



**KEALAMĀKIA FOUNDATION**

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CO-FOUNDER

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28 Malaki (Mar.) 2015

Honorable David De Luz  
Chairman, Hawai'i Fire Commission  
101 Pauahi Street  
Suite 9  
Hilo, HI 96720

Aloha Chairman De Luz and distinguished Commissioners,

I am writing with great concern in regards to the letter of no-confidence delivered to you and to the honorable Mayor against Chief Darren Rosario; as well as the suspension of battalion chiefs Steve Loyola and Ty Medeiros as a result.

It seems to us that the move by the Fire Chief to suspend these two veterans of the department and initiate an investigation was not done out of a sincere desire for answers as to the legality of their actions; but, rather, as an act of retaliation.

Regardless of whether or not the criticisms brought forward have any merit, should not the commission hear such criticisms and review them accordingly? And, shouldn't there be provisions in place to protect such individuals from retaliation such as HRS §378-62, the Hawai'i Whistleblower Protection Act?

While the Commission and officers within the department have assured us those positions are being staffed in West Hawai'i and public safety is not in any way being threatened; if the criticisms are in any way true – that the Fire Chief has created an environment of "...favoritism and retaliation" and is surrounding himself with individuals incapable of fulfilling their respective roles – would that not be considered a threat to the safety and welfare of our citizens?

One of the primary objectives of this Foundation is to advocate for the health, safety and overall well-being of our children; and, if at any time we believe that such health and safety is being threatened, we must stand up and speak out.

It is not the intention of the Foundation to involve ourselves in the internal affairs of the fire department; nor, to give an implication that the accusations brought forward are true. We are, however, with public safety in mind, seeking that the Commission take the necessary steps to immediately address this matter. If there is any

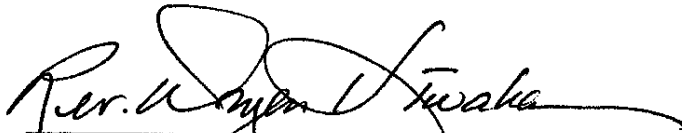
wrongdoing it must be stopped. The Fire Chief is accountable to you; and, you are accountable to the people of this County.

It is our sincere hope that this matter can be resolved in a way that is beneficial to all. But, most importantly, no one party's concerns are more important than that of the people. We join together with all those throughout this State and County who are simply seeking truthful answers about this matter.

We understand that you as commissioners are prohibited under the law to provide information as to the investigation; but, we certainly deserve better answers than those which we have been getting thus far.

On behalf of the Trustees, and our beneficiaries throughout Hawai'i Island, I thank you with the greatest sincerity for hearing our concerns; as well as for your distinguished service to the County of Hawai'i and its people in your very difficult role as commissioners.

With sincerity and humility,  
'O wau iho nō, me ke aloha pumehana,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Wryen K. C. Kiwaha". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Rev. Wryen K. C. Kiwaha, CM  
President and Chief Executive Officer