

**Workforce Development Division Report
for the
August 28, 2008 Workforce Development Council Meeting**

Date: August 25, 2008

Area: Statewide

Prepared by: WDD Administration

1. Summary of Rapid Response Sessions

a. Maui Land and Pineapple Company

About 30 white-collar employees from Kapalua Bay Hotel and Kapalua Land Management were affected; rapid response was conducted in Maui at the employer's site on July 29, 2008 with DLIR Director, WDD, UI, Departments of Human Services (DHS), and Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL).

Initially, about 225 agricultural workers were affected, including over 120 contract workers. Rapid response session with DLIR Director, WDD, UI, DHS, Department of Health, and DHHL was conducted on August 11, 2008 at the Lahaina Civic Center, followed by a Job Fair with 11 participating employers.

b. Kona Community Hospital

About 57 workers were affected; rapid response with Director, WDD, UI, and DHS was conducted at the employer's site on July 24, 2008.

c. North Hawaii Community Hospital

About 59 workers were affected; rapid response with Director, WDD, UI, DHS, and HHL was conducted in Waimea on the Big Island on July 24, 2008.

d. Sea Life Park

43 workers, including summer hires, were terminated; Rapid Response session with WDD, UI, DHRD, DOH, and DHS was conducted on August 5, 2008.

e. Honolulu Advertiser

54 workers were affected; Rapid Response with Director, WDD, UI, DHRD, DHS, and DOH was conducted at the employer's site on July 28, 2008.

2. Military Spouse Career Advancement Account (CAA) -- Update

The CAA pilot project has been very successful in its outreach, and the City and WDD obligated all CAA funds in early August 2008. Although the project was anticipated to continue registering spouses through January 2009, 60% of them were enrolled in training that required a second year for completion. To stay within budget, DLIR imposed a moratorium on new enrollments so that all registrants would be able to complete training. To date, 411 eligible spouses were awarded CAAs up to \$3,000, of whom 245 plan to renew their CAAs in the second year.

The quick depletion of CAAs was at least partly due to the broadened eligibility of military spouses. Initially, only spouses of active military members with rank from E-1s to E-5s and O-1s to O-3s were eligible. U.S. Department of Defense later amended the eligibility to include *all* ranks, which greatly increased participation.

The CAA program provides eligible spouses with up to \$3,000 in a Career Advancement Account per year to cover training costs. Hawaii is one of eight states in the nation operating this program. As required by the grant, services are provided at Hickam Air Force Base, Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station, Pearl Harbor Naval Base, and Schofield Army Base. Total grant is about \$2.4 million. In August 2008, a federal contractor visited every installation in August to evaluate the CAA program, and feedback was very positive.

3. Molokai Ranch National Emergency Grant (NEG) Update

On June 20, 2008, USDOL approved the NEG request of \$389,425 and released the total amount to serve workers laid off from Molokai Ranch. About 20 former workers are currently enrolled.

4. Aloha/ATA NEG Update

On June 4, 2008, USDOL approved the NEG request for Aloha Airlines and ATA workers and released about \$3.2 million of \$5.2 million requested. However, funds for pilot training are not yet available pending USDOL review of more information about pilot training costs. To address this concern, pilots were given preliminary information about the WIA NEG program through a series of nine briefings; each pilot was individually assessed and employment plans prepared; seven (7) flight schools met in Honolulu with WDD, DBEDT, Honolulu Community College to discuss courses and cost; amended course schedules were received; and a modification reflecting these revised costs was submitted to USDOL. Currently, about 92 former Aloha workers are enrolled in this NEG.

5. **WIA Cumulative Performance for Period Ending June 30, 2008**

WIA performance exceeded or was close to plan for the following measures:

	Actual	Plan
Entered Employment Rate		
Adult	77.7%	79%
Dislocated Worker	82.8%	79%
Older Youth (19-21)	72%	73%
Employment and Credential Rate		
Adult	69.9%	62%
Dislocated Worker	75.0%	66%
Retention Rate		
Adult	85.3%	85%
Dislocated Worker	90.9%	86%
Older Youth	82.9%	80.5%
Average Earnings		
Adult	\$12,445.5	\$10,800
Dislocated Worker	\$15,315.5	\$14,000
Older Youth	\$4,219.6	\$3,900
Younger Youth (14-18)		
Skill Attainment	79.7%	70.5%
Youth Diploma	57.6%	44%
Retention	57.1%	51%

Only one measure was significantly below plan although within the 80% tolerance limit of USDOL:

Employment and Credential Rate		
Older Youth	42.9%	69%