

## EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE TO WDC BOARD

June 23, 2021

The Employer Engagement Committee met on April 29, 2021.

### UPDATE ON STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE AND BUSINESS SERVICES

In 2020, there were 259 WARN letters received from businesses closing or facing reduction in force activities, primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in comparison to 12 WARN letters as of March 2021.

#### Love's Bakery

With the closure of Love's Bakery, 231 employees were affected statewide. Rapid Response sessions began on March 17<sup>th</sup> through April 9<sup>th</sup>. AJC staff assisted Love's employees with transitioning through the bakery closure. A two-phase response was conducted. The first phase was assisting with setting up an Unemployment Insurance profile and HireNet Hawaii account, and the second phase was assisting the ILWU as they helped the affected employees through their initial claim filing of unemployment insurance. The AJC took the opportunity during the second phase to set up appointments for the Love's Bakery employees to meet with employment consultants at the AJC to plan and assist with their next steps to reemployment or training. To date over 70 Love's employees were assisted at the AJC. 20 completed a computer class in June 2021.

### OVERVIEW OF DRAFT WORK BASED LEARNING GUIDE

A guide for industry and educators for work-based learning has been developed by Hawaii P-20 Partnership for Education. The guide is a resource for employers and educators. The Hawaii work-based learning continuum builds students' academic skills, life skills, and experiences as they progress from learning about work to learning through and for work that connects to their career, collect and community goals.

Link: <https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2021/05/WBL-Guide-Presentation-4.29.21.pdf>

### UPDATE ON SECTOR EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS

The industry-driven employer partnerships were developed to address shared workforce development and economic development issues with collaboration for opportunities to strengthen and grow industries in areas such as engineering, healthcare, agriculture and technology.

For engineering, pilot school complexes include Campbell, Castle and Waipahu schools. There are currently 32 industry partners directly partnering with one or more pathway project school complexes. The 4 shared priorities include: (1) increasing understanding of engineering disciplines by exposing various career paths and awareness as early as elementary school level; (2) increasing interest among female engineering students; (3) ensuring students are math-ready by exposing students to math requirements to stay on track in the K-12 pipeline; and (4) recruiting and convening industry and education partners to serve on advisory board within the school complexes. The team is working with Kauai Economic Development Board and Kauai Tech Group to extend K-Career Engineering Pathway Project to Kauai.

The healthcare partnership team conducted a survey to clarify priorities. A clear majority of respondents felt the partnership should focus on supporting workforce development efforts at 65%. Social determinants of health ranked next at 21.7% and system resilience and pandemic preparedness came in third place at 8.7%. The team has engaged with key partnership leaders to clarify the workforce efforts already in process and identify how the partnership can support and leverage workforce development.

To develop the technology sector, research, discussion with industry leaders are taking place to determine if this is the right time to reconvene a technology partnership.