



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

COUNCIL

YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Princess Ruth Keelikolani Building

830 Punchbowl Street, Room 416

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

MINUTES

Member Attendees:

Ian Kitajima, Committee Chair, Director of Corporate Development, Oceanit

Winona Whitman, Committee Vice-Chair, Employment & Training Director, Alu Like, Inc.

Nate Gytoku, Director of Sustainability Initiatives, Kupu

Stacy Clayton, Executive Strategy Consultant, Kamehameha Schools

Members Absent:

Senator Gil Keith-Agaran, Hawaii State Senate

Albert Perez and Catherine Scardino, Designees for Pankaj Bhanot, Director, State Department of Human Services)

Guest

Melissa Wilson, Strategic Project Manager, Kamehameha Schools

Staff

Jeanne Ohta, Special Projects Specialist, Workforce Development Council

Doreen Miyaki, WIOA Specialist, Workforce Development Council

Jan Kusakabe, Office Manager, Workforce Development Council

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m. by Committee Chair Ian Kitajima. He welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the first Youth Committee Meeting.

II. Introduction

Chair Kitajima joined the Workforce Development Council (WDC) during the 2017 legislative session. Originally from the Big Island, he has been involved from the industry standpoint in education over the last 16 years, after being away from Hawaii. Since joining Oceanit, the focus has been on what can be done for education and workforce. Chair Kitajima asked members to think about who else should be invited to be on the committee. Members introduced themselves:

Stacy Clayton is the Executive Strategy Consultant at Kamehameha Schools. She was invited to serve on the committee by Chair Kitajima. Her background is in education and

has worked at Leeward Community College for 12 years where she oversaw the distance education program. She then served 9 years as the Division Director for the Community Education Division at Kamehameha Schools. She has been the Executive Strategy Consultant for the last 3 years. She is focused on creating a system of support for career readiness for Native Hawaiians. When speaking of a system of support, she is thinking more broadly than just workforce training. She is also including education pathways, better connecting employers and educators, advocacy, and entrepreneurial skills.

Melissa Wilson is the Strategic Project Manager at Kamehameha Schools. She grew up in Kaneohe and worked on the mainland in the health care industry. In her current role, she implements and procures IT systems.

Winona Whitman is the Employment & Training Program Director for Alu Like. She graduated from Kamehameha Schools, and has Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Business Education. She is serving on this committee to create innovative opportunities for the youth. She would also like to focus on the ongoing need of soft skills programs, and would like to see more Native Hawaiian youth in the IT field.

Nate Gytoku is the Director of Sustainability Initiatives at Kupu. He is from Hilo and obtained a degree in English literature from a mainland college. After moving back to Hawaii, he became involved with different workforce sectors. He has been Kupu less than a year where their focus is on youth between ages 17-26. Kupu creates hands-on learning experiences primarily through conservation and sustainability work. These opportunities are funded through Americorps. The program started through the Rewarding Internships for Sustainable Employment (RISE) program which was designed to provide UH students part-time work in a sustainability field: energy, water conservation, and solid waste reduction. RISE started 7 to 8 years ago and then folded into Kupu which is now also focusing on more transferrable skills – communication, design thinking, problem solving, team leadership skills, etc. Building the connection first with the land and then the student to the land and then classroom work has been a very successful approach in their Waianae program.

III. Brief Overview of Youth Services in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Jeanne Ohta, WDC Staff presented an overview of services available at American Job Centers (AJC). Job seeker services (with different categories), business services provided by AJC for employers, and youth services. Youth services that are provided are different from the other services, which is one reason youth services are usually provided by different providers than those providing adult services. In WIOA, Youth service providers are required to provide 14 services. The Youth program serves youth ages 16-24, with an emphasis on out-of-school youth. "Out of school" means - not attending any school, not younger than age 16 or older than 24 years old at time of enrollment, and have one or more of the 9 barriers listed in the regulations. There's also a definition for in school youth – skills deficient, English language learner, homeless, if there is a family; and income level. Eligibility is determined at the case manager level at the AJC.

There must be at least one comprehensive AJC on each island. Services are provided to

the participants at the center. Three Title I programs are run out of the AJC: Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth. Also, run out of the AJC is the Wagner-Peyser program, Title III, which provides basic services for jobseekers. Title I and Title III overlap and both provide basic career services. WIOA requires workforce partners to be in the center. With rebranding, all the centers are called American Job Center Hawaii.

Questions were asked about the structure of the workforce system, partners, service providers, and available data. Jeanne Ohta provided an overview of the structure of the Workforce Development Council (WDC) at the state level; which provides funds to the counties, who then operate the American Job Centers. WDC provides the state level strategies and the Unified State Plan. The counties write the Local Plans and are responsible for oversight of their contracted service providers.

The 2016 Funding Summary brochure was distributed. The Summary illustrates the duplication of services among government agencies. One of the goals of WIOA is to eliminate the duplication of services. The funding amounts given to each county in the last year was reviewed.

HireNet Hawaii is the statewide job board, participant management information system that provides case management and also provides participant and program performance data. Youth measures and adult measures differ for youth, measurable skill gains and placement into training or employment are measured. Kauai does not currently have a youth service provider, there are providers on Maui, Hawaii Island, and Oahu.

Chair Kitajima will send out questions so they can be prioritized. He is hoping to be able to address the lack of service providers.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.