

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWÉ LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

November 27, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura,
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Hawaii First Responders Memorial Working Group report, pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 97 HD2 (2024). In accordance with Section 93-16, HRS, a copy of this report has been transmitted to the Legislative Reference Bureau and the report may be viewed electronically at: <http://ags.hawaii.gov/reports/legislative-reports/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "KR", representing Keith A. Regan.

KEITH A. REGAN
Comptroller

Enclosure

bc: Governor's Office
Lieutenant Governor's Office
Legislative Reference Bureau
Legislative Auditor
Department of Budget and Finance

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

HAWAI'I FIRST RESPONDERS MEMORIAL

WORKING GROUP REPORT

NOVEMBER 2024

SUBMITTED TO

THE THIRTY-THIRD STATE LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

The Legislature of the State of Hawaii, during its Regular Session of 2024, has proposed a resolution to honor the bravery and sacrifice of Hawaii's first responders. The resolution calls for the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) Public Works Division (PWD), to form a working group and coordinate its efforts to plan and construct a Hawaii First Responders Memorial. This memorial aims to provide a lasting tribute to the first responders who have selflessly served the community and paid the ultimate price in the line of duty.

1. Objective:

- **Establish a Memorial:** House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) No. 97 has tasked the Department of Accounting and General Services to establish a working group to plan and construct a memorial to honor Hawaii's first responders who have died in the line of duty.

2. Working Group Composition:

- **Chairperson:** The Comptroller or their designee will lead the working group.
- **Fire Chiefs:** Representatives from the Honolulu, Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai Fire Departments.
- **Ocean Safety Chiefs:** Representatives from the City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii Fire Department representative with experience in ocean safety, Maui County, and Kauai.
- **Emergency Services:** The Director of Honolulu Emergency Services or their designee.
- **Medical Response:** A representative from American Medical Response in Hawaii.
- **Union Representatives:**
 - President or designee from the Hawaii Firefighters Association, Local 1463, IAFF 646, AFL-CIO.
 - State Director of the United Public Workers AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO.
 - Executive Director of the Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO.
- **Family Members:** Two family members of fallen first responders to be invited by the Comptroller.

3. Memorial Specifications:

- **Honorees:** First responders, such as firefighters, lifeguards, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, medical flight nurses, and pilots.
- **Attributes:** The memorial will be permanent, perpetual, and constructed using private funds.
- **Purpose:** To highlight bravery and the public service spirit of first responders.

4. Responsibilities:

- **Planning:** Determine the location and development of the design criteria and strategy for funding the planning, design, and construction of the memorial.
- **Coordination:** Oversee construction and maintenance, ensuring ongoing upkeep through private or legislative funds.
- **Reporting:** Submit a comprehensive report by November 30, 2024, detailing plans, costs, and legislative needs.

PLANNING AND COORDINATION

1. Working Group Plans and Findings

The working group for the Hawaii First Responders Memorial (HFRM), established under HCR No. 97 held its inaugural meeting on November 4, 2024. A walking tour of various memorials was conducted on November 19, 2024, to gather inspiration and ideas for the design of the Hawaii First Responders Memorial. The second meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2024.

Going forward, the working group plans to meet during the first week of each month. These regular meetings will ensure that progress is made through the collaborative efforts of all members as they work toward the completion of the memorial. Additionally, Public Works will coordinate regular meetings, assist in establishing a framework, and continue to provide support and guidance to help the working group successfully build the memorial.

2. Working Group Recommendations and Projected Costs

- The working group reviewed cost estimates for past memorial projects, with projected expenses for the new memorial ranging between \$1.5 million and \$2.25 million, depending on the location, size, and improvements required.
- The importance of establishing a foundation, potentially a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, to manage fundraising and ongoing maintenance efforts was discussed.
- Joe Earing, Planning Branch Manager, suggested seeking funding for planning purposes, including engaging with consultants to evaluate potential sites. He also recommended prioritizing State or County property for the memorial's location.

3. Enclosures

- Hawai'i First Responders Memorial Working Group_Agenda 11.04.24
- Hawai'i First Responders Memorial Working Group_Minutes 11.04.24
- Hawai'i First Responders Memorial Working Group_Walking Tour Sites 11.19.24
- Hawai'i First Responders Memorial Working Group_Agenda 12.04.24
- Hawai'i First Responders Memorial Working Group_Contact Information

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AGENDA

HAWAI'I FIRST RESPONDERS MEMORIAL WORKING GROUP

Meeting Location/Date/Time:
MS Teams Meeting
November 4, 2024, 9:30am

Agenda:

- I. Introductions
- II. Objectives: *Create a memorial to honor Hawaii's first responders who have died in the line of duty.*
- III. Memorial Specifications
 - A. Purpose: *To highlight bravery and the public service spirit of first responders.*
 - B. Honorees: *Firefighters, lifeguards, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, medical flight nurses, and pilots.*
 - C. Attributes
 - D. Location
- V. Action Items
 - A. Organization of Working Group
 - B. Recommendations
 - C. Project Costs
 - D. Legislation (if required)
- VI. Next Steps
 - A. Tentative Next Meeting Date
 - B. Follow-up on Action Items

Minutes of the HCR 97 Working Group Meeting

Date: November 4, 2024

Location: MS Teams Meeting

Attendees:

- Bradford Ventura
- Chris Honda
- Councilwoman Radiant Cordero
- Daniel Volpe
- Darwin Okinaka
- David DePonte
- Dina Hersh
- Eddie Fujioka (Retired Honolulu EMS)
- Gordon Wood (Public Works, Administrator)
- Joseph Earing (Public Works, Planning Branch Manager)
- Kurt Lager
- Rep. Linda Ichiyama
- Malcom Medrano (HFD)
- Meoh-Leng Silliman (Deputy Comptroller)
- Mona Arcinas
- Pao-Chi Hwang
- Robert Lee
- Tiffany Allen(AMR Global)
- Todd Kazuo
- Tony Benabese
- Zach Edlao

I. Introduction and Purpose of the Meeting

- Meoh-Leng Silliman introduced herself, representing Keith Regan.
- The meeting was noted as the kickoff meeting for the Hawaii First Responders Memorial Working Group.
- Meoh-Leng emphasized the significance and meaningful endeavor of the memorial and the department's commitment to the initiative.
- Present were representatives from various stakeholders, including fire chiefs, emergency services, and families of fallen first responders.

II. Overview of Memorial Honorees and Legislative Support

- The memorial will honor first responders who died in the line of duty: firefighters, lifeguards, paramedics, and medical flight nurses.
- Legislative support was acknowledged from Representative Linda Ichiyama, Senator Glenn Wakai, and Councilwoman Radiant Cordero.
- Eddie Fujioka was requested to attend by Representative Ichiyama for his involvement in the resolution.
- The purpose of the memorial was reiterated as a recognition of the sacrifices made by first responders.

III. Memorial Specifications and Types

- Joseph Earing discussed types of memorials, including statues, works of art, and large-scale installations and shared an Inventory Map.
- Existing memorial examples were mentioned, such as the King Kamehameha statue and the Hawaii Law Enforcement Memorial.
- The group was prompted to consider preferred types of memorials and locations.
- The visibility and accessibility of the memorial to the public were highlighted as critical factors.

IV. Discussion on Memorial Location

- Eddie Fujioka suggested the Capital District as a potential site, citing its visibility and proximity to public events.
- Financial and logistical feasibility of the Capital District was discussed, especially near the Law Enforcement Memorial, due to existing infrastructure.
- Clarifications on the location of the Law Enforcement Memorial were provided by Joseph Earing.

V. Cost Considerations Joseph Earing provided estimates for past memorial costs, discussing projected expenses for the new memorial, ranging from \$1.5 million to \$2.25 million.

- The need to form a foundation (possibly a 501(c)(3)) to manage contributions through fundraising efforts and maintenance was emphasized.
- Joe Earing mentioned seeking funding for Planning purposes (engaging with Consultants) to investigate sites; but he encouraged to try to go on State or County property.

- Eddie Fujioka shared insights from the Hawaii Law Enforcement Memorial regarding the involvement of labor unions and private contributions to mitigate costs.

VI. Organizational Structure and Next Steps

- Gordon Wood emphasized the establishment of organizational positions within the working group, recommending a co-chair and secretary.
- Suggestions for family members to join the working group were discussed, with Tiffany Allen volunteering to reach out to interested families.
- Developing a clear vision for the memorial and potential legislative considerations were underscored.

VII. Planning and Logistics for the Memorial

- Gordon Wood proposed a walking tour of potential sites in the Capital District to evaluate their suitability.
- Councilwoman Cordero reiterated her support for the memorial and the possibility of utilizing city property for the site.
- A request for a map of existing memorials for evaluation was made, and it was agreed that the group would provide this resource and organize the walking tour.

VIII. Final Discussions and Action Items

- Pao-Chi Hwang asked if there is a list of individuals to be dedicated to the memorial, with Rep. Ichiyama offering to share the working list.
- The need for a checklist of action items and a point of contact to consolidate information was discussed.
- Tony Benabese was designated as the point of contact for coordinating efforts leading to the next meeting.
- It was agreed to continue discussions in the next meeting regarding location, cost, and organizational structure.

Action Items

1. Investigate potential sites for the memorial, including state or county properties, and obtain necessary approvals.
2. Seek planning funding to advance the project.

3. Explore in-kind donation and volunteer labor opportunities.
4. Organize the working group structure, including the appointment of a co-chair, secretary, and treasurer.
5. Outreach led by Tiffany Allen to family members of fallen first responders for participation in the working group.
6. Arrange and schedule a walking tour (approx. 2 hrs.) to assess potential sites around The State Capital District.
7. Share the working list of individuals to be honored in the memorial.
8. Provide the Inventory Map from The Monuments and Works of Art in the Capitol District.

Next Meeting

- **Date and Time:** Wednesday, December 4, 2024
 - **Location:** Microsoft Teams
-

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 AM. Thank you to all participants for their contributions.

HCR 97 Working Group Walking Tour - State Capital District

- 1. The Hawaii Law Enforcement Memorial:** Tribute to those men and women who selflessly gave their lives in the performance of their duties.
- 2. Nagasaki Bell:** A memorial gift from survivors of the bombing of Nagasaki.
- 3. The Eternal Flame:** A metal sculptured torch that burns endlessly as a tribute to all men and women from Hawaii who served with the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy in the major and minor conflicts in which the United States was engaged.
- 4. Korean-Vietnam War Memorial:** Pays tribute to service members who died in those conflicts. Dedicated on July 24, 1994 by Benjamin J. Cayetano, fifth Governor of Hawaii, the monument consists of 768 black marble pedestals engraved with the names of 312 service members of the Vietnam War.
- 5. Honolulu World War II Memorial:** Located at the corner of Punchbowl Street and S. King Street, this memorial was dedicated in 1944. The base of the memorial has the names of 880 Hawai'i residents who lost their lives in the war.

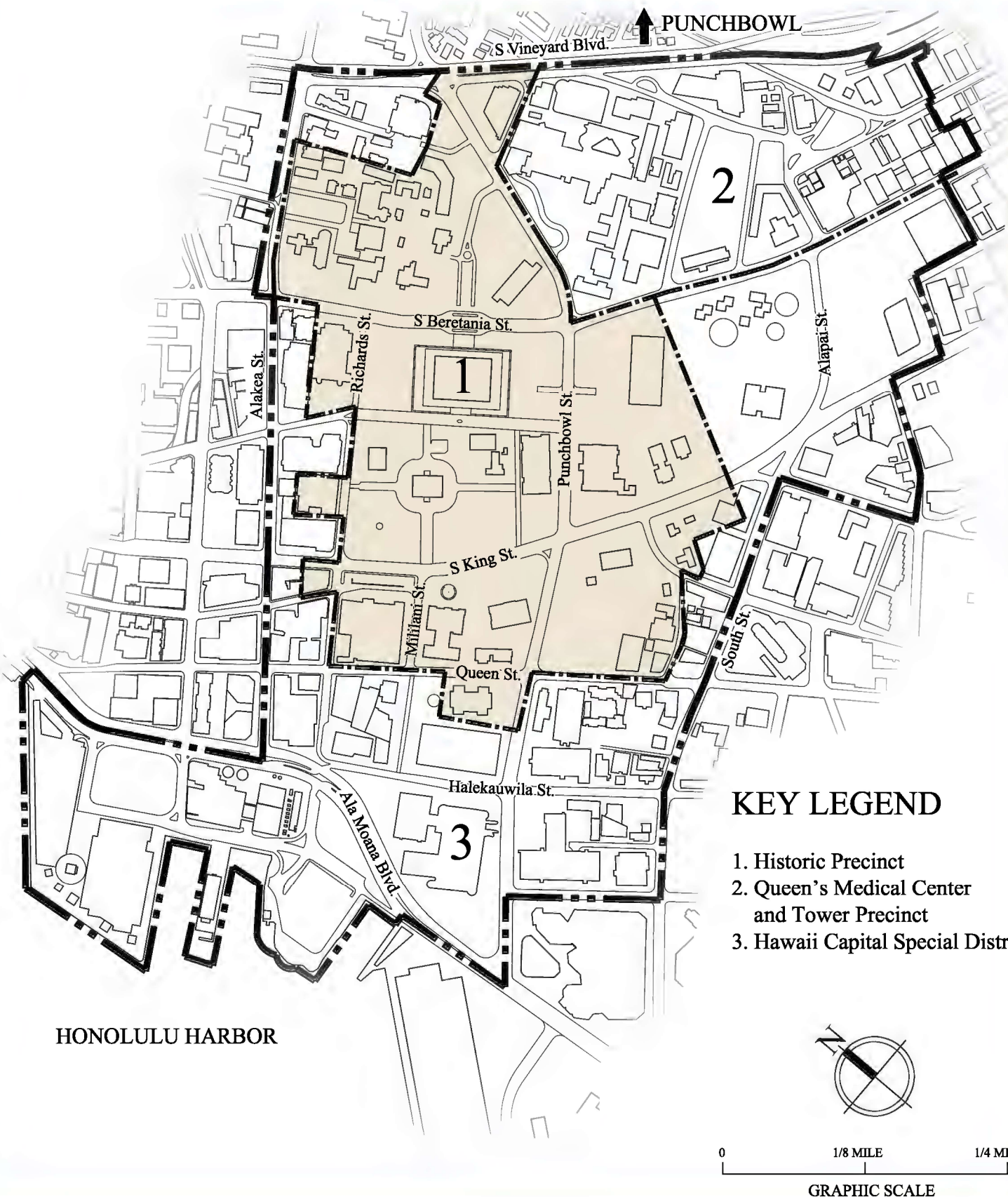


FIG. 02 - BOUNDARY LIMITS MAP













IN HONOR
OF ALL
AMERICANS
WHO DIED
IN THIS
WORLD WAR
THAT THE
BEAUTY AND
FREEDOM
OF OUR LAND
MIGHT BE
PRESERVED
FOR ALL
FUTURITY

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AGENDA

HAWAII FIRST RESPONDERS MEMORIAL WORKING GROUP

Meeting Location/Date/Time:
MS Teams Meeting
December 4, 2024, 9:30am

I. **Welcome**

II. **Progress Updates**

- **Walking Tour Update:** A Walking Tour took place on Tuesday, November 19, at 9:30 AM to look at the sites of existing memorials and similar installations, and to explore potential sites for the memorial. David DePonte from the Planning Branch shared the Inventory Map file from the Monuments and Works of Art in the Capitol District, which is attached.
- Public Works written draft report circulated for review week ending 11/22/24.
- Final report on the Working Group's plans, including findings, recommendations, projected costs, and any required legislation, to be submitted to the Legislature by Comptroller Keith A. Regan on November 27, 2024.

III. **Review Action Items from Previous Meeting and discuss Status:**

- Discuss planning funding to advance the project. HCR97 - Memorial is requested to be constructed and maintained by private funds
- Organize the working group structure, including the appointment of a co-chair, secretary, and treasurer.
- Outreach led by Tiffany Allen to family members of fallen first responders for participation in the working group.
- Share the working list of individuals to be honored in the memorial.

III. New Action Items and Final Discussions

- Discuss current list of potential memorial locations
- Reach out to Kevan Wong from City & County of Honolulu to gather any additional location suggestions he might have for the memorial.
- Explore hiring consultants to conduct due diligence
- Planning Branch to verify whether any potential location site qualifies for an exemption from the requirements of Chapter 343 EIS.
- Review any remaining concerns or questions

IV. Next Steps

- A. Tentative Next Meeting Date – February 4, 2025
- B. Follow-up on Action Items

WORKING GROUPS CONTACT LIST

NO.	DEPARTMENT	NAME	TITLE	CONTACT INFO		REMARKS	
1	ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES	Comptroller	Keith Regan	(808) 586-0400	keith.a.regan@hawaii.gov		
		Public Works Administrator	Gordon Wood	(808) 586-0526	gordon.s.wood@hawaii.gov		
		Public Works Division Planning Manager	Joseph Earing	(808)586-0500	joseph.m.earring@hawaii.gov		
		PWD PB-Engineer	David DePonte	(808)586-0492	david.c.deponte@hawaii.gov		
2	FIRE DEPARTMENT	Sheldon K Hoa	Fire Chief, Honolulu	(808) 723-7139 636 South St. Honolulu, HI 96813	cnaval@honolulu.gov		
		Craig Uchimura	Assistant Chief, Honolulu	(808) 723-7139 636 South St. Honolulu, HI 96813	cuchimura@honolulu.gov		
		Pao-Chi Hwang	Battalion Chief	(808) 723-7139 636 South St. Honolulu, HI 96813	phwang@honolulu.gov		
		Malcom Medrano	Fire Captain	(808) 723-7139 636 South St. Honolulu, HI 96813	mmedrano@honolulu.gov		
		Kazuo S.K.L Todd	Fire Chief, Hawaii	(808) 932-2928 25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2501 Hilo, HI 96720	kazuo.todd@hawaiicounty.gov	lauren.williamson@hawaiicounty.gov	
		Michael R. Gibson	Department Head, Kauai	(808) 241-4980 kfd@kauai.gov	mrgibson@kauai.gov	stamashiro@kauai.gov	
		Bradford Ventura	Maui	(808)270-7561	bradford.ventura@co.maui.hi.us	chasserae.kaawa@co.maui.hi.us	
3	OCEAN SAFETY		Chief of Ocean Safety, City and County of Honolulu (on leave) Acting Director, Eff July 24, 2024	(808) 723-7861	klager@honolulu.gov		
		Kurt Lager					
		Kalani Vierra	Kauai Ocean Safety	(808)241-1921	dvierra@kauai.gov		
		Darwin Okinaka	Hawaii Ocean Safety	932-2906	darwin.okinaka@hawaiicounty.gov		
		Zach Edlao	Battalion Chief, Maui Ocean Safety Bureau	(808) 270-7561	zach.edlao@mauicounty.gov		
4	HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES	Chris Hon	Hawaii EMS Chief	(808)932-2908	chris.honda@hawaiicounty.gov		
		James Ireland	Honolulu EMS Chief	(808)723-7809	james.ireland@honolulu.gov	syamamoto@honolulu.gov , meoldy.aoki@honolulu.gov	
		Mona Arcinas	Maui EMS Chief	(808)871-2153			
		Tito Villanueva	Kauai AMR Chief		tito.villanueva@amr.net		
5	AMERICAN MEDICAL RESPONSE	Speedy Bailey	General Manager, Hawaii	(808) 487- 4900	william.bailey@gmr.net		
6	HAWAII FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION	Bobby Lee	President	(808) 949-1566 info@iafflocal1463.org	robertlee@hawaiifirefighters.org		
7	UNITED PUBLIC WORKS	Kalani Warner	State Director	(808) 847-2631 1426 North School Street Honolulu, HI 96817	statedirector@upwhawaii.org		
8	HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION	Randy Perreira	Executive Director	(808) 543-0000 service@hgea.org			
9	Two family members of fallen first responders	Eddie Fujioka	Retired Honolulu EMS, requested this resolution, in touch with families who lost loved ones. Requested to be invited by Representative Ichiyama	(808)779-4060 3045 Ala Napuaa Place Apt 1817 Honolulu, HI 96818	puunui@msn.com		
		TBD					Recommendation from Ocean Safety and Fire department
		TBD					
10	Hawaii House of Representatives	Rep. Linda Ichiyama		repichiyama@hawaii.gov	sgaldeira@capitol.hawaii.gov		
11	HAWAII STATE SENATE	Sen. Glenn Wakai		senwakai@capitol.hawaii.gov			
12	CITY COUNCIL	Council member - Radiant Cordero		rcordero@honolulu.gov			