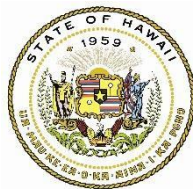


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

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, January 13, 2022
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:

Sheryl Nojima, Committee Vice-Chair, Hong Gray Nojima & Associates
Cary Miyashiro, Quad D Solutions
April Acquavella, Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship and Training Fund
Evan Nakatsuka, Lanakila Pacific
Linda Puppolo, Maui County Workforce Development Board
Erin Yagi, Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education
Maureen Bates, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, DHS
Hugh Ono, Hawaii County Workforce Development Board
Deborah Leong-Yep, University Health Alliance
Faustino Dagdag, Leeward Community College
Karen Arakawa, Maui American Job Center
Rep. Jackson Sayama, State House of Representatives
Alan Hayashi, WDC Vice Chair
Melissa Gerber, Abilities Unlimited
Denise Pacheco, DLIR WDD -Hilo
Sterling Higa, Housing Hawaii's Future
Warren Kawano, Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education
Doug Wee, Tommy Bahama

Keala Peters, Chamber of Commerce
Kira Higa, Hawaiian Telcom
Kaala Souza, Consultant, Workforce Resiliency Initiative
Sandra Goodale, Hawaii County Workforce Development Board
Cheryl Cross, Booz Allen & Hamilton
Alison Lee, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation,
DHS
Jean Schneider, Pacxa
Jackie Kaina, Kauai Economic Development Board
Emma Grochowsky, Office of the Governor's Homelessness Program
Scott Morishige, Office of the Governor's Homelessness Program
Cheryl Bellisario, Office of the Governor's Homelessness Program
JoAnn Inamasu, Office of Economic Development, County of Maui
Rossella Guardascione, Hawaii County Workforce Development
Nancy Romaine, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, DHS

STAFF:

Allicyn Tasaka, Executive Director
Jarret Yip, Program Officer
Harrison Kuranishi, Employment Specialist
Sheila Buyukacar, Job Training Specialist

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Committee Vice-Chair Sheryl Nojima. Committee Chair Brian Tatsumura was unable to attend the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes from the October 21, 2021 Meeting

The minutes for the October 21, 2021 meeting has not been finalized and was deferred to the next committee meeting.

III. Presentation on Millennial Housing Initiative

Sterling Higa, Debate Coach/Lecturer at Hawaii Pacific University, presented on the Millennial Housing Initiative, which can be found at the following link:

[Hawaii-Housing-Strategy-Presentation-by-Sterling-Higa-for-01.13.2022](http://www.hawaii-housing-strategy.com/presentation-by-sterling-higa-for-01.13.2022)

WDC Chair Alan Hayashi asked if there were any findings discovered in the work so far done by Mr. Higa and his team. With ~7 months experience, ~250 people talked to and report readings, Mr. Higa presented open-ended questions rather than findings including: (1) If we believe that housing is a public good, are we supporting and investing in it as if it was a public good? (2) Is the state willing to make land available for development? (3) What role should the state play in financing?

Hugh Ono wanted to clarify Mr. Higa's role in the effort and whom they work with/for. Mr. Higa stated that Housing Hawaii's Future will be an independent nonprofit and have so far received funding from more than 21 organizations, and his role in the organization will be Executive Director. Link: <http://hawaiiifuture.org/>

Sandra Goodale asked what the definition of “affordable.” Mr. Higa stated that the question is more trouble than useful. With explanation it spurred another question from Ms. Goodale for the definition if it is a price point of a product type. Mr. Higa stated there will be no specific product type. Ms. Goodale had one more question about housing for employees and Mr. Higa stated they are working with teachers, healthcare, and agricultural workers who have long commutes.

IV. Update on Challenge to Employers for Digital Literacy Assessment Testing

Kaala Souza updated the committee on the Workforce Resiliency Initiative (WRI) and what organizations that are being worked with.

Link: <https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2022/01/220113-WRI-January-Employer-Engagment-Update-to-PRINT.pdf>

V. Report from the Opportunities Population Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair Evan Nakatsuka thanked and recognized Keala Peters who has served the committee as Co-chair for two years. She is stepping down, although she will be continuing to support the employer engagement committee.

Mr. Nakatsuka provided a brief update for the committee, two groups have been targeted, one being the Kinaole program at Farrington High School and secondly the Micronesian community. In November meeting with six leaders of various churches and groups promoting AJC services and what they can do for persons with barriers.

VI. Updates from Workforce Development Division

Jarret Yip updated the committee on certain staff changes in the WDD, including former WDC staffers Jeanne Ohta, Bonhee Chung, and Edward Uechi leaving for other positions. Additional staffing is planned in the coming months.

Funding opportunities on Title 1 Projects: All WDC proposed projects will be moving forward. There are plans to bolster the WDD website to include videos of the workforce programs and made available online for the public to access.

Job H.U.B. (Helpful Useful and Basic Tools) has been established for staff and the public to access basic courses on the 25th 26th and 27th for internet, email, networking, security. Zoom and other tools workshops to follow, and a summit is scheduled for the first week of February.

Link: <https://hubworkshop1.eventbrite.com>

VII. Discussion on Committee’s Short and Long-Term Goals

Discussion on committee’s short- and long-term goals were deferred to the next meeting.

VIII. Next Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be determined by the Committee Chair.

IX. Adjournment

Committee Vice-Chair Nojima adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, please contact the WDC at (808) 586-8866 (for TTY/TTD Dial 711 then ask for (808) 586-8866) as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible will allow adequate time to fulfill your request. Upon request, this notice is available in alternative formats such as large print, Braille, or electronic copy.