

COUNTY OF HAWAII FIRE COMMISSION  
FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT  
May 14, 2003

**Budget**

- First reading of FY 2003-04 budget before Council on May 21, 2003 at 0900.
- Unit 11 Arbitration ruling—rank for rank proposal, before Finance committee on 5-6-03; however, postponed.
- Unable to include in our budget the cost to standardize our present SCBA's (\$230,000).

**Alternative Funding and Grants**

- ODP (Office of Domestic Preparedness) grant update. County allotted \$459,000; Fire Department share is \$160,000. Focusing on equipment for Urban Search & Rescue, HazMat, and EMS.
- USFA grant application submitted on 4-11-03 in Fire Operations & Firefighter Safety category for \$424,600. Requests to purchase SCBAs, diesel emission control units, and portable radios.

**Capital Improvement Projects**

- Turned over revised plans (including police sub-station) to Bolton on 5-9-03. He is researching exchanging of lots to ensure better approach/departure.
- Continuing to work with Public Works on Fire Administration & Support facility. Are presently identifying work area requirements.

**Promotions and Hiring**

- Interviews held to fill two vacancies for Fire Radio Dispatcher I positions on 4-14-03. Two dispatchers selected from 11 interviewed. Hired effective 5-16-03.
- Retirement of FRD II Thomas Togashi effective 5-1-03. Request to fill his position has been initiated.
- Internal Recruitment Procedures

**Operations Division**

- EOC Orientation briefing at Civil Defense on 4-30-03.

- SARS virus update. Personnel receiving updates as they are received. Protocol clarified with Hilo International Airport personnel—any incidents on airport grounds will be State responsibility. We will respond and transport.
- HOVE truck training held April 14-16. Comments received is that many personnel have not seen the new technology before. Working on sending truck around the island for orientation.

### **Prevention Division**

- Kihara on new contract effective 5-1-03.
- Attempting to expedite training with Honolulu Fire Department, especially in area of plans review.

### **Training Division**

- Mid-terms for recruits coming up. Next hires will be in August. Deputy Chief working on new recruitment.

### **Volunteer Division**

- HOVE first responder pilot program began May 5, 2003.
- Obtained grant from NPS for about \$20,000 to be used for volunteer stations surrounding National Park and Federal land (Volcano, North Kohala, and Waikoloa).

### **EMS Division**

- Five MICTs recently certified by State and are actively running.

### **Fire Auxiliary Services**

- Microwave project update.
- 700 Megahertz project update.

### **New Projects/Business**

- Fire RMS is moving forward with support from Data Systems and Honolulu Fire Department.
- Restructuring.
- Return of SWOT analysis by Commissioners.

## **Public Relations**

- Career shadowing & internship curriculum program – Hilo High School.
- Attended Summer Opportunities Expo involving juniors/seniors from various high schools. “Hired” two volunteers for summer employment in Fire Admin.
- Results of Mother’s Day rose project. Raised over \$3,000 for American Cancer Society.
- Update on EMS Week on June 1, 2003. Invitations mailed to Commissioners w/ applications.