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GOVERNOR OF HAWAIʻI

KE KIAʻĀINA O KA MOKUʻĀINA ʻO HAWAIʻI

# STATE OF HAWAIʻI

In reply, please refer to:

File:

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## KA ʻOIHANA OLAKINO

###  P. O. BOX 3378

### HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

HAWAII STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION

MEETING # 130

Friday, July 14, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting at Red Conference Room located at 2385 Waimano Home Road, Pearl City, HI 96782

And via Zoom

Attendees

Voting: Kathleen Ho, Deputy Director of Environmental Health; Gerald Kosaki, Hawaii County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Chair; Carlton Yamada, Honolulu LEPC Chair; Jeff Kihune, Maui County LEPC Chair; Abraham Mohr, Kauai LEPC Chair; Dr. Yuanan Lu, Thompson School, Social Work & Public Health; Trevor Johannsen for Kimberly Fuller, Dept. of Land and Natural Resources; Chris Takeno, Dept. of Transportation; Jonathan Chin, Dept. of Business Economic Development & Tourism; Greg Takeshima, Dept. of Agriculture; Brandy Lolotai, Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relation; Matthew Wall, Dept. of Defense, HI-EMA; Tom Eisen, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development

Non-Voting: Grace Simmons, Sharon Leonida, Isaiah Kela-Pacheco, Adam Teekell, Ramon Mendoza, Terry Corpus, Allison Hutto, Thomas Gilmore, Liz Galvez, Dept. of Health, Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response (HEER) Office; Bill Jones, United States EPA; LCDR Jesse Harms, Lt Aidan Leddy-Phillips, William Marhoffer, United States Coast Guard; Eric Jensen, Tetra Tech; Sonia Campbell, University of Hawaii; Lauren Lieberg, Intern HEER Office

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:08 am by Kathleen Ho. She announced why the June 16, meeting was cancelled.
	1. Introduction of attendees on Zoom and in person.
	2. Motion to approve minutes from meeting #129, accepted pending changes. Motion to accept by Greg Takeshima, seconded by Jeff Kihune.

1. LEPC Updates:
	1. Hawaii County: Gerald Kosaki, LEPC Chair
		1. LEPC meeting was on May 18, 2023. There were 10 members and 3 nonmembers.
		2. Gerald had written a letter to the Mayor to give an update of members in the LEPC. He was contacted by the mayor’s office and after a discussion, now has a Corporation Counsel representative and clerical help. After the LEPC meeting, the mayor arrived to talk to Gerald.

Gerald contacted the members to confirm if they would continue to be on the committee. Everyone contacted confirmed they would continue to be a member. Corporation Counsel representative gave a short refresher on the Sunshine Law at the meeting.

A Community member of the LEPC would like to have the military provide a representative at the LEPC meetings as the military uses the highways to transport their equipment. The community would like to have information on what is being shipped to the area. A letter from Mitchell Roth, Mayor of Hawaii County, was submitted to HSERC. It recommends that a military representative be part of the LEPC.

This will be on the agenda for HSERC Meeting #131.

* + 1. Fire department requested funds for upcoming Continuing Challenge at

Sacramento in September. LEPC approved funding for four fire personnel and two LEPC members to attend.

Lithium-ion Battery Training was held June 21 in Kona and June 22 in Hilo.

* + 1. Propane release at Kawaihae Pier. Hazmat had the incident under control in

ten minutes.

Refrigerant leak in Hilo at Sack and Save, incident was mitigated.

 2.1.5 Next LEPC meeting is August 19, 2023.

* 1. Kauai County: Abraham Mohr, LEPC Chair
		1. Several Lithium-ion fires occurred. He has spoken to someone in the Fire Department Record Management System. This is Kauai’s fire reporting system. They want to track fires involving Lithium-ion batteries.
		2. The EPA Lithium -ion Battery class had thirty-five people attend.

Kauai Police Department’s Special Response Team held a decontamination class with the fire department at station 8, Hazmat Unit.

Civil Support Team (CST), held a meeting with Kauai Fire for planning on August 9, 2023.

Hazmat I.Q. class will be held November 15, 2023.

Ten personnel completed Operations and Awareness Training.

Capt. Mohr and another hazmat captain will be going to training in Baltimore. This will enable them to teach the Technician class at the beginning of October, for two weeks.

Three personnel will be going to Radiation Nuclear class at the ending of October.

* + 1. July 28, was the last LEPC meeting, October 26, will be the next scheduled

meeting.

* 1. Maui County: Jeffrey Kihune, LEPC Chair
		1. July 6, 2023 was the last LEPC meeting.

The last two meetings did not have quorum for the meetings. He has had problems with members not being able to attend. The last in person meeting was held before Covid-19 pandemic. He will contact previous members, other LEPC members are also helping to get additional members.

Jeff has not been able to have motions to fund training because of lack of quorum. He may hold an emergency meeting to get funding.

* + 1. Lithium-ion Battery training was held June 19, 2023.

National Guard met with the fire department to familiarize them with the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), organization in March. This part of the national guard provides person power to help in different incidents.

Bill Marhoffer explained the different levels of the National Guard.

Jeff had received this training before, more than seven years ago.

* + 1. Equipment that had been ordered and paid for has arrived.
		2. March 23, Maalaea Harbor, a boat was leaking; HEER Office was notified.

March 31, Maui High School has a five hundred gallon tank of used oil; the tank started to leak, and three hundred gallons were spilled. Maui Oil was called to do cleanup.

April 18, there was a propane leak at a restaurant in Kahului and there was an evacuation. Fire could not turn the regulator off. Amerigas was called to do repairs.

There were two recent Lithium-ion fires at the same location; the first occurred on April 30 and the second was three weeks later. The owner of the property, where the fires occurred, runs an electric foil business. He charges the batteries at his home. The first incident caused a fire, the second incident battery started to smoke.

 2.3.5 Next LEPC meeting is September 27, 2023.

* 1. Honolulu County: Carlton Yamada, LEPC Chair
		1. Last LEPC meeting was held on June 20 at the Fire Training Center in person and via Zoom.
		2. Keith Merkle with Plus Power operates the new Kapolei Energy Storage Unit at Campbell Industrial Park. These units are all Lithium-ion batteries. They will be storing power for Hawaiian Electric. In late July- August, fire department plans on doing a site visit.

Another site visit is planned for Waipio Mililani Solar Farm operated by

Clearway Energy Company

Pre-plan visit to Pacific Shipyard helped to identify potential confined space areas. Checked on the chemical storage and updating contact list.

* + 1. The 114th Recruit class has eleven personnel. They have completed Hazmat First Responders Operations and Awareness Level Training.

First Responder Operations and Refresher Training were given to over 950 fire personnel.

They are having an Initial Hazmat Tech Training on July 21 and Hazmat Tech Refresher Training in August.

The 93th CST (Civil Support Team), and HFD is having a Joint CBRNE Characterization, Exploitation, and Mitigation Course (JCCEM) on August 28 – 31, 2023.

Carlton would like to arrange a CAMEO Training Class with the HEER Office.

He attended NASTTPO in April, with Sharon Leonida and Gerald Kosaki. It was a learning experience.

* + 1. Hazmat 1 was requested to do air sampling of rooms at the Fentanyl incident in Waikiki.

On Coral Sea Road, Rescue 2 had to extract someone trapped in confined space. Hazmat was called in to do air monitoring.

* + 1. LEPC purchased two Gazoscan Methane Leak Detectors.
		2. Next LEPC meeting September 19, 2023.

1. Annual Unknown Sample of the Month Results: SOSC, HEER Office, Sonia Campbell, University of Hawaii.

This is the 12th , year of this program. There are 21 Hazmat units in the state. Liz gave the background of the incidents that resulted in developing this program.

Sonia explained how she evaluates the reports submitted by the Hazmat units. At the end of the year this determines the top three winners.

2nd Runner Up Capt. Darrel Hee Honolulu Hazmat 2 Shift A

1st Runner Up Capt. Matthew Ho Hawaii Hazmat 21 Shift C

1st Place Capt. Nolan Nip Honolulu Hazmat 1 Shift C

Congratulations to all the winners.

1. Updates on Chemical Safety Days, Focused on Lithium-ion batteries: United States Environmental Protection Agency and HEER

Bill Jones from EPA thanked everyone for helping to put the training together. He mentioned the presenters and what agencies and companies they are associated with. Training was held on June 13 on Kauai, Honolulu was on June 15, Maui on June 19. Big Island held two, Kona on June 21, and Hilo June 22.

Presentations and Resources used are available at:

<https://response.epa.gov/site/site-profile.aspx?site_id=15819>

 and on the HEER website also.

Hawaii State Energy Office provided the introduction for the training. Information on the state of Lithium-ion battery usage with battery energy storage system on each island was provided.

Oceania Regional Resource Team Meeting will be December 2023. They are starting a system of having one virtual meeting (June), and an in-person meeting in December. This would include different types of training and participants would be from the Pacific Region. This would be over a period of two or more days.

Bill asked anyone who would like to attend to send suggestions on different type of training needed. He will attempt to use the same location that the Lithium-ion training was held at.

1. Discussion on ways to better regulate facilities that store, use, or manufacture Lithium-ion Batteries: Lauren Lieberg, Intern HEER Office

Lauren is an intern with the HEER Office, EP&R section. Slides were used in this presentation.

Improper use, storage and handling of Lithium-ion batteries have resulted in explosions, releasing of toxic gases and thermal runaway of these batteries.

There are no regulations for safety at the local, state or federal levels.

There are regulations for testing, shipping, and disposal.

Lauren suggested some options that could be used:

1. Do nothing.
2. Request companies with Lithium-ion batteries to use best management practices.
3. Do public outreach with flyers, use social media, do radio and TV ads. Have informational meeting.
4. Ask Counties to contribute toward specialized reporting and safety guidelines for these batteries.
5. Change the laws for HRS 128D and HRS 128E. Including Rules HAR 11-451 and 11-453.
6. Try to combine several options to see what works.

Draft flyer is being worked on.

There are good and bad points for each option.

Discussion on options ensued.

Lauren requested for those on Zoom to put their e-mail in the chat and she will respond to any questions, comments. This will be on the HEER website.

Comment forms are available on the back table.

Liz announced that at the end of July, there will be an Integrated Solid Waste Management Task Force Meeting. The discussion will be on Lithium-ion Batteries, it will be headed by the Solid Waste Branch.

1. USEPA Updates Including State Emergency Response Commission- Tribal Emergency Response Commission Reports: Bill Jones

Handouts were sent out by e-mail to members and others.

Bill was not available.

1. Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Report Updates: Harold Lao, HEER Office

He has sent out the Overtime and Backfill (OTB) Reimbursement and Volunteer Stipend Guidance to the LEPCs. We would need to come up with some polices and procedures to implement this. This would be part of next year’s grant. There may be additional funding available

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, PHMSA, encourages Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness, HMEP, recipients to contact them for additional information. They can explain what documentation needs to be submitted.

1. Updates on Health Department: Kathleen Ho

Kathy encourages HSERC members and LEPCs to start thinking about legislation on items they would like to submit for the upcoming session.

There were no vetoes on the bills, that concerned the Department of Health, that were passed this session.

There may be support for an Environmental Planning Office. Positions for a Manager, Secretary, Climate Change, Geographic Information System, GIS and Data Manager, were all funded from the legislature this session and the previous session.

July 13, is the exercise for the upcoming Surge Tank Fuel Removal. Amount of fuel maybe 400,000 gallons. This should take place next week.

This is part of the process to prepare for the removal of fuel in tanks at Red Hill, starting in October.

Sharon asked HSERC members to send in their request for ERGs, Emergency Response Guidebooks.

1. Announcements from Other Agencies: HSERC, LEPC

Bill Marhoffer introduced LCDR Jesse B. Harms, Oceania RRT Co-Coordinator, overseeing the USCG District 14 District Response Advisory Team for Pollution Response and Emergency Management.

Also, Lt. Aidan Leddy-Phillips, Indo-Pacific Regional Activity Center Supervisor, providing marine pollution preparedness and response capacity-building training to Pacific Islands Countries and Territories across Oceania.

Petty Officers assigned to Lt. Phillips center will also be going out with Sector Honolulu personnel and do domestic responses with HEER.

Bill will be in Michigan for Coast Guard National Review Panel. He is starting his 2nd five year cycle, reviewing all Coastal Zone Area Contingency Plan.

There are five subjects to be reviewed, Marine Fire Fighting and hazardous substances, this includes air emissions, are two of them.

Bill briefed the HSERC on a shipboard fire from the previous week. There was a cargo of used cars going to Africa, no electric cars were on board. Fire department was not trained for shipboard fires, two fire fighters were killed. This type of event would cause major problems in Honolulu.

 The five-year review for the Hawaii Area Coastal Zone Contingency Plan is in 2024.

 Coast Guard Headquarters is currently developing a new coastal zone contingency plan

 format.

 Three years ago, a survey went out asking about the utility and effectiveness of the

 contingency plan. Coast Guard would like to streamline the plan.

 The Coast Guard will be doing an independent updating of just the Coast Guard

 Responsibilities for the coastal zone ACPs. Another federal register notice for request of

 public comments closed on January 2023. They are using these comments to develop a

 more streamlined plan that would be easier for responders to use. It is unknown when

 this will be completed.

 Chief David Jones has been assigned, for one year, to be the Coast Guard Liaison Officer

 assigned to join Task Force Red Hill. He is to assist with worse case discharge planning.

Jeff Kihune asked about updating Hazmat Emergency Response for Counties. Liz informed the LEPCs that the HEER Office will be getting funding from EPA. Part of the funds will be used to update the Hazmat Annex Plan. Maui County received a draft of their plans. Nothing else was received.

Hawaii County has never received any thing from the last time an update was done.

LCDR Jesse Harms, Coast Guard, added that it is important to get the most accurate information from the state. This will be used in their plans.

Gerald Kosaki asked if the Department of Health would be involved with the upcoming Storm Water Conference. Kathy said this would be a question for the Clean Water Branch.

1. Public comment on issues not on the agenda.

There were no comments.

1. Next HSERC Meeting is on September 22, 2023

Meeting Adjourned at 10:50 am.

Respectively Submitted,

Sharon L. Leonida, Environmental Health Specialist IV