

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
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
830 Punchbowl Street, Suite 329, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 586-8630 Web: <http://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/>

EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, October 21, 2021
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 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 an online meeting venue.

MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Brian Tatsumura, Committee Chair, Briant 808 LLC
Sheryl Nojima, Committee Vice Chair, Hong Gray Nojima & Associates
Cheryl Cross, Booz Allen & Hamilton
Linda Puppolo, Maui County Workforce Development Board
Derek Kanehira, Alexander & Baldwin
Faustino Dagdag, Leeward Community College & SHRM Hawaii
Lois Hamaguchi, Hawaii P-20
Alan Hayashi, WDC Chairperson
Alison Lum, Oahu Workforce Development Board
Evan Nakatsuka, Lanakila Pacific
Keala Peters, Chamber of Commerce Hawaii
Erin Yagi, Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education
Kaala Souza, Consult: Workforce Resiliency Initiative
Deborah Leong-Yep, University Health Alliance
Alison Lee, State Vocational Rehabilitation Office, DHS
Melissa Gerber, Abilities Unlimited
Hugh Ono, SSFM International
Maria-Elena Diaz, Windward Community College
Dawn Hao-De Motta, Hawaii County Workforce Development Board

Kevin Aki Jr., Rapid Response Hawaii County
Paul Marx, Paul W Marx & Associates, LLC
Scott Murakami, DBEDT

STAFF:

Allicyn Tasaka, WDD
Jarret Yip, WDD
Carol Kanayama, WDD

- I. Call to Order.....Committee Chair Brian Tatsumura**
The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Committee Chair Brian Tatsumura. Chair Tatsumura introduced Sheryl Nojima as the committee’s new Vice Chair.
- II. Approval of Minutes from the July 29, 2021 Meeting**
A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 29, 2021 was made by Cheryl Cross. The motion was second by Hugh Ono. There were no amendments, questions, objections, or abstentions. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.
- III. Report from the Opportunities Population Subcommittee by Evan Nakatsuka**
Evan Nakatsuka presented updates for the Opportunities Population Subcommittee - Subcommittee met in September 2021:
-Deborah Leong-Yep & Chair Tatsumura lead a new collaborative opportunity between Farrington High School & Oahu’s American Job Center (AJC) called the Kinaole Program. The focus is working with at risk students and English language learners of Pacific Islander descent to connect them with AJC’s outreach services & resources. Due to the tight knit Micronesian community, students are not comfortable traveling to the AJC. Ms. Leong-Yep has reached out to the community leaders of Waipahu where they have successfully managed to break the comfort barriers.
-On Nov 15, 2021 the committee will hold an online informational meeting with leaders of the Micronesian community. The presentation will be done by AJC Employment Consultant, Esther Lokboj.
-Subcommittee members participated in hiring events on Maui and Oahu in August. Planning future webinars.
-This subcommittee is open to feedback, suggestions on supporting, and connecting jobseekers and employers.
-Melissa Gerber of Abilities Unlimited is interested in being a subcommittee member. Her program is in numerous high schools. Ms. Gerber has ideas of how to get more students involved.
- IV. Presentation on State Remote Worker Program by Scott Murakami, DBEDT**
State Remote Worker Program link: <https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/employer-engagement-committee-meetings-2021/>
- V. Update on Workforce Resiliency Initiative & Challenge to Employers for Assessment Testing by Kaala Souza**
Workforce Resiliency Initiative link: <https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/employer-engagement-committee-meetings-2021/>
- Kaala Souza would like every member and their company/organization to take the assessment tests. In addition, he encouraged them to reach out to other companies to participate in completing the NorthStar Assessment. Complete the first 3 categories: Basic Computer Skills, Internet Basics and Using Email.

VI. Roundtable discussion on committee members' feedback of industry issues & concerns.

-COVID Pandemic: Still a serious issue, Hawaii seems to be going in the right direction. But COVID still needs to go away.

-Affordable and Reasonable Housing: Due to the tremendous price increase in the housing market, Hawaii is unable to attract talent to move here. Cheryl Cross of Booz Allen & Hamilton says their company is committed to bringing local students who graduate from mainland colleges back to Hawaii to return home for jobs and to contribute to our economy. There has to be a commitment to showing students and their families there are companies with good paying jobs, long term employment and engagement. Reach out to Ms. Cross if interested in strategies and ideas. WDC Chair Hayashi commented that Sterling Higa of Housing Hawaii's Future, runs a program that works with bringing back young professionals to Hawaii.

-Recruitment and Retention of Employees: no comments.

-Industrial Leaders to work together on common issues: no comments.

-Training Programs to better align with employers' needs: no comments.

VII. Next Meeting Schedule: To be determined by the Committee Chair.

VIII. Announcements: No announcements.

IX. Adjournment: There being no further business, Committee Chair Tatsumura adjourned the meeting at 2:24 p.m.