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LESLIE WILKINS  
CHAIRPERSON

ALLICYN C.H. TASAKA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
830 Punchbowl Street, Suite 417, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-8630 Web: <http://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/>

## MILITARY & VETERAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

9:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

American Job Center Hawaii - Oahu  
1505 Dillingham Boulevard, Room 110  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

### MINUTES

#### ATTENDEES:

Major General Edward V. Richardson, Committee Chair, USAF, Ret., Owner, Edward V. Richardson, LLC  
Ann Greenlee, Committee Vice Chair, Director, Hawaii Veterans' Employment & Training Service  
Mike Bormann, U.S. Army Hawaii Transition Services  
Tamara Brethouwer, SFL-TAP, Transition Services Specialist, USARPAC, Ft. Shafter  
Bridget Komine, Assistant Director, Hawaii Veterans' Employment & Training Service  
Marie Calvo, Manager, Member Employment Assistance Program  
Jessica Dung, USCG Transition and Relocation Manager  
Desiree Espinda, State of Hawaii, DLIR, JVSG Program Specialist  
Jeffrey Esposito, U.S. Marines MARFORPAC  
Suzette Fernandez, Pacific Shipyards International  
Timothy Fujino, Transition Assistance Advisor, Hawaii National Guard  
Eva Garcia, SFL-TAP, Schofield Barracks  
Kim Graves, CWT Coordinator, Department of Veteran Affairs  
Alan Hayashi, Consult 808  
David Lee, Hawaii Medical Institute  
Mildred Lonergan, SFL-TAP, Transition Service Specialist, Schofield Barracks  
Debbie Nakashima, Pathways Program  
'I'ini Patelesio, Pacific Shipyards International  
Guyland Patton, DVOP, JVSG, American Job Center - Oahu  
Mike Quitania, Hawaii Program Manager, Onward to Opportunity, JBPHH  
Tara Reynolds, Wounded Warrior Battalion Transition Specialist  
Elizabeth Vela, SFL-TAP, Schofield Liaison Officer

**STAFF:**

Mark “Duke” Olds, Workforce Development Council  
Michelle Miyashiro, Workforce Development Council

**I. Call to Order.....*Committee Chair Major General Edward Richardson***

The Military & Veteran Affairs Committee (MVAC) meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Committee Chair Richardson.

**II. Approval of Minutes for the July 17, 2019 MVAC Meeting**

Committee Chair Richardson requested a motion to approve the minutes. Committee Vice Chair Ann Greenlee moved to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2019 meeting. Bridget Komine seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

**III. Presentation by the Hawaii Building and Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO**

The Hawaii Building and Construction Trades Council was unable to attend and present at today’s meeting. They will be asked to present at a later date.

**IV. Presentation on the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) Veterans Conference held August 7-9, 2019 by Duke Olds, WDC Staff**

Duke Olds presented on the NASWA Veterans Conference held August 7-9, 2019, which can be found at this link:

<https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2019/10/NASWA-VetConf-takeaway-impressions.pdf>

**V. Old Business**

- A. Discussion on the current level of Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) and Local Veterans’ Employment Representative (LVER) services on the neighbor islands. Are veterans, spouses, and employers on Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii islands receiving sufficient access to DVOP and LVER program services?

Committee Vice Chair Ann Greenlee and Bridget Komine work for the U.S. Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service and administer the Jobs for Veterans State grant. Funding for this grant is determined annually based on the veteran population and unemployment rate and provides statewide employment services to veterans with serious barriers to employment, roughly 20% of veterans seek assistance at the American Job Centers (AJC). Veterans who do not meet the

criteria of having a significant barrier to employment receive identical services from the Wagner-Peyser program.

The grant provided funding for 3.5 DVOP and 2.5 LVER positions for FY2019. There will be 4 DVOP and 1 LVER positions for FY2020. Although funding for FY2020 went up slightly, expenses such as salaries and rent also went up. All DVOP positions are on Oahu as that is where most veterans eligible for DVOP services are located. Hawaii invested in laptops with Skype capabilities for all DVOP positions and American Job Centers located on the neighbor islands. If a veteran visits an AJC on the neighbor island, they can receive the same DVOP services from a Wagner-Peyser representative. If they prefer to speak to a veteran, they are able to speak with a DVOP representative by Skype. However, the DVOP representative on Oahu will still need to work with the Wagner-Peyser representative on the neighbor island as they are best equipped to know the employment situation on that island. The number of veterans being served by this grant is largest on Oahu. As part of their audit of the Grant, managers of the AJCs were asked about the adequacy of services to veterans and no issues were raised.

The Uniform National Threshold Entered Employment Rate (UNTEER) is the average entered employment rate for veterans throughout the U.S. For a program to be considered successful, Wagner-Peyser and JVSG's employment rate needs to be at least 90% of the national average. Hawaii's program has not met that mark in the six years they have been tracking it. It's been about 40%. Greenlee suggests strengthening employer outreach and job development in the AJCs. This can be done by increasing employer usage of HireNet Hawaii or finding ways for DVOP and Wagner-Peyser representatives to find out about job openings. She also suggests the committee look at lobbying for the transferability of credentials, i.e. CDL program, and more favorable tax laws for veterans, i.e. educational benefits and exempting retirement and military reserve income.

'I'ini Patelesio added her request as an employer to increase the functionality and user-friendliness of HireNet Hawaii. Debbie Nakashima brought up the same issues as an employee/user. Alan Hayashi suggested taking employer comments regarding HireNet Hawaii to the Data Management and Technology Committee of WDC. Duke Olds explained that USDOL requires certain data to be captured by HireNet Hawaii, thus requiring the extensive number of fields to be completed and questions to be answered.

## **VI. New Business**

- A. Update on the Hiring Our Heroes Career Summit and discussion on committee support.

The Career Summit events at Schofield Barracks will take place on November 6 and 7, 2019. November 6 is a networking reception for service members, spouses, veterans, leadership and employers. There will be employer panel discussions and a career fair on November 7.

Kaneohe Marine Corps Base will have their hiring fair on November 4 and 5, 2019. The fair will include a career summit with a panel discussion and a networking reception. Ian Greene from the DLIR Human Resources Office will participate.

**VII. Sub-committee Update: funding initiative**

The committee has been given a deadline of mid-October to submit a proposal on how to use WDC funds.

**VIII. Announcements**

A. Upcoming events

a. Upcoming summits as noted above.

B. Next meeting: Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 9:30 am – 11:00 am at the Oahu American Job Center

**IX. Adjournment**

Committee Chair Richardson adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.