

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ALAN HAYASHI
CHAIRPERSON

ALLICYN C.H. TASAKA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Workforce Development Division
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Workforce Development Council's Executive Committee
Wednesday, August 4, 2021
1:00 P.M. – 3:00 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 online meeting venue.

MINUTES

Members Present:

Alan Hayashi, Vice Chair
Sean Knox, Assistant Vice Chair
Yvette Gibson, Chair, Sector Strategies & Career Pathways Committee
Jason Ito, Chair, Data Management & Technology Committee
Ken Loui, Chair, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
Brian Tatsumura, Chair, Employment Engagement Committee

Staff Present:

Maricar Pilotin-Freitas, WDD Administrator
Allicyn Tasaka, Executive Director
Harrison Kuranishi, Employment Specialist
Jayson Muraki, Workforce Development Division

Guest Present:

Doris Dvornch, Deputy Attorney General

I. Call to Order

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Vice Chair Alan Hayashi.

Vice Chair Hayashi reported that he has been meeting monthly with Director Anne Perreira-Eustaquio and Deputy Director JoAnn Vidinhar. He is working with them on identifying nominees to fill seven (7) vacancies on the board for consideration by the Governor. The openings are five (5) in the private sector and two (2) in labor. Vice Chair Hayashi thanked the committee chairs for their leadership at the committee level. He informed them that committee participation has increased from 104 in June to 129 in August – there were 41 of the board serving on one or more committees and a total of 88 members from the public participating in committees.

II. Approval of Minutes for the June 17, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting

A. Regular meeting minutes for June 17, 2021

A motion was made by Jason Ito to approve the regular minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on June 17, 2021. The motion was seconded by Brian Tatsumura. There was no further discussion or amendments. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Executive session meeting minutes for June 17, 2021

A motion was made by Ken Loui to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on June 17, 2021. The motion was seconded by Jason Ito. There was no further discussion or amendments. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Update on discussions regarding board governance as it relates to Federal and State compliance of the Kauai Workforce Development Board.

Sean Knox reported for Brian Lee, who has been the board contact person with Kauai's Managing Director. Things are progressing on Kauai. Managing Director Mike Dahilig sent a letter to the Oahu Workforce Development Board (WDB) seeking assistance with possible redesignation of providing WIOA Title 1 adult, dislocated worker and youth program services at the American Job Center. Oahu WDB Executive Director Alison Lum presented the letter to the local board and Oahu Managing Director, who will discuss with Mayor Rick Blangiardi. This is the county's protocol to seek approval for the local areas to enter into discussion on this matter.

WDD Administrator Maricar Pilotin-Freitas has a meeting scheduled with USDOL for technical assistance. WDD is talking with Kauai Community College as possible service provider for the youth program. KCC has shown interest and start negotiations on a possible contract. She said the State has a responsibility to provider services on Kauai and she plans to contact USDOL to inform them that there is intention to act as the local area for Kauai and provide services for Program Year 2020 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) and Program Year 2021 (July 2021 – June 30, 2022).

Brian Tatsumura asked in the interim how will KCC be supported if they choose to be a youth

service provider. Ms. Pilotin-Freitas said there is an increase in funding for PY2021. WDD through the DLIR as the acting local area for Kauai can then enter into a contract with KCC to provide needed services to eligible youth. For the adult and dislocated worker programs, services will likely be provided by the WDD staff on Kauai who are located in the American Job Center. An agreement and budget will be submitted to hold the staff accountable for the performance and expenditures for providing services. She further explained that career services for jobseekers and unemployment insurance claimants needing services by the WDD staff at the AJC, as they are currently doing so there is no interruption in career services which is funded by Wagner-Peyser federal monies. Mr. Dahilig has supported the services to continue and allowing WDD staff to remain on-site at the county facility to offer services seamlessly to clients. She made clear that with career services, the training component cannot be offered, as that is offered through the WIOA Title 1 funds.

Vice Chair Hayashi inquired if the Mayors of Honolulu and Kauai are “on board” with the transition, then asked if KCC decides not to become the youth service provider, is there a Plan B in place. Ms. Pilotin-Freitas responded that Plan B would likely be to have WDD provide the adult, dislocated worker and youth programs. Additionally, the communication has been directly with the Mr. Dahilig for Kauai County who represents the Mayor and WDD has not spoken with Mayor Derek Kawakami in this matter. Similarly with Honolulu Mayor Blangiardi, the communication has been with Oahu WDB Executive Director Alison Lum.

IV. Update on workforce reorganization efforts of WDC and Workforce Development Division

Ms. Pilotin-Freitas provided an overview showing organization charts of agencies within the DLIR that are administratively attached and divisions in the labor department, which includes WDD. Effective June 24, 2021 under new law Act 088 signed by the Governor, seven (7) positions and funding was transferred from WDC to WDD along with three (3) positions from Research & Statistics division. The ten (10) positions will become part of WDD’s program development coordination and evaluation services. The WDD currently has 113 positions statewide on every island.

Vice Chair Hayashi clarified that the WDC was not abolished by Act 88 but rather the staff and funding was merged into WDD and the board remains intact with the services of the Executive Director. Ms. Pilotin-Freitas concurred and explained that the state board is required under WIOA federal regulations along with local boards for each designated local area. She emphasized that Act 88 does not eliminate or dilute the role of the WDC.

V. Update on Workforce Resiliency Initiative

Vice Chair Hayashi had asked Leslie Wilkins, Chair of the Maui County Workforce Development Board to head up the planning group to come up with options on how to sustain the

Workforce Resiliency Initiative. Kaala Souza served as the Project Manager and his contract ended on July 15, 2021. Ms. Wilkins has been meeting with stakeholders and requests a little more time to offer options for the Executive Committee to consider and discuss. She is requesting this update be deferred for a future committee meeting. Vice Chair Hayashi deferred the report.

VI. Discussion on current and future projects and funding requests

Vice Chair Hayashi reported that the committees that have met over the last couple of weeks are still discussing possible projects and funding requests. So far, the only request is from Sector Strategies and Career Pathways Committee. Keala Peters from the Chamber of Commerce would like funds to continue the sector partnership project for engineering, healthcare, technology and expanding the shipbuilding/maritime sector. They are looking at building the welding program at DOE high schools. The Committee took a vote to recommend continuing the sector partnership project in the amount range between \$90,000 to \$120,000. Committee Chair Yvette Gibson added that the Chamber has done much work with encouraging businesses to take an active role to help prepare the workforce in engineering, healthcare, IT and skilled trades. Other industries are seeing the success that the program has had in healthcare and engineering are coming forward to participate. The contract with SMS Research ended in July and the Chamber has made a commitment to continue funding to the end of December 2021.

A motion to approve and recommend funding the sector partnership program with the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii in the amount between \$90,000 to \$120,000 was made by Sean Knox. The motion was seconded by Jason Ito. Brian Tatsumura asked what is the total amount available of recaptured funds from the local areas. The initial amount available is \$450,000 however there are additional funds from the previous program year that can be used for statewide activities totaling up to \$1.6M. There was no further discussion or amendments. The motion was unanimously approved.

Vice Chair Hayashi reminded members that the funding comes from the Counties and their unused monies. Funds can be used for statewide workforce projects and must be expended by June 30, 2022.

VII. Review and discussion on proposed amendments to by-laws

Deputy Attorney General Doris Dvorch reviewed section by section the proposed amendments by comparing the redlined tracking revisions to the current by-laws. After a robust review and discussion on the proposed amendments, it was recommended to defer action to approve the proposed amendments to allow time for Ms. Dvorch to further revise the by-laws based on discussion. The updated proposed amendments will be reviewed again at the next Executive Committee meeting in November.

VIII. Executive Session - Discussion to consult with the Board's attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities under Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 92-5(a)(4)

There were no questions to Deputy Attorney General Doris Dvonch for the purpose of seeking legal counsel, therefore executive session was not necessary.

IX. Announcements

The next WDC Board meeting is on August 12, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2.28 p.m.