

**HAWAII COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD UPDATE REPORT  
TO THE STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, May 12, 2022**

**The Hawaii County WDB received federal funds through the State Workforce for the COVID-19 disaster recovery and COVID-19 employment recovery grants. Please explain plans to increase performance and meet participant enrollment targets for each grant by June 30, 2022. Participants continue to be enrolled into the Disaster Recovery Grants. 21 were referred/assessed with 12 having qualified and enrolled into the programs. Another 5 will be added between the Employment Recovery and the Disaster Recovery grants by the grant end date.**

**The Hawaii County WDB PY 2020 WIOA Title I funds end by June 30, 2022 and PY 2021 funds will end on June 30, 2023. Given that the PY 2022 allocations are forthcoming, please provide a brief plan to increase performance for each grant by June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023 respectively. If funds will not be expended, please provide an estimate on the projected amount of funds that will be returned to the State.**

*The youth program has not had any difficulties with spending down funds. We do not anticipate returning any funds being returned to the State. And have already begun expending PY21 funding.*

*The adult program is looking at returning approximately \$102,000*

*The dislocated worker program is looking at returning approximately \$35,000*

**Jobseekers would benefit from training through the Eligible Training Provider list. Please explain what the Hawaii County WDB and AJC have been doing and/or plan to increase the numbers of training providers.**

*We are working with local Hawaiian vendors and successful vendors outside of the state to work with. Hawai'i County is also working with Workforce Development Division to develop opportunities for businesses to sponsor apprenticeships. We are working with vendors from other islands who can provide remote training via zoom or other virtual platforms with the assistance of the American Job Center.*

**Please explain what efforts are underway and/or planned to increase dual enrollment of WIOA Title 1 programs with other eligible programs.**

*The American Job Center since its reopening post COVID-19 is rescheduling partners to spend time in the AJC. Allowing for easy access to resources, referrals and allow for soft handoffs between case managers. WIOA adult and dislocated worker programs have set up tables outside of the unemployment office and are trying to work with Department of Human Services to set up a table outside their office to co-enroll Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Temporary Assistance of Needy Families recipients in addition to the Senior Community Service Employment Program clientele.*

*The adult and dislocated worker program continues to partner with the Housing and Urban Development - Family Self-Sufficiency program, Native Indian, Hawaiian and Alaskan program, along with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance program to engage new participants.*

**Employers are seeking qualified workers to sustain their businesses. What strategies, plans and activities has/will the WDB and AJC undertake to increase employer outreach and engagement?**

*The Youth program has met with various employers within the community to discuss how the WIOA Youth Program can partner with their organizations/companies to get youth back into or enter the workplace for experience. Meeting with employers directly is the best way for the program and staff to get an understanding of what employers are looking for and how the program can place youth in that specific occupation. The Youth Services Assistant Director has met with KTA Superstores on several occasions to discuss processes on moving forward with placing youth there for paid work experiences through Ola's CWEP Program.*

*Employer engagement is conducted after each youth meets with their assigned Youth Specialist. Based on the individual's work interests, staff will go out into the community to discuss how the program and possibly new employers are able to work together to support positive youth development in the workplace.*

*The Business Services Team has been working with the Hawai'i County Workforce Development Board for businesses that we can reach out to and say, "Our Workforce Development Board Member X gave us your contact information and said you need assistance with your employment needs. Please tell us what you need, we are here to help."*

*We are also looking at working with Board members to provide testimonials for the services and opportunities the American Job Center provides.*

*The WIOA Adult and Dislocated program staff is working with employers to become On-the-Job Training providers. This opportunity provides employers to find candidates to be trained and fill vacant positions. The program currently has vetted 5 employers and are seeking more in the coming year. The program is also expanding its employer outreach island wide to assist employers on all sides of the island.*

**Please list upcoming events hosted by your WDB and AJC that can be shared with others.**

*Do to COVID things have been slow reopening. The AJC is working on finding venues that can accommodate in person Job Fairs. The AJC and its partners will be hosting a table (or 2 depending on schedules) at the June 3<sup>RD</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce Career Fair. We are looking for other community organizations to partner with so that we can assist with venues and instead of purchasing tables they could spend the money on outreach opportunities.*

**Please share accomplishments and success stories of the WDB and American Job Center.**

**OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH:**

*At the age of 24, a young female was referred to the Ola I Ka Hana Program by The Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) office. The youth was found eligible for WIOA Out-of-School services on January 5, 2021. The youth was considered an OS youth as she had already graduated with her High School Diploma. Additionally, the youth had no income at the time of eligibility, was not employed and had limited work experience. After she was found eligible for services, the youth met with her assigned Youth Specialist to complete the assessment process. During the assessment meeting, the youth shared that she was interested in Administrative/ Clerical work. As the assessment meeting continued, Ola staff reiterated the Community Work Experience Program (CWEP) with the participant. The participant was excited as she wanted to gain more experience in this field of interest. While working on securing an CWEP location for the youth, an Administrative Assistant position within the Ola program became available. Ola staff contacted the youth to inform her of the job opening. The youth was encouraged to apply for the job as she had most skills needed to be successful in the position. The youth submitted her application and resume for the Administrative Assistant position to Goodwill's HR department. After completing the pre-screening process with Goodwill's HR, the youth was called in for an interview. The interview was conducted with Goodwill's management team. Several days passed and the youth was offered a conditional offer. The youth has begun employment as Goodwill*

*Industries of Hawaii, Inc – Ola I Ka Hana Youth Program’s Administrative Assistant. The youth began full-time employment on February 16th. There was a delay in her start date as Goodwill needed to await the results of her background check. The youth has since undergone administrative training, which included but are not limited to reviewing Goodwill’s Policies and Procedures, completing the New Hire Orientation, reviewing program eligibility, intake process, HNH training etc. In addition, the youth has also volunteered to be Goodwill’s Safety Captain at her assigned location.*

*Fast forward today, the youth stated what she liked most about the program is that her assigned Youth Specialist went beyond what was asked of her. The Youth Specialist provided her mentorship which helped to boost her self-esteem which eventually helped her to land full-time employment with the program she had been a part of. “Seeing things go full circle is what it’s all about.”*

### **IN-SCHOOL YOUTH:**

*This success story is a continuation of September 2021. A young man was referred to the OLA program in 2017 from his Waiakea High School special education teacher. He originally came to the program seeking assistance with job readiness and work experience and had barriers of his learning disability and lack of work experience. The goals set at that time included finding entry level work experience and improving this youth’s vocabulary. After participating in CWEP, the participant stopped replying to the previous Youth Specialists attempts to contact him. In September 2021, after regular contact was established with the young man again, the participant and Youth Specialist made new goals to find part-time unsubsidized employment and participated in job readiness. His job readiness included retaking the RIASEC, exploring career options, updating his resume, applying to multiple job positions and practice interviews with his youth specialist. The assigned Youth Specialist set up mock interviews with the participant, and he came to the OLA office dressed as if he was going to a real interview. He started working under the table with Nani Mau as a general laborer assisting in the gardens and set up of events. The owner eventually offered him employment on payroll, and the participant is now employed regularly part-time. The participant decided that he wanted to be placed on follow-up and submitted a paystub. He was successful placed on follow-December 15th, 2021. Youth specialists reassured this young man that OLA will continue to support and assist him during his 12 months follow-up.*

### **NATIONAL DISASTER GRANT**

*The National Disaster Grant Employment Counselor reached out to clients who are part of the National Disaster Grant placed at the Kanaka O Puna Worksite. Clients expressed how they were in high need of new work shoes, shirts, and pants since their work attire has been damaged due to the work they are doing (working on lava rocks, farming, etc.). The Employment Counselor informed them that they can receive such items through support services and has been working diligently to get them the items they could not get elsewhere. The clients expressed how grateful they are that their Employment Counselor is able to work around their schedule and assist them in obtaining items that are needed to perform well in their field.*