

County of Hawaii Fire Commission  
Fire Chief's Report  
January 8, 2003

**Budget**

The budget review process is about to begin with a scheduled preliminary review with the Finance Director on Friday January 10. As indicated in the last meeting, a very comprehensive supplemental budget has been submitted to reflect the resource requirements to support continued and improved service delivery.

**Alternative Funding and Grants**

Last month we received official notification of approval for our USFA Grant and have initiated the necessary steps to acquire the funds and begin purchasing our specified equipment.

All grant processes and programs are moving on schedule.

**Promotions and Hiring**

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, 22 new Fire Equipment Operators were promoted and took their assignments. Although this promotion process has created a significant firefighter shortage, it has opened the door to the hiring of new personnel and reduced the shortage associated with rank vacancies.

**Operations Division**

We have closed out the 2002 calendar year with 14650 total incidents and expect to see another increase in call volumes this next year. During the 48 hour period from 0800 on December 31<sup>st</sup> through 0800 on Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>, there were 51 fire incidents of which 15 were confirmed fireworks related and a large portion of the remainder fireworks suspected.

**Prevention Bureau**

Battalion Chief Richard Kihara has retired as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, however remains on temporary hire for another 89 day period during which time he will expedite the training of the two new inspectors.

During this New Year holiday we saw an increase in fireworks permit sales, however, elected to refund a portion of the permits as it became apparent that the supply of firecrackers had been depleted. To date we issued 2284 permits island wide and have refunded 134. We are exploring other possible permitting process and sales policies to streamline and improve the distribution and accountability.

**Training Division**

Although the training division has been idled during the holiday month, it is gearing up for the anticipated new recruit class. A team of instructors will be meeting on Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> to review and develop a tentative training schedule.

### **Volunteer Division**

The Volunteer Chiefs meeting is scheduled for Saturday Jan. 11, 10:00 at the Laupahoehoe Fire Station.

### **EMS Division**

MICT candidates are continuing with training on schedule and with positive reports.

### **Public Relations**