

WDC MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT for WDC BOARD MEETING
Period of February 11, 2022 – May 12, 2022

Committee Chair: Ken Loui
Committee Vice Chair: Ann Greenlee

The Military and Veterans Affairs Committee met on April 7, 2022. The committee mission statement is to provide a forum for military career program leaders and stakeholders to explore and act upon, job transition issues and solutions unique to veterans, active service, national Guard, Reserve members, and their spouses.

The Vice Chair Ann Greenlee, Ramon Ruiz, Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER), and the staff of the Workforce Development Division (WDD) provided an overview of the Hire Vets Medallion Program. The program is the only federal-level veterans' employment award that recognizes a company or organization's commitment to veteran hiring, retention, and professional development. The 2021 Hire Vets Medallion awardees in Hawaii were announced as Dynamic Planning and Response LLC with the platinum award in the small business category; Environet, Inc. with the gold award in the small business category; and GSI Service Group, Inc. with the gold award in the medium business category. Congratulations to these businesses who support veterans!

The WDD reported that they are continuing to work with Pacific Shipyard to create an apprenticeship program for marine welding. Dion Dizon from Hawaii AFL-CIO shared that the Hawaii Ports Maritime Council has scheduled a special maritime career pathways zoom mixer on Friday, May 13, 2022 at 6:00 pm. – 7:00 p.m. The mixer is open to students, parents, career counselors, and working adults looking for a career change.

Committee members discussed the following short- and long-term goals that were reported to the Executive Committee on May 6, 2022.

WDC MVAC GOALS:
Support the goals and objectives of the WDC and Hawaii DOL.
Help our military members and their families find employment by engaging with the public and private workforce entities to provide the necessary information, education, training and opportunities.
Promote and continuously improve communication, collaboration and the sharing of information among the various programs and organizations serving the military and veteran community
Assist our military families and veterans with their basic needs (food, housing, healthcare).

A big MAHALO to Ann Greenlee, who has served as the committee's vice chair for over 5 years. Ms. Greenlee is the Director at the US Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Services (VETS) program for Hawaii and Guam. Effective July 1, 2022, new WDC member Trang Malone, will serve as vice chair. Ms. Malone is Advisor of Workforce Initiatives with CVS Health.