

# Hawai'i County Workforce Investment Board (HCWIB) Quarterly Report to the WDC

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County: Hawai'i

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## 1) Summary

Great efforts are being made with the WIOA transition. Michelle Arima, attended the Meeting of the Minds Conference in Monterey, sponsored by the California Workforce Association. There they focused on transitioning into WIOA with the Local Workforce Systems, connecting industry with workforce to promote economic development and gainful employment for all. The California Workforce Association is a premier organization for providing capacity building, leveraging partnerships, and facilitating dialogue to strengthen the Local Workforce System in the state.

Sandra Goodale, is the newest member of our WIOA administrative team. She has hit the WIOA pavement running by attending the DVR stakeholders meeting, Partners on the Move, working on the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Youth, Adult and Dislocated. Additionally, she is fully engaged with the current providers by providing continuous support and monitoring.

We are in the final stages of transition for our Workforce Development Board. The new Board will be submitting our request for certification soon.

## 2) Individual WIOA Programs

A Request for Proposal (RFP) for the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker programs is underway. To provide additional assistance to our current WIOA participants, personalized letters went to each individual inviting them to come to our Job Readiness Training sponsored by our One-Stop Partners. This not only prepared them for our Job fair, but provided an opportunity to learn about additional resources provided by the One-Stop Partners.

### **Adult Program - Workforce Development Division Updates and Highlights:**

Unemployment rate for Hawai'i County in September 2015 was 4.3%, the State was at 3.4% and the Nation was at 5.1%.

Even though we have an improved economy there is still an increase in placements and new opportunities for job seekers. Also, there is no shortage of eligible individuals/consumers seeking job training and other related Adult services. End of the year enrollment goals thus far is at 91.66%, 15 actual against 168 planned.

The Adult program has extended its contract and has looked for ways to stretch the funding during the RFP. The Workforce Development Division (WDD) along Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) continues to develop strategies to extend services and prepare for potentially transferring of cases pending on post Request for Proposals (RFP) outcomes.

Employer presentations occur monthly at the One-Stop to afford the opportunity for Adult clients to gain perspective on employer demands, expectations and the types of jobs available.

### **Dislocated Worker Program - Workforce Development Division Updates and Highlights:**

End of the year enrollment goals thus far is at 140%, 129 actual against 92 planned.

Successes have shown in placements when combining the Volunteer Internship Program (VIP) with the On-the-Job Training (OJT) component. VIP is an Employment & Training Fund Program served as an invaluable pre-OJT component for our WIOA Adult and Dislocated Workers programs where it: 1) offered work experience and skills acquisition to eligible participants while still being eligible for Unemployment Insurance payments; and 2) provided both the employer and participant an opportunity to be productive in the labor exchange process while allowing critical time to consummate the legally-binding contractual agreements.

Employer presentations occur monthly at the One-Stop to afford the opportunity for Adult clients to gain perspective on employer demands, expectations and the types of jobs available.

Continue on working on WIOA transitioning and close-out activities (administratively and with participants).

### **Quarterly Report for In School and Out of School Youth**

#### **In-School Youth – Paxen Updates and Highlights:**

Paxen staff assisted In School Youth participants with referrals to Hawaii Community College counselors and in providing COMPASS preparation workshops that help participants with their math and reading skills.

Paxen staff exited 15 active participants. Of the 15 participants exited, 13 of them enrolled and were scheduled to attend various University of Hawai'i campuses throughout the state and 2 participants are employed full-time. Paxen staff assisted participants in completing their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), one-on-one MYUHPORTAL tutorials, personal campus orientations and text book rental searches. Things had slowed down in anticipation of the transition from WIA to WIOA and for the RFP Award moving from two separate providers for the In School Youth and the Out of School youth to a single provider for both In and Out of School Youth via the WIOA transition.

#### **In-School and Out-of-School Youth Transition**

Both Paxen and Goodwill prepared for the end of WIA and the WIOA transition. The WIOA RFP was awarded to Goodwill Industries of Hawai'i and Goodwill hired 3 new case managers based on the contract award. Paxen transitioned their files to the Goodwill Office on August 26 (Hilo) and 27 (Kona). Goodwill verified eligibility of the transition files and fifty-five (55) In School Youth participants were found to be active and eligible. Letters were sent out to participants about their eligibility in the program, their transition and the next steps. Goodwill is in the process of setting up appointments for the In School Youth participants that live in the more remote areas outside of Kona, Hilo and the Puna district.

Goodwill has hit the ground running with the In School Youth Program so the participants are not having to wait for services or support.

## **Out-of-School Youth – Goodwill Industries Updates and Highlights:**

### **Community Service and Outreach**

- BISAC Summer Jam - Youth volunteered to work the Ola I Ka Hana booth at the BISAC Summer Jam held at Waiakea High School.
- SafeTALK Suicide Prevention Campaign –Youth discussed and brainstormed ideas for messages to be included in sign waving and focused on planning activities for Suicide Prevention Week ( to be held September 9th)

### **Financial Literacy**

- Youth were introduced to the Kuhua Waiwai curriculum
- Youth learned about what an economy is and decision making practices in relation to the ancient Hawaiian culture. – They participated in a decision making activity using the “Tree of Decisions” exercise.
- Youth learned about Credit. Youth learned what a credit score is and what actions affect your credit score.
- Youth learned about building Career and Community -Youth learned about schooling options after high school and financial aid resources, about how to start a business using a business plan and other resources and the importance of paying taxes.
- Youth were educated about Renting vs. Buying a Home by discussing the advantages and disadvantages and learned about a rental agreement and how to prepare for home ownership plus what a living will and living trust is.
- Visiting your financial institution and understanding the services provided.

### **Leadership/Career Development/Mentoring**

- Youth were given a tour by HawCC staff and were introduced to resources on campus
- Youth participated in a presentation and tour by the Nursing Program and Hawaiian Lifestyles Program.
- Youth visited the Hilo Public Library to assist youth in completing assignments in the Community Resources Unit.
- Youth were visited by two members from the community – a Cosmetologist and an Astronomer from Gemini Observatories both shared with the youth a description of what they do in their respective fields. The youth were encouraged to follow their intuition and strive for success and informed of internships offered to youth who are seriously interested in an Astronomy career path.
- Radio announcer from KNWB B97 Radio Station met with the youth and shared about his career with youth and the challenges of being a radio announcer and hot to promote local music.
- A Department of Health and Food Safety Educator presented information on health inspections and food safety. The youth learned how bacteria and viruses form in foods and how to properly handle and store food. They were also introduced to the food inspection process and grading system for restaurants.
- The Youth traveled to the District and Circuit Courts. A judge met with them and provided information about the court process and roles and what a judge does. The youth were allowed to sit in on a civil court session and a circuit court session.

### **Job Readiness Training**

Ten students to the Big Island Workplace Connections (BIWC) Job Readiness Training held October 8, where the students learned how to create a resume, interviewing skills and filling out applications. They also brought students for the BIWC Job Fair held October 16 where 25 Employers who had positions to fill and were actually hiring participated along with 7 Resources. There were lap top computers on site that allowed applicants to fill out online applications to save time and paper for the Employers participating in the Job Fair. One more way BIWC is working on fulfilling the needs of Employers through WIOA.

### **3) Other Programs**

#### **Big Island Workplace Connections (BIWC) One-Stop:**

The Big Island Workplace Connection (BIWC) is held a very successful 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Job Fair on October 16, 2015 from 9 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Auntie Sally's Luau Hale, 799 Pi'ilani Street. Over 300 attended, including participants from the WIOA Youth Programs. Big Island employers were there to answer questions, take applications and set up interviews either on site, or by appointment. Community resources were available for the Big Island citizens to learn about services offered in the One Stop. Many employers informed BIWC Partners that they met with numerous qualified applicants.

Based on last year's Job Fair recommendations, BIWC held a Job Readiness Training the week prior where participants were able to create resumes, work on interviewing skills, receive application assistance and learn how to dress for success. Approximately 40 people attend the workshops. We received lots of positive feedback from the participants and saw many of them at the job fair putting their resumes and application skills to good use.