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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT March – June 2017

2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Congratulations to the following members confirmed by the Senate as appointees of the Governor to the Workforce Development Council (WDC) this legislative session:

- Ian Kitajima
- General Edward Richardson
- Shannon Okinaka
- Alicia Moy
- Glenn Alcalde
- Evelyn Barfield
- Glen Kaneshige
- Gladys Quinto Marrone

The legislature appropriated \$462,000 in general funds to WDC to implement the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). In the past the Legislature has only provided \$12,000 in general funds. Thank you to Rep. Mark Nakashima, Rep. Sylvia Luke and Senator Jill Tokuda who shepherded funding to WDC.

Senate Bill 49 Relating to Education which was reported at the March 9, 2017 WDC Board meeting was deferred and did not pass this session. However, it may be resurrected next legislative session. This bill would have changed statutory language in the Hawaii Revised Statutes to require WDC to collaborate with the Department of Education (DOE) on workforce development initiatives, sector strategies, career pathways, training, assessments, and other programs.

The legislature approved the conversion of two (2) temporary Employment Analyst IV positions to permanent civil service status. These positions are currently under recruitment.

COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS (WDBs)

The WDC staff met to provide guidance with each of the local Workforce Development Boards (WDB) to review deficient responses to their respective local plans in hopes of helping them meet the May 31, 2017 deadline. All day review sessions were held on April 6 with Oahu WDB, April 7 with Hawaii County WDB, April 10 with Maui WDB, and April 11 with Kauai WDB. Hawaii County and Kauai WDBs met the deadline. Oahu WDB submitted their final revised local plan on June 2 and Maui WDB on June 5. The revised plans were sent to twelve (12) individual reviewers and there was consensus that all the local plans showed significant improvements.

WDC staff continues to meet monthly with each of the WDB to review fiscal and program issues and concerns. The conference calls have proven to be beneficial for both the WDB and WDC. We have monthly meetings scheduled through December.

STATEWIDE HIRENET TRAINING

A two-day comprehensive training on HireNet was conducted by a trainer from Geographic Solutions on May 16-17, 2017. All four (4) local area staff and their service providers participated. WDC encouraged attendees to return to their offices and train others on the new and improved WIOA compliant features now in the HireNet system.

ON-SITE MONITORING

WDC staff conducted a combined fiscal and program on-site monitoring for PY15 and PY16 on June 1 at Hawaii County WDB, June 2 at Maui WDB, June 6 at Kauai WDB and June 7 at Oahu WDB. Kudos to Oahu WDB as there were no findings to report. The WDC staff offered observations and recommendations to Hawaii County WDB and received an overall good report. There were several findings and concerns for Maui and Kauai WDBs. Reports have been sent to each of the WDBs.

The WDC staff spends considerable amount of time with the WDBs and on-going regular monthly meetings with:

- WIOA Core and Mandatory Partners
- HireNet meetings with Wagner-Peyser
- Federal Project Officer
- Chair and Vice Chair
- Director and Deputy Director, DLIR

In addition, WDC staff are assigned to Board committees. More of the committees are becoming active and includes:

- Performance Measures and Accountability Committee
- Data Management and Technology Committee
- Finance Committee
- Executive Committee

The Executive Director has been invited to speak on WDC and WIOA and presented at:

- March 17, 2017 at Chamber of Commerce's Workforce and Education Committee
- May 12, 2017 @ DXP Data Summit

And has been participating with the industry led sector partnerships hosted by the Chamber of Commerce:

- March 31 – Food Manufacturing
- April 21 & June 15 – Healthcare
- June 14 – Design Engineering

STAFFING

Doreen Miyaki is our new WIOA Specialist effective April 17, 2017.

Linda Sakamoto has out since March on medical leave.

FACILITIES

Re-acquired office space (Room 416) and conference room to allow for additional work stations and to hold meetings in a closed conference area. The staff voted to paint both rooms with the approval of DAGS, which provided the paint and supplies.

UPCOMING

Federal officials are expected to visit in August or September to monitor WDC (and workforce agencies that receive Federal funds).

Report respectfully submitted by Allicyn Tasaka, Executive Director