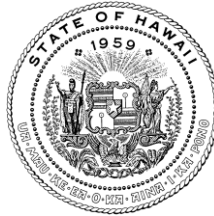


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STATE FIRE COUNCIL (SFC)
FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2025-2026 THIRD QUARTER MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time: January 22, 2026, 9:00 a.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:

Dorothy Booth	SFC Vice Chair and State Fire Marshal (SFM) State of Hawaii
Sheldon Hao	SFC Member and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) City and County of Honolulu
Daniel Volpe	Acting Fire Chief of the Hawaii County Fire Department (HCFD), Hawaii County
Bradford Ventura	SFC Member and Fire Chief of the Maui Department of Fire and Public Safety (MFD), Maui County
Martinez Jacobs	SFC Member and Airports Fire Chief Airports Division, Transportation Department (ARFF) State of Hawaii
Michael Walker	Fire Protection Forester Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) State of Hawaii
Gary Lum	SFC Administrative Specialist (AS) III
Carol Suzuki	SFC Secretary
Brenton Inouye	Deputy Attorney General (AG) Hawaiian Home Lands & Housing Division Department of Public Safety, State of Hawaii

Absent:

Michael Gibson	SFC Member and Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD), Kauai County
Socrates Bratakos	SFC AS II
Michael O' Sullivan	Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) Administrator

Guests:

Jason Samala	Deputy Fire Chief, HFD
Reid Yoshida	Assistant Chief, Support Services, HFD
Pao-Chi Hwang	Battalion Chief, Fire Prevention Bureau, HFD
Gary Honold	Regional Director, Northwest Division National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
K. Max Lindsey Kanekawaiola	Code Specialist, Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS), State of Hawaii
Ryan Endo	Deputy Attorney General Department of the Attorney General, State of Hawaii
Jack Poole, PE, FSFPE	Principal of Poole Fire Protection
Damien Kyte	United Airlines
Wojciech Kajdas	United Airlines, Project Manager II, Western Region Corporate Real Estate, Planning and Development
Christine Reed	International Code Counsel
Michael Cooney	Hawaii Natural Energy Institute University of Hawaii
K. Johnson	Member of the public
808-8-----12	Unidentified member of the public
Thomas Heaton	(joined meeting at about 10:10 a.m.)
Max Matias	(joined meeting at about 10:40 a.m.)

I. Introduction

- A. Acting Chair Booth called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Hawaii Standard Time (HST). This meeting was recorded.

- B. Acting Chair Booth welcomed everyone. Attendees introduced themselves.

There were no public comments.

Acting Chair Booth requested a moment of silence to remember and honor Chair Kazuo Todd who passed away on December 14, 2025.

- C. The SFC reviewed the FY 2026 Special meeting minutes and Second Quarter meeting minutes of September 5, 2025 and November 10, 2025, respectively.

MOTION: To approve the September 5, 2025, and November 10, 2025 minutes 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 January 22, 2026 meeting agenda.

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

II. Old Business

- A. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the SFC, HFD, the Department of Law Enforcement (DLE), and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR).

AS Lum reported that the MOA for the SFC was signed by all parties, and the MOA for the RIPC has not yet been completed and is pending with the DLE for editing.

- B. Certificate of Fitness Requirements to Sell Firecrackers

The topic of whether a license is needed to sell fireworks was discussed. Deputy AG Inouye remarked that while a license is needed to comply with HRS 132-D. Regardless of the administrative rules from Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health (HIOSH) that requires anyone selling or dealing with firecrackers possess a certificate of fitness (COF), HRS 132-D takes precedence over administrative rules. If changes are to be made to include COF, the law needs to be changed. No changes to the law will be done this year as the bill package has already been submitted.

BC Hwang offered to do more research and table the matter until the next legislative session to make changes.

- D. Examination Requirements for the Fire Protection Systems (FPS) Certificate of Fitness (COF)

In a previous SFC quarterly meeting, the (late) SFC Chair Kazuo Todd asked about the process to amend the Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) regarding the FPS COF. Deputy AG Inouye explained the amendment process for HAR. A discussion on the existing FPS COF program ensued and SFC AS III Lum explained the program. Lum also recalled that this issue from the previous meeting was generated from a complaint that the ICC & NICET exam questions contain subject matter on design and installation

aspects of FPS, not inspection, testing, and maintenance (ITM) in accordance with the existing HAR. According to SFM Booth, ITM does involve installation and/or modification. It was suggested a committee be formed to perform research on the current FPS COF program and generate recommendations for improvement.

D. SFC Bylaws Update

The current bylaws were passed at the November meeting and will be signed and dated today.

III. New Business

A. Lithium Battery (LIB) Disposal Analysis (Michael Cooney, Ph.D)

Dr. Cooney discussed four studies he completed by himself and with working groups. He shares his research and findings on disposal of batteries, and is currently working on a fifth report. The following are his four reports:

2022: Recommendations on Waste Management of Clean Energy Products in Hawaii

2023: Policy Recommendation on Waste Management of Clean Energy Products in Hawaii

2024: Waste Management of EOL, PV Panels and LIBs in Hawaii

2025: Options for Lithium Battery Disposal in Hawaii: Requirements and Analysis

2026: Tentative title: Analysis of three potential stewardship structures with mock legislation to enact

Dr. Cooney presented his research and how batteries, upon end of life, end up in a warehouse. In 2023, he did a follow up on clean energy products focusing on batteries. He visited recyclers of batteries and panels and met with State Energy resource and brought in seven companies with concern on batteries. It is difficult to get insurance to ship batteries off island.

What is the impact to county fire departments in the room? If state doesn't put in a stewardship structure who have mandate and funding for shipping and deactivation of batteries, there will be an increased risk of battery fires. Harbor transfer stations and homes will be undue hazards. It will start hitting the insurance industry. Fire department will be tasked to extinguish fires.

BC Hwang agreed that disposal is a challenge on the islands. Because labeled as universal waste. The biggest potential hazard is when batteries age and have thermal runaways. Garbage trucks, landfills and shipping containers, present a higher hazard. Fire depts can help push legislation to manage lithium-ion batteries disposal. Nationally, H-Power can do similar to provide a way to coordinate with the public and companies to property dispose of lithium batteries. LIB needs to be labeled properly.

Recycled batteries are worse than new batteries as the internal membranes are reduced. Matson is not shipping electric vehicles. If shipping is too expensive, where does waste go? If not free to dispose of properly, waste will line the streets or be stored in homes, which are significant fire risks. States have restricted charging and storage of batteries. In summary, a stewardship structure must be enacted by law for raising money and on island storage for the public as an option; like with H-Power, one facility and everything sent there to be incinerated--shredded to an inert black mass and shipped off island.

SFM Booth mentioned two bills regarding battery recycling that passed second readings last session.

A five-minute break was taken; the meeting resumed at 10:55 a.m.

B. Understanding the Changes to NFPA 409 and the Fire Risk Assessment Process
(Jack Poole, P.E.)

Working with United NFPA 409. 35th year of company out of Kansas. Dr. Poole is licensed in every state as a PE. Discussed (see slide)

He presented a slide presentation regarding the History of Foam and Use in Hangers, NFPA Process Overview—Standards Development Process, Scope and Purpose of NFPA 409—Minimum requirements for hangers, Significant Changes to NFPA 409—Change the Standard, Fire Protection Approaches—Chapter 4 and 5 – Performance Based Design Approach, Ignitable Liquid Drainage Floor Assembly (DOD only using 2” square tubes with fire mesh in hold, fuel spill goes in holes flush out with water and flows through channel and fire goes out. Ignitable Liquid drainage floor assembly comparison showed in slide video Safespill system manufactured out of Houston, Research Projects and Overview, Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF)—Awarded to Poole Fire Protection/UMD-FPE Team, Project Drivers, Research Goal and Objectives, Incident Analysis—good data from Coast Guard with lots of spills—no fires.

Casualties in Foam System Discharge Incidents—causes disorientation when breathed in, Damage Costs in Accidental Discharges—damages equipment, specifically breaks, Ignited Spills at USAF Bases (AECOM Report)—most spills occur outside of hangers. FPRF Report Summary—hanger foam systems not justified, Hanger Solution Alternatives Considered—sprinklers, water mist (not a good solution foam, clean agent (not a good solution), ceiling, wall and floor mounted nozzles (need to make sure it works properly), Risk Assessment Approach—21 items reduced to 11 items per 2026 edition of NFPA 409. done for United Airlines heading to water only.

Poole did a fire risk assessment of United Airlines hangers. Currently doing risk assessments for all airlines and smaller private hangers. Group 1 and Group 2 fire risk assessments. Stakeholders involved in performance-based designing approval Chief Jacobs, Damien talking about maintenance of aircrafts, history of spills and fires, etc.

2022 edition of NFPA 409, Group 2 water only with 2026 edition of NFPA 409.

Hangers Bay Operation/Activities –general aircraft maintenance activities. Replacing of fuel pump is the biggest hazard. A cup or quart of fuel may spill out. There are ways to prevent a spill. Fire Risk Assessment Matrix (slide), United Hanger FRA Proposed Solutions—described water droplet sprinkler system recommended, Summary & Conclusions (use this slide to summarize presentation at beginning).

C. NFPA Update

1. The next Fire World Congress will be held in 2026 in Birmingham England, IFC managing day-to-day management. Looking for program manager.

2. NFPA update training was completed at the airport and Hawaii County Fire Prevention office. There soon will be NFPA 13 and 72 training available.

D. Nomination & Election of SFC Chair and Vice Chair

The bylaws were accepted in August, 2025. The AG clarified that the SFC is an advisory to the State Fire Marshal (SFM), and does not fall under the SFM. In some instances, SFC has jurisdiction over the SFM, such as performance evaluation.

The SFC held a discussion as to the role of the SFC and the SFM. Designated duties of the SFC Chair were clarified--running meetings, spokesperson for SFC, lobby legislature, as needed, The SFM's budget is set by the State budget person.

Nominations followed. Chief Hao was nominated for the Chair.

MOTION:

All voted in favor of Chief Hao to be the Chair of the SFC. SFM Booth remains the Vice Chair.

E. Training Opportunities

Upcoming training sessions will be posted on the website, i.e., prevention, operation. There is a Statewide Training committee. SFM Booth would like to see an all-encompassing leadership training.

AS Lum stated National Fire Academy classes are routed through the SFC and in March course selection is offered to staff and circulated to training officers. There were no takers in the past for the six-day classes. SFM mentioned NFPA offering scholarship classes as well.

F. 2026 Legislative Session and Bills

1. Submitted to Speaker a. Fireworks prohibition b. Repeal Hawaii Revised Statute 46-19.8
2. Submitted by other entities a. Senate Bill (SB) 2157

Met with legislators on January 21, 2026. Submitted bill package which included:

1. Sprinkler system
2. 2257 Search and Rescue submitted by others (reimbursement to counties)

MOTION: To support proposed legislative bills.

Parallels with Idaho, Maine, New Hampshire.

A vote was taken and those in favor of supporting the proposed legislative bills, unanimously voted to accept.

Add to the list HB 1419, 175, 55, 8, 1050, SB 1080 carryover bills.

Some amendments may be needed to bills for the management of the State Fire Marshal regarding use of fundings for staffing of particular positions needed.

IV. Discussion of Next Quarterly Meeting

The fourth quarterly meeting will be held on May 19, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

V. Adjournment

Hearing no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon by Acting Chair Booth.