

Date	January 2012
Title	WDC Staff Report – Selected Highlights

WDC Reports: Since August, the WDC has been busily issuing workforce reports to the public. Many of these reports have been cited in the press along with piquing the interest of policy makers throughout the state.

- “Hawaii Software Development Industry Skill Panels” – issued in October 2011 is the report from the Software Skill Panel session held earlier in 2011. With a letter inside from famed software developer and Hawaii Resident Henk Rogers, it highlights software companies need for a highly-skilled workforce to develop the industry in Hawaii. The report was produced in cooperation with the High Technology Development Corporation of the State of Hawaii.
- “Workforce Investment Act Title 1-B Annual Performance Report for program year 2010” is the annual report issued by the Workforce Development Council to the U.S. Department of Labor, detailing programs and performance initiated during the previous program year. Issued every October 1, this years report also highlighted success stories from WIA and Wagner-Peyser participants during the last program year.
- “Hawaii’s Healthcare Workforce 20/20 Plan and Report” is the final report issued under a \$150,000 healthcare planning grant that was awarded to the WDC in 2010. The report, issued in January 2012, highlights the healthcare workforce needs by county, as well as by healthcare discipline.

All three reports were produced in-house by WDC Staff. Copies are available and are on line at the WDC website at www.hawaii.gov/labor/wdc

Agriculture Workforce Skills Panels

In partnership with the State Department of Agriculture and the Department of Labor, the Workforce Development Council started a series of workforce skill panel forums focused on the agriculture industry in Hawaii. With agricultural development in the state a prime focus of the State Administration, the WDC is taking the lead in helping to bring together the educational, labor and government stakeholders to discuss the development of the agriculture workforce in the state of Hawaii. The first meeting, focused on agriculture workforce issues on Oahu took place on December 14 with over 150 stakeholders attending. On January 24, the forum will move to Hilo on the Big Island to discuss agriculture workforce issues for East Hawaii. Forums focused on agriculture in West Hawaii, Maui and Kauai will be scheduled throughout the first quarter of 2012.

Assisting DLIR in rapid response for HMC workers during the holiday season

With a shutdown of HMC looming during the holiday season, the Workforce Development Council, through the Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations, worked together to help affected HMC workers find new employment opportunities quickly. On Christmas Eve, as HMC announced the first wave of layoffs, the WDC posted on its Website an up-to-date listing of all healthcare jobs on Oahu. The list has been periodically updated with new opportunities at other medical-focused facilities throughout the state.

Coordinating and drafting Workforce Development Efforts for Statewide Healthcare Innovation Grant

Under the leadership of WDC members Carl Hinson and Nani Medeiros, staff from the WDC assisted a statewide effort being coordinated by the Governor’s office to design and write an application in response to the release of the federal Health Care innovation Grant. WDC staff, under the guidance of several Hawaii health care employers, community groups and post-secondary educational institutions, drafted the workforce component of

the grant and continues to assist the on-going efforts of this statewide initiative designed to provide coordinated care services to recipients of Medicaid and Medicare.

Aligning Public Safety Department with Hawaii's One-Stops

WDC and WDD staffs are currently working with the Hawaii Department of Public Safety and the Federal Parole office to better align offender workforce programs with the State's One-Stops and Community Colleges. Discussions continue regarding co-locations, structural re-design and future funding opportunities.

WDC staff attends USDOL Technical Assistance Training

In early November, WDC staff attended the US Dept. of Labor's Technical Assistance seminars. The seminars, done regionally, are designed to assist Workforce Investment professionals with implementation of statewide and local Workforce Investment Act programs. This year, the seminars focused on training professionals in both internal operations of Workforce Investment Boards as well as present best practice models in the area of advancing green employment, as well as youth, dislocated and unemployed worker programs. Staff attending was James Hardway, Jillian Yasutake and Stan Fichtman.

GRANT ACTIVITIES

\$24 million UH Workforce Grant will partner with WDC

The University of Hawaii's Community Colleges will receive \$24,653,118 to partner with local businesses to create and continue workforce development programs designed to create jobs for the agriculture, energy and healthcare industries in Hawaii. Congratulations go out to WDC member Peter Quigley and the University of Hawaii Community College system on successfully applying for this grant. The WDC has and will continue to work with the UH Community Colleges as they successfully implement this grant.

State Energy Sector Partnership ("SESP") Grant

Summary of Grant Activities: For the Quarter ending December 31, 2011, the WDC executed. WDC staff provides continuous training and technical assistance to providers as we proceed with implementation. Over 1,000 incumbent construction workers have completed training to date. Collaborative partners include LWIB project teams, Hawaii Solar Association, Building Industries Association of Hawaii. Other employer/agency partner outreach include, Pacific Biodiesel, Johnson Controls, Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative focus group, Ma'o farms, Masons Union, Plumbers Union, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Apprenticeship program, and Hawaii Job Corps.

Public Outreach: Since the last report on SESP in August, the managers of the grant have been working on public outreach programs designed to inform companies about the training opportunities available through the Grant. Outreach included:

- In September, SESP sponsored a "Green Zone" area at a job fair at the Neil Blaisdell Center. The zone featured training providers as well as employers focused on green industry and training. **SESP will be sponsoring a larger "Green Zone" at the upcoming job fair on January 18.**
- In November and December, *Honolulu Magazine* and the *Hawaii Building and Trades Year Book* featured advertisements for employers, telling them about on-the-job-training monies available for those seeking to upgrade their employees in "green" skills.
- In partnership with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Labor, SESP has also been participating in the Agriculture Workforce Skill Panels (see separate article).

Disability Employment Initiative Grant

Summary of Grant Activities: The grant, awarded to the WDC in October 2011, has been ramping up administrative operations since Hawaii was announced as being a recipient. Since the announcement, the Department of Labor announced that Maui and Hawaii Counties as the two local areas that would receive funds to serve disabled populations in those areas. Key partners in the grant include the local workforce investment boards, state Vocational Rehabilitation, the Hawaii Disability Rights Center and other community providers.