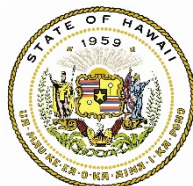


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LESLIE WILKINS  
CHAIRPERSON

ALLICYN C.H. TASAKA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

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**EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Friday, January 22, 2021**

**1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

**Online via Zoom**

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, protecting the health and welfare of the community is a priority. The meeting was held remotely, with Board members and staff participating via an online meeting venue.*

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:**

Glen Kaneshige, Committee Chair, Nordic PCL Construction, Inc.  
Brian Tatsumura, Committee Vice Chair, Briant 808 LLC  
Cheryl Cross, Booz Allen Hamilton  
Faustino Dagdag, Leeward Community College  
Lois Hamaguchi, UH-CTE  
Alan Hayashi, WDC Vice Chair  
Bernadette Howard, UH-CTE  
Jason Ito, Kyo-Ya  
Derek Kanehira, Alexander & Baldwin  
Alison Lee, Department of Human Services Vocational Rehabilitation  
Deborah Leong-Yep, UHA  
Keala Peters, Chamber of Commerce Hawaii  
Erin Yagi, Hawaii P-20

**STAFF:**

Allicyn Tasaka, Workforce Development Council  
David Morihara, Workforce Development Council  
Jeanne Ohta, Workforce Development Council  
Edward Uechi, Workforce Development Council

- I. Call to Order.....Committee Chair Glen Kaneshige**  
The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Committee Chair Glen Kaneshige

**II. Approval of Minutes for October 5, 2020 Meeting**

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 5, 2020 was made by Bernadette Howard. The motion was seconded by Jason Ito. There were no amendments, questions or objections. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

**III. Viewing of Final Videos Highlighting Services at the American Job Centers Produced by Kinetic Productions**

Cheryl Cross presented an overview of the videos highlighting the services of the American Job Centers. Ten responses were received in response to the RFP issued by WDC. The evaluation team consisted of Jason Ito, Erin Yagi, and Lois Hamaguchi. Kinetic Productions was selected for the project and completed the videos in about three months. After the final videos are presented to the WDC Board at the next board meeting on February 11, 2021, the videos will be distributed to the counties for use on their webpages, in the American Job Centers, and for use with outreach to employers.

**IV. Report from the Opportunities Population Subcommittee**

Keala Peters presented an update on the Opportunities Population Subcommittee, which can be found at the following link:

[https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2021/01/Opportunity-Pop-Report\\_Jan-2021.pdf](https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2021/01/Opportunity-Pop-Report_Jan-2021.pdf).

**V. Status Updates on Committee Projects**

**A. Hawaii is Hiring 2.0 Website**

Keala Peters reported that the Hawaii is Hiring website is in phase two since launching in August 2020. WDC provided \$30,000 to support enhancements in this phase. The site has been translated into seven languages, links were added for the top 10 companies hiring now, and an Instagram feed was added for real-time updates.

**B. Sector Employer Partnerships**

Sector Employer Partnerships are industry-driven employer partnerships that allow leaders from industries to address challenges together. There are currently engineering and healthcare sector partnerships, and a Technology sector partnership is in the stage of identifying partners and funding. The University of Hawaii was a co-convenor for the first three years and funded by Strada Education Networks and the Castle Foundation. Funding ended on December 31, 2020. WDC has funded the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii to work with SMS Research as a co-convenor for the next six months. The focus over the next six weeks is a K-12 pathway project specific to engineering. The healthcare sector partnership will be focusing on social determinants of health in 2021. Sector Partnerships is actively preparing a plan to look for partners and funding to continue seamlessly from July 1.

**C. UH Center for Nursing Program**

The WDC Board approved \$54,969 in funding for the UH State Center for Nursing Residency Program Collaborative to help transition at least 75% of the hospitals to an evidence-based nurse residency program with preceptor training. The MOA is

currently going through the UH Administration approval process and will be executed once received by WDC by the end of January.

## **VI. Brief Discussion on Pandemic Impact on Business**

### **A. Update on statewide business engagement**

David Morihara, WIOA Specialist and Statewide Rapid Response Coordinator, presented an update on statewide business engagement, which can be found at the following link: <https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2021/01/Final-Business-Engagement-Report-for-Employer-Engagement-Committee-012221.pdf>.

### **B. Roundtable sharing of Hawaii's businesses**

Jason Ito shared that Kyo-Ya slowly reopened their hotels in November and December 2020 (four on Oahu, one on Maui). Occupancy for the Waikiki hotels are under the 10-12% range, while normally they would be around 95% at this time of year. Maui is faring a little better with higher visitor arrival numbers. Their workforce of 3,000 employees is down to a fraction of that, the rest are furloughed. The forecast is for this 10-12% occupancy rate to continue for the first half of 2021. The second half of the year will depend largely on Japan travel and visitors.

Derek Kanehira shared that Alexander & Baldwin have not had to layoff any employees and have shifted to a work from home structure. They provided rate abatements and rent forgiveness for some of their tenants affected by COVID-19. There was a drop in profitability as many private jobs were dropped or put on hold, though there was a slight uptick in City road repairs so Grace Pacific has had an increase in work orders statewide.

Deborah Leong-Yep shared that UHA Health Insurance lost about 4,000 members due to business closings. However, claims are going up so UHA hired about 12 people this year. Starting June 2020, they shifted to a remote work schedule. 130 of 170 employees are working completely remotely and will make this a permanent change. The office will condense to one floor to save on lease rent. UHA also offered their employees a \$100 food stipend, a cellular phone stipend, and flexible working hours.

Committee Chair Glen Kaneshige shared that the construction industry was lucky to have been deemed essential during the pandemic and did not shut down. A couple of large projects were stopped, but other projects were picked up. They have not had any layoffs and have hired new employees, as well as many of the architects and engineers he works with. Many unions are recruiting for their apprenticeship programs in anticipation of a high volume of projects resuming after COVID-19 and many Federal projects will be starting soon at various military bases on the island. There is a push to include construction workers in Phase 1b class of essential workers. If an outbreak occurs on a project site, it could potentially stop the project entirely so workers are screened daily.

**VII. Next Meeting Schedule**

A. The committee will meet in April before the May 13 Board meeting.

**VIII. Announcements**

Bernadette Howard announced that a statewide needs assessment needs to be completed under the Perkins V Career and Technical Education grant. Members of this committee might be contacted for a small focus group.

**IX. Adjournment**

Committee Chair Kaneshige adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m.