

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



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 & VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, August 26, 2020
1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Online via Zoom

MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Maj Gen Edward Richardson, USAF, Ret., Committee Chair; Owner, Edward Richardson, LLC
Ann Greenlee, Director, Hawaii Veterans Employment and Training Service
Ted Avila, Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist, Oahu American Job Center
Crystal Bettenhausen-Bubulka, Hiring Our Heroes – Military Spouse Professional Network
Mike Bormann, Transition Services Manager, Solder for Life-Transition Assistance Program
Tamara Brethouwer, Transition Services Specialist, SFL-TAP, USARPAC, Ft. Shafter
Robert Bullen, Veteran and Military Connected Outreach, U.H. Community Colleges
Chris Collins, VA Employment Coordinator
Keku DePonte, University of Hawaii Maui College, Ku'ina Program Coordinator
Yareli Donaldson, Transition Support Coordinator, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Hawaii
Dennis Dumale, Civ, DAF, HQ PACAF/A1MR
Jessica Dung, Transition and Relocation Manager, U.S. Coast Guard Base Honolulu
Roman Galiki, Warriors to Work Specialist, Wounded Warrior Project
Cynthia Giesecke, Hiring Our Heroes – Military Spouse Professional Network
Alan Hayashi, Consult 808
Irving Higa, DVOP Specialist, Oahu American Job Center
Terrence Holmes, Troops to Teacher Project Coordinator, Hawaii Department of Education
James Lynch-Urbaniak, Recruiter, Hawaii Department of Education
Debbie Nakashima, Program Manager, Pathways Career Services, Hawaii National Guard
Guyland Patton, DVOP Specialist, American Job Center
Ramon Ruiz, Local Veterans' Employment Representative, Oahu American Job Center

STAFF:

Mark Olds, Workforce Development Council
Michelle Miyashiro, Workforce Development Council

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

The Military & Veterans Affairs Committee (MVAC) meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Committee Chair Major General Edward Richardson.

II. Approval of Minutes for the November 20, 2019 MVAC Meeting

Chair Richardson requested a motion to approve the minutes. Roman Galiki moved to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2019 meeting. Robert Bullen seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

III. Impact of the Pandemic on Veteran Services

A. Workforce Development Council (WDC) Update

Mark Olds presented an update on the Workforce Development Council and the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, which can be found at this link: <https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2020/08/2-WDC-Update-4-slides.pdf>

B. Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) Update

Mr. Olds gave the committee a brief background on the JVSG program, which is a federally funded grant from the U.S. Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS). Grant funds are provided to each state to fund the positions of the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist and the Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER). Employment services focus on promoting the hiring of veterans and helping transitioning service members, eligible spouses, and veterans with significant barriers to employment.

C. Military Transition Programs

Mike Bormann reported that the Career Summit is scheduled for October 27 & 28 and will be fully virtual. This event is open to all service members from any branch, including veterans and spouses. The first day will consist of panels and workshops. The second day will have industry leaders and employers engaging participants, by appointments, in the morning and a virtual career fair in the afternoon. Tamara Brethouwer reported that coordination with the office of the USARPAC headquarters is ongoing to have the commanding general provide opening remarks. Chair Richardson will make a request to Lieutenant Governor Josh Green, M.D., for a video message tailored to transitioning service members to consider Hawaii as their first destination to pursue their civilian careers. Dr. Green gave a similar video message at last year's Career Summit.

D. Other Veteran Service Providers

Ted Avila reported that the Oahu American Job Center is providing services to veterans by appointment and via conference call.

Roman Galiki reported that the Wounded Warrior Project is faced with the same COVID-19 communication challenges that afflict other service providers. None or limited face-to-face interactions with veterans and families make it difficult to build relationships. The Wounded Warrior staff are busy conducting training sessions on virtual meeting platforms to better prepare for virtual meetings with partners and clients.

Alan Hayashi reported that Pearl Harbor Shipyard is looking to fill eight welder positions. Chair Richardson reported that funding for military projects in the Pacific, such as Hawaii and Guam, may be increasing due to increased development activity.

Ann Greenlee explained that veteran's preference applies to Federal civil service jobs and not federal contractor jobs. Federal contractors are obligated to demonstrate an effort to attain a goal of 20% of all new hires will be veterans.

IV. Pandemic Economy

Mr. Olds presented labor market information for service members, military spouses, and veterans, which can be found at this link: <https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2020/09/3-Pademic-Economy-brief.pdf>

V. Military Spouse Subcommittee Update

The subcommittee has not met since November 2019. Subcommittee chair, Roman Galiki asked that interested members join the group and share their accounts of the job search inconveniences military spouses experience when relocating to new job markets. Past meetings have explored programs helping military spouses, e.g. teleworking opportunities and Hire Our Heroes military spouse and corporate fellowship program.

VI. Announcements

A. Members' announcements.

Mr. Olds announced there will be a statewide veterans virtual conference "Serving Never Stops: Assisting Homeless Veterans During the Pandemic" on September 9 and 10 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Contact Mark for information.

B. Next virtual meeting: October 28, 2020

VII. Adjournment

Chair Richardson adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.