

Hawaii Workforce Development Council

May 12, 2016

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION REPORT

1. WIOA UNIFIED STATE PLAN

The Division received the requested revisions from Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and admin staff is currently working on the revisions for submittal by 05/12/2016. Revisions were anticipated as the Division initial submittal was completed using the previous template from RSA which did not include requirements under WIOA.

2. LEGISLATIVE

The Division submitted a minor budget request this past session.

- A) Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB): \$90,000 – Was not approved
- B) Conversion of half-time Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist (VRS) position to full-time on Kauai – Approved
- C) Conversion of 2 temporary positions VRS positions to permanent – Approved

Other Key Legislative Issues:

- A) Medicaid Buy In/Ticket to Work: Did not pass
- B) Open Caption & Audio Description in Movies: Did not pass
- C) Language Services Working Group (deaf, hard of hearing & deaf-blind):
Passed

2017 Legislative Session:

With the release of the Code of Federal Regulations for WIOA in June 2016, it is anticipated that DVR will need to address changes to both the Hawaii Revised Statutes and our Hawaii Administrative Rules. The Division will be looking to once again go in with an increased budget request for OIB.

3. FINANCIAL

The Division continues to remain fiscally stable heading into State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017. Much focus and attention to the requirements under WIOA pertaining to the pre-employment transition services (PETS) 15% set aside. For SFY 2016, PETS expenditures appear on track at this time to achieve our goal of \$1.9 million. During SFY 2016 VR contracted service providers provided PETS related activities both on and off campus, and will culminate with our Summer Youth Employment Program starting June 2016 and ending in July (for returning DOE students) or in August (for those not returning to the DOE). There is a slight increase to our overall purchase of service contracts; greater increase for services covered under PETS.

4. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

The Division is looking to expand PETS during the 2017 SFY along with developing MOA's with the Department of Education, Developmental Disabilities Division and Adult Mental Health Division to provide employment and/or work experience for shared clientele.

The Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program (EFSLMP), a grant through the US Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy that was first given to the Hawaii Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD) and turned over to the Hawaii Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) for the final year will bring together various core partners.

One of the two projects under EFSLMP is to develop a cooperative agreement involving DVR, DDD, Workforce Development Division, Med-QUEST Division, Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD), Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) and the University of Hawaii as well as all County Workforce Development Councils, including the State Workforce Development Council. Through this larger cooperative agreement, it is anticipated that small agreements and MOA's will be developed between among smaller agencies from the larger core group.

Earlier in 2016, working arrangements between DVR and AMHD once again started. This specifically addresses clients involved in the clubhouse programs through AMHD and development of transitional employment opportunities for persons with significant mental health barriers. This was a program that had moderate success in the past and is hoped to achieve in greater success as the two agencies reignite the relationship.

Initiated in 2015 is an agreement between the DVR and the DOE to provide pre-employment transition services to students with disabilities. These are programs which counsels students in exploring vocational options, training in soft-skills and provides paid and unpaid work experience both on and off campus. One project in particular utilizes the general learning objectives developed by the DOE in providing the instructional material allowing students with disabilities to explore work within the visitor industry. After which students are placed into paid work experiences in a hotel. DVR and the DOE are looking to expand this project in the upcoming school year.