Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014, the federal government authorized all states to align federally-funded workforce development programs and deliver comprehensive employment services to support the education and training of adults, dislocated workers, and youth who are seeking jobs and new careers. WIOA also helps employers hire skilled workers.

The Workforce Development Council (WDC) is the Governor’s designated agency to administer and implement WIOA for Hawaii.

WIOA for Career Education and Training
WIOA programs support the needs of qualified youth through career preparation services, work-based learning experiences, and education and training for in-demand occupations and industries.

ELIGIBILITY: WIOA provides programs for out-of-school youth (OSY) who are between the ages of 16-24 at the time of enrollment and not attending school. OSY qualify for services at the American Job Centers if they have one or more of the following barriers:

- Have dropped out of school;
- Have been absent from the most recent school year calendar quarter, despite being of required school age by Hawaii law;
- Have a high school diploma (or equivalent), is low income, and is either basic skills deficient OR an English language learner;
- Are an offender in the justice system;
- Are homeless or a runaway;
- Are in foster care, have aged out of foster care, are eligible for assistance under Section 477 of the Social Security Act, or in an out-of-home placement;
- Have a disability;
- Are pregnant or parenting;
- Require additional assistance to complete an educational program or secure or hold employment and are low income.

Services are also available to in-school youth (ISY) aged 14-21 at the time of enrollment who meet low-income requirements and have at least one of the above barriers. The 21-year-old age limit does not apply to ISY who are disabled.

Youth Program Services
To support the attainment of a secondary school diploma (or equivalent), entry into postsecondary education, and career readiness, the Youth Program provides the following services:

- Tutoring, study skills training, and dropout prevention;
- Alternative secondary school services, or dropout recovery services;
- Paid and unpaid work experiences combined with related academic and occupational education;
- Occupational skills training for in-demand industry sectors or occupations;
- Education offered concurrently with workforce preparation and training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster;
- Leadership development opportunities;
- Supportive services;
- Adult mentoring for at least one year;
- Follow-up services for at least one year after program exit;
- Comprehensive guidance and counseling, including drug and alcohol abuse counseling;
- Financial literacy education;
- Entrepreneurial skills training;
- Labor market and employment information, and other career exploration services; and
- Activities to prepare youth for transition to postsecondary education and training.
American Job Centers

American Job Centers (AJCs) located in Oahu, Hawaii Island, Maui, and Kauai provide online and in-person career preparation and employment services. AJCs offer services that bring employers together with job seekers. Customers may access services through online self-service or with the assistance of staff. AJCs also offer comprehensive services to customers with special needs.

Staff-Assisted Services for Qualified WIOA Participants

- Individualized career development services, support services, and occupational education and training available to qualified individuals.
- If needed, staff can provide pre-vocational preparation in areas such as communication skills, interviewing skills, organizational skills, personal maintenance skills, and professional behavior skills.

Services for Everyone

Everyone is welcome to come in and compare occupations, using national, state, and local area labor market information to plan for their future.

- AJCs use an Internet-based system, HireNet, to match qualified job seekers with employers’ job openings for FREE!
- If you aren’t sure what type of job you want, career exploration links are available.

Co-Enrollment with Adult Programs

- If older youth (18-24) qualify, they may co-enroll into adult programs, which would increase the resources available to them.
- Case managers provide individualized services and help to identify possible career pathways.
- Referrals and financial assistance available for qualified individuals for education, training, and supportive services.

AJC Locations

Staff in AJC locations throughout Hawaii are ready to assist you.

**Hawaii Island, Hilo** – Kilauea Plaza
427 Kilauea Avenue, Suite B-10
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 935-6527
[www.hirenethawaii.com](http://www.hirenethawaii.com)

**Maui** – Economic Development Complex
2064 Wells Street
Wailuku, HI 96793
(808) 984-2091
[www.hirenethawaii.com](http://www.hirenethawaii.com)

**Kauai** – Lihue Civic Center
4444 Rice Street, Suite 302
Lihue, HI 96766
(808) 274-3056
[www.workwisekauai.com](http://www.workwisekauai.com)

**Oahu** - Dillingham Plaza
1505 Dillingham Blvd, Suite 110
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 768-5700
[http://www.honolulu.gov/dcs/workforce.html](http://www.honolulu.gov/dcs/workforce.html)