

**OAHU WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD UPDATE REPORT  
TO THE STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, August 12, 2021 – submitted on July 28, 2021**

**The Oahu WDB and AJC have been conducting job fairs and/or hiring events. Please explain how the job fairs/hiring events were organized and promoted, numbers of job seeker and employer participants, successful placements, and areas to improve for future events.**

The AJCH's full time Rapid Response and Business Engagement Coordinator, Mark Menard, along with Job Resource Specialist IV, Jacque Dacay, coordinated the June 16<sup>th</sup> hiring event under the directives of the WH Administrator and supported by OWDB. Promotion was through its internal network and partners of the AJCH, iHeart radio public service announcements, and postings in Hirenet Hawaii and on social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram. Employers also promoted the job fair through their websites and networks.

No. of Employers: 14

No. of Job seekers who attended in person: 152

Employer post-event survey responses: 7

Only half of the participating businesses completed the post-event survey reporting that 10 applicants from event were hired. The AJCH and OWDB have been told that many more applicants were in the process of interviewing and we expect the number hired from the event to increase.

The AJCH is always working to distinguish their job fairs from other hiring events on Oahu. The upcoming job fair on August 3 will have an in-person resume writing/interview workshop the week prior to the hiring event to add an additional service to the clients. The AJCH is looking to have participants from the workshop register in HireNet and utilize the resume building feature within HireNet as the resume template. AJCH Employment Consultants will be attending the workshop to assist participants.

The August job fair will have more employers and will be held in the Pomaikai Ballrooms at the Dole Cannery. Improvements for future events include possibly purchasing event planning software, identifying a regular venue to host events, having better social media presence for the AJCH and the events, and holding industry-specific job fairs.

**With the AJC at the Dole Cannery 7<sup>th</sup> floor location, please explain how Oahu WDB has been able to overcome the decreased visibility and lack of adequate signage?**

On the day of the hiring event, staff and volunteers are placed at different areas in Dole Cannery providing directions to the job fair. Highly visible sandwich boards with directions to the Job Fair are also placed throughout the venue and on the street level at entry points to the Dole Cannery and parking lots.

At the AJCH, freestanding banners are placed outside of the entry doors on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor so they are visible when exiting the elevators. Dole Cannery has also agreed to print a new suite nameplate which will include all of the co-located partners at the AJCH on it.

**What activities are being performed to integrate Rapid Response, TAA and dislocated worker services to ensure participants are being dually enrolled?**

Currently the Rapid Response Team at the AJCH is working on an assessment check list that will be used when contacting and engaging with a business for Rapid Response. This will include TAA, Dislocated Worker services, and other services available at the AJCH to ensure that all available resources/services are offered.

After the successful Rapid Response events delivered to LOVE'S employees at meeting spaces provided by the ILWU, computer literacy was identified as barrier to re-employment. A training class was created and 19 former LOVE'S employees successfully completed the course.

**It was previously reported that Oahu WDB was considering the purchase of ReWork and SkillScape. What is the status of this and if purchased, how is it being utilized?**

Sole Source Procurements for Emsi's SkillScape and ReWork contracts were successfully completed through the City's Purchasing Division. OWDB's Data Management and Technology Committee is coordinating the roll out and implementation.

ReWork is job matching software that takes a fundamentally different approach to hiring and finding employment. While traditional job matching software and platforms are mainly organized by occupation, ReWork is organized by skill set. Jobseekers will enter their skill sets based on ReWork's question prompts. The ReWork software will then provide a list of jobs and job listings that utilize the jobseeker's skill set regardless of industry or job title. This skills-based approach is being recommended at the federal level by USDOL.

Furthermore, ReWork can inform the jobseeker of occupations or jobs that nearly match to the jobseeker's skill set, and what skills the jobseeker would need to gain in order to qualify for those job opportunities. ReWork can then show which training providers from Oahu's Eligible Training Provider List can provide that type of training.

Another unique feature of ReWork is that it is available as an app for mobile devices. Many of the clients served by the AJCH do not have a reliable internet connection or access to a computer, but do have a smartphone. This mobile interface will provide more clients with greater access to job opportunities and job placement assistance. ReWork will help the AJCH to help manage the expected increase in foot traffic to the AJCH when UI benefits expire at the end of August. Clients will be able to start using the app while waiting to meet with a Job Resource Specialist.

"ReWork" is just a placeholder name. When the official app is launched, it will be rebranded specifically for the City and County of Honolulu and OWDB to serve the residents of Oahu.

**What amount, if any, was returned to the State for unused PY19 WIOA Title 1 funds for adult, dislocated worker and youth programs. Please list amounts for each program.**

This report was submitted before the Board's fiscal team received the reports needed to accurately answer this question.

**Please share accomplishments and success stories of the WDB and American Job Center.**

On June 25, 2021 the WorkHawaii Youth Program held a combined graduation for their YouthBuild, WIOA Youth, and Waipahu Adult Community School Programs. It was a wonderful event! Please watch a 6 minute video capturing some of the highlights from the ceremony including Mayor Blangiardi and some of the youth key note speakers.

Graduation Highlight Video:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EtNIExe6BvTBkGMtmiYmlrrzAT867EUL/view?usp=drivesdk>

Please see additional success stories below.

**WIOA YOUTH**

**Shriners Laga** came to the WorkHawaii Youth Program through Waipahu High School. She completed the education part at the high school and sought work experience and training from the Youth Services Center. She completed Customer Service training through Leeward Community College. Shriners obtained work experience in the Planning and Evaluation Department where she used the skills she learned to land a full time job as a job security specialist. Shriners is grateful and thankful for the opportunity that we had to offer. It was a pleasure to work with this participant.



**Shriners Laga** accepting her diploma at the WorkHawaii Youth Program Graduation Ceremony held at the Waikiki Shell on June 25, 2021.

**Kevin Pablo** (DEI) was dual-enrolled into the WorkHawaii Youth Program in October 2019. He graduated from Waipahu High School and came to the program seeking occupational training and job readiness training. He first completed the Office Administration and Technology training conducted by LCC in December 2019. He then continued his participation in the program attending various WBL activities including resume building and interviewing. In December 2020 for his Work Experience, he interviewed at Lanakila Pacific and was placed in their kitchen services where he helped prepare meals for the Meals on Wheels program. He successfully completed 360 hours of WEX in March 2021. In May 2021, he was introduced to one of our service provider partners, PRIDE Industries. PRIDE Industries is a non-profit organization founded in 1966 to help create employment opportunities for people with disabilities. PRIDE operates in 16 states and Washington, D.D. In addition to providing community employment in the private and public sector, PRIDE also participates in the Federal AbilityOne employment program. In Hawaii, PRIDE has AbilityOne employment opportunities at MCBH, Kaneohe Bay, HI, and at Camp Smith, Aiea, HI. Kevin applied at Barnes and Noble Bookstore at Hawaii Pacific University with assistance from PRIDE Industries. He interviewed in June 2021 and was hired for a July 1<sup>st</sup> start date.



## WIOA ADULT

**Kahalepuna “Puna” Tani** came to our office in August, 2020. He went on a two-year church mission in Japan, which he completed in March 2020. After he returned from his mission, Puna enrolled at BYU Hawaii, but had a desire to pursue a commercial driver’s license (CDL A) training at Leeward Community College. He wanted to attend school and wanted to be able to work at the same time. Puna inquired about the AJCH programs and the CDL class at LCC timed out perfectly with his schedule. He came into the AJCH and qualified for WIOA funding under the Adult program. “It was one of the only (CDL) classes running at the time. They were quick to respond and were willing to take me,” Tani said. “With funding

through the American Job Center, I was able to take this class. My experience was awesome. Mike did an awesome job of training us. To me, anyone could pass the class if they put in the time and effort into it.” Shortly after successfully completing the class and obtaining his license on November 6, 2020, Tani was able to obtain full-time position at J&M Cesspool and Septic Pumping, LLC as a truck driver. Puna is happy to report that he is currently earning \$25 an hour and very thankful and appreciative to the support he got from AJCH.

### **WIOA DISLOCATED WORKER**

**Henry Rosa** came to the American Job Center in July 2020, looking to switch careers from the tourism industry due to the pandemic. He was seeking to obtain his CDL A license to expand his skill set as a driver as he previously was a taxi driver for Rio Taxi and Limo LLC. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and slumping tourism industry, Henry was laid off on March 20, 2020. With his current skills as a taxi driver, to be a CDL driver seemed to be a natural transition for Henry and it helped that he had prior experience as a bus driver. He inquired with the AJCH and enrolled at Leeward Community College’s Complete Motor Vehicle (CMV) Training Program. Henry completed his training and received his CDL A License on November 25, 2020. Henry received several opportunities with his CDL license that did not pan out, but he persevered and kept on applying for many heavy truck driver positions across the island. It all came to fruition for Henry on April 21, 2021, when he landed a full-time position with West Oahu Aggregate, where he is currently earning \$17 per hour.

### **DWG-DISASTER GRANT**

**Grace Young** was working as an Office Manager at a Dental Office when Covid-19 hit. The dental office closed, and ultimately, the owner decided to close its doors for good. Grace was collecting unemployment and taking computer classes. She was really motivated to find meaningful work and be employed during the pandemic. Grace found out about our Dislocated Worker Grant program and reached out to the AJCH to see if she would be a fit for the grant program. With her enthusiasm and willingness to be open to new opportunities, on June 2, 2021, Grace started her training at Goodwill Hawaii, as an Outreach Worker.