Date: February 24, 2023

To: Governor’s Office

From: Workforce Development Council (WDC) Chairman

Subject: Overview Outline of major WDC program Initiatives for 2023

**Background:**

The Workforce Development Council (WDC) was created in 2015 by the Federal “Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act” (WIOA) to encourage more participation and input from the private sector employer Companies and importantly to be the “Governor’s Board” to carry out the Governor’s workforce development vision, policies, and programs.

The original Hawaii Workforce Development Council was formed as an Authority with a semi-autonomous Board, Budget line, and Staff. In 2020 the Legislature reorganized the WDC structure to organizationally become a Board, assigned to DLIR, with no budget and no staff. Despite these obstacles and limitations, the WDC has collaborated with the Director of DLIR, and thru its Executive Director, and Committee Structure (see attached WDC organization chart), created and implemented programs for the benefit of Hawaii’s Economy.

The WDC has an authorized 41-member Board composed of Private and Public sector, Labor Unions, Military, Youth & Disadvantaged workers, all represented in a Committee structured organization, and appointed by the Governor. Though the voting membership is limited to 41 members, the total community member participation is over 130 attendees….very active participation by Community at large, due to encouragement and leadership of Committee Chairs.

Currently the WDC has several program initiatives in progress with major initiatives, as follows:

* **Digital Literacy**

A program to upgrade the digital literacy of Hawaii’s disadvantaged and aged. Congressman Ed Case funded this program with a $975,000 appropriation. WDC executed a “pilot” program that involved the instruction and gifting of computers to disadvantaged and aged. We are currently transitioning the program to the Hawaii State Library System to implement it on a broader scale.

* **Creation of defined Career Pathways for strategic sectors of Hawaii’s economy**

A “pilot” program has been launched in collaboration with Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum (PHAM), DOE (Waipahu Middle and High School/ Iolani Schools), Civil Air Patrol, Honolulu Community College, several flight Schools, Hawaii National Guard, and Hawaiian Airlines to interest students, at a young age, to develop interest in Aviation careers. The Career Pathway would extend thru employment at one of the Airlines, or associated support entities.

* **Employment of Students Interns in a career familiarization Student Internship program**

In cooperation with the DOE, Government, and Private Sector organizations, the WDC is piloting a program to familiarize High School and Community College students with work in Government and Private Sector organizations.

* **Committee Programs**

See summary reports from Committee Chairs