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STATE OF HAWAII

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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**military & veteranS affairs Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, April 29, 2021**

**10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

Online via Microsoft Teams

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:**

Alan Hayashi, Consult 808, Interim Committee Chair

Ann Greenlee, Director, Hawaii Veterans Employment and Training Service

Bridget Komine, Assistant Director, Hawaii Veterans’ Employment & Training Service

Ted Avila, DVOP Specialist, Oahu American Job Center

Debbie Nakashima, Program Manager, Pathways Career Services, Hawaii National Guard

Ken Loui, Vice President, Pacific Marine

Irving Higa, DVOP Specialist, Oahu American Job Center

Mike Quitania, Hawaii Program Manager, Onward to Opportunity, JBPHH

Ramon Ruiz, Local Veterans’ Employment Representative, Oahu American Job Center

Kimberly Graves, CWT Coordinator, Department of Veteran Affairs

Guyland Patton, DVOP Specialist, American Job Center

Mani Sehgal, Hawaii Pacific University, Dean, College of Professional Studies

Yvonne Vance, Hawaii Pacific University, Assistant Dean, College of Professional Studies

**STAFF:**

Allicyn Tasaka, Workforce Development Council

Harrison Kuranishi, Workforce Development Council

1. **Call to Order**……………….………………...……*Interim* *Committee Chair Alan Hayashi*

The Military & Veterans Affairs Committee (MVAC) meeting was called to order at

10:32 a.m. by Interim Committee Chair Hayashi.

1. Updates by the Interim Committee Chair

The agenda was amended to add two presentations. A presentation by Ramon Ruiz, Local Veterans’ Employment Representative, Oahu American Job Center and the other by Mani Sehgal, Hawaii Pacific University, Dean, College of Professional Studies.

Debbie Nakashima motioned to approve amending the agenda. Ken Loui seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The motion was approved unanimously.

1. **Approval of Minutes for the February 10, 2021 MVAC Meeting**

Interim Committee Chair Hayashi requested a motion to approve the minutes. Ramon Ruiz moved to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2021 meeting. Michael Quitania seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

1. **Discussion on Committee’s Priorities for 2021**
2. Adoption of revised Mission Statement

The revised Mission Statement was reviewed and discussed. The committee members made no further amendments to the Mission Statement and agreed to use this version.

“The Military & Veteran Affairs Committee provides a forum for Military Career program leaders and stakeholders to explore, and act upon, job transition issues and solutions unique to Veterans, Active service, National Guard, Reserve members, and their spouses,”

1. **Information and Updates**
2. Military Spouse Subcommittee

There was no Military Spouse Subcommittee meeting.

Debbie Nakashima provided an update on HB961 HD1 SD2 Relating to Military Dependents. The final version of the bill exempts dependents of military service members from state residency requirement for government employment if the military service member is in Hawaii on bona fide military orders. It also allows a spouse of an active duty service member in the military who accompanies the service member a permanent change of station to Hawaii and holds a current, unencumbered license in another jurisdiction in specific professions to apply for licensure on an expedited basis in the State. The bill passed final reading with amendments and is moving forward to the Governor’s office for review.

1. Harrison Kuranishi reported on WDC activities. The Rapid Response teams continued to provide support to the ILWU for displaced workers from Love’s Bakery. WDC participates in FEMA’s weekly Emergency Support Function 6 (ESF6). ESF6 provides Mass Care services to the public during time of emergency.

1. Ramon Ruiz provided an update on in-demand jobs for eligible veterans. Information Technology and Healthcare positions continue to be in demand. Veterans who have a security clearance are also in high demand. An issue that Mr. Ruiz came across is that veterans are receiving interviews, but not getting beyond the interview. To assist veterans, a virtual interview and resume workshop is scheduled for May 19th in partnership with Robert Half International. The AJC will be hosting a hiring event in June.
2. Mani Sehgal and Yvonne Vance provided information on Military Campus Programs, provided by Hawaii Pacific University which can be found at the following link: <https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2021/04/HPU-Presentation.ppt>
3. **Announcements**

Ramon Ruiz reminded the committee about the interview and resume workshop on May 19 and the AJC hiring event in June.

Debbie Nakashima announced that there are 800 National Guard members on COVID orders that will be returning by the end of September.

1. Future meeting dates: 4th Thursday of the month, every other month
2. Virtual meeting. Members meet on Microsoft Teams.
3. **Adjournment**

Interim Committee Chair Hayashi adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.