

## **Youth Services Committee**

**August 13, 2020**

- No updates to report since the last Executive Committee meeting on July 23, 2020. Below are the highlights reported at the July 23, Executive Committee meeting.
- Since the last Executive Committee meeting the Youth Committee met once, February 18.  
Meetings scheduled on April 21 and June 16 were cancelled due to COVID-19.

**Meeting, February 18.** Chair, Ian Kitajima announced that the Finance committee approved the Youth committee's \$75,000 proposed budget plan to support and implement the following WIOA youth program elements.

### **1) Entrepreneurial skills training**

Committee member, Steve Sue, is leading a hui of committee members to develop an entrepreneurial skills training concept. Bizgenics Foundation, a non-profit organization, is the service provider of choice being considered to launch this initiative, customized for the WIOA Youth Program. The Foundation has collaborated with 50 schools statewide to educate and train youth on entrepreneurial skills. The goal is to teach the "entrepreneurial mindset" of creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and innovation. This initiative is earmarked for \$15,000.

### **2) Comprehensive guidance and counseling; trauma-informed assessment**

Committee members, Stacy Ferreira and Josiah Akau will lead a hui of committee members to develop this initiative aimed at WIOA youth participants, many who exhibit at-risk behavior. The aim is to create an assessment approach to identify program youth exhibiting emerging at-risk behavior in need of appropriate intervention resources applied as a "triage" system of support. The hui will focus their planning efforts in collaborating with community stakeholders engaged in the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) Trauma-Informed Assessment for Early Intervention program.

HIDOE, under H.R.S. Act 271 (Senate Bill No. 388, 30th Legislature, passed on July 12, 2019), has established a task force to *create a system for evaluating and assessing all children and those who are exhibiting emergent or persistent behaviors, academic challenges, or chronic absenteeism and are in need of appropriate supports and interventions accessible within the continuum of a multi-tiered system of supports.*

Budget expenditure will facilitate the training of Youth Program staff to perform and use trauma informed assessments to enhance workforce services to the program youth. This initiative is earmarked for \$30,000.

**3) Paid and unpaid work experience and activities to prepare youth for and transitioning to post-secondary education and training**

Committee member, Nisa Tokunaga will lead a hui of committee members to develop work-based learning experiences that expands upon the current program which currently has partnerships with community colleges and private sector entities. The aim is to develop alternate learning sites and environments that accommodate a wide array of skill, interest and motivation levels of the youth participants. Entrepreneurial settings will have a priority in the development of these alternate learning sites. This initiative is earmarked for \$30,000.

COVID-19 has altered the implementation timeline of the three initiatives. It may also affect the budget for each of the initiatives. The committee is prepared to consider adjustments to the overall budget plan and prioritize the planning and development for all three initiatives, as needed.

**The next committee meeting, a Zoom virtual meeting, is scheduled on Tuesday August 18, 2020 (1:30 – 2:30).**