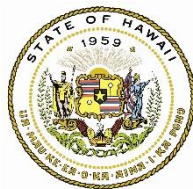


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LESLIE WILKINS
CHAIRPERSON

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STATE OF HAWAII
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
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MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, February 10, 2021
1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Online via Microsoft Teams

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, DVOP Specialist, Oahu American Job Center
Marie Calvo, Manager, Family Member Employment Assistance Program
Christopher Collins, VA Employment Coordinator
Joel Doring, DVOP, JVSG, Oahu American Job Center
Roman Galiki, Warriors to Work Specialist, Wounded Warrior Project
Melinda Gomez, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Kimberly Graves, CWT Coordinator, Department of Veteran Affairs
Alan Hayashi, Consult 808
Irving Higa, DVOP Specialist, Oahu American Job Center
Bridget Komine, Assistant Director, Hawaii Veterans' Employment & Training Service
Ken Loui, Pacific Marine
Debbie Nakashima, Program Manager, Pathways Career Services, Hawaii National Guard
Duke Olds
Guyland Patton, DVOP Specialist, American Job Center
Mike Quitania, Hawaii Program Manager, Onward to Opportunity, JBPHH
Ramon Ruiz, Local Veterans' Employment Representative, Oahu American Job Center

STAFF:

Allicyn Tasaka, Workforce Development Council
David Morihara, Workforce Development Council
Michelle Miyashiro, Workforce Development Council

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

The Military & Veterans Affairs Committee (MVAC) meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Committee Chair Richardson.

A. Updates by the Committee Chair

Committee Chair Richardson announced to the committee that he will be stepping down from his position due to health issues. WDC Vice Chair Alan Hayashi will be the Interim Chair until a permanent replacement is found. General Richardson expressed his appreciation to the committee members for their work and support of veterans.

B. Interim Committee Chair Alan Hayashi introduced David Morihara as the new WDC staff Liaison to the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

II. Approval of Minutes for the October 28, 2020 MVAC Meeting

Interim Committee Chair Hayashi requested a motion to approve the minutes. Ann Greenlee moved to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2020 meeting. Michael Quitania seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

III. Discussion on Committee's Priorities for 2021

A. Review Mission Statement and revise as needed.

General Richardson explained that there are numerous veterans and military committees throughout the state. This committee is unique in providing support for veterans, service members and their spouses in overcoming issues with employment. Ann Greenlee reiterated that the mission statement is accurate and employment is where this committee should be focused.

Roman Galiki added that the Military Spouse Subcommittee has been discussing training opportunities for spouses, service members, and family members. Mike Quitania added that we could do more in the education of our military-connect community, which would help others learn about the many organizations available. Another recent question has been how to keep the military talent in Hawaii. The committee could work together to develop a strategy to debunk myths and fallacies about working, living and staying in Hawaii for those new to the island.

Duke Olds stated that the mission statement does not include further action after exploring job transition issues and solutions. Mr. Olds suggested writing an informational page to summarize topics discussed as a committee. Transition managers and specialists can utilize it as reference with their service members and family members. Mr. Olds also suggested having guest speakers who are subject matter experts on issues and topics relevant to this committee.

Debbie Nakashima suggested removing the word “transition” from the mission statement. The committee helps active service members, spouse, and family members not necessarily while they are transitioning out, but while they are here. National Guard and Reservists are also not necessarily transitioning out of service but can still benefit by the work of this committee.

General Richardson suggested adding a mention of a follow-up to the employment issues in the community in the mission statement. General Richardson would also like the committee to work together and with the WDC to create a plan to work on the employment issues, such as writing testimony and participating in getting bills passed.

IV. Information and Updates

A. Brief Update with Workforce Development Council (WDC) Activities

Interim Committee Chair Hayashi reported that the WDC Executive Committee met the previous week and there are no updates specific to this committee. David Morihara reported that the Rapid Response team has been switching to a virtual mode in response to COVID-19. A video showcasing the American Job Centers were created to assist with outreach since meeting with people has become difficult. David Morihara will send the video to the committee once available to the public.

B. Military Spouse Subcommittee by Roman Galiki

1. Update on subcommittee’s activities

HB782 Relating to Licensing was heard by the House Committee this morning. The Military Spouse Subcommittee has been watching this bill along with HB961 as they both affect military spouses and dependents. WDC staff member Jayson Muraki provided the subcommittee with information on the process of submitting testimony. Many members were able to make their submissions to the House Committee.

The subcommittee discussed how to take action on issues discussed in the meetings, how to collaborate with each other, their purpose and goals, and how to address and guide issues and bring it to the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. Mr. Galiki invited members of the committee to join the subcommittee.

General Richardson added that he would like a strategy regarding HB782. He would like a number of people from various backgrounds to testify. Debbie Nakashima reported that the bill was passed with an amendment that would include incoming National Guard and Reserve Component members coming to the State of Hawaii. General Richardson said the bill will go to the Senate and so a meeting should be set with Senator Clarence Nishihara. General Richardson also asked Interim Committee Chair Hayashi to request the

support of the WDC. David Morihara reported that the bill will go to the House Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee before going to the Senate and will be heard in the next week or two. There is a companion bill in the Senate. Mr. Morihara suggests sending notes voicing support and asking for the bill to be heard to keep it moving. He also noted that amendments can be made to the bill through testimony.

V. Announcements

A. Committee members' announcements

Chris Collins and Kimberly Graves announced that the VA has started opening in-person meetings by appointment only, no walk-ins.

Debbie Nakashima announced that there are still 800 National Guard members on orders, many since March 2020.

Marie Calvo shared that the USMC is hosting a Virtual Military Spouse Career and Empowerment Expo on February 18, which is free to attend and is open to Active Duty, Guard, Reserve and retiree spouses of the Marine Corps. Spouses of sister services are also welcome. Registration is available at <https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?id=12142>.

David Morihara and Guyland Patton announced that the Oahu American Job Center will be moving to the Dole Cannery Office Building, 680 Iwilei Road, Suite 700, this week. They will open for business at this location on Tuesday, February 16

B. Future meeting dates: March 17 and third Wednesday, bi-monthly

C. Virtual meeting. Members meet on Microsoft Teams.

VI. Adjournment

Interim Committee Chair Hayashi adjourned the meeting at 3:04 p.m.