

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO  
Mayor  
DAVID C. THYNE  
Fire Chief  
BRADFORD K. VENTURA  
Deputy Fire Chief



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COUNTY COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY


COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 DAIRY ROAD  
KAHULUI, HI 96732

April 12, 2019

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COUNTY COUNCIL

2019 APR 16 AM 9:05

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Ms. Michele M. Yoshimura   
Budget Director, County of Maui  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, HI 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

Honorable Michael P. Victorino  
Mayor, County of Maui  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, HI 96793

  
Mayor  
4/15/19  
Date

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Keani Rawlins-Fernandez  
Chair, Economic Development & Budget Committee  
Maui County Council  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, HI 96793

Dear Chair Rawlins-Fernandez:

**SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020 BUDGET (FS-11) (EDB-1)**

The Department of Fire & Public Safety has received your communication dated April 10, 2019.

1. How do you plan to staff the Ocean Safety Program to ensure the safety employees and the public?

**The following response is based on Council approval of the expansion positions recommended by Council Member Tamara Paltin wherein she recommends the addition of five (5) full-time positions and ten (10) half-time positions.**

**The Ocean Safety Bureau currently employs 61 full-time positions and one (1) half-time position. Of those, 55 positions are assigned to lifeguard towers on Maui and the remaining 7 positions are field managers (Captains) or office managers.**

**From her experience as an Ocean Safety Officer (OSO), Council Member Paltin has recommended expansion positions in the FY 2020 Budget that would increase our tower assigned positions from 55 to 65 Ocean Safety Officers. The Department is in support of this recommendation as it will provide the staffing needed to better protect the beachgoers at our County Beach Parks and the Ocean Safety Officers that protect them.**

**With the recommended expansion positions, the Department plans to increase staffing to five (5) OSOs at towers with an assigned Rescue Water Craft (RWC) and four (4) OSOs at towers without an assigned RWC. This “5:4” staffing provides for a RWC response with two (2) capable OSOs, three (3) capable OSOs to perform High Performance CPR as recommended by American Heart Association (AHA), without leaving the beach unprotected.**

**The additional staffing will provide more consistent opportunities for OSOs to attend mandatory certification trainings which include Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Emergency Medical Response (EMR), United States Lifesaving Association (USLA), and Rescue Water Craft (RWC).**

**OSOs are expected to maintain a level of physical fitness that ensures they successfully pass prescribed evaluations of their ability. To support the physical fitness abilities, OSOs are allowed one (1) hour for physical training (PT). The “5:4” staffing model maintains response ready OSOs while a rotation among the tower crew provides the PT time offered.**

**The best approach to an emergency incident is often a “team” approach wherein specific tasks are managed by specific OSOs. The Department provides High Performance CPR as recommended by AHA. This model delivers uninterrupted CPR by a team of three (3) OSOs. High Performance CPR requires pre-determined roles to be in sync while 1) ventilating a patient’s airway, 2) conducting compressions, and 3) operating the automated external defibrillator (AED).**

**Response from shore via swimming with fins and a rescue tube, or utilizing a rescue board, are both best done by a team. Minimal staffing, below the “5:4” model, can leave the beach unprotected.**

**RWC response from 911 calls requires a team to ready the RWC for launching with two (2) assigned OSOs which involves the movement over sand of an 800+ lb. vessel. It’s a feat our OSOs do now with less than four (4) OSOs, it has, however caused injuries to the back, ankles, and knees of our personnel leading toward loss time and rehab.**

2. Provide a strategic plan to address succession training and expansion opportunities at areas such as Pu'u Keka'a, Launiupoko, Ukumehame, and Paia Bay; and education of residents and tourists relating to CPR, rip currents, dangerous shorebreak, wind and surf advisories, sea level rise, coastal erosion and climate change.

**The current Department Strategic Plan is valid through 2020 and will be updated in 2021. Since the merger of Ocean Safety into the Department of Fire & Public Safety, the primary focus has been to provide continued uninterrupted service to our community and build on the relationship between Fire and Ocean Safety.**

**The updated Strategic Plan will include the Ocean Safety Bureau as an integrated part of the overall plan. Expansion to include additional Maui County Beach Parks is already being discussed and will undergo a formal needs assessment prior to presentation to the County of Maui Mayor and Council.**

**Public Education is a vital part of protecting our community from water related injuries. The Ocean Safety Bureau has been and remains actively involved in programs presented at schools in Maui County regarding CPR and water safety. In addition, the Ocean Safety Bureau conducts the Junior Lifeguard Program each summer on Maui, Lanai, and Molokai while supporting the County of Maui Summer Pals Program.**

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the Fire Chief's Office at ext. 7561 or Fire Chief Thyne at ext. 7562.

Sincerely,



DAVID C. THYNE  
Fire Chief