CALL TO ORDER: Chair Nekota called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charlotte Nekota, Max Hannemann, William Hong, Nicholas Teves, Craig Nagamine and David Matlin.

MEMBER EXCUSED: Dennis Morton.

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting Fire Chief Lionel Camara, Jr. (HFD), Acting Deputy Fire Chief Sheldon Hao (HFD), Acting Assistant Fire Chief Joseph Kostiha (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Jason Samala (HFD), Battalion Chief John Pacheco (HFD), Acting Assistant Fire Chief Damien Kahaulelio (HFD), Brian Ancheta (Department of the Corporation Counsel), and Nadine Murata. The public was allowed to participate through audio and video-teleconference.

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON ALL AGENDA ITEMS.

Chair Nekota asked the public to identify themselves and to keep their testimony brief.

Public testimony began at 10:33 a.m.

Chair Nekota mentioned that she would like to end public testimony. Commissioner Morton moved and Commissioner Teves seconded. The public testimony concluded at 10:33 a.m. with 7 participants.
III. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW FIRE COMMISSIONER DAVID MATLIN.**

Chair Nekota introduced David Matlin as its newest member to the Honolulu Fire Commission.

IV. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2021.**

Chair Nekota called for any comments or corrections to the minutes of September 21, 2021. Commissioner Hong moved and Vice-Chair Hannemann seconded. There being no further comments or corrections and with a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission approved the minutes.

Chair Nekota mentioned that the Chief’s report will now be attached to the minutes for public view.

V. **APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2021.**

Chair Nekota called for any comments or corrections to the executive session minutes of September 21, 2021. Vice-Chair Hannemann moved and Commissioner Hong seconded. There being no further comments or corrections and with a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission approved the minutes.

VI. **REPORT OF ACTING FIRE CHIEF.** Acting Fire Chief Camara passed out his October 2021 monthly report and highlighted the following:

A. **Major Incidents.**

   Acting Fire Chief Camara went over major incidents with the Commission. Details can be found in the monthly report.

   1. **Fires.**

      Acting Fire Chief Camara mentioned that there were 10 working fires, consisting of 8 building fires and 2 wildland fires.

      Acting Fire Chief Camara mentioned that there were 2 intentionally set fires that have been turned over to Honolulu Police Department (HPD) for further investigation and possible prosecution.

   2. **Rescues.**

      Acting Fire Chief Camara mentioned that there were 13 working rescues.

      Acting Fire Chief Camara mentioned overall there were 15 residents rescued, 13
visitors, and 3 unknown.

Acting Fire Chief Camara mentioned there was 1 boater in distress, 5 hikers in distress, 2 injured hikers, 2 lost hikers and 1 pedestrian accident.

Acting Fire Chief Camara mentioned that HFD arrived at the pedestrian accident scene at 6:02 a.m. and the battery-powered hydraulic spreader and cutters were used to extricate the pedestrian, the injured pedestrian was transferred to EMS at 6:11 a.m.

Commissioner Hong expressed frustration on irresponsibility of hikers who put HFD personal at risk after sunset and suggested that a letter be sent to DAGS asking them to close trails at sunset and a possible fine.

Chair Nekota agreed and suggested talking to the Mayor.

Acting Fire Chief Camara mentioned that the department brings in HPD after dark and they conduct the law enforcement/fines.

3. **Hazardous Conditions.**

   34 Stalled elevators
   10 Gas leaks
   9 Downed trees
   9 Downed power lines
   4 Chemical spills
   4 Arcing electrical lines

4. **Vacancies as of September 30, 2021.**

   Acting Fire Chief Camara went over vacancies with the Commission and mentioned the department currently has 71 vacancies.

   **Injuries.**

   Acting Fire Chief Camara mentioned there were no major injuries.

   Acting Fire Chief Camara went over a needle stick non-emergency.

   Acting Fire Chief Camara gave the Commission an update of vaccination within the department. There are 901 fully vaccinated in uniform and 71 non-uniform for a total of 972/1122.
5. **Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA).**

Acting Fire Chief Camara mentioned that no meetings held with HFFA in September 2021.

Acting Fire Chief Camara mentioned that the department continues to conduct consultations and constant communications.

Commissioner Hong asked how many times has the department reached out to arrange a meeting with HFFA.

Acting Fire Chief Camara answered regular informal meetings are being conducted.

Acting Fire Chief Camara also reported on the following:

1. During the month of August, HFD received 2 complimentary correspondence and 3 complaints. Details can be found in the monthly report.

2. Acting Fire Chief Camara had each member of the executive staff give a brief description of their sections’ recent activities.

**Acting Deputy Fire Chief Sheldon Hao.** Acting Deputy Fire Chief Hao went over grants with the Commission.

Chief Hao went over a spread sheet that was passed out.

Chief Hao mentioned that funds obtained are used towards training, personnel equipment, and infrastructure.

Chief Hao went over projects that will be completed at the end of the year.

Chief Hao highlighted a grant that the department obtained through FEMA- Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for a health and screening program for its personnel.

Chair Nekota asked that the spreadsheet be emailed to the Commission Secretary. Acting Fire Chief Camara said they would make this the rule for all HFD handouts.


Chief Kostiha mentioned that on August 3rd due to the surge of COVID the department reverted back to a station bubble to contain any positive cases to a work site.
Chief Kostiha mentioned that in the month of June the department saw 1 case in the whole department.

Chief Kostiha mentioned from July 1 to present day the department had 25 positives in operations and 41 quarantines.

Chief Kostiha mentioned due to the high unvaccinated personal counts, the City testing policy and OSHA’s testing policy along with daily delegations in operations the department decided to revert back to its Battalion Bubble with minimal staffing.

Chief Kostiha asked if there were any questions.

Vice-Chair Hannemann asked if HFD’s positive cases/contacts have gone down.

Chief Kostiha answered yes, HFD’s trend follows the State’s general trend downward.

Chief Kostiha mentioned continued efforts in disinfecting and wearing protective gears allows the department to work in a safe manner.

Chair Nekota asked if there’s an unvaccinated fire fighter what happens.

Chief Kostiha answered they are subject to the City’s weekly testing policy. Acting Fire Chief Camara added that the department is 94-95% vaccinated.

Chair Nekota asked if the department will be involved with booster shots.

Chief Kahaulelio answered no the boosters will be handled by private healthcare providers.

**Acting Assistant Fire Chief Jeffrey Hooker**- Administrative Service. Battalion Chief John Pacheco filled in for Chief Hooker and went over industrial injury and illness for September with the Commission.

Chief Pacheco went over the industrial exposure with the Commission.

Chief Pacheco mentioned 10 injuries and 20 COVID exposures for the month of September.

Chief Pacheco mentioned injuries remain flat with strains and sprains being the most common work injuries.

Chief Pacheco mentioned the department is in the process on launching its Peer Fitness Program.

Chief Pacheco asked if there were any questions.

Chair Nekota asked about exposure to bed bugs.
Chief Pacheco briefly went over exposure with the Commission.

**Assistant Fire Chief Jason Samala** - Operations. Chief Samala went over Prevention Efforts at the Pu‘uhonua O’Wahine Camp with the Commission.

Chief Samala mentioned the department was approached with concerns regarding a homeless camp in the Waianae area.

Chief Samala mentioned collaborations with the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), the Office of the Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). These agencies went in and worked with the leaders of the camp.

Chief Samala mentioned hazardous materials were removed and adequate pathways were constructed.

Chief Samala mentioned that the encampment has an evacuation plan, emergency action plan, and a map with location of residents.

Chief Samala mentioned that DLNR will conduct monthly inspections.

Chief Samala mentioned the department’s prevention efforts..... education, engineering, and enforcement and through communication collaboration with State entities the outcome has been successful.

Chief Samala asked if there were any questions. There was none.

**Acting Assistant Fire Chief Damien Kahaulelio** - Planning and Development. Chief Kahaulelio went over Fire Fighter’s Safety Guide with the Commission.

Chief Kahaulelio mentioned that Fire Prevention Week started in 1985 and Fire Prevention Week aligns with the National Fire Protection Association every year.

Chief Kahaulelio mentioned that the Fire Fighter’s Safety Guide is a children’s activity book that is distributed to schools and it’s an activity that the whole family can enjoy together.

Chief Kahaulelio mentioned that past Fire Fighter’s Safety Guides can be viewed online on the HFD’s website.

Chief Kahaulelio mentioned that in conjunction with the Hawaii State Fire Council, Fire Fighter’s Safety Guides are distributed statewide.

Chief Kahaulelio asked if there were any questions.
Acting Fire Chief Camara recognized Mikiala Akiona on her contributions to the Fire Fighter’s Safety Guide.

Acting Fire Chief Camara asked if there were any questions.

Commissioner Teves asked Acting Fire Chief Camara about a letter he received from the Aina Hina Community Association regarding relocation of Wailupe Fire Station.

Acting Fire Chief Camara explained to the Commission that facilities are projected out into the future.

Commissioner Teves asked if someone had reached out to the association.

Chief Kahaulelio answered yes there were representatives at the neighborhood board and discussions included safety issues and direct exit onto Kalanianaole Highway.

Chair Nekota asked if there were any questions. There was none.

VII. SELECTION PROCESS OF THE FIRE CHIEF.

Chair Nekota mentioned that the Commission will go into executive session and will reconvene into open session after discussion.

Chair Nekota asked for a motion to go into executive session.

Commissioner Hannemann moved and Commissioner Teves seconded that the Commission go into executive session regarding the selection process of the Fire Chief to “consider the hire, evaluation, dismissal, or discipline of an officer or employee or of charges brought against the officer or employee, where consideration of matter affecting privacy will be involved” [HRS Sec. 92-5(a)(2)] and to “consult with the board’s attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the board’s powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities” with regard to these matters [HRS Sec. 92-5(a)(4)]. By unanimous vote, the Commission went into executive session at 11:25 a.m. and the regular public meeting reconvened at 12:26 p.m.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENT: A Special Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. in the Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, Commissioner Morton moved and Commissioner Nagamine seconded that the meeting be adjourned. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned on October 20, 2021 at 12:26 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by: Nadine Murata, Secretary.

APPROVED:

______________________________
CHARLOTTE NEKOTA, Chair
October 20, 2021

Report from the Acting Fire Chief
September 2021

A. Major Incidents

1. Fires

   a. On September 2, 2021, at 4:31 p.m., the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) responded to a building fire at 91-1022 Renton Road in Ewa Beach with 8 units staffed with 29 personnel. Fire fighters (FFs) arrived on scene at 4:37 p.m. to find light smoke emanating from an extension adjoining a residential home and neighbors attempting to extinguish the fire.

      An offensive fire attack with a simultaneous search for occupants were immediately initiated. The fire was contained to the building contents and brought under control at 4:47 p.m. and extinguished at 4:49 p.m. Overhaul tactics to search for hidden fire and smoldering areas to prevent rekindling were completed shortly thereafter. Prior to the incident, a 60-year-old male smelled smoke and called 911. He attempted to extinguish a smoldering mattress. He was assisted from the home and transferred to the Honolulu Emergency Services Department's (HESD) Emergency Medical Services Division's (EMS) unit at 4:52 p.m. The male ultimately declined further treatment. The origin and cause of the fire is under investigation. Damages were estimated at $500 to its contents.

   b. On September 3, 2021, at 2:13 p.m., the HFD responded to a building fire at 86-479 Paheehee Road in Waianae with 14 units staffed with 40 personnel. The first unit arrived on scene at 2:22 p.m. to find a small, single-story structure, similar to a Quonset hut, with smoke and flames emanating from all sides of the structure.

      HFD personnel established command, secured a water supply, and initiated a defensive fire attack. A 70-year-old male was the only occupant inside the structure at the time of the fire and self-evacuated. He was not injured, and the HFD notified the American Red Cross (ARC) to assist him. The fire was brought under control by 3:01 p.m. and fully extinguished at 4:30 p.m. The structure and approximately 20 vehicles in the structure were destroyed.
The Fire Investigator determined the cause of this fire as undetermined due to the significant amount of fire damage and multiple fire causes. Damages were estimated at $10,000 to the structure and $225,000 to its contents and vehicles.

c. On September 5, 2021, at 3:01 p.m., the HFD responded to a two-alarm building fire at 3300 Ala Laulani Street in Salt Lake with 9 units staffed with 34 personnel. The confirmed address was the Saint Philomena Parish. FFs arrived on scene at 3:05 p.m. to find heavy smoke and flames emanating from the preschool building located on the property.

HFD personnel established command, secured a water supply, and initiated an aggressive fire attack. No one was in the building at the time of the fire, which was confirmed during the FFs’ primary search. HFD personnel reported the fire involved two classrooms and a storage room for the church. The fire was brought under control by 3:16 p.m. and fully extinguished at 3:34 p.m.

The Fire Investigator determined that this fire was intentionally set. The HFD transferred the case to the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) for further criminal investigation. There were no injuries. Damages were estimated at $207,000 to the structure and its contents.

d. On September 6, 2021, at 2:49 p.m., the HFD responded to a two-alarm building fire at 2025 Kealoha Place in Kalihi with 10 units staffed with 39 personnel. While en route, the Fire Communication Center (FCC) informed the responders that 1319 Gulick Avenue was the correct address for this incident. FFs arrived on scene at 2:54 p.m. to find smoke emanating from the rear of a medium-sized, two-story, residential home. Upon investigating further, the exterior of a detached shed located in the rear of the property was on fire. FFs quickly deployed preconnected hose lines to attack the blaze, and the fire was extinguished at 2:59 p.m. The fire originated in the back covered patio area of the home.

During fire attack operations, a person who lives at 1416 Gulick Avenue experienced difficulty breathing. HFD personnel was able to locate that individual, performed a medical assessment, and transferred care to an EMS unit at 3:04 p.m.

The Fire Investigator determined the cause of the fire was undetermined. Damages were estimated at $72,000 to the structure and $3,000 to the contents.

e. On September 11, 2021, at 9 a.m., the HFD responded to a structure fire at 1714 Kapiolani Boulevard in Honolulu with 11 units staffed with 43 personnel.
FFs arrived on scene at 9:04 a.m. to find a single-story, strip mall with light smoke emanating from the rear roofline of the structure. A second alarm was dispatched at 9:07 a.m. due to the type of occupancy and the location's initial size-up. HFD personnel established command, secured a water supply, and prepared for an offensive fire attack while searching for the smoke source. FFs used aerial and ground ladders to access the area and thermal imaging cameras. No heat signatures from the roof-mounted mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning equipment and interior ceiling space revealed any elevated temperatures. Upon searching further, FFs found the smoke source and smoldering fire coming from the parapet area and electronic sign board for one of the businesses. The fire was brought under control and fully extinguished at 9:27 a.m. while the sign and roofing materials were removed to search for and extinguish hidden fire and hot spots.

f. On September 24, 2021, at 2:25 p.m., the HFD responded to a wildland fire at 92-683 Malahuna Loop in Kapolei with 13 units staffed with 38 personnel. The 911 caller described smoke and flames, but reported that no structures were burning. The first unit arrived on scene at 2:31 p.m. HFD personnel established command, secured a water supply, and initiated a defensive fire attack. FFs deployed hose lines to begin attacking the blaze to prevent it from spreading toward residential homes in Honokai Hale. The fire was 100% contained by 4:39 p.m. HFD personnel estimated this wildland fire burned about four acres. There were no injuries, no homes were damaged, and no evacuations were necessary.

g. On September 24, 2021, at 2:55 p.m., the HFD responded to a two-alarm building fire at 95-1004 Aelike Street in Mililani with 11 units staffed with 37 personnel. The first unit arrived on scene at 3 p.m. to find the garage of a single-story residential home fully involved. Two vehicles parked in the driveway fronting the garage were also on fire. HFD personnel established command, secured a water supply, and initiated a defensive fire attack to stop the flames from spreading into the house. No one was home at the time of the fire. Working smoke alarms were heard inside the house. HFD personnel reported that a 42-year-old female and her 12-year-old son were displaced. The HFD contacted the ARC to provide assistance. The fire was under control by 3:10 p.m. and extinguished at 3:30 p.m.

The Fire Investigator determined the cause of the fire was undetermined due to insufficient information or evidence. The investigation revealed the fire originated in the garage, which was also used as a bedroom. Damages were estimated at $185,000 to the structure and its contents and $10,000 to two vehicles.
h. On September 27, 2021, at 12:16 a.m., the HFD responded to a building fire at 317 Auwaiolimu Street in Honolulu with 9 units staffed with 39 personnel. FFs arrived on scene at 12:22 p.m. to find a fully involved fire at one-story abandoned structure. HFD personnel established command, secured a water supply, and initiated a defensive fire attack due to the integrity of the structure and to prevent the fire from spreading to adjacent structures. The fire was brought under control at 12:35 a.m. and completely extinguished at 1:22 a.m. There were no injuries reported; however, an EMS unit was called back to the scene for a 40-year-old female who had fainted.

A neighbor who called 911 smelled smoke and saw flames in the rear of a vacant, unsecured structure that was damaged from a previous fire occurring in 2020. Neighbors reported that squatters frequently accessed the property.

The Fire Investigator determined the fire was intentionally set. The investigation also revealed this fire originated in the rear entryway. Damages were estimated at $120,000 to the structure. This incident was referred to the HPD for further investigation and criminal prosecution.

i. On September 27, 2021, at 11:46 a.m., the HFD responded to a two-alarm wildland fire at Kamehameha Highway and Kamananui Road in Wahiawa with 20 units staffed with 46 personnel. Five units from the Federal Fire Department also assisted. The first HFD unit arrived on scene at 11:56 a.m. to find a large-scale wildland fire moving rapidly due to high-winds and dry brush. Responding fire crews established command and deployed hose lines to immediately begin attacking this fire. Upon arriving, HFD personnel recognized the area as a known homeless encampment where they found abandoned vehicles and debris. FFs could hear propane tanks rupturing due to heat from the flames. Fire personnel were deployed on Kamehameha Highway to protect threatened utility poles by oncoming flames.

At 12:38 p.m., authorities closed the highway in both directions between Kamananui Road and Dole Plantation. The Hawaiian Electric Company was alerted to shut down power in the area to safeguard fire crews and utility poles. Air 2 and Air 3 made several water drops onto the wildland fire, as crews continued to attack and stop the flames from spreading further. The Incident Commander also deployed Drone 1 for aerial surveillance to more efficiently direct fire crews to multiple areas in order to prevent the fire from spreading. This wildland fire burned approximately 50 acres. The incident was closed at 6:32 p.m. There were no injuries, no evacuations, and no threatened structures in this incident. The cause of this fire is under investigation.
j. On September 27, 2021, at 7:57 p.m., the HFD responded to a building fire at 2474 Kapiolani Boulevard in Honolulu with 6 units staffed with 22 personnel. The first unit arrived on scene at 8:02 p.m. to hear reports of occupants in a 20-story condominium and smoke coming from the seventh floor. An investigation for the smoke source was conducted on the seventh floor and above while FFs were evacuating occupants. After clearing the upper floors, FFs ventilated the seventh floor and confirmed there was no fire spread. FFs found an extinguished cooking fire in a unit on the seventh floor at 8:25 p.m. The origin and cause of the fire is under investigation. Residents were eventually allowed to return to their homes.

2. Rescues

a. On September 1, 2021, at 1:51 p.m., the HFD responded to a distressed hiker on Waahila Ridge Trail in Palolo with 4 units staffed with 12 personnel. The first unit arrived on scene at 1:58 p.m., established command, and secured a landing zone at the Palolo District Park. A hiking bystander called 911 and reported that a 26-year-old male resident, who had been hiking since 9 a.m., was having trouble breathing near the top of the ridge. Contact was made with the distressed hiker, and his vitals were taken. The hiker indicated he was dehydrated and experiencing heat exhaustion, but he was able to walk with assistance to Air 3, which airlifted him to the designated landing zone. Care was transferred to the EMS unit at 2:35 p.m.

b. On September 2, 2021, at 4:17 p.m., the HFD responded to a hiker in distress at the Maili Pillbox Trail in Waianae with 5 units staffed with 12 personnel. The first unit arrived on scene at 4:31 p.m. and began ascending the trail while simultaneously establishing a landing zone at the Puu O Hulu Community Park. After hiking for about one hour with a companion, a 28-year-old female became distressed. Air 1 inserted rescue personnel on the trail where personnel made contact with the distressed hiker and performed a medical assessment. Additional FFs arrived at the location to assist. The hiker was airlifted to the designated landing zone by rescue personnel at 5:09 p.m. She was reassessed at the landing zone and determined to be cognizant. She declined further treatment.

c. On September 2, 2021, at 5:40 p.m., the HFD responded to a lost hiker near the Manana Trail in Pearl City with 6 units staffed with 18 personnel. The first unit arrived on scene at 5:54 p.m. and initiated the search for a 16-year-old male who became disoriented after hiking for about three hours. Air 1 inserted rescue personnel onto the trail and located the lost hiker and performed a medical assessment at 6:41 p.m. Rescue personnel moved the hiker to a remote location for safe extraction.
Air 1 airlifted the hiker to the designated landing zone where care was transferred to the EMS unit at 6:45 p.m.

d. On September 3, 2021, at 2:24 p.m., the HFD responded to boaters on an overturned catamaran approximately 400 yards off of the Kipapa Island Sandbar in Kaneohe Bay with 5 units staffed with 16 personnel. The first HFD unit arrived on scene at 2:34 p.m., established command, and immediately deployed the HFD’s rescue boat and personnel toward the overturned 18-foot Hobie catamaran. The HESD’s Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Division (OSLD) also responded and made first contact with four boaters who are local residents. The OSLD transported two boaters, including the 75-year-old male owner of the vessel and a 58-year-old male on jet skis to the Heeia Kea Boat Harbor. The HFD rescue boat retrieved the remaining two boaters, both males in their late 20s, then transported them to the Heeia Kea Boat Harbor. The catamaran remained in the location where it overturned, which was approximately in 30 feet of water.

e. On September 4, 2021, at 7:54 p.m., the HFD responded to boaters in distress near the entrance to Keehi Harbor in Honolulu with 5 units staffed with 16 personnel. The FCC dispatched the State of Hawaii’s Airport Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) to deploy its Rescue Boat 3 because the incident occurred in their response area. The first HFD unit arrived at the Keehi Boat Ramp shoreline at 8:09 p.m. The ARFF Rescue Boat 3 arrived at the offshore scene, which is located approximately one and one-third of a mile from land, and made visual contact with the sailboat and its occupants at 8:30 p.m. The 30-foot sailboat ran aground on the reef in an unmarked channel on the west side of the harbor’s entrance.

The ARFF boat was used to get closer to the grounded vessel because of the shallow water conditions. Working together, HFD personnel used a paddleboard to safely shuttle four boaters from the grounded vessel to the ARFF Rescue Boat 3, which transported the two males and two females onto the HFD Rescue 1 boat. The boaters were brought to shore via the main channel at 9:57 p.m. where a medical assessment was performed and confirmed that no medical attention was required. No attempt was made to remove the vessel from the reef due to ocean conditions. Information about the sailboat and its captain were secured and relayed to the U.S. Coast Guard.

f. On September 5, 2021, at 10:52 a.m., the HFD responded to a distressed hiker at Kaena Point in Waialua with 5 units staffed with 16 personnel. FFs arrived on scene at 11:04 a.m. A 70-year-old male visitor was hiking with his wife when he could not continue the hike due to extreme heat and over exhaustion. His wife called 911. HFD personnel and the OSLD proceeded to
the hikers’ location via an all-terrain vehicle (ATV), where they were located at 11:29 a.m. Air 1 transported rescue personnel to their location. The hiker was assessed, treated, and airlifted to a nearby designated landing zone where care was transferred to the EMS unit at 11:40 a.m.

On September 8, 2021, at 7:16 p.m., the HFD responded to lost hikers near the Aiea Loop Trail in Aiea with 4 units staffed with 12 personnel. The first FFs arrived on scene at 7:30 p.m., established command, and secured a landing zone at the Sugar Mill Park in Halawa. An 18-year-old female and a 21-year-old male had been hiking for three hours when they became lost and called 911. Air 3 arrived at the landing zone where rescue personnel boarded Air 3. The lost hiker’s cellular phone global positioning system (GPS) coordinates placed them mid-face of the next ridge northwest of the Aiea Loop Trail.

HFD personnel tried to have the hiking party move from under the tree canopy, but it was not possible due to the terrain and tree cover. Air 3 located the lost hikers, and rescue personnel were lowered to an area near the hikers where the rescuers rappelled down a ridge face to contact the two hikers at 8:30 p.m. The hikers were not injured nor requested medical attention. HFD personnel assisted the two hikers and relocated them to an area where Air 3 safely extracted them. The last hiker arrived at the designated landing zone at 9:35 p.m. HFD concluded operations shortly thereafter with no reported injuries.

On September 11, 2021, at 3:45 p.m., the HFD responded to a distressed hiker on the Koko Head Trail in Hawaii Kai with 5 units staffed with 16 personnel. FFs arrived on scene at 3:56 p.m. and ascended the trail on foot. Additional FFs arrived to secure a designated landing zone for Air 1 at the Koko Head Elementary School. Approximately one-half way up the trail, FFs made contact with the 47-year-old male hiker at 4:13 p.m. They performed an initial medical assessment and obtained his vital signs. The distressed hiker told HFD personnel he could not continue hiking because he began experiencing abdominal cramps and dizziness. FFs moved the hiker about 25 yards up the trail to an area that was clear of overhead power lines. Air 1 inserted rescue personnel to the sight to package the hiker and airlifted him to the designated landing zone where care was transferred to the EMS unit at 4:39 p.m.

On September 15, 2021, at 5:13 p.m., the HFD responded to a distressed kayaker on Moku Nui Island in Kailua with 5 units staffed with 16 personnel. FFs arrived on scene at 5:22 p.m. HFD personnel established command and prepared a designated landing zone. It was reported that a 23-year-old female kayaker became ill while paddling to Moku Nui Island with a male
companion. She was unable to make the return trip to Lanikai Beach and called 911. Air 1 arrived on scene, inserted rescue personnel to the kayaker’s location, and packaged and airlifted her to the Lanikai Community Park where care was transferred to the EMS unit at 5:58 p.m.

j. On September 16, 2021, at 8:07 a.m., the HFD responded to an injured hiker on the Koko Head Crater Trail in Hawaii Kai with 5 units staffed with 16 personnel. The first unit arrived on scene at 8:15 a.m. HFD personnel established command and secured a designated landing zone at the Koko Head District Park. The 911 caller reported her friend, a 55-year-old female resident, injured her left ankle. Both women hiked for 90 minutes and were about three-quarters of the way up the trail at the time. Two FFs ascended the trail upon arriving on scene and made contact with the injured hiker at 8:33 a.m. Air 1 inserted rescue personnel onto the trail area at about 8:43 a.m. They packaged the injured hiker and airlifted her to the designated landing zone where care was transferred to the EMS unit at 8:51 a.m.

k. On September 18, 2021, at 9:01 a.m., the HFD responded to a distressed hiker on the Diamond Head Trail in Kahala with 5 units staffed with 16 personnel. The 911 caller reported a 64-year-old female visitor was hiking with family members when the female became distressed. The first unit arrived on scene at 9:11 a.m. and ascended the trail. HFD personnel established command and a landing zone inside the Diamond Head State Monument Park. HFD personnel arrived at the hiker’s location at 9:26 a.m. and found the hiker’s care was initiated by an off-duty nurse, who performed an assessment and discovered the hiker fell and injured her head. HFD personnel assumed care, applied spinal precautions, and initiated an airlift operation. Air 1 arrived at the landing zone at 9:24 a.m., boarded rescue personnel, and proceeded to the hiker’s location. The hiker was packaged and transported to the landing zone where care was transferred to the EMS unit at approximately 9:41 a.m.

l. On September 22, 2021, at 5:57 a.m., the HFD responded to a pedestrian accident at the intersection of Ihe and Liliha Streets in Honolulu with 4 units staffed with 14 personnel. FFs arrived on scene at 6:02 a.m. to find an elderly female pinned under the front axle of a large commercial vehicle. A request for Rescue 1 was initiated, as the collision involved a bus and in anticipation of needing heavy-duty air bags to lift the vehicle. However, battery-powered hydraulic spreaders and cutters along with jacks and wood-cribbing were used to raise the bus and extricate the pedestrian. Thanks to their resourcefulness and quick action, the injured pedestrian was transferred to an awaiting EMS unit at 6:11 a.m.
m. On September 25, 2021, at 3:54 p.m., the HFD responded to an injured hiker on the Mokuleia Climbing Wall Trail in Waialua with 6 units staffed with 17 personnel. The first unit arrived on scene at 4:09 p.m. A 911 caller reported that a 45-year-old male sustained a head injury due to him slipping and falling while hiking. The injured male was with a group of 10 to 12 hikers who had been on the trail for four hours. The HFD utilized the GPS coordinates from the cell phone of the 911 caller to determine their location on the trail. FFs proceeded up the trail on foot, made contact with the injured hiker at 4:40 p.m., and assessed and treated his injury. Air 2 inserted rescue personnel to the hiker’s location, and packaged and airlifted him to Dillingham Airfield where care of the injured hiker was transferred to the EMS unit at 5:06 p.m.

3. Hazardous Conditions

The HFD responded to the following 70 hazardous incidents during September:

- 34 Stalled elevators
- 10 Gas leaks
- 9 Downed trees
- 9 Downed power lines
- 4 Chemical spills
- 4 Arcing electrical lines

B. Vacancies as of September 30, 2021

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<tr>
<th>Uniformed Vacancy Count by Rank</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>Count</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Chief</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Fire Chief</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Chief</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battalion Chief</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Fire Helicopter Pilot</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Helicopter Pilot</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Captain</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Fighter III</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Fighter II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Fighter I</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Count of Fire Fighter Recruits (FFR) in Training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FFR I</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFR II</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Uniformed Vacancies Minus FFRs in Training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Uniformed Vacancy Total</th>
<th>95</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FFRs in Training</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Injuries - Report of Industrial Injury or Illness for September 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INJURY/ ILLNESS TYPE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>SIDE</th>
<th>INCIDENT TYPE</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>LOSS TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infection</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td></td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>Patient Assessment</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laceration</td>
<td>Hand; Finger</td>
<td>Left</td>
<td>Station Duties; General</td>
<td>Other; Nonemergency</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needle Stick</td>
<td>Arm; Upper</td>
<td></td>
<td>Other; Nonemergency</td>
<td>Other; Nonemergency</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needle Stick</td>
<td>Arm; Upper</td>
<td></td>
<td>Other; Nonemergency</td>
<td>Other; Nonemergency</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Torso; Abdomen</td>
<td></td>
<td>Other; Nonemergency</td>
<td>Other; Nonemergency</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain/Stiffness</td>
<td>Arm; Elbow</td>
<td>Right</td>
<td>Fire; Structural</td>
<td>Advancing Hose Line</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain/Stiffness</td>
<td>Torso; Lower Back</td>
<td>Right</td>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Mounting/Dismounting</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain/Stiffness</td>
<td>Torso; Lower Back</td>
<td></td>
<td>Wellness/ Fitness</td>
<td>Other; Physical Fitness</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain/Stiffness</td>
<td>Leg; Knee</td>
<td>Right</td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>Slip/Trip/Fall</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sprain/Strain</td>
<td>Leg; Knee</td>
<td>Right</td>
<td>Fire; Brush</td>
<td>Advancing Hose Line</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sprain/Strain</td>
<td>Arm; Wrist</td>
<td>Left</td>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Advancing Hose Line</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sprain/Strain</td>
<td>Ankle</td>
<td>Left</td>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Advancing Hose Line</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sprain/Strain</td>
<td>Foot</td>
<td>Right</td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>Carrying/Lifting Patient</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
D. Report of Industrial Exposures for September 2021:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INJURY/ILLNESS TYPE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th># INCIDENT</th>
<th>INCIDENT TYPE</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>LOSS TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exposure - COVID-19</td>
<td>Respiratory</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>Carrying/Lifting Patient</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure - COVID-19</td>
<td>Respiratory</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Other; Nonemergency</td>
<td>Other; Nonemergency</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure - COVID-19</td>
<td>Respiratory</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>Patient Assessment</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure - Comm. Disease</td>
<td>Respiratory</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rescue; Ocean</td>
<td>Rescue</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure - Hazmat</td>
<td>Respiratory</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fire; Brush</td>
<td>Extinguishment</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure - Bed Bugs</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>Carrying/Lifting Patient</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E. Grievance Filings for September 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bargaining Unit</th>
<th>Filed at Step 1 (HFD)</th>
<th>Filed at Step 2 (Department of Human Resources)</th>
<th>Filed at Step 3 (Arbitration)</th>
<th>Closed Grievances</th>
<th>Pending Grievances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

F. Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA)

No meetings were held with the HFFA in September.

G. Complimentary Correspondence Received

1. A couple expressed their appreciation to fire fighters who responded to an incident at their high-rise condominium. Thankfully, the incident proved to be nonthreatening. Fire fighters were methodical, professional, and efficient.

2. An anonymous person thanked fire personnel for always responding, even through the pandemic, and sends a prayer of protection.
H. Complaints Received

1. A Kailua resident complained about a Captain at the Kailua Fire Station who provided wrong information on chemical disposal to his neighbor. The Captain’s advice was to wrap the toxic chemical container in four trash bags before disposing it in the gray trash (City and County of Honolulu) bin.

Initially, the Captain received a complaint of a chemical odor. Upon conducting an investigation, the Captain found the neighbor the absorbed chemical with newspaper and disposed of it in the trash bin. The Captain removed the newspaper from the trash bin, triple-bagged it in trash bags, and then disposed it in the trash bin.

The Captain called the Department of Health’s Hazardous Evaluation and Emergency Response (HEER) Office on the proper disposal of the chemical. Given the circumstances, the HEER Office confirmed fire personnel did the right thing in that situation. The Captain relayed this information to the neighbor. The HEER Office also called the neighbor to counsel him on proper disposal procedures on chemical waste.

2. A complaint was received via the Mayor’s Office regarding Pearl City Fire Station personnel who drove passed her daughter and granddaughter without assisting them. Her daughter and granddaughter fell on the street near Petco. She confirmed 911 was not called.

Upon investigating this complaint, it seems that Aiea Fire Station personnel were in the vicinity at the time en route to another incident. The complainant was called and an explanation and apology was given.

3. A complaint against a Captain who did not want to respond to building security’s questions was received. She felt the Captain was rude and just blew her off.

After investigating this complaint, it was found the Captain was protecting the confidentiality of the patient. Although no disciplinary action was recommended, the Captain was reminded to be courteous and respectful.

I. HFD Highlights

1. Grants (Deputy Fire Chief Sheldon Hao)

2. Loosening of Operations COVID-19 Restrictions (Acting Assistant Chief Joseph Kostiha)
3. Report of Industrial Injury and Illness for September (Acting Assistant Chief Jeffery Hooker and Battalion Chief John Pacheco)

4. Prevention Efforts at the Pu‘uhonua O‘ Waianae Camp (Assistant Chief Jason Samala)

5. Fire Fighter’s Safety Guide (Acting Assistant Chief Damien Kahaulelio)

LIONEL CAMARA JR.
Acting Fire Chief