

EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

April 28, 2023

The Employer Engagement Committee met on Thursday, April 13, 2023.

Rick Nakashima the owner of Ruby Tuesday Hawaii, Gyu-Kaku Hawaii, and Rainbow Drive-In Kalihi spoke at the meeting about the post-COVID impacts on staffing in the restaurant industry. An emphasized point was the housing issues that Hawaii is facing and the dire need to address it.

Trang Malone presented at the committee meeting on the Department of Defense SkillBridge Program and how companies can engage to support the hiring of more veterans. The DOD Skillbridge helps service members bridge the gap between end of service and the beginning of their civilian careers, it provides service members with job training and career development opportunities. Some programs that the DOD Skillbridge have are the Store Manager in Training, Service Operations Supervisor, and Business Intel Analyst.

Melissa Gerber gave an update on some of the outreach activities that have been happening during the past quarter. Abilities Unlimited partner with DVR and DOE to service students that will be aging out of school soon. The jump-start class is a pre-employment class that teaches a variety of topics.

Deborah Leong-Yep gave an update on the Kinaole program and the attempts to have the student get the Workforce Development Diploma. On May 20th the whole graduating class of 28 will be graduating with their Workforce Development Diploma. They took classes to Macys and Bloomingdales to see the difference between the two stores, some things they learned were: 1. Smile, 2. Take the first step, 3. Say positive things about yourself, 4. Businesses want them, 5. They wanted to thank people at the meeting including Evan, Brian, Derek, etc.