

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

GAVIN L.M. FUJIOKA
Deputy Fire Chief



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732
www.maui-county.gov

January 28, 2026

The Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Mayor, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

 1-28-26
Mayor Date

For Transmittal to:

The Honorable Tamara Paltin, Chair
Disaster Recovery, Internal Affairs, and Planning Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

Dear Chair Paltin,

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION 26-5, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A DONATION OF COMPACT RAPID DEPLOYABLE TOWERS FROM STCOMMS, INC, FOR USE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY (DRIP-21)

The Department of Fire & Public Safety is in receipt of your letter dated January 16, 2026. Please see our responses below in **bold**.

1. The Resolution characterizes the donation as the use of the specified equipment for one year. Under the agreement attached to the Resolution, the equipment is not being donated outright and the County will be responsible to return the equipment in the same condition.
 - a. What is the dollar value of the use of the equipment for one year? Stated another way, what would it cost the County to lease the equipment for a year, if it chose to procure a lease for this kind of equipment through a private vendor?

The Department did ask the vendor but were unable to identify any type of lease program for this equipment. The equipment we are accepting use of has an estimated value of \$200,000.00. Please keep in mind that the equipment itself will not be donated to the County of Maui only the use of the equipment.

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2. Please advise the Committee of the utility of the donation if the Mayor chooses not to enter into an agreement that contains the terms and conditions in Exhibit "1." The Council is not being requested to approve and does not appear to have the authority to approve, an agreement between the County and a private vendor as set forth in Exhibit "1."

Since this could appear as a donation, we wanted to be transparent with Maui County Council and involve them in the conversation regarding this equipment. If the Maui County Council does not think they need to approve the use of this equipment we will continue to work with the Mayor's Office to execute the agreement.

3. The transmittal letter does not state any time sensitivity for the Council to act on the Resolution. Is there a deadline for Council action? If so, please explain.

Increasing our communications capability with First Net was a recommendation of our 2023 Wildfire After Action Report. The Department has worked closely with AT&T and FirstNet to bring this equipment to Maui County. The sooner we can get this approved the sooner we will have another level of redundant communications during emergency incidents.

4. If approved by the Administration, the STComms, Inc Property Use and Hosting Agreement requires the Host – the County – to do the following, among the other obligations?
 - a. Under Section 2, the County must provide dedicated staffing of qualified individuals to manage the CRDs. The staff members must also undergo training.
 - b. The County must provide housing for the CRDs in a heated and cooled, secured environment with access to electricity.
 - c. The County may have to also provide a generator to supply the CRDs.
 - d. Under Section 4, transportation costs and equipment will be covered by the County once the CRDs are in physical possession.
 - e. Under Section 9, the County is responsible to return the equipment in the same conditions and replace the CRDs if requested by STComms, Inc.
 - f. Under Section 10, the County is responsible for the reasonable cost of repair if the equipment is damaged while in the County's possession.

Does the Department have existing personnel that will manage this equipment, or are additional staff and funding needed? What does the Department anticipate the costs will be for one year under the Agreement?

The Department does not require additional personnel to manage the equipment. The estimated costs would be part of their regular salary with some potential for overtime hours if necessary.

Deployment of these assets will only occur on an as needed basis and should not be needed frequently. During disaster-related incidents, our Department personnel with FirstNet service would be able to re-established cell service as soon as the equipment arrives on scene.

5. STComms, Inc is a Nevada corporation. Nevada's Business Portal, SilverFlume, notes that a Tia Loverro is the President and Director of STComms, Inc., as described in the attached printout. Resolution 26-5 notes a Tia Boileau as the Chief Executive Officer of STComms, Inc. Is the name in the Resolution correct?

Yes, the resolution is correct. Recently, Ms. Tia (Loverro) Boileau legally changed her last name.

6. Can you please share any additional background information you believe may be useful to the Council on the Resolution?

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) is an independent U.S. government agency within the Department of Commerce, established by Congress in 2012 following the 9/11 attacks. It oversees the deployment and operation of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), providing dedicated, high-speed, and secure communications to first responders. During a disaster when cellular service is compromised or overwhelmed, priority will be given to emergency responders to communicate.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the Office of the Fire Chief at (808) 270-7561.

Sincerely,



BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

DRIP Committee

From: Estrelita B. Dahilig <Estrelita.B.Dahilig@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 11:34 AM
To: DRIP Committee; Tamara A. Paltin; Bradford K. Ventura; Gavin L. Fujioka; Chasserae K. Kaawa
Cc: Josiah K. Nishita; Erin A. Wade; Cynthia E. Sasada; Didi A. Hamai; Kelii P. Nahooikaika
Subject: TRANSMITTAL: Resolution 26-5, Authorizing Acceptance of a donation of Compact Rapid Deployable Towers from STCOMMS, INC, for use by the Department of Fire and Public Safety (DRIP-21)
Attachments: MT#11377.ChairDRIP.Committee.Paltin.pdf

Aloha,

Please see attached transmittal dated January 28, 2026, from Department of Fire and Public Safety Chief Bradford Ventura regarding the above subject matter.

Thank you and have a great day!

Mahalo,
Lita



Lita B. Dahilig

Secretary

County of Maui
Office of the Mayor
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