELCO representative, and HWMO 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 point out areas of concerns within the subdivision.

IAFC Wildland Urban Interface Conference

BC Kurashige and Inspector I Requelman attended the International Association of Fire Chief's Wildland Urban Interface Conference in Reno, Nevada on March 26-28, 2024.

Educational Outreach

Inspectors Tyson Goo and Gary Ahu Jr. visit Waiakea Elementary to educate Keiki on fire safety.



Fire Prevention Inspections and Plan Reviews

Monthly Totals (All Inspectors)	March
Fireworks Site and Storage	0
Certificate of Occupancy	13
Commercial	13
Re-Inspections Commercial	24
Educational	12
Re-Inspections Educational	1
Fire Protection System Acceptance Testing	21
Complaint Investigation	6
DOH Ag Burn Site Inspection	4
AST/UST/LPG Site Inspection	14
Tent Site Inspection	6
Occupancy Load Enforcement	0
Total	114
Plan Review	71

Logistics, Emergency Communications, and Vehicle Maintenance Section

Emergency Communications

FCO I Class

The new FCO class has started on 3/18 with five candidates.

PPE Decon Project

The annual PPE decon project is moving along, please email fire warehouse if you missed your station/shift pick up.

Pacific Executive Leadership Program

Captain Domingo attended the Pacific Executive Leadership Program

New Fire Equipment Mechanic

Please welcome new Fire Equipment Mechanic Rhemart Supnet

Treadmills

All the treadmills have been received, assembled, tested and distributed. There was a minor error code that was resolved by Capt. Namahoe Soo (he researched it and was able to resolve the error code). The personnel have had very positive feedback ever since.



Apparatus and Equipment Repair

- Ninety-seven (97) total repairs/service.
- Sixteen (16) service calls or trouble calls.
- Thirty (30) contracted out and tows.

Information Technology Highlights

- Joint Communication Center (JCC) meeting.
- New CAD workstations and monitors received and moved to storage.
- Required Microsoft.net installation and certificates for Spillman connections on MDTs and Domain computers.
- Work on process for vehicle swaps in FireWorks.
- NetMotion (VPN) meeting.

SAFETY SPECIALIST REPORT

In March 2024, the Hawaii Fire Department experienced four Incidents/Accidents and two Vehicle/Property damage instances. Significant updates included completing internal safety inspections of the Admin Section, and Mechanic's shop, with minor issues, addressed and a leak with mold in the ceiling being addressed by the Department of Public Works. Meetings such as the HFD/HFFA Safety Committee Meeting and discussions with Respiratory Protection Plan stakeholders were held to improve safety protocols. Additionally, initiatives were undertaken, including completing the Emergency Services Risk Reduction Program and drafting an After-Action Review guide. Risk analyses were conducted for events like the Merrie Monarch Festival and UH-Hilo Spring Commencement, while ongoing efforts included creating a Safety or Health Notification system. Safety also progressed with the development of online reporting tools and safety materials while addressing inquiries regarding staffing and environmental evaluations.

END REPORT