



FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

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CHIEF'S OFFICE REPORT

Section Report by Chief's Office

Program Budget Objectives	February	YTD	Goal
Maintain >95% current policies, procedures, and MOU, MOA, MAA.	59%	59%	>95%

FISCAL BRANCH REPORT

Section Report by: Fire Accountant IV

Program Budget Objectives	QTR	YTD	Goal
Maintain budget variance within $\pm 10\%$ of projections for each major cost center per QTR.	-	-	$\pm 10\%$
Lead monthly budget meetings	1	1	12

Budget	Adj Appr	YTD Exp	% Used	Goal
Total Budget	\$95,161,448*	\$68,779,970*	72%	

*Budget numbers have not been verified.

GRANTS REPORT

Section Report by: Fiscal Division

Program Measures	March	YTD	Goal
Dollar value of grants applied for	\$0.00	\$7,720,254	\$5,000,000
Dollar value of grants received	\$0.00	\$2,678,275	\$1,000,000

Grants	Purpose	Award Amt	Spent	Update
CDBG-MIT	(3) Brush Trucks IFB 4700 (Delivered); Mobile Service Trailer IFB 4701 (Delivered 9/15/25); Mobile Command Vehicle (bids received)	\$891,420	\$891,420	Rebel Strike LLC
		\$50,576	\$50,576	Hawaii Specialty Vehicles
		\$1,121,897	\$0	Pierce Manufacturing
FY23 AFG (08/2024-08/2026)	Hazard Zone (IDLH) Incident. Command and a Control Training Program	\$488,722	\$145,241	27.02% spent as of 3/31/2026
FY 25 USDA Vol. Fire Cap. Project	Brush Truck 16B Pu'uanahulu Volunteer Fire Station	\$90,000	\$0	Rebid March 2026. Request to extend grant period.
Lelewi Lifeguard Tower (Fair Share Funds)	Surveyor Jr. lifeguard tower furnished by Newport Laminates	\$54,785	\$0	Delivery expected in June 2026.

SAFER	12 temp. firefighter positions	\$2,678,274	\$0	Grant accepted
Fair Share Fund	HFD Maintenance Shop Design	\$684,000	\$0	Allotment approved

Grant Name	Submission Deadline	Purpose	Est. Request
FY25 SAFER	Submitted to FEMA 7/1/25	Labor Cost	\$4,343,148
FY25 FP&S	Submitted to FEMA 7/2/25	Investigation Eqp	\$53,600
Rural Health Transformation Program	9/23/25	Community Paramedicine	\$2,663,506

HUMAN RESOURCES BRANCH REPORT

Section Report by: Fire Human Resources Program Specialist

FY 2025/26 Calendar				
Rank	Recruitment	Exam/PAE	Assessment	Notes
Assistant Chief	N/A	N/A	N/A	Position filled 12/01/2025
Battalion Chief Operations	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Battalion Chief Prevention	N/A	N/A	N/A	No anticipated vacancies in FY 26-27
Battalion Chief Auxiliary Services	03/8/2026	N/A	TBD	
Battalion Chief Communications	N/A	N/A	N/A	No anticipated vacancies in FY 26-27
Battalion Chief EMS	N/A	N/A	N/A	No anticipated vacancies in FY 26-27
WSO V	N/A	N/A	N/A	No anticipated vacancies in FY 26-27
Captain Operations	12/7/2025	02/10/2025	3/9-11/2026	
Captain Training	N/A	N/A	N/A	No anticipated vacancies in FY 26-27
Captain Volunteer Services	TBD	N/A	TBD	
Captain Prevention	N/A	N/A	N/A	No anticipated vacancies in FY 26-27
Captain Communications	01/31/2026	N/A	03/06/2026	
FMS III	N/A	N/A	N/A	No anticipated vacancies in FY 26-27
WSO IV	N/A	N/A	N/A	No anticipated vacancies in FY 26-27
Fire Prevention Inspector II	N/A	N/A	N/A	No anticipated vacancies in FY 26-27
WSO III	02/22/2026	TBD	TBD	1 position vacant as of 1/1/2026. MQs and E&E underway
WSO I	01/25/2026	03/04/2026	03/24/2026	DHR to share qualified candidates
Fire Equipment Operator	10/12/2025	1/6/2026	2/24/2026	Score notification letters sent to candidates
Fire Apparatus Trainer	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Fire Prevention Inspector I	N/A	N/A	N/A	No anticipated vacancies in FY 26-27
Fire Training Specialist	TBD	N/A	TBD	
FMS II	04/2026	TBD	TBD	Memo requested new recruitment 02/20/26.
Fire Rescue Specialist	TBD	TBD	TBD	

Hazardous Materials Tech	10/19/2025	1/13/2026	3/3/2026	Score notification letters sent to candidates
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**Version one of an annual recruitment calendar*

Program Measure	March	YTD
Vacancy Rate Total	10%	10%
Vacancy Rate Admin & Support	9	9
Vacancy Rate Fire	15	15
Vacancy Rate EMS	7	10
Vacancy Rate Communications	14	16
Vacancy Rate Ocean Safety	7	14

Program Budget Objectives	March	YTD	Goal
Efficient response to human resource queries	100% of 52	100% (357)	<2 Days
	Active	Avg	Goal
Average internal investigations completion in days	7	120+*	<60 days
	Rate	Avg	Goal
Maintain a vacancy rate below 7%	10%	10%	<36 PV

Active Recruitments by HFD	
Position	Status Report
Battalion Chief, Auxiliary Services	Assessment Notice sent March 30, 2026.
Fire Captain	Assessment Notice sent February 27, 2026.
Fire Captain – Emergency Communications	Score notification letters sent March 27, 2026.
Fire Equipment Operator	Score notification letters sent March 20, 2026.
Fire / Hazardous Materials Specialist	Score Notification letters sent March 25, 2026.
Fire Fighter Recruit	PAE scheduled for April 12, 2026.
Fire Fighter Recruit (SAFER grant)	Exam conducted March 23, 2026.
Fire / EMS Recruit	PAE/Exam March 23, 2026.
Water Safety Officer Is	Interviews complete March 24, 2026.
Water Safety Officer III	Application (HR/Civil Service) March 6, 2026.
Account Clerks	Interviews scheduled March 27, 2026.
Clerk IIIs	Application (HR/Civil Service) March 27, 2026.
Fire Equipment Mechanic	Candidate began March 16, 2026.
Professional Trainee – Grants	Assessment Notice sent March 20, 2026.
Human Resources Technician I	Application (HR/Civil Service) draft March 19, 2026.

**Several investigations are being carried out outside of the HR Branch, which is why exact data is not available.*

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS DIVISION

Section Report by: Assistant Chief of Operations

Budget	Category	Adj Appropriation	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Goal
Fire	S&W	\$43,575,837	\$30,706,336*	71%	63%*
62102	OCE	\$2,652,901	\$2,466,525	93%	75%
62106	Equipment	\$2,633,076	\$2,619,779	99%	75%
Fire - Heli	S&W	\$329,364	\$159,645*	48%	63%*
62112+62742	OCE	\$707,392	\$501,017	71%	75%
62116+62746	Equipment	\$10,000	\$0	0%	75%

*S&W reporting through 1/31 only, January goal is 63%

Program Budget Objectives	March	YTD	Goal
95% of all assigned training completed	41%	57%	>95%
Daily Vehicle Checks 90% (OPS)	53%	56%	>90%
Average turn out time (total)	02:17	02:13	<01:20
99% Report completion within 10 days	99%	99%	99%
Total Calls for Calendar Year 2026	March	YTD	%
Fire	63	144	3%
EMS	1,754	3,732	72%
Other	612	1,279	25%
Totals	2,429	7,883	100%

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 (est.)
Total Calls	27,398	29,594	30,738	31,143	31,162	31,200

Program Measures	March	% < 80 secs	YTD	% < 80 secs
Avg. Turn out time (Fire)	02:27	18%	02:21	17%
Avg. Turn out time (EMS)	02:07	19%	02:05	20%
Program Measures	March	% < 9 mins	YTD	% < 9 mins
Avg. Response Time (Fire)	10:59	39%	10:48	47%
Avg. Response Time (EMS)	09:14	58%	9:03	60%

Call Type	March	YTD
Wildland calls (140, 141, 142, 143)	7	29
Acres burned	0	7.45
Structure Fires (110 & 111)	4	22
Property and Contents - Loss	\$453,800	\$1,591,700
Property and Contents - Save	\$32,500	\$512,500
Other fires (all other 100 series)	35	141
Property and Contents - Loss	\$0	\$0
Property and Contents - Save	\$0	\$0

SPECIAL OPERATIONS BRANCH

Section Report by: Battalion Chief of Special Operations

Budget	Category	Adj Appropriation	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Goal
62302*	OCE	\$161,625	\$89,975	56%	75%
62306*	Equipment	\$192,920	\$22,688	12%	75%

**sub-budget within auxiliary service budget*

Program Budget Objectives	March	YTD	Goal
Aircraft Operational Uptime >90%	92%	96%	> 90%
Review & update SOP/SOG within cycle	0	0	>100%
Arrange annual HazTech Course		1	1 per Y
Maintain minimum proficiency training hours Rescue	196	2,268	3,000
Maintain minimum proficiency training hours Hazmat	0	696	600
Maintain minimum proficiency training hours Air Ops	2.7	37.7	30

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: SPECIAL OPERATIONS BRANCH

Aviation

- 3/24 – Chopper-2 responded to Manuka State Park for patient involved in MVA. Patient transported to Kona Community Hospital via Chopper-2.

Rescue

- 3/15 – Company 7 and Company 12 responded for report of swimmers in distress. Two parties extricated from water via Rescue Boat 7.
- 3/20 – Company 2, Company 8, and Chopper-1 responded to Hamakua coast for potential missing party. Multi-day search executed to include shoreline search and SCUBA operations. Missing party is still unaccounted for.
- 3/21 – Company 2 and Chopper-1 responded to Hakalau per report of swimmers in distress. Three parties extricated to shoreline via Chopper-1.
- 3/24 – Company 1 and Rescue Boat 2 responded to Hilo Bay for sailboat that had turned over. Company 2 assisted boat to shore along with civilian boats on scene, no injuries reported.

Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT)

- 3/6 – Company 4, Medic 3 responded to a report of chemical smell. Perimeter established by Company 4, Contractor removed product causing noxious smell.
- HAZTECH Course for 20 personnel scheduled for 4/13-24. This will augment our current pool of personnel trained to the Hazardous Materials Technician level.

OCEAN SAFETY OPERATIONS BRANCH

Section Report by: Water Safety Officer V

Budget	Category	Adj Appropriation	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Goal
Ocean Safety	S&W	\$4,532,561	\$2,937,242*	64%	63%*
62802	OCE	\$515,054	\$458,951	89%	75%
62806	Equipment	\$294,335	\$290,745	99%	75%

**S&W reporting through 1/31 only, January goal is 63%*

Program Measures (Metrics)	March	YTD # of people
Number of Beach Visitors	323,657	1,182,148
Number of Preventative Actions	293	970
Number of Minor Medical Aids	176	615
Number of Major Medical Aids (Transports)	5	5
Number of Rescues	68	183

Program Budget Objectives	Current	Goal
Certified Rescue Watercraft Operators >9	3	9
Provide 80% staffed tower hours to daylight	80%	85%
Maintain Updated Policies and Procedures (10)	No Data	100%

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: OCEAN SAFETY

Rescue Watercraft Operator Program Update:

The HFD's Rescue Watercraft Operator (RWCO) Training Program's 3rd round of solicitation and written exam and physical assessment exam is complete. 8 candidates will be participating in the RWCO training on May 11th.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BRANCH

Section Report by: Battalion Chief of EMS

Budget	Category	Adj Appropriation	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Goal
EMS	S&W	\$16,077,526	\$10,937,821*	68%	63%*
62702	OCE	\$2,431,503	\$1,583,037	65%	75%
62706	Equipment	\$6,095,520	\$5,722,729	94%	75%

*S&W reporting through 1/31 only, January goal is 63%

Program Measures	March	YTD
ROSC Rate	N/A	N/A
Call Volume ALS Transport	1,001	3,110
Call Volume BLS Transport	606	1,866

Program Budget Objectives	March	YTD	Goal
Less than 10% paramedic Vacancy rate	14% (7)	14% (7)	< 6 vac
Quality review of 95% of Critical Calls	10%	3%	100%
Maintain a fleet of >8 Spare medics	9	9	>8 Spare

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: EMS BRANCH

- On March 1, 2026, Medic 21 was placed into service and ambulance operations out of Makalei Fire Station officially began. Mahalo again to everyone who helped make this possible!
- EMS Branch personnel met with Kau Hospital staff to discuss recent challenges with patient transfers and transports from the hospital and explore ways to improve patient care.
- The EMS Branch hosted a meet-and-greet with the new Hawai'i Regional Director from Life Flight Network to strengthen working relationships and coordination with our air medical partners.
- The 54th Firefighter Recruit Class received an introduction to ESO and the expectations at fire stations and hospitals as they began their EMT clinical rotations.
- The Fall 2025 Paramedic students completed their first internship rotation, with second rotation beginning in late March.
- The EMS Branch assisted the Training Branch and HPD with another successful 3-day ALERRT AAIR Active Shooter Training.
- EMS Branch Public Events:
 - 3/11: Waiakea Elementary School Career Day
 - 3/16: Community Paramedicine presentation to members of the Foster Grandparent Program
 - 3/24: Waiakeawaena Elementary School Career Week
- EMS Shopify Store – Supply Orders Data for the Month of March:
 - 73 orders, approximately \$50K in gross order sales

TRAINING SERVICES BRANCH

Section Report by: Battalion Chief of Training

Budget	Category	Adj Appropriation	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Goal
Fire Training	S&W	\$1,044,720	\$609,135*	58%	63%*
62402	OCE	\$252,073	\$158,970	63%	75%
62406	Equipment	\$84,893	\$82,393	97%	75%

**S&W reporting through 1/31 only, January goal is 63%*

Program Budget Objectives	FF 1 & 2	Wildland	Driver Training
Ensure all recruits graduate with minimum certifications	In progress	Spring 2026	Spring 2026
Program Budget Objectives	March	YTD	Goal
Professional Development	53 personnel	186 personnel	50 personnel
Incident Command Training	54 personnel	101 personnel	100% compliance
Structural Firefighting Training	30 personnel	45 personnel	75 personnel
Wildland Firefighting Training	2 personnel	6 personnel	pending funding

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: TRAINING SERVICES BRANCH

- Our Calm the Chaos Instructor Cadre met from March 2-4, and 24-25 preparing delivery of incident command curriculum, funded by the Assistance to Firefighter's Grant (AFG). 101 ranked personnel have completed the Wildland Module and will complete their Structural Firefighting Command workshops in April and May. Approximately 50 personnel required have not attended any workshops and will be scheduled soon.
- 28 sworn and civilian personnel attended Taking Care of Our Own training presented by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation pertaining to Line of Duty Deaths (LODD). FSS Chris Sloman secured this valuable training opportunity which enables our personnel to better support the needs of the Department, community, and families.
- Collaborated with HPD for ALERRT Active Shooter response training held at Keaau High School on March 18-20. The course covers strategies, tactics, and skills directly applicable to victim survivability and improved outcomes.
- Conducted ongoing meetings with Fire Engineering Training for research and analysis to determine potential replacement of the Vector Solutions Learning Management/Training Records management system.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES SECTION

Section Report by: Senior Volunteer Training Captain

Budget	Category	Adj Appropriation	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Goal
Fire Volunteer	S&W	\$ 318,751	\$231,296*	73%	63%*
62502	OCE	\$ 218,541	\$188,029	86%	75%
62506	Equipment	\$ 377,934	\$377,934	100%	75%

*S&W reporting through 1/31 only, January goal is 63%

Program Measures	March	Total
Total Volunteers	1	118

Program Budget Objectives	March	YTD	Goal
Apply to two or more grants per year	0	1	>2
Manage, and Expend Grants Completely	0%	90%	100%
Compliance of Online Training of Volunteers	0%	46%	75%
Maintain 1 spare qualified driver per volunteer station	1	33	51

FIRE PREVENTION BRANCH

Section Report by: Battalion Chief of Fire Prevention

Budget	Category	Adj Appropriation	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Goal
Fire Prevention	S&W	\$ 1,333,597	\$ 960,627*	72%	63%*
62202	OCE	\$ 49,875	\$ 41,922	84%	75%
62206	Equipment	\$ 40,000	\$ 39,378	98%	75%

*S&W reporting through 1/31 only, January goal is 63%

Program Measures	March	YTD	Last Year Comp
Inspections - Occupancy	109	412	N/A*
Public Education Events	10	64	N/A*
Plans Reviewed	53	537	N/A*
Fire Investigations	1	12	N/A*
Complaints Investigated	1	28	N/A*
Average Plan Review Time in Days	9.9	10.5	N/A*

Program Budget Objectives	March	YTD	Goal
Average plans reviewed < 14 days	9.9 days	10.5 days	<14 Days
Public Education min 2 a month	10	64	24
Maintain CFIT Designation for 2 personnel min	1	1	2
Fire Inspection of High Hazard >6 per month	5	44	72 / year
EPR property list input @ 60 updates a month	32	334	720 / year

* YTD totals were not available as a new EPR system changeover occurred

AUXILIARY SERVICES BRANCH

Section Report by: Battalion Chief of Auxiliary Services

Budget	Category	Adj Appropriation	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Goal
Auxiliary	S&W	\$573,412	\$322,717*	56%	63%*
62302	OCE	\$1,883,077	\$1,818,472	96%	75%
62306	Equipment	\$953,005	\$931,302	98%	75%

*S&W reporting through 1/31 only, January goal is 63%

Program Measures	March	YTD
Monthly Total Order (59-PPE \$18,337.29, 32-supplies \$12,468.59)	66	868
Gross Product Sent to Dept	\$20,425	\$418,773
Number of variants available in warehouse	458	N/A
Variants Items in stock	416	N/A

Program Budget Objectives	March	YTD	Goal
Expenditure of OCE budget to 99% by end of fiscal	No data	No data	No data
Encumbrance of Equip budget to 90% by end of second quarter	No data	No data	No data
In stock percent > 90% for all warehouse variants	91%	No data	>90%
Average fulfillment within 10 working days or less	5.92 days	No data	<10 days

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: AUXILIARY SERVICES BRANCH

- The HFD warehouse continued to support operations with the installation of extractors and dryers at multiple stations. Routine and emergency orders continue to be filled within established timelines and ensure that frontline personnel receive the equipment and supplies needed to maintain readiness and continuity of service.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SECTION

Section Report by: Chief Mechanic

Budget	Category	Adj Appropriation	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Goal
Auxiliary	S&W	\$501,253	\$ 358,346*	71%	63%*
62322	OCE	\$ 645,857	\$ 639,655	99%	75%
62326	Equipment	\$25,000	\$ 1,828	7%	75%

*S&W reporting through 1/31 only, January goal is 63%

Program Measures	March	YTD	LY YTD
Number of Repairs	174	1850	1890
Service Calls	33	283	303
Contracted Work or Tows	6	111	144
DOT inspections	0	134	134

Program Budget Objectives	February	YTD	Goal
Log 100% of vehicle work orders into EPR Fireworks	No Data	No Data	100%

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH

Section Report by: Battalion Chief of Communications

Budget	Category	Adj Appropriation	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Goal
ECC	S&W	\$1,853,786	\$676,864*	35%	63%*
62312	OCE	\$94,681	\$39,940	40%	75%
62610 e-911	OCE	\$337,760	\$219,999	52%	75%
	Equipment	\$2,800	\$14,000	500%	75%

*S&W reporting through 1/31 only, January goal is 63%

Program Measures			Admin (nonemergency)	Total
# of 911 calls	Avg duration	% answered < 10 sec	# of calls	# of calls
318**	201	84%	471**	789**

Program Budget Objectives	March	YTD	Goal
EMD Protocol Compliance 70%+ or greater	77%	54%	>70%
90% of 911 calls answered in <10 seconds	84%	85%	90%
Average time to process 911 call <180	201s	189s	<180 sec
Time from Call to Dispatch <60 seconds @ 90%	167s	147s	<60 sec

**Number of 9-1-1 and Admin calls are not an accurate count due to technological issues being addressed by the vendor. Data will be updated when available.

†Compliance goal to increase 5% per year

SNAPSHOTS AND STORIES

OPERATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

Battalion 1

- 3/2 **Residential structure fire** on Uhini Ana Rd Dist.5, Inc# 05254. Co.5, Co.3, Vol 5B and Vol 5D responded for multiple structures on fire. Upon arrival found two single-story residential fires in close proximity of each other. Fires extinguished with a defensive attack and overhauled. Both residences were unoccupied at time of fire, no victims found upon search of the homes. Cause of the fire is under investigation.
- 3/14 **Kona Low Event**. Majority of impacts for the east side of Hawaii island were in the Ka'u, Puna and Volcano districts. Extensive flooding in the Ka'u area shut down roads and power, restricting access to Pahala and Naalehu. Several families were evacuated to shelters in Ka'u and Puna due to flooding and storm related damage to residences. Crews also responded to assist victims trapped in vehicles in flooded areas, trees down on roadways and power lines down throughout the day and night.
- 3/16 **Residential structure fire** in Livingston Subdivision Dist.5, Inc #06542. Co. 5, Co.3, and Co.19 responded to a residential structure fire. Upon arrival found a single-story residential structure fully involved, all occupants out of the structure. Fire extinguished and overhauled, no victims were found upon search of the residence. Cause of the fire is unknown.
- 3/20 **Missing Swimmer** near Honoka'a landing Dist.8 Inc #6972. Co.8 was notified by a concerned party of a missing swimmer from the night prior. Upon investigation enough evidence pointed to a female party missing in the ocean near Haina landing. Search conducted for three days utilizing Rescue boat 2, Chopper 1 and assistance for the USCG with a C130. Search called off after three days due to negative findings.

Battalion 2

- 3/13, Inc.# 6285; **Tree Fell** on Motorcyclist: Co.21 responded to a report of a tree collapse on a motorcyclist. Pt. suffered head injury and transported to KNER by M21. Scene turned over to HPD.
- 3/14, Inc.# 6394; **Family Rescued from Home**: Co.6 responded to report of flooding to a residence with a family of 5 trapped inside due to raging water. Personnel were able to assist 4 of the 5 members out of harms way. 5th Family member chose to remain in the home.
- 3/14, Inc.#6395; **Vehicle Trapped** by Flooding Waters: Co.7 responded to trapped vehicle and was able to assist driver out of vehicle and to safety. No further incident noted.

Training:

- 3/11-3/12 – Calm the Chaos Training – WUI-2-Day training for B Shift personnel.

FIRE PREVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Community Outreach, Events & Media Engagement

March 2: Participated in career day with the Training Division at Waiakea Intermediate School.

March 3: Conducted a community assessment with HWMO for Wildfire preparedness in the Kumulani Community.

March 4: Fire Prevention Inspector Requelman and Inspector Nakata attended the Career Expo for E.B. DeSilva Elementary School and met with students about becoming a Firefighter!

March 6: Career Day at Keaau Middle School

March 25: Prevention staff attended an event at Kealakehe for the Hawaii Island Community Health Center career fair.

Wildfire Prevention and Fuel Reduction Efforts:

3/2: Participated in Field Operations with UH Manoa, PTA and SWCA GIS mapping and fire break potential areas, DIP Tank sites, access and fuels reduction in high hazard areas surrounding PTA and large landowners

3/5: Met with KS Land Management (Retired Battalion Chief Hayashida) on proper MOU agreement standards and Knox access for KS land parcels on Hawai'i Island

3/6: Captain Goo attended a zoom meeting USDA Spring Seminar Changing Fire Management on the Forsyth Fire

3/6: Captain Goo attended an in-person Hawai'i Wildfire Mitigation Stakeholders Meeting with State Fire Marshal Dori Booth, UH Manoa GIS specialists, PTA, SWCA, Parker Ranch, DHHL, HELCO, KS, MKWA and HWMO

3/18: Met with DHHL, HWMO and UH Manoa to assist in April on a Firebreak and vegetation reduction in Kona Palisades

3/18: Captain Goo participated in the Cross-county Wildfire Council meeting with all fire departments discussing current and future projects as well as discussion between all counties to also include ARFF, PTA and HWMO

3/19: Captain Goo worked on the current N5 Fire Detection systems in District 11

3/23-27: Captain Goo and Chief Carvalho attended the Wildfire Urban Interface Conference in Reno, Nevada

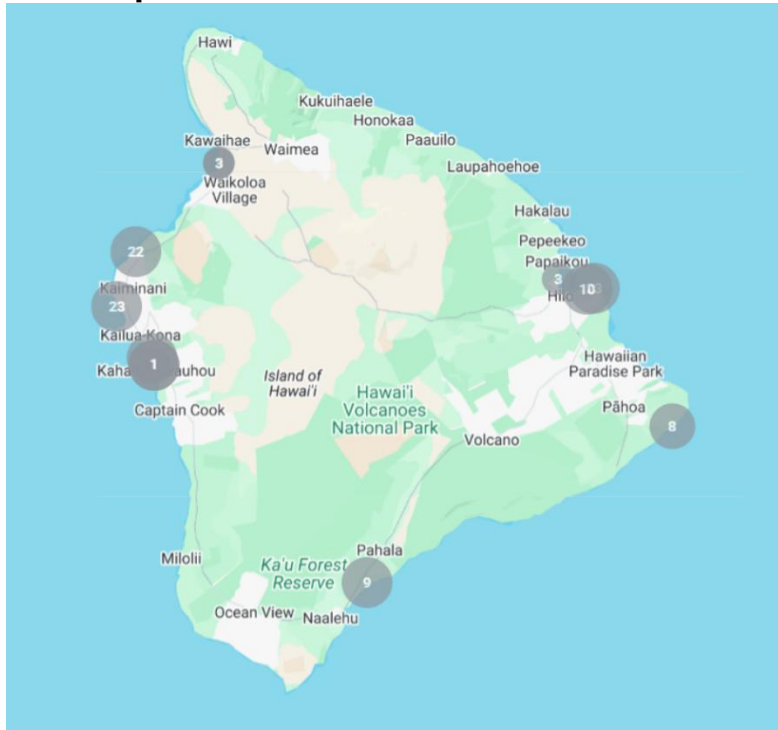


Fire Investigations / UAS Program

3/2: District 5, Ahini Ana Road, Residential Fire

OCEAN SAFETY HIGHLIGHTS

Heat Map



Heat map of Major First Aids, Minor First Aids and Rescues for month of March; Watchtower Program

ACC Training

West Hawaii HFD Aquatics Competency Certification Training (Operations Instructors Cadre). Kona Aquatics Center 3/09/2026.



Hāweo Award

WSO Awo; awarded Hāweo Award at the West Hawai'i Civic Center. 3/18/26



Public Education/Outreach



Keaukaha Elementary School Career Expo. 3/11/26



Alo Kehau o ka 'Aina Mauna and Pūnana Leo o Waimea Ocean Safety Workshop at Spencer Beach Park. 3/28/26

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

1-A (Pepe'ekeo)

3/7 put up fencing on Hamakua side and back of station.

3/21 participated in community project at Puainako Town Center. Fire engine static display for keiki fun day. Passed out badges, pencils, stickers, candies and chips. Over 250 children attended. Conducted monthly training and maintenance.

5-B (Hawaiian Acres), 5-D (Fern Acres), 6-B (Kona Paradise), 10-D (Ainaloa), 11-A (Naalehu), 11-C (Discovery Harbor), 11-D (Pahala), and 14-A (Kohala)

Conducted monthly training and maintenance.

7-B (Kalaoa)

Driver training, pump operations, ICS, first aid, PPE training.

8-A (Pa'auilo)

3/5 One call out for smell of smoke alarm, stood down per Capt.8.

3/14 toned out for possible structure fire alarm, stood down per Capt. 8, cooking fire. Conducted FEO audit training with vol Kapihe.

9-A (Waiki'i)

Conducted monthly training on ICS and firefighter safety. Routine Maintenance.

9-B (Kanehoa)

Conducted 3 trainings in March that included review of fire extinguisher training, practiced a firefighter down drill with some basic first aid review, and some basic hose drill training.

16-B (Pu'uanahulu)

Conducted 35 hours of driver training, performed station and vehicle maintenance, in district size up exercises.

19-A (Volcano)

3/9, Conducted FEO audit training for Vol FF Hawk with Capt. Cho.

3/11 Conducted company monthly training with Capt. Cho, FEO audit training consisting of on-scene arrival apparatus placement, pumping ops drill with 19A & 19B companies.

3/18 attended Cooper Center council meeting.

3/25 Vol tasks training with Chief Moller. Performed monthly station cleaning.

19-B (Fern Forest)

3/11 Conducted company monthly training with Capt. Cho, FEO audit training consisting of on-scene arrival apparatus placement, pumping ops drill with 19A & 19B companies.

20-A (HOVE)

Conducted monthly training at hydrant (4 personnel attended). 2 callouts for brushfire alarms.

TECHNICAL SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

CradlePoint Wi-Fi Settings.

- Changed all CradlePoints Wi-Fi from factory default SSIDs to two hidden SSIDs. Configured MDTs for the new SSIDs.
- Uniform SSIDs are needed so Wi-Fi capable radios can be programmed to connect to the Wi-Fi from any HFD vehicle with a CradlePoint installed.
- This is needed for Motorola Smart Connect. Smart Connect will allow radios to connect to county Land Mobile Radio (LMR) system via the internet when a radio is out of LMR range.

Website ADA Compliance

- All sections of hawaiicounty.gov website HFD is responsible for have been revised and made Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2 compliant.
- PDF forms on Fire Department section of hawaiicounty.gov have also been revised for WCAG 2 compliance.
- WCAG compliance is a federal mandate, all local (county) governments must be compliant by 4/24/2026.

Backup engine HFD 441 CradlePoint Installation.

- Reconfigured and moved CradlePoint from HFD 625 which hasn't been used as a backup engine to HFD 441 which has been often used as a backup and is currently being used as E10.
- The MDT can be undocked from primary frontline engine and be docked into HFD 441

AC Controller for ECC

- Worked with AC vendor to get a laptop setup for the AC controller at the Emergency Communication Center (ECC).
- Setup will allow for DPW and Vendor to remotely monitor and control the AC system at the ECC

SAFETY PROGRAM

Respiratory Protection Program

- Most breathing air compressors successfully recertified in March:
 - Pahoia TCOM: passed 3/7/26, certified through June 5, 2026
 - Makalei TCOM: passed 3/10/26, certified through June 8, 2026
 - Haihai TCOM: passed 3/10/26, certified through June 8, 2026
 - Training (Haihai) Mako: passed 3/14/26, certified through June 12, 2026
 - Waiakea Mako: certification expired March 20, 2026; currently Out of Service pending recertification and updated sample results.
- Compressor issues:
 - Haihai TCOM-light: ongoing issues with corroded electrical connection and keeping unit running; staff reports ability to obtain air samples.
 - Mobile Mako 5400 at Haihai (Training): air leak on bank #4 (Out of Commission) identified 1/26/26; no update; PSI and Mechanics coordinating assessment/repair.
 - Request for PSI in-service training for Haihai personnel remains pending (PSI response delayed; not available on recent trips; requested for future Hilo-side visit).
- IFB 26-0129 awarded to PSI for Bauer TCOM replacement; estimated delivery late June/July 2026.

Coordination with Training & National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

- "Taking Care of Our Own" (LODD) training successfully hosted by HFD at Training Branch (Haihai) on March 5–6, 2026; registration was full for both days.



- NFFF online (Zoom) info session on the Public Safety Officer Benefit Program held March 4, 2026, at 1400 hrs.
- Meeting held with HBMC on March 23, 2026, regarding updates to the LODD Plan.

Procurement of NFPA Ground Ladder Testing Equipment/Supplies

- Order (PO issued November 2025) finally shipped after vendor issues resolved; transferred in Honolulu to barge for Kona delivery. ETA to Warehouse "days" as of 3/27/26. Fiscal processed invoice and is holding check until receipt and acceptance.
- Working with AC1 to issue memo soliciting interested personnel to finalize testing procedure and draft training materials/resources. Rollout planning (including potential video creation) to follow delivery.

Environmental / Mold & Lead Testing

- Professional Services contract for comprehensive environmental testing (mold, lead, etc.) approved by Corporate Counsel and now circulating for signatures.
- Lehua Environmental testing conducted at Kaumana on February 19, 2026; results pending (did not include mold sampling). New roof leaks reported in Kaumana locker room on 3/29/26; work orders submitted.
- Follow-up particle sampling completed at multiple stations:
 - Waiakea: air quality good overall; no immediate actions required.
 - Kaumana: select areas (Captain's Dorm, Captain's Bathroom) showed indoor counts 2–2.3× outdoor averages; main dormitory ~1.5× outdoor. Continued pursuit of formal professional mold testing recommended given water damage history.
 - Kea'au: indoor elevations in moisture-prone areas support need for formal professional testing amid past roof issues and slow remediation.
 - Kailua (#7): follow-up on 3/24/26 showed new roof leaks in breezeway and Captain's locker area; current data does not indicate active widespread mold, but legacy HVAC + new moisture creates risk. Work orders submitted. Earlier sampling showed moderate consistent levels with no active amplification.
- Station 18: Mold reported in several AC units on 3/22/26. Evaluated 3/23/26; units steam-cleaned by crew. No visible fuzzy mold (minor black discoloration in crevices); air particle readings are significantly cleaner indoors than outdoors with no mold-spore spikes. Researching feasibility of station-level procedure for window AC coil cleaning, antimicrobial treatment, and drain-pan service (no current vendor).
- Temporary Central Fire Station: Condensation/moisture observed on high-ceiling dorm panels due to temperature stratification and high outdoor humidity. Air quality remained good with no mold or elevated particulates, dorm safe for occupancy. Dehumidifier obtained by Warehouse and proven effective. Crews advised to raise temperature and use ceiling/directional fans during rainy/high-humidity periods.

Joint Safety Committee

- March 25, 2026, meeting cancelled due to HFFA scheduling conflict. Proposed shift to 2nd Wednesday of each month (next tentatively April 8, 2026 @ 1000 hrs); committee consensus/approval pending.

Safety Concerns and Inspections

- County Safety Division recommendation for industrial ladder safety training following in-station cleaning injury (gray area due to non-emergency context). Evaluated American Ladder Institute online modules for step and mobile ladders (most relevant to fire service use); coordinating rollout options with Training Branch.
- Reminder process for correct use of Incident/Accident vs. Vehicle/Equipment/Property Damage reports ongoing; draft memo in coordination with HR.
- Fire extinguisher vendor issue with aircraft extinguishers resolved through clarifications between vendor and DOM (personnel familiarity gap addressed).

- Coordination with UH/HDOT for Eyes on the Road Program: potential installation of forward-facing dash cameras on units/medic units. Reviewing terms/conditions; concerns regarding inability to disable cab-facing audio/video. One camera currently under 1–2 week pilot test/evaluation.
- Met with Exact Sciences representative regarding blood-based cancer screening test (screens >50 cancers, 68% sensitivity/97% specificity). Evaluating options to host/facilitate screening events (\$630–689 per test with payment plan ~\$50/month out-of-pocket). Contact made with UH Cancer Center Director of Community Outreach; meeting scheduled for 3/31/26 to explore program adaptations/expansions for HFD personnel.
- Discussions with DOH Clean Air Branch regarding hosting non-regulated air-quality sensors for Volcano and Puna coverage gaps: no update.

Other

- COOP exercise for Admin conducted Friday, March 27, 2026; draft After-Action Report (AAR) circulating for review/comments due COB Thursday, April 2, 2026.

ALOHA EXCHANGE FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



Battalion Chief Ka'aina Keawe was recognized as the 2025 Firefighter of the Year by the Aloha Exchange Club of East Hawai'i on March 7, an honor that reflects his steady leadership, operational depth, and long-standing commitment to HFD. A 2006 recruit, Chief Keawe has contributed across multiple disciplines, including rescue and hazardous materials, and has continued to strengthen the department through leadership development, training initiatives, and practical safety improvements for personnel. He was specifically recognized not only for his broad professional contributions, but also for the example he sets in moments of need, including responding off duty to relieve crews at a significant downtown Hilo structure fire. Congratulations, Chief Keawe!



THROUGH THE YEARS

This month's flashback is to July 16, 1978, via the Hawai'i Tribune Herald.

2 - Hawaii Tribune-Herald, Orchid Isle, July 16-22, 1978



Tribune-Herald Photo

Yes, fire-fighters/rescue men still slide down the brass poles from second floor at Central Fire Station en route to boarding vehicles as aptly shown by EMT-Paramedic Wayne Kabasawa.

★ Beginning a 3-Part Series ★

Change Fosters Firemen's Training In Emergency Medical Techniques

By Maxine Hughes
Orchid Isle Editor

Fire-fighting techniques have come a long, long way since the days of the horse-drawn hook and ladder apparatus.

But a far more dramatic change in the fireman's skills is the dual role of responding to medical emergencies where basic or advanced life support on the scene is of prime importance.

Traditionally, all firemen have been required to complete training in the American Red Cross advanced first aid course.

However, unparalleled advancement in the past five years now makes available to island fire-fighters, sophisticated training as Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) in basic life support; Mobile Intensive Care Technician (MICT) or paramedics as these latter are known, on advanced life support; or Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P).

On the Road

These certified emergency medical care personnel are the men you see at all hours of the day and night proceeding in the familiar yellow and white rescue vans in response to calls throughout the Big Island.

Since so few have life saving responsibility for so many, we went to Central Fire Station to talk to some of the men involved in this humanitarian effort.

Battalion Chief John Ide, an 18-year veteran with the Hawaii Fire Dept., and Garfield Arakaki, fireman for 10 years and one of the first MICTs on the Big Island, described the program in detail with obvious pride.

Ide, also coordinator of emergency medical training, explained, "basically, the men are fire-fighters. Operating with the manpower we have, they are offered emergency medical care training on a voluntary basis, thus qualifying them for a dual role. In my position, the problem is how to maximize manpower. You do the most with what you have."

Interim Make-Do

Initially, he said, the fire department offered first aid, then called for an ambulance if further care was needed. Later, firemen started transferring people to the hospital in station wagons.

These instances multiplied many times over until the program of training professional emergency medical service personnel was initiated here in 1973.

"Most people have the misconception that a fireman waits in the station for a fire call—that a rescue man is only a rescue man or is only a paramedic," the battalion chief reflected. "In reality a fire-fighter is trained in fire-fighting techniques and also is trained to do a certain amount of rescue work. Every fire-fighter is a rescue man."

Arakaki, described by Ide as the key man in the paramedic operation, added that after completion of training, MICTs are certified by the state to administer any type of medical support including administration of drugs or medication and in the use of specialized medical equipment and techniques under direct orders of licensed physicians in the state through radio communication, MEDICOM, or through standing orders.

MEDICOM allows direct communication between the paramedic and the emergency physicians at Queen's Medical Center, St. Francis Hospital, both in Honolulu, and Hilo Hospital, he explained.

Emergency Scene

"In effect," the experienced paramedic remarked, "we're taking the emergency room to the patient. We are the doctor's hands and eyes in stabilizing and helping the patient at the site of the emergency."

As a matter of clarification, Arakaki said there are four levels of training:

First Responder—a shorter, 40-hour course to train fire, police and life guard personnel in methods of stabilizing a person until emergency people and equipment arrives.

Emergency Medical Technicians—400 hours of training in Honolulu and now in Hilo, a 320 hour course in basic life support.

Mobile Intensive Care Technicians—advanced life support training or actual emergency room techniques, an eight-months course.

Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic—the combined training of the EMT and MICT in a less intensive course.

Setting an Example

The overall paramedic system is patterned after a program developed by the American Heart Association for heart attack victims, he explained. Originally, individuals were trained up to the level of using some medical equipment and short of using drugs.

Ide stated that of the 145 fire-fighting personnel on the Big Island, 119 have been trained in the First Responder Course. In addition, the Big Island Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Center (CPRC) holds three classes per month for all interested individuals. Thus, any trained individual is qualified to attempt to sustain a person until medical help arrives.

At the end of this month, a total of 93 firemen will have been trained as emergency medical technicians.

Another 15 men in the Hawaii Fire Department are certified mobile intensive care technicians.

Program Implemented

The training program was organized in 1971 when the City and County of Honolulu applied for and received a federal grant to initiate the Hawaii Emergency Medical Services Program. The goal being to upgrade the skills of emergency department physicians, nurses, ambulance personnel and others. The program was set up at Queen's Medical Center. It is currently administered by the Hawaii Medical Association for the City and County of Honolulu and is available to trainees statewide.

In January of 1973, the MICT program was established. It consists of 17 weeks of intensive classroom instruction and 16 weeks of internship on the ambulance and in the emergency department.

Cross-training of Big Island firemen in emergency life support began in February of 1973, Arakaki recounted,

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END REPORT