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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
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MILITARY & VETERAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 20, 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
Roman Galiki, Universal Technical Institute / VFW 12138
Elizabeth Garcia, Corporate Fellowship Program HOH, U.S.C.C. Foundation
Cynthia Giesecke, Hiring Our Heroes – Military Spouse Professional Network
Kim Graves, CWT Coordinator, VA
Sydney Hart, Hawaii State Senate, Office of Senator Lorraine R. Inouye
Alan Hayashi, Consult 808
Irving Higa, JVSG American Job Center – Oahu
Bridget Komine, Assistant Director, Hawaii Veterans' Employment & Training Service
Mildred Lonergan, Transition Service Specialist, SFL-TAP, Schofield Barracks
Debbie Nakashima, Pathways Program
Mike Quitania, Hawaii Program Manager, Onward to Opportunity, JBPHH
Ramon Ruiz, JVSG American Job Center – Oahu
Carol Taniguchi, Hawaii State Senate

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 9:35 a.m. by Committee Chair Major General Edward Richardson.

II. Approval of Minutes for the September 18, 2019 MVAC Meeting

Chair Richardson requested a motion to approve the minutes. Committee Vice Chair Ann Greenlee moved to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2019 meeting. Alan Hayashi seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimous.

III. A presentation on WorkReady360 by Andrew Appleton, CEO and veteran

WorkReady360 is a portable career option for military spouses. Details can be found at https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2019/12/MVAC_WorkReady360_Slides.pdf

IV. 2020 Hawaii State Legislative Session opportunities by Ms. Sydney Hart, Legislative Aide and military spouse

At the Hawaii State Capitol, the Senate has 25 offices, the House has 51 offices, and there are support offices such as the Public Access Room and the Clerk’s Office. Each office hires their staff individually. Both full time and part time employees are hired for the session, which runs from January 2020 to May 2020.

The range of jobs vary from legislative aide to budget analyst to researcher to attorney. Some employees such as Ms. Hart were offered full-time permanent positions after working in a seasonal position during a legislative session. The transferrable skills and experience gained in the Hawaii state legislature have helped spouses obtain jobs in public service with local and state governments in the mainland.

V. New Business

A. Hiring Our Heroes, Career Summit, post-event summation

Mike Bormann presented on the 2019 Hawaii Career Summit which can be found at <https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2019/12/Summit-Storyboard-AAR.pdf>

B. Committee discussion on goals and objectives for 2020

Chair Richardson would like committee members to continue to assist in future Career Summits. He suggested the committee look at how it can contribute input to the military caucus in the legislature. Alan Hayashi informed the committee that Labor Department Director Scott Murakami requested the Workforce Development Council and its committees focus workforce system resources on serving special populations. This includes veterans, spouses, and transitioning service members.

Chair Richardson reiterated that the committee work in coordination with other veteran advocacy groups to avoid duplication of efforts.

VI. Subcommittee Updates

A. Military Spouse Employment Subcommittee

The subcommittee was established to focus awareness on the employment barriers military spouses often face during frequent household moves to military bases. At a Congressional subcommittee hearing on April 30, 2019, the Deputy Assistant Secretary, VETS, U.S. Department of Labor, remarked that military spouse unemployment is estimated to be at least two times higher than the national average. On November 5, 2019, Chair Richardson and members of the subcommittee met with Ms. Elizabeth O'Brien, Senior Director, Military Spouse Program, Hiring Our Heroes and her team at the American Job Center Oahu. The purpose of the meeting was to establish a cooperative connection for future collaboration on finding proven solutions and best practices. In addition to spouses of active duty service members the subcommittee will examine the needs and interests of spouses of military reservists and national guardsmen. Resources to date that the subcommittee has identified include the American Job Center, Military Spouse Professional Network, My Career Advancement Account, Military Spouse Fellowship Program, Hawaii State Legislature, WorkReady360, and the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Dislocated Worker Program.

VII. Announcements

A. Members announced upcoming events:

- The 487th Field Artillery Battalion, Hawaii Army National Guard, completed its overseas deployment halfway point and will return in Spring 2020. Some soldiers will return having no jobs and will require comprehensive transition services.
- U.S. Army Hawaii Transition Services is hiring Career Counselors and Career Skills Programs Installation Administrators.
- The Department of Labor announced it will accept applications for the 2020 HIRE Vets Medallion Program between January 1 – April 30, 2020. The program recognizes employers who hire and retain veterans and efforts to establish employee development programs for veterans. There were no Hawaii employers selected for recognition in 2019. More details can be found at www.hirevets.gov.

B. Next meeting is January 15, 2020, 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. at the American Job Center.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Richardson adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.