

Resolution

No. 25-78

URGING THE MAYOR TO REACH A FAIR
SETTLEMENT TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY
HAZARD PAY TO ELIGIBLE MAUI COUNTY
HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION
MEMBERS FOR PERFORMING ESSENTIAL
WORK DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC-
HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO, is the exclusive bargaining representative for Hawai'i's approximately 1,900 active-duty and 1,000 retired county and State firefighters who serve or have served the following:

- the Honolulu Fire Department;
- the Kaua'i Fire Department;
- the Hawai'i County Fire Department;
- the State of Hawai'i, Department of Transportation, Airports Division, Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Units; and
- the Maui County Department of Fire and Public Safety; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a public-health emergency on January 31, 2020, which lasted through May 11, 2023, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, commencing March 4, 2020, and continuing through March 25, 2022, Governor David Y. Ige issued 28 Emergency and Supplemental Proclamations Related to COVID-19 or its variants under Chapter 127A, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, declaring that COVID-19 is highly contagious, and the occurrence or threat of COVID-19 may likely result in substantial injury or harm to the population or may likely result in loss of life, and further determined these conditions are of such "character and magnitude to constitute an emergency or disaster" as contemplated by HRS Chapter 127A; and

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WHEREAS, firefighters are frontline first responders for medical emergencies, rescues, and fires, which placed them and their families, along with police officers and paramedics, at an especially high risk for exposure to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, firefighters continued to courageously perform essential public-safety work in oftentimes hazardous conditions throughout the public-health emergency; and

WHEREAS, HFFA's settlement discussions with the County's Administration seeking temporary hazard pay on behalf of the employees of the Maui County Department of Fire and Public Safety have stalled with no settlement reached years later; and

WHEREAS, other unionized State and county frontline emergency staff have already received temporary hazard pay, but Maui County HFFA members have yet to achieve resolution of this issue; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it urges the Mayor to reach a fair settlement to provide temporary hazard pay to eligible Maui County Hawaii Fire Fighters Association members for performing essential work during the COVID-19 public-health emergency; and
2. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor; Managing Director; Director of Finance; Budget Director; Fire Chief; and Robert H. Lee, President, Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO.

INTRODUCED BY:

Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA