

Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Update for WDC Board

November 18, 2021

The Military and Veteran Affairs Committee met on September 23, 2021.

Kaala Souza, former Project Manager for the Workforce Resiliency Initiative (WRI) presented to the committee on the statewide effort to provide basic computer skills training to upskilling Hawaii's population to be digital literate and ready for employment opportunities. Over 500 people have gone through the in-person classes to support digital literacy and all 51 libraries in Hawaii offer access and support for NorthStar's free online assessments and classes.

Angela Condon, Strategic Partnerships Manager for Military Outreach, Western Governors University (WGU) informed the committee about educational opportunities at WGU for veterans. The unique feature about WGU is its competency-based approach focusing on knowledge rather than time. WGU also provides a Program Mentor for all students.

Halemia Jones, Compliance Officer, provided an overview to the Hawaii local veterans business representatives (LVER's) and staff on Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs. OFCCP holds those who do business with the federal government (contractors and subcontractors) responsible for complying with the legal requirement to take affirmative action and not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, disability, or status as a protected veteran.