

**Workforce Development Division Report
for
January 12, 2011
Workforce Development Council Meeting**

Date: January 10, 2011
Area: Statewide
Prepared by: WDD Administration

1. Hawaii Medical Center Rapid Response

Hawaii Medical Center's imminent shutdown prompted quick action by Oahu WDD Branch to arrange and conduct rapid response sessions to the employees of Hawaii Medical Center East and Hawaii Medical Center West. Within a week of the public announcement of the pending closure, 24 rapid response sessions were implemented at the job site to provide employees with information about Unemployment Insurance, job matching services, and other workforce development services. These sessions provided brief overviews of services and were intentionally scheduled during hours of shift changes. Employees were still employed at the time although the first large group of layoffs followed a few days later.

Additional, more in-depth rapid response sessions that included presentations by WorkHawaii on training opportunities and Department of Human Services on MedQuest, welfare, and Food Stamps were conducted for nurses in coordination with Hawaii Nurses' Association, and with various workers represented by Hawaii Teamsters. A total of 700 employees attended rapid response sessions, which comprised a majority of the 990 Hawaii Medical Center employees.

The Rapid Response Schedule was as follows:

- December 21, 2011: 6 sessions at Hawaii Medical Center East
6 sessions at Hawaii Medical Center West
 - December 22, 2011: 6 sessions at Hawaii Medical Center East
6 sessions at Hawaii Medical Center West
 - December 29, 2011: 2 sessions at Hawaii Nurses Association
 - January 6, 2012: 2 sessions at Hawaii Teamsters Hall
- TOTAL 28 sessions (700 employees)**

More sessions may be scheduled pending discussions with other affected unions. (A total of five unions represented workers.) Federal funds will be sought through an application for a National Emergency Grant to be developed based on data from surveys completed by rapid

response attendees and an analysis of gaps between health care jobs available and skills of Hawaii Medical Center employees. It is anticipated that the need for funds will require more supporting documentation and more detailed analysis of labor market demands than prior applications because of greater competition for funds due to federal funding cuts.

Layoff notices were provided in phases as patients were transferred to other facilities. Last week, over 200 notices were issued to most of the remaining employees.

2. MIS Request for Proposals (RFP) Update

An MIS RFP workgroup consisting of representatives from every county was formed in late summer 2011 to obtain input on desired specifications for the new MIS system to be procured for WIA and Wagner-Peyser programs. The contract with the vendor for the current system, HireNet Hawaii, expires on June 30, 2012.

The RFP was posted on December 16, 2011, and proposals are due on February 13, 2012. Unanticipated delays in completing the RFP and information from recent procurement training extends the evaluation period through several steps. The evaluation process was postponed from its original tentative period of December 2011 to begin in late February and end sometime in late April 2012. Prospective evaluation committee members have been or will be asked soon to indicate their availability under the new schedule.

3. Appointment of Kauai WDD Manager

A new WDD Kauai Branch Manager, Eric Nordmeier, was appointed effective January 3, 2012. He replaced William Grier, former Kauai Branch Manager, who retired at the end of August 2011. Mr. Nordmeier was a former Disabled Veterans Outreach Program counselor at the Kauai WDD office for many years.