

O'ahu **Workforce** Investment Board  
*Making workforce connections*

June 4, 2015

The Honorable David Y. Ige  
Governor  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Governor Ige,

Per the new federal Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act (WIOA), existing local workforce investment boards across the United States are writing to their Governors to affirm their continued designation as a local board. Therefore, we are writing to you to affirm our continued designation as the local workforce board on Oahu.

Oahu has been designated as the "local area" workforce board since the inception of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998, which WIOA succeeds. The Oahu Workforce Investment Board (OWIB) has performed successfully and has sustained its fiscal integrity during the 2+ year period preceding the date of enactment of WIOA.

As such per WIOA, Oahu shall automatically be approved as a local area by the Governor for the first two program years.

The new federal WIOA is landmark legislation. It is the first reform of the public workforce system in fifteen years and was passed with landslide bipartisan support. The National Governor's Association long proponent for its passage stating it "will help get Americans back to work, upgrade workers' skills and create jobs." WIOA helps "job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy" (US Department of Labor).

Congress designed it to be a business lead system that works in partnership with the chief elected officials of local areas nationwide. Our letter reflects this partnership of our local board with our Mayor.

WIOA was signed into law by President Obama on July 22, 2014 and begins implementation July 1, 2015.


The Oahu Workforce Investment Board is one of four county boards that are working closely together to create, sustain and invest in our area's workforce economic future. By doing so we work towards strengthening Hawaii's place in the global economy.


June 4, 2015

Thank you in advance for your support of the local workforce boards of Hawaii.

Please indicate your affirmation below and return it to the Oahu Workforce Investment Board. Please contact Marilyn A. Matsunaga, the executive director of the Board, with any questions at 768-7790.

Sincerely,

  
James "Jim" Tollefson  
Chairman of the Board

  
for Kirk Caldwell  
Mayor

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Affirmed  
Governor David Y. Ige