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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT **July – September 2017**

2017 SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Congratulations to Dwight Takamine who was confirmed by the Senate during the special legislative session held August 28 to September 1, 2017. Dwight is the Legislative Director at ILWU and takes the vacant labor position on the WDC previously held by Joanne Kealoha from ILWU.

BOARD ORIENTATIONS

Since July, the staff has conducted orientations for board members, primarily from the private business sector membership. To date, 13 members have participated in the orientation. Upcoming orientations are scheduled on September 18, 21 and October 5 and 6 with at least 9 others confirmed to participate. If you are interested in participating in an orientation, please let me or one of our staff know so we can schedule sessions. Thank you to the board members for their time to participate in the overview of WDC and WIOA.

STATEWIDE FEDERAL MONITOR – August 21 – 25, 2017

Three Federal representatives conducted a comprehensive fiscal and program monitoring of WDC and each of the WDBs. Ingrid Schonfield, Federal Project Officer for Hawaii; Heather Fleck, Workforce Analyst (DC); and John Baily, Deputy Administrator, Region 6 visited the local areas during their weeklong visit.

Here is a brief snapshot of their observations that were shared with WDC:

August 21: Hawaii County

Local board members are engaged and has strong support by their staff. For the most part, the Board is on the right track. Their visit with Goodwill as the youth service provider was very good. The area for the American Job Center is very large and space is under-utilized. There are extreme challenges of where jobs are and where people live with limited transportation.

August 22: Maui

Local board is solutions oriented and trying to figure things out in a realistic manner. They are taking positive steps to figure out the One Stop Operator and American Job Center situation after not receiving any bid for their RFP. They have clarity on their economy and industries. The American Job Center is a huge space with few staff.

August 23: Oahu/WDC

Very impressed with the American Job Center with lots of good practices underway. Liked what they saw when they walked into the Center and saw the logo, list of approved Eligible Training Providers. The Center was clean and professional in appearance with very friendly staff. Local board members are engaged and very pleased that they issued the RFP for the One Stop Operator and procured services in a timely manner and have developed a firewall separating the operator from the programs and fiscal. The business services team of

one person is not enough and hope that will be increased. They appreciated the efforts to integrate WDD staff from other locations.

August 24: WDC/Oahu

For WDC, the Federal officials acknowledged positive efforts being made in the last year-and-a-half by an engaged board and staff. The technical assistance provided by WDC to the local areas has improved. The Memorandum of Understanding Workbook developed by WDC to help the local areas is an excellent tool. The State on-site monitoring of fiscal and programs on each island is a good practice and recommends doing a "deeper dive" with the monitoring and taking two or more days for a thorough audit. WDC continues to issue policies and procedures. WDC should make movement to show process and documentation of discrepancies at local area level.

August 25: Kauai

A plan of action to comply with WIOA must be put in place as soon as possible. Working towards a fully certified board, procurement of an One Stop Operator, contracting a youth service provider and budget plan for PY17 are among the many items that must be taken care of immediately. It is very problematic to be without a youth service provider for over a year. Concerns that people in need on Kauai are not being serviced and taken care of.

Common observations in most of the local areas:

The current American Job Centers on Hawaii County, Maui and Kauai are not welcoming nor inviting. USDOL's approach is a human centered design center and the local areas should study this approach going forward.

The staffing by service providers is not adequate, for the most part they are understaffed leading to concerns if clients are being serviced in a timely and effective manner.

Local boards and staff should monitor their contracts closely as it relates to budget and expenditures.

There is a lack of eligible training providers in all local areas. Consumers need more qualified choices.

WDB Executive Directors would like to meet quarterly with WDC staff after the Board meetings and/or via conference call (in addition to the monthly calls with individual WDBs).

Federal exit briefing with WDC scheduled for Friday, September 15. The final written report will be sent to WDC by October 30.

LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS (WDBs)

WDC has asked the WDBs to use a new format to report at the WDC Board meeting which is designed to provide more detailed information on the One Stop Operator, American Job Centers, policies and procedures, performance measures, sector partnerships and success stories. Quarterly updates to the Board will provide members a better picture of each local areas' progress and status of how they are meeting the requirements set forth under WIOA.

WIOA BULLETINS

Issued following new policies:

WIOA Bulletin 13-17 Program Year 2017 Final Allocations on July 6, 2017

WIOA Bulletin 14-17 Policy on Recapture and Reallocation on September 8, 2017

FEDERAL DISLOCATED WORKER GRANT

WDC submitted a proposal for the USDOL dislocated worker opportunity grant in the amount of \$165,000 by the deadline of August 31, 2017. The two-year grant focused on outreach and services to the homeless and veterans with barriers throughout Hawaii. On September 1, USDOL informed all States that the funding for the grant would be transferred to those displaced by Hurricane Harvey in Texas.

NATIONAL BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT & RAPID RESPONSE TRAINING – August 29 – 31, 2017

Nine from Hawaii attended as a team representing all of the islands, including a representative from Alu Like on Kauai in Boston, Massachusetts. USDOL officials encouraged Hawaii to participate as Massachusetts has developed a model system in building a successful business engagement program. They have support and collaboration with the unions and strong daily outreach by business representatives. Using a similar model, WDC is working with the WDBs to develop business teams that would focus on layoff aversion activities and dedicated outreach to businesses and employers to educate them on the services of the American Job Centers and using the benefits of using the HireNet system.

STATE RAPID RESPONSE

State rapid response efforts are underway for the following:

Shorebird Restaurant to close at the end of the month displacing 154 employees. Special attention will be paid to those with English as a Second Language and seniors. A meeting with Shorebird workers will be held today at 1:00 p.m.

Kmart stores on Oahu, Kona and Kauai will close in mid-October.

Sarento's Restaurant will be closing on September 30. All 47 employees will be relocated.

OUTREACH / TRAINING

August 14 – 17, attended National Association of State Workforce Chairs meeting with Chair Leslie Wilkins in Portland, Oregon.

On August 22, met with Suzanne Skjold, Executive Director of Hawaii Literacy to share information on each other's programs.

Presentation on WDC and WIOA in a workshop on workforce on September 7, 2017 at the Native Hawaiian Education Council conference. They distributed 600 of our 2016 funding summary brochures, "Hawaii's Investment of Public Funds in Workforce Development Programs." We have less than 1,000 brochures left in stock.

UPCOMING

October 11-13: National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) Summit in Coeur D' Alene, Idaho. Executive Director and Jayson Muraki will be attending.

October 18: DLIR/WDC budget hearing before Senate Ways and Means (possibly joint with House Finance Committee)

October 19: Executive Committee meeting

Report respectfully submitted by Allicyn Tasaka, Executive Director