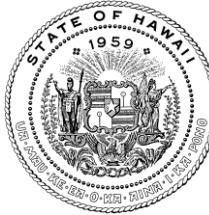


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIAĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
Director

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KA HOPE KIAĀINA

ERNEST J. ROBELLO
Deputy Director
Administration

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKUĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai
715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

STATE FIRE COUNCIL (SFC)
FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2025-2026 FIRST QUARTER MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time: August 11, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Place: Meeting held in person and via audioconferencing pursuant to HRS § 92-3.7. Remote meeting by interactive conference technology; notice; quorum. Effective: January 1, 2022

Present:

Kazuo Todd	SFC Chair and Fire Chief of the Hawaii County Fire Department (HCFD), Hawaii County
Sheldon Hao	SFC Vice Chair and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) City and County of Honolulu
Bradford Ventura	SFC Member and Fire Chief of the Maui Department of Fire and Public Safety (MFD), Maui County (joined virtually)
Michael Gibson	SFC Member and Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD), Kauai County
Martinez Jacobs	SFC Member and Airports Fire Chief Airports Division, Transportation Department (ARFF) State of Hawaii
Michael Walker	SFC Member and Fire Protection Forester Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) State of Hawaii
Dorothy Booth	SFC Member and State Fire Marshal (joined virtually) Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) State of Hawaii
Gary Lum	SFC Administrative Specialist III (AS)
Socrates Bratakos	SFC Administrative Specialist II
Michael O'Sullivan	Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) Administrator

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Carol Suzuki Secretary

Guests:

Russell Fong	Administrative Services Officer (ASO), Department of Law Enforcement (DLE), State of Hawaii
Steve Nakagawa	Accountant, DLE, State of Hawaii
Reid Yoshida	Assistant Chief, Support Services, HFD
Pao-Chi Hwang	Battalion Chief, Fire Prevention Bureau, HFD
Kendall Ching	Captain, Fire Prevention Bureau, HFD
Michael Dillman	Captain, Plans Checking, HFD
Max Lindsey Kanekawaiola	Code Specialist, Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS), State of Hawaii
Gary Honold	Regional Director, Northwest Division National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
Bryan Imai	Government Relations Manager, International Code Council (ICC)
Victoria Chang	Member of the public
Caitlin Thompson	Member of the media
Riley Fujisaki	Member of the public
Mark Ladao	News producer, Hawaii Public Radio, joined at about 2:00 p.m.

I. Introduction

- A. Call to Order at 1:05 p.m.
- B. Introduction of Attendees and Public Comments

Attendees introduced themselves; there were no public comments.

C. Approval of the SFC FY 2025 Fourth Quarter meeting minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of May 6, 2025, as written.

All members voted in favor of accepting the minutes as written; the motion was carried.

D. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the August 11, 2025 meeting agenda.

All members voted in favor of accepting the agenda as presented; the motion was carried.

II. Old Business

A. State amendments to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1 Fire Code, 2024 Edition.

1. Sec. 2.2 NFPA 1124, Code for the Manufacture, Transportation, Storage and Retail Sales of Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles, 2013 Edition.

Concerns regarding the language for retail sale and display of fireworks indoors was discussed. The 2013 NFPA allowed for indoor sales. In view of the fact that there are very few fireworks incidents indoors, it was proposed that the SFC take the 2013 Edition of the State Fire Code, Chapters 6 and 7, and make it a part of the 2026 Edition. The following motion was made:

MOTION: To amend, “20, NFPA publications, Sec. 2.2, NFPA 1124, to read as follows: Sec. 2.2, NFPA 1124: Code for the Manufacture, Transportation, Storage and Retail Sales of Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles, 2026 Edition, with Chapters 6 and 7, 2013 Edition.

All members voted in favor of accepting the motion as stated; the motion was carried.

2. 32. Sec. 11.12.3.2.1 Roof access for one- and two-Family Dwellings and Townhouses for photo-voltaic systems. One- and two-family dwellings need not comply with this section.

Removal of this section was discussed. Access to roofing with solar not required due to fire tactics. Chair Todd had no concerns about whether counties choose to enforce or not.

MOTION: Strike 32. Roof access for one- and two- family dwellings and townhouses. Sec. 11.12.3.2.1 Roof access for one- and two-Family Dwellings and Townhouses for photo-voltaic systems.

All members voted in favor of accepting the motion as stated; the motion was carried.

3. Discussed the need to look into retroactively updating fire protection systems. Add administrative policies of timelines and expectations for updating fire alarms. SFM Booth not comfortable with taking language out of the code when schools have not brought systems up to date.

BC Hwang shared that Honolulu has life safety evaluations. In the current ordinance, high rise buildings are allowed time to bring building up to par. Or, if building passes an evaluation with a high enough score showing existing occupancy has allowed for use of alternative means and methods of fire prevention, can opt out of sprinklers.

It was suggested that more time be allotted to thoroughly discuss the fire code.

MOTION: A meeting on September 5, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. be scheduled to discuss fire code issues, in person or virtually.

All members voted in favor of accepting the motion to meet on September 5, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. for the sole purpose of discussing the fire codes, and adoption of the proposed changes to the code.

Note: September 25, 2026 is deadline to adopt the amendments. The national code will be the state fire code by default. Impact: HRS 107 gives state projects one year to implement when code adopted. There is a two-year leeway to make amendments to the county code.

B. Review of 2025 Legislative Bills

1. Act 243 Fireworks, amended HRS 32, related to fireworks. Added State Fire Marshal in notification loop of shipments and removed the county fire chief from notifications. Notification shall be made through system as designated by the SFM. The legislature additionally imposed a limit of fifty (50) consumer fireworks permits per year, per applicant. In the past, one applicant could receive hundreds of fireworks permits.
2. Act 302 Fire Protection. Lists statistical reports counties are to submit to the SFM Booth. NARIS is acceptable to SFM Booth as long as statistical data is included. Potential for State sponsored RMS, so not relying on Federal government for maintenance.

SFM Booth met with fire inspectors last week to discuss modification of inspection schedules for state facilities. SFM Booth delegates authority to counties to assist her in conducting State level inspections and in monitoring that corrections are made until she is staffed.

3. Chapter 303. DOFAW can conduct fuel reduction zones and work with DDHL and DOE on specific needs on fuel reduction work. In response to fires on DOFAW designated lands, Walker explained that not all State lands are DOFAW primary response lands; some are designated for co-response lands.

Chapter 185, assessment of structures and inspectors designating land as defensible space. Currently there exists no ability to designate any land as wildland.

SFC discussed how best to assess and designate lands as Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) lands, and establish protocols for fighting fires on WUI land. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to adopt Maui's fire code as it has been amended to address wildland fires and firebreaks between lands and structures.

Act 258 relating to energy. Targets electrical utilities to plan for wildfire mitigation. HECO has a plan

C. Wildland-Urban Interface Risk Assessment & Mitigation for the Fire Service class

A second class scheduled for Nov. 5 in Honolulu is pending funding. Honold offered to provide training wherever there is a need.

III. New Business

A. State Fire Marshal and SFC transfer to Department of Law Enforcement (DLE)

SFM Booth's office is at the DLE's office located at 750 South King Street. DLE is providing administrative services for her until she hires staff. She has a budget of \$2.2M of which \$836K is for salaries for hiring seven staff members; namely, a Deputy State Fire Marshal, two inspectors, three investigators, and an office assistant. She is in the process of establishing the positions and drafting position descriptions to hire an office assistant first.

AS Lum reported on the status of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the SFC, HFD and the DLE has not yet been finalized. DLE's ASO Fong reported that they encountered complications transferring the SFM's office and the SFC's accounts from DLIR to DLE. The process is almost complete and the MOA will be signed shortly.

B. NFPA Update

Honold reported that the theme for this year's fire prevention week is: "Charge into Fire Safety" which highlights education and training on li-ion batteries. A week ago Honold provided training. Go to NFPA.org for templates.

Honold expressed concern that legislation of codes is stripping away safety standards and decreases enforcement of fire codes. Codes and standards need to be protected as safety doesn't happen by chance. He said results of a survey showed that most people are not aware of codes and standards, and how they become law. Honold requested to be notified when codes are deleted.

NFPA 1 2024 update training and Standards 71 and 72. He will reach out to departments for a schedule training.

At 2:42 p.m., a 15-minute meeting break was taken. The meeting resumed at 2:58 p.m.

C. SFC Bylaws Update

Changes to the by-laws was discussed. The following motion was made:

MOTION: To accept by-laws as amended. Namely, 1) To change the department under which the State Fire Council (SFC) is administratively under from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) to the Department of Law Enforcement (DLE), 2) In view of Article 3, Section 1.B., add the following three members and language specifying that all members, inclusive of the State Fire Marshal, Fire Chief of the Hawaii State Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Unit, Airports Division, State of Transportation (ARFF), and representative from the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DOFAW), to name their replacement in case of illness or sudden death, 3) In view of Article 7, Section 1, notice of SFC meetings will be given six (6) days prior to the meeting date, and 4) The quorum count is changed from 3 to 4 based on the increase in SFC members from 4 to 7.

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All members voted in favor of accepting the changes to the by-laws as written; the motion was carried.

D. SFC FY 2025 Annual Report

AS Lum reported that the SFC is a voting member on the State Building Code Council (SBCC). There were no meetings in FY 2025. AS Lum recommended that when the SBCC resumes their monthly meetings, that SFM Booth be a voting member on behalf of the SFC since she represents a higher level in the State. No motion is needed to have SFM Booth attend SBCC meetings.

The proposed bills that passed and failed at the State legislature, i.e., firefighter workers compensation medical benefits for cancer, mandatory installation of fire sprinkler systems, use of fireworks with a permit for cultural use only, were discussed.

SFC also serves as the conduit for reviewing Certificate of Fitness (COF) ICC applications that are submitted by individuals who want to be licensed to perform inspections, testing and maintenance of fire prevention systems (FPS). The program was expanded to include water-based hydrants. The ICC certificate is good for three years. The administrative rule package compiled by the State authorizes SFC to serve as a reviewing entity.

Fire Prevention Week (FPW)

Chair Todd suggested that SFM Booth arrange for a photo opportunity with the Governor in commemoration of FPW. This year it may suffice to have program online instead of flying in.

The SFC ended FY 2025 with a \$14,500 budget surplus. These funds carried over for one year into the new fiscal year. After one year, any remaining surplus funds are returned to the State.

For FY 2026, the SFC is budgeted for \$106K, and the RIPC is budgeted for \$200K with a 10% reduction per Governor Green's line-item veto for the biennium budget for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

Michael O'Sullivan reported on the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette Program. He inspects, educates, and distributes his informational flyers statewide. He has accomplished half of the total he expects to complete. He still needs to visit stores in Hilo and Molokai and plans on making day trips.

Testing contracts in the City are in place. So far, he has sent one batch of 20 cartons of cigarettes for testing; there have been no failures. Once the DLE funding is sorted out, he will continue his efforts to test more cigarettes. He is working on a fee increase schedule. Last year 720 brands were compliant, and he collected over \$200K. The monies collected covers salaries and testing fees. Next year, O'Sullivan is considering testing under 100 cigarettes. Inspection is not about buying the cigarettes; and more about inspecting to make sure cigarette is RIPC compliant and has the RIPC emblem so testing every cigarette each year is not necessary.

E. Nomination and Vote for Chair and Vice Chair

The following people were nominated to serve a term of two years:

Kazuo Todd, Chair

Dorothy Booth, Vice Chair

MOTION: Kazuo Todd to serve as Chair and Dorothy Booth to serve as Vice Chair of the State Fire Council for two fiscal-year terms.

Chair Todd requested that AS Lum copy SFM Booth on any future correspondence. All members voted in favor of accepting the motion; the motion was carried.

III. Discussion of Next Quarterly Meeting

The second quarterly meeting for FY 2026 is tentatively scheduled for November 10, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

Also scheduled is a meeting on September 5, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the fire code. This will likely be a virtual meeting.

Fire Chiefs will also participate in a proclamation signing in October to commemorate Fire Prevention Week, October 5 to 11, 2025. The theme is, Charge into Fire Safety.”

VI. Adjournment

Hearing no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. by Chair Todd.



Dorothy Booth
Vice Chair