

YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

ROLE

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) promotes a broad vision of high-quality comprehensive career services for at-risk youth (in-school youth ages 14-24 years and out-of-school youth 16-24 years). Beginning with individual assessments of academic and work readiness, and personal strengths and challenges, the local area Youth Programs provide opportunities for overcoming barriers to success with career readiness activities, career exploration and guidance, and support for educational attainment and occupational skills training leading to enrollment in postsecondary education or a good job along a career pathway. This committee supports the work of the local boards and American Job Centers in developing their Youth Programs, and contributes to the design of a comprehensive community workforce development system, with opportunities on career pathways for all youth in the state of Hawaii.

RESPONSIBILITIES

To support the WIOA Hawaii Unified State Plan recommendations and continuous improvement in youth programs as required by WIOA, this committee will:

- recommend strategies for improved services to youth target populations, including low-income youth, youth with disabilities, foster care youth, youth offenders, children of incarcerated parents, homeless youth, youth in rural populations, and pregnant and parenting teens, that lead to career pathways;
- ensure that youth receive assessments and support in social and emotional learning, and 21st century life skills;
- help identify methods for providing program elements in local area youth programs
 1. Adult mentoring
 2. Financial literacy
 3. Entrepreneurial skills training
 4. Activities that prepare youth for transition to postsecondary education and training
 5. Internships that lead to job placement;
- commit to local area system-building to align youth services, avoid duplication, and increase career development, education, and workforce development opportunities to at-risk youth through resource mapping, identification of a competitive selection of eligible service providers, and community partnerships;
- and suggest ways to bring together and leverage resources and services among schools, programs, organizations serving youth.