

Workforce Information (LMI) Grant Quarterly Narrative Report

Grantee Name: **Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations**

Report Quarter Ending: **March 31, 2012**

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Summary of Grant Activities

This report for the quarter January 1 to March 31, 2012, focuses on grant deliverables and strategic partnership activities. The grant ends on June 30, 2012.

Deliverables and partnership activities included:

- *Green Online Employer Directory.* Staff maintained and responded to requests regarding how to post information on the online directory of green employers at <https://lmi.ehawaii.gov/green>. Current employers have been updating their profiles and more employers are contacting DLIR R&S to be listed.
- *Training gap survey report.* A report on the solar energy sector's training gaps gleaned from an on-line survey was finalized and formatted to be consistent with the earlier green volumes issued by the Hawaii Green Jobs Initiative Green team. It focused on the skills, certifications, and employment requirements of solar energy employers.
- *Assessment and Evaluation.* Results from an online survey conducted to assess and evaluate the Hawaii LMI Improvement grant were compiled into report form and completed in similar fashion to the previous green publications. Both the solar training gap report and the evaluation report will be posted on the green portal, <http://www.greenjobshawaii.org>.
- *Hawaii Green Jobs Initiative (HGJI) as a DLIR workforce development strategy.* As part of the transition and to sustain activities, R&S provided informational packets for two Agriculture Skills Panels Forums in East and West Hawaii Counties on January 24, 2012 in Hilo and March 6, 2012 in Kona. Staff participated in both of these forums and will be attending similar sessions on Kauai May 11, 2012 and on Maui, which has yet to be scheduled. It is expected that workforce development proposals from these forums will meet the agriculture industry's challenges, and these will in turn be presented to the Governor in support of his New Day in Hawaii vision. A PowerPoint presentation was also created "**Status Report on Hawaii's Green Jobs Initiative**" to highlight how it evolved as a training and employment brand and strategy.
- *Supported WIB.* Staff prepared a document "**Unemployment and the Recession, Beyond the Headlines**" in response to Tony Saguibo's request on whether the recent recession affected the rate of young people's entrance into the workforce. Our research showed that young adults, those younger than 44 years old, generally posted higher unemployment rates in 2009 and 2010, and the 14-24 year olds employment started to decline in 2008, while their college enrollment began rising at the same time. We also presented a draft assessment of the current situation and projected trends of the state's economy, industries, and occupations for the **WIA State Workforce Strategic Plan**.

- *Outreach.* LMR staff has participated in an evening job fair at Campbell High geared towards students, their parents, and the surrounding community and plan to join in on two more in April at Leeward Community College, one for high school and college kids and one geared for small businesses.
- *Grant Proposals.* R&S provided LMI improvement proposals for the Workforce Innovation and Data Quality Initiative grant applications.
 - 1) **Hawaii Training and Employers Connector (HiTec)** – Starting with the Health, Agriculture, and Computer industries, we propose to collect occupational titles, hours worked, and wages through the Unemployment Insurance wage record system. We also want to integrate our numerous websites (HIWI, Green Portal, Green Directory, and Kumo’ao) together under a streamlined web services connector where the data can be more readily accessible and users will be able to transition from directory to skills surveys, and training providers and programs.
 - 2) **Hawaii Workforce Longitudinal Data System (HiWorLDS)** – This grant proposal replicates the University of Hawaii’s tracking system which will create a workforce data warehouse for following employment training program participants to see if they obtain jobs and what types of jobs. It would also link these program participants to those in the UH system to ascertain what kind of educational courses they acquired. This tracking system will provide actual educational/training/work experience paths to employment.