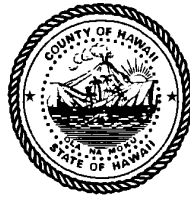


Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Deanna S. Sako
Managing Director



Kazuo S. K. L. Todd
Fire Chief

Eric H. Moller
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
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June 14, 2024

Board of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR AGENDA ITEM J-5

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board,

We are writing to express our strong support for Agenda Item J-5, which concerns the continuation of a revocable permit to the Hawai'i Fire Department for office space for West Hawai'i Ocean Safety Operations, situated at Kailua-Kona Pier, Lanihau, North Kona, Island of Hawai'i.

The Hawai'i Fire Department (HFD) plays a critical role in ensuring the safety and well-being of our community. The office space at Kailua-Kona Pier is essential for our Ocean Safety Operations, which are vital for maintaining the safety of both residents and visitors who enjoy our beautiful beaches and ocean activities. The centralized location of this office allows our team to respond swiftly to emergencies, coordinate rescue operations, and conduct safety programs that prevent accidents and save lives.

Our Ocean Safety Division, staffed with highly trained lifeguards and equipped with necessary rescue gear, has been instrumental in reducing the number of ocean-related incidents and fatalities. The continuation of this permit will enable us to maintain and enhance these crucial services, ensuring that our response times remain rapid and our presence visible and reassuring to the public.

We believe that the approval of this agenda item aligns with the Board's commitment to public safety and resource management. It will significantly contribute to the well-being of our community and the many visitors who come to enjoy our natural resources.

We respectfully urge the Board to approve this item and extend the revocable permit for the Hawai'i Fire Department. Your support will help us continue to provide excellent safety and emergency services to our community. Mahalo nui loa for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

KAZUO S. K. L. TODD
Fire Chief
Hawai'i Fire Department

