

**KAUAI COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD UPDATE REPORT
(February – August 2020) TO THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING**

Thursday, August 13, 2020

Has the Kauai WDB met and elected new executive officers? When and who are they? Have board committees been formed? What committees are being formed? Who are chair and vice chair?

The KWDB has not yet met to elect new Board members. As such, no board committees or new Executive officers have been elected. Currently, the Vice Chair of the Board is Jackie Kaina. I am exploring the option of conducting a Zoom meeting. When this occurs, we will elect new officers.

Status of MOU/IFA with partners for the American Job Center? What is deadline to complete?

The MOU/IFA has been sent out to our Partners. Not all have responded. State WDD, MEO, KCC and DVR have assured me they will have a response by Sep 1. I will follow up.

Please summarize the overall impact that the COVID pandemic has had on the overall operations of the WDB and American Job Center.

As you may not be aware the AJC is only staffed by State Workforce Development personnel. Currently they are all reporting for work and conducting services via phone and email. Up to this point, the KWDB has been unable to meet. Many of our members were directly impacted by COVID-19 or are helping to deploy support and have struggled to commit to additional programs such as the KWDB. Now that many have settled into a routine with their professional and personal obligations, I am soliciting the Board members for their availability to meet via Zoom.

Please explain how services are being delivered at the American Job Center. What is the staffing level, hours of operation, accommodations made for COVID?

The AJC WDD staff are conducting client services via phone calls and email. As they are the only entity in the AJC, hours of operation are still M-F business hours. We anticipate opening the doors soon to limited (appointment only) clients now that our safety equipment has started to be installed.

What actions have been and/or being planned to overcome the challenges/barriers as a result of COVID?

We are installing PPE and have a Safety plan on how the AJC will operate once all equipment is installed. We are supporting County and State CARES programs with guidance to support job creation. The County is actively looking to hire someone to help with this program from September-December in the AJC.

Please explain why Kauai County opted out of participating in the 2 COVID disaster recovery and employment recovery grants.

Please refer to letter by Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami

Please share accomplishments/success stories from your organization.

The biggest win, which took a lot of work was onboarding Hale Opio Inc. as our new Youth Services provider. The first few months, due to Covid restrictions they focused on setting up their programs and counselors.

Effective this Fiscal year, they have started receiving clients and as of this writing have 10 clients receiving services. Looking forward to working with this excellent group of Administrators and Counselors.