

Date	April 12, 2012
Title	WDC Report –Highlights

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. Here are some statistics on each of the meeting’s

- Oahu – December 14th – 170 attended this forum at the Hilton Hawaiian Village South Pacific Ballrooms. There were five sub committees formed for the Oahu forum. An introduction to the skill panels was given by Governor Neil Abercrombie.
- Hilo – January 24 – 150 attended this forum at Nani Mau Gardens. There were four sub-committees formed for the East Hawaii forum. Mayor Billy Kenoi of the Big Island gave the opening remarks.
- Kona – March 6 – 130 attended this event at the King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel. As with Hilo, Mayor Billy Kenoi was the keynote speaker. Five sub committees were formed for this event.

Two more forums are currently in the planning stage for Kauai on May 11th and Maui in June. Those will occur after the ending of the Legislative Session. For more information on the forums, please visit <http://www.sesphawaii.com/> and click on the “Agriculture Skills Panel Materials” link on the front page.

The WDC increases its presence in cyberspace

Recently the WDC has embarked on three website development initiatives with the goal of collecting related information and making it easily accessible to both the public and our workforce development partners to browse, understand, download, and use.

For the SESP grant, the WDC launched **www.sesphawaii.com**, which features a simple navigation for the public to find an organized list of all SESP-funded training programs and their details. It also collects all the relevant documents, applications, forms, and instructions for SESP sub-recipients, training providers and employers interested in on-the-job training, and prospective participants. It is essentially a "one-stop shop" of SESP program information.

For the Healthcare Planning grant, the WDC is developing a database-driven website that will be a public resource for learning about, evaluating and providing a road map of career pathways for all the healthcare occupations in Hawaii. It will provide integrated lists of all the healthcare educational programs in the state, their providers and locations, what occupations they may lead to, work details and salary ranges for those occupations and other useful information. Users will begin their search with an interactive questionnaire built into the website that evaluates their interests and timelines and provides relevant pathways for the user to consider. This website is slated to be operational by the end of September.

The WDC is also working with the WDD to bring another database-driven site, the DLIR’s Kumu A’o ETP website, in-house—and in the process, reconfigure it so that it’s easier to manage, easier to read and more useful for everyone. This website will be up and running by the beginning of July.

WIA State Plan update

The United States Department of Labor (“USDOL”) has recently issued instructions to states for them to file a new 5-year WIA State Plan. This plan will include submission of a new set of performance measures as well as re-filing of all waivers to WIA. In anticipation of this, the WDC has started to analyze and propose new performance measures to be negotiated with the USDOL. Furthermore, meetings with the WDC planning committee have started to look at different performance items in the state plan. It is anticipated that the state will extend its current State Plan for the last time by April 15, and then submit a new 5-year plan by September 15, 2012. More updates on this can be found in the select Committee reports.

WDC Planning Committee

In light of recently published instructions from the Dept. of Labor on both extending current state plans and formulating a new five-year plan, the WDC Planning Committee has reorganized and met. The new chair of the committee is Ms. Vicky Gaynor, with Mr. Steve Lupkes chosen as Vice Chair. Along with the State Plan, the Planning Committee has also had discussions on the reorganization of the State Workforce Investment Act structure in light of fiscal restraints coming down from the Federal Government. Currently, the committee is meeting every two to three weeks at the Directors Conference room at DLIR.

WDC Performance Committee

Along with the State Plan, a new set of performance measures will also need to be negotiated with the Dept. of Labor. To facilitate those discussions, the WDC Performance Committee has met to review current performance and to provide guidance as to other performance measurements they’d like to see going forward. Discussions have also centered on how to improve on select performance measures that have not been met, as well as the role of the Council in effectuating performance improvements at the local level. This committee is currently working with the Planning Committee and holding meetings at the same time, due to the similar nature of issues.

State Energy Sector Partnership (“SESP”)

WDC continues to focus its efforts to develop appropriate SESP trainings for disadvantaged populations, and most recently has targeted training ex-offenders for jobs in the solar industry through a training partnership with Solar Training Institute, WorkNet, and the State prison system. The WDC continues to identify new green training providers and work to replicate successful training programs between the counties and within the community college system, especially on the neighbor islands, where training opportunities are limited.

SESP staff has developed and implemented several tools to streamline processes and conduct outreach to the public, including a Google Docs form to assist sub-recipients in providing more accurate and up-to-date information on course offerings and the use of social media such as Facebook and Twitter to announce new trainings and other news related to Hawaii’s SESP grant program.

In partnership with the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture, WDC hosted the Hilo and Kona Sustainable Agriculture Skill Panel Meetings, which focused on training needs and employment possibilities within the sustainable agriculture and natural farming industries. The WDC will be holding these outreach meetings statewide to promote SESP training and hiring and will complete the tour to Kauai and Maui in the coming months. (See first item for more information)

USDOL Disability Employment Initiative (“DEI”)

The DEI is moving forward with the hiring of two Disability Resource Coordinators (“ORCS”) and two Business Relations Inclusion Coordinators (“BRICS”) covering the counties of Maui and Hawaii. A DEI Kick-Off meeting will be scheduled within the next two months to provide training and strategic planning sessions for DEI-related management and staff. Additionally, discussions with Vocational Rehabilitation (“VR”) have begun to find ways to improve the partnership between VR and One-Stops to better serve dual participants and encourage the braiding of resources to better help dual participants gain sufficient employment.

The Center on Disability Studies has begun planning workshops to be offered to DEI participants within the One-Stops in Maui, Molokai, Hilo, and Kona beginning in the coming months. Additionally, Hawaii’s Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations (“DLIR”) has been approved to be a Ticket-to-Work Employment Network, and the Project Lead is currently working with the Social Security Administration to complete the suitability

requirements. The DEI Evaluation team, Social Dynamics, is working on a data-sharing agreement with DLIR, and plans to visit One-Stops this summer to discuss the required data with DEI staff and management to ensure implementation of data collection beginning October 2012.

HRSA Healthcare Workforce Planning

After publishing the 20/20 Plan and Report in December 2010 (available online at: http://hawaii.gov/labor/wdc/HealthcareReport_final_web.pdf), staff have continued seeking funding to implement action steps described in the plan and are currently planning and creating a local healthcare careers recruitment website. The Website will be found at: www.HawaiiHealthCareers.org. The website will be available by September 2012. Additionally, the plan and Healthcare Skill Panels outcomes will be featured in an upcoming *Hawaii Medical Journal* article. Further plans to hold a Health Career Pipeline planning meeting are in the works, aiming for a statewide meeting this summer to bring pipeline stakeholders from each island together to discuss current resources and create action plans to improve the health career pipeline throughout the state.

Staff are also working with UH and the Long-Term Care Skill Panel to gain support to apply for a HRSA Geriatric Education Program Grant in March 2013. The team will be seeking healthcare facilities interested in preceptorships and nursing traineeships for geriatric related fields. Overall, the proposal will apply for up to \$810,000 over three years to build up the state's geriatric health workforce by establishing a comprehensive statewide geriatric training network that builds upon the curriculum developed by the current HRSA grant at the UH Department of Geriatric Medicine to create a statewide infrastructure of preceptorships within local healthcare facilities.

Current Grant Applications

The WDC is currently working on two grant applications to the USDOL, the Workforce Innovation Grant and the Workforce Data Quality Initiative Grant. Over the past month, staff has been working on putting together these grant applications for submission. The first grant will be used to support innovative projects that enhance the delivery of employment and training services or promote systems change within the public workforce system. This includes data quality initiatives and the ability for applicants at the One Stops to also get ancillary services, such as those services provided for by Veterans Affairs and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program.

The second grant is to assist states in expanding their Longitudinal Data System programs to include workforce/unemployment insurance data. Currently the state has a educational longitudinal data system that is housed at the University of Hawaii P-20 program. It is the intent of the state to develop a similar system at the Dept. of Labor with the goal of eventually connecting to the P-20 system to create a full statewide "Kindergarten to Workforce" participant data tracking system that will allow education and labor to determine the effectiveness of education and workforce development programs statewide.

The grants are scheduled to be submitted in late March and mid-April, respectively.

Save the Date

- April 12, 2012: WDC Quarterly Meeting
- April 17, 2012: Maui Local Workforce Investment Board quarterly meeting
- May 8, 2012: Hawaii County Workforce Investment Board quarterly meeting
- May 10, 2012: Kauai County Workforce Investment Board quarterly meeting
- May 11, 2012: Kauai Agriculture Skills Panel Forum