

WDC SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT for WDC BOARD MEETING
Period of February 11, 2022 – May 12, 2022

Committee Chair: Jason Ito
Committee Vice Chair: Vacant

The Special Project Committee met on January 24, 2022 and February 28, 2022, at which time committee structure, short- and long-term goals, and projects were discussed.

Stacey Aldrich, State Librarian presented an update on the National Governors Association grant awarded to the State Libraries to create a comprehensive statewide plan for closing the digital skill gaps in Hawaii's workforce. Partners in the project include the Office of the Governor, Broadband and Digital Equity Office within DBEDT, Hawaii Literacy, Solutions Pacific, and the WDC/WDD/DLIR. The plan will be presented to the Governor by June 30, 2022.

Members discussed projects and goals that include:

Review the current WDC board strategic plan for 2020 – 2024, and put process in place to update the plan that includes the impact and projections of post-pandemic, and other areas of concern. The process would include collaborating with WDD for supportive funding.

Workforce Resiliency Initiative with focus on digital literacy and equity for Hawaii and the workforce.

The members extended their best wishes to Chair Jason Ito and thanked him for his leadership. Mr. Ito will be ending his term on the WDC. During his tenure he served as Chair of the Data Management and Technology Committee and then took over the reins of the Special Projects Committee.

Effective July 1, 2022, Sean Knox will serve as the Chair of Special Projects Committee and Gerald "Jerry" Schmitz will serve as Vice Chair. Mr. Knox is President of HI Employment and Mr. Schmitz is Senior Vice President of LendLease Corporation.

Chair Ito would like to extend his sincere appreciation and gratitude to Ms. Allicyn Tasaka and the WDC staff (current and prior) for their tremendous support and for making this time with WDC a genuinely, memorable experience. Chair Ito thanks Sean and Jerry for their leadership and wishes them much success.