

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 300 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 768-4141 • FAX: (808) 768-4242 • INTERNET: [www.honolulu.gov](http://www.honolulu.gov)



RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR

MICHAEL D. FORMBY  
MANAGING DIRECTOR  
KRISHNA F. JAYARAM  
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR

April 3, 2023

The Honorable Tommy Waters  
Chair and Presiding Officer  
and Members  
Honolulu City Council  
530 South King Street, Room 202  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

Pursuant to Section 13-103(b) of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu, I hereby appoint, subject to confirmation by your Honorable Body, Ms. Debbi Eleneki as a member of the Fire Commission. Ms. Eleneki will serve for a term to expire on December 31, 2024. I would appreciate your favorable consideration of Ms. Eleneki's appointment and request adoption by the City Council in the most expedient manner possible.

I have enclosed Ms. Eleneki's personal information and a draft resolution for your review. For any general inquiries you may have regarding this appointment, please contact my executive assistant, Kevan Wong, at 768-6608.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Blangiardi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Rick Blangiardi  
Mayor

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Debbi Eleneki  
Honolulu Fire Department  
Fire Commission  
Ethics Commission

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE 68**

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
NOMINEE/APPOINTEE FORM

1. Position Nominated to: Fire Commissioner
2. Name: Debbi Mikala Akiona Eleneki  
(First) (Middle) (Last)
3. Are you a citizen of the United States? Yes ☒  
Are you a resident of the City and County of Honolulu? Yes ☒ If yes, how long >20 years ☒  
Are you a registered voter in the City and County of Honolulu? Yes ☒
4. Occupation: Retired Battalion Fire Chief 1987-2018
5. Name and address of employer or firm:  
NA
6. Does your employer do any business with the City and County of Honolulu? No ☒  
If yes, state the nature of business and approximate dollar amount in the last five years:  
NA
7. Do you or does any member of your immediate family hold office or own stock in any firm?  
No ☒
8. Does the firm do business with the City and County of Honolulu? No ☒  
If yes, provide details including the name(s) of the firm:  
NA
9. Do you have any part-time employment, professional activity, or financial interests other than those indicated in the previous question? Yes ☒  
If yes, provide details:  
Post retirement, I have been contracted by the City to assist with the AHIMT in response to COVID & Hurricane Douglas. HFD may solicit me as a AHIMT instructor as well
10. Do you foresee any possible conflict between your present work, financial investments, business transactions or any other activity which would be incompatible with the proper discharge of your official duties or hinder you from effectively carrying out the duties for which you have been appointed? No ☒
11. Are any members of your family employed by the City and County of Honolulu or any attached agency? Yes ☒  
If yes, please specify the department and division:  
Honolulu Fire Department; Fire Operations (my son & 2 nephews)
12. Are there any incidents in your past that may jeopardize your nomination? No ☒
13. Have you ever been convicted of a felony? No ☒ If yes, provide details:

14. Education:

Please see attached resume

15. Provide a summary of major work experience for the last ten (10) years. Begin with your present job including military (attach additional sheets if necessary or resume):

Please see attached resume

16. Community activities, etc. (also list any service on any other board or commission Federal, State or County):

Please see attached resume

17. Have you ever been a member of a board or commission with the City and County of Honolulu?

Yes ☒

If yes, provide name(s) of board/commission:

Honolulu County Committee on the Status of Women

18. Will you be able to commit to the full term of this appointment? Yes ☒

19. Will you be able to commit to meeting dates and times? Yes ☒

20. Are you regularly away from Honolulu? Yes ☒ If yes, please explain:

My grandson suffers from Aplastic Anemia, a potentially life threatening illness. He resides in Colorado. I visit twice per year or as dictated by his health

21. Are you willing to make a confidential financial disclosure to the city Ethics Commission upon appointment and yearly thereafter? Yes ☒

22. What do you understand to be the prime duties of your county appointment?

I would assure conformance with the RCH. Make recommendations, provide guidance & offer corrective action options, as appropriate and necessary with regards to HFD Ops, budget, citizen complaints & personnel actions. Submit reports to the Mayor & Council. Adopt, evaluate, and remove the Fire Chief as appropriate.

The above statements made by me are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and are made in good faith.

Debbi Eleneki

(Signature)

3/4/2023

(Date)

The above statements made by me are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and  
***The completed form and any attachment(s) will be posted by the City Clerk and available on the City's DocuShare Website.***

# DEBBI ELENKI

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

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Born and raised on O'ahu, a graduate of the Kamehameha Schools, and a 32-year veteran with the Honolulu Fire Department, I have a deep-rooted connection and love for our island home and the unique beauty found in nature, our people, and our culture. Privileged and grateful, I continue to have a sincere desire for public service, serving others and influencing positive change in our communities, and leveraging my education, training, and experience to bring value to spaces that I feel I can best impact. Serving on the Honolulu Fire Commission would allow me such an opportunity. It is not only my civic duty, but also a personal commitment to pay forward and give back where and when possible.

## ATTRIBUTES, SKILLS, & ASSETS

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My greatest attributes are my uniquely innovative leadership and management skills, my proficiency to improve situations by defining and resolving root issues to problems, my ability to influence positive change thru meaningful communication, full transparency, and education, being able to foster environments that will thrive in excellence by capitalizing on the talents within, bringing order to chaos thru organization and process reliance, my commitment to my word, and my time.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### **Leadership Team & Board Member (Volunteer): Kukolu**

**October 2021 – Present**

- Building infrastructure for the Kukolu non-profit organization
- Providing logistical support to the facility, operations, activities, and planned events
- Mentor & educate a plethora of cohort entrepreneurs

### **Contract Service for Incident & Emergency Management: Department of Emergency Management**

**April 2020 – May 2021**

- All Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) Leadership; activated to assist with the City & County of Honolulu's COVID response (maintain city-wide operations, coordinate and develop action plans for efficient and effective island-wide food distributions, surge testing, vaccinations, etc.)
- Activated to assist in response to Hurricane Douglas during COVID

### **Battalion Chief / Captain / Program Manager: Honolulu Fire Department**

**September 2008 – December 2018**

- Effectively managed a Battalion of 8 fire stations, 12 companies & 62 personnel
- Innovated an Incident Command Message Board System to improve communications, efficiencies, and safety for large scale emergencies (influenced by the events of the Marco Polo fire)
- Fostered a change in culture where personnel became accountable and strived to be their best
- Developed the HFD Budget & Procurement Manual and delivered classes on subject
- Executed master agreements
- Facilitated the execution of the CIP Budget and Grants (for fire apparatus purchases)
- Authored/Amended/Revised Department Policies, Standard Operating Procedures & Guidelines
- Program Manager: Blue Card Command (Incident Management Communication Tool)

- Program Manager: All Hazards Incident Management Team. Built infrastructure and continue to advocate for the AHIMT, subject matter experts of a nationally recognized and presidentially mandated system (HSPD-5). I've successfully managed activations/deployments to complex wildland and hurricane incidents in America, and also supported local incidents and planned events (Kaua'i landslides, Kilauea Fissures, 2010 Tsunami, Hurricanes Iselle, Julio, Ana, Lane, and Douglas, POTUS visits, Pro Bowls, Air Shows, Aloha Stadium Concerts, i.e.)

## RECOGNITIONS

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- 1989 Honolulu City Council Certificate of Resolution: First Female Fire Fighter, Recipient
- 2001 "A Tribute to Hawaii's Firefighters" Edgy Lee Documentary, Participant
- 2002 Hawaii Foodbank Patriots Honoree
- 2005 Honolulu City Council Certificate of Resolution: First Female Fire Captain, Recipient
- 2005 Midweek Cover Story, "First Family of Fire", Featured
- 2006 Honolulu County Committee "Women's History Month" Honoree
- 2007 Honolulu Advertiser "Fit Life" Article, "Fired Up", Featured
- 2007 Honolulu Magazine Article, Featured
- 2009 Mayor Appointed Member of the Honolulu County Committee on the Status of Women
- 2011 HFD Uniformed Employee of the Year
- 2015 HFD First Female Battalion Fire Chief
- 2022 Honolulu Magazine "Leading Wahine" Article, Featured
- 2023 The Bellator MMA, First Responder Guest

## EDUCATION

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- 1986-1987 University of Hawai'i Manoa, School of Architecture
- 1985-1986 Southern Oregon State College, Business Administration
- 1985 Kamehameha Schools High School Graduate

Office of the City Clerk  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
STATE OF HAWAII

## Voter Certificate

I, Glen I. Takahashi, City Clerk of the City & County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii do hereby certify that.

**DEBBI M. A. ELENEKI**

a resident of the City and County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii is a duly registered elector (voter) of

Precinct 02, Representative District 51, State of Hawaii

Voter ID No: 1476772

Registration Date: 07/28/2000

Date of Birth:

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City and County of Honolulu to be affixed on April 3, 2023.

Signature Block

Signature of Elector



Glen I. Takahashi, City Clerk  
City and County of Honolulu  
State of Hawaii



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. \_\_\_\_\_

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## RESOLUTION

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CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF MS. DEBBI ELENKI TO SERVE ON THE  
FIRE COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

WHEREAS, Section 6-1005, Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (Amended 2017 Edition), as amended ("Charter"), establishes a Fire Commission ("Commission") consisting of seven members; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 6-1006 sets forth the powers, duties, and functions of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Charter Section 13-103, the members of the Commission are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council ("Council") and serve for staggered five-year terms; and

WHEREAS, by Mayor's Letter, dated April 3, 2023, the Mayor has appointed Ms. Debbi Eleneki to the Commission; and

WHEREAS, if confirmed by the Council, Ms. Elenenki will replace Mr. Nicolas Teves and serve a term to expire on December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 13-103, which applies to the Commission, requires that appointees to all City boards and commissions that are subject to that section be registered voters of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed Ms. Eleneki's qualifications and character and finds that she qualifies to serve on the Commission and deserves confirmation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it confirms the appointment of Ms. Debbi Eleneki to the Fire Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Ms. Eleneki for her willingness to be considered for public service and actively participate in city government; and



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. \_\_\_\_\_

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**RESOLUTION**

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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Fire Chief, the Chair of the Fire Commission, and Ms. Debbie Eleneki.

INTRODUCED BY:

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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

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Honolulu, Hawaii

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Councilmembers