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**STATE OF HAWAII
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January 27, 2015

TO: The Honorable David Y. Ige
Governor

THROUGH: Michael McCartney
Chief of Staff
[Signature]

FROM: Dwight Takamine,
Director, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

SUBJECT: Transition into Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA)

The federal Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA), which was signed into law on July 22, 2014, takes effect on July 1, 2015. It will supersede the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which currently provides Hawaii with about \$6 million statewide to serve low-income Adults, Dislocated Workers, and low-income Youth.

As required by the WIA (and the WIOA), most funds are funneled to the four County governments by formula. In turn, the County governments, with their Local Workforce Investment Boards (private /public sector boards), plan and implement their local programs. Under the WIOA, the Hawaii Workforce Development Council continues its role as a statewide advisory board on workforce policies and directions.

While the underlying organizational structure of the WIA continues, the WIOA mandates the addition of State Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and State Department of Education (DOE), Community School for Adults, as "core partners" with the DLIR.

Although the DLIR has a long history of working with Vocational Rehabilitation and Adult Education, the roles change in WIOA from partners to "family" members— services must be integrated more closely, as reflected in a new Unified State Plan to be prepared and submitted jointly by core partners on

March 2, 2016. By July 1, 2016, participant tracking systems also must be integrated across these programs.

Another big change in the WIOA is a new emphasis on continuous business engagement and sector strategies to drive the development and implementation of activities. As policy advisors and decision-makers, businesses play a key role in the WIOA. Collaboration with The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) will be vital toward developing and sustaining solid relationships with businesses.

To prepare for the WIOA, Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair of the House Labor Committee, convened a meeting among the department heads of DOE, DHS, DBEDT and DLIR on January 22, 2015. This high-level executive discussion was great in fostering collaboration and inter-agency support for common goals under the WIOA, and we appreciated the effort and time spent by Chair Nakashima and all attendees toward this effort. Attendees were receptive toward continuing the discussion on a regular basis, which will facilitate interagency planning and operations for more effectiveness.

Concurrently, DLIR Workforce Development Division (WDD) has been meeting with Adult Education Principals and Vice-Principals with Vocational Rehabilitation administrative staff to share information about services and resources available. A series of meetings on each County are jointly planned to facilitate partnership building in the local areas among local staff, County staff, and Local Workforce Investment Board members. The first session was conducted in Maui on January 16, 2015, and it was highly successful in bringing greater awareness to all parties about how each may contribute towards common goals. Further discussions will take place at the local level.

DLIR WDD also has been conducting regular conference calls with County staff to provide updates and review their progress toward transition in their respective areas. In addition, Regional staff of U.S. Department of Labor has been conducting bi-weekly calls with DLIR and other states to share the WIOA information.

A big challenge is a delay in publication of the draft federal implementing regulations for the WIOA. Originally scheduled to be published in mid-January, it was postponed to an indefinite spring date. Given the short time frame for transition, the delay makes it more difficult; however, we are moving forward toward implementation based on provisions in the WIOA.

We will continue to keep you informed of new developments, including your submittal of a Unified State Plan due in March 2016. If you have any questions regarding the transition into the WIOA, please call me at 6-8835 or call Elaine

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Young, Administrator of DLIR WDD and Acting Executive Director of the
Workforce Development Council, at 6-8812.

Thank you for your support of workforce programs in Hawaii.

- c. Senator Gilbert S.C Keith-Agaran
Representative Mark M. Nakashima
Kathryn Matayoshi
Luis Salaveria
Rachael Wong

