

## Military and Veteran Affairs Committee

The Military & Veteran Affairs Committee (M-VAC) provides a forum for transition program leaders and stakeholders to explore career transition challenges unique to veterans, service members and their spouses, National Guard and Reserve members. The committee's focus is to increase awareness of access to resources that lessen the impact of transition. With an abundant knowledge of resources in the tool kits, committee members have additional expertise to provide quality transition services to their Soldier, Sailor, Marine, Coast Guard, and Airmen personnel.

Some key takeaways and benefits for committee members is an enhanced awareness of state and federal resources and promising practices; streamline collaboration with committee members serving populations having similar or the same transition challenges; and an in-depth understanding of the economic challenges that service members and veterans should prepare for, if they aspire to live and work in Hawaii.

Since its inception on December 8, 2016 and its first organized meeting on July 10, 2017, the M-VAC has achieved the following.

- Grown its membership to over thirty volunteers comprised of military transition specialists from the military bases of all the armed services and the Department of Homeland Security and a robust network of military transition stakeholders.
- Convened 22 meetings, hosted 23 presentations and a tour of the American Job Center.
- Elevated members' awareness of the in-demand occupations in Hawaii.
- Hosted a meeting with senior leaders of the Washington D.C. office of the Hiring Our Heroes Military Spouse Program.
- Activated the military spouse employment working group and introduced portable career options for military spouses.
- Developed and distributed an information packet on the cost-effective route to a Hawaii Commercial Driver's License.

Key activities to sustain that drive the committee's success in support of the Hawaii WIOA Unified Plan and services to the veteran population.

- Sustain collaboration with national and state veteran service organizations such as the National Association of State Workforce Agencies Military Affairs Committee, the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation Hiring Our Heroes, and the U.S. Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service.
- Sustain members' interest, participation and connection to the committee's work with relevant and substantive agenda topics and problem sets.
- Sustain quality presentations that add value and knowledge to each member's tool kit.
- Set up additional working groups to dive into transition concerns of committee members.
- Expand committee membership to include individuals from the three neighbor island counties: Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui. Currently, all 30 volunteer members and the organizations they represent are in the County of Honolulu.

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