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GOVERNOR

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**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

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**EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, October 20, 2022
1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.
Online via Zoom**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, protecting the health and welfare of the community is a priority. The meeting was held remotely, with Board members and staff participating via an online meeting venue.

MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Cheryl Cross, Committee Vice-Chair, Principal Consultant, Cleared DOD
Cary Miyashiro, Sector Strategies & Career Pathways Committee Chair, Quad D Solutions
Faustino Dagdag, Leeward Community College, SHRM Hawaii
Judy Bishop, President, Bishop & Company, Inc.
Kamuela Barr, CNHA, Director, Hawaiian Trades Academy,
April Acquavella, Hawaii Carpenter's Apprenticeship & Training Fund
Evan Nakatsuka, Lanakila Pacific
Melissa Gerber, Program Manager, Abilities Unlimited
Karen Arakawa, Manager, Maui County American Job Center
Blossom Feiteira, CNHA, Program Coordinator, Maui Office
Mehanaokala Hind, CNHA, Senior Director, Community Programs,
Kahealani Peleras, CNHA, Director, Program Implementation
Warren Kawano, Career Pathways Strategy Director, Hawaii P20
Alan Hayashi, WDC Chair, Consult 808
Shauna Tanner, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist, Maui County DVR
Erin Yagi, Communications and Legislative Lead, Hawaii P20

Deborah Leong Yep, Human Resources Generalist, UHA Health Insurance

STAFF:

Harrison Kuranishi, DLIR Workforce Development Division, WDC Interim Executive Director
Maricar Pilotin-Freitas, DLIR Workforce Development Division, Administrator
Jarret Yip, DLIR Workforce Development Division, Program Officer
Jacque Dacay, DLIR Workforce Development Division, Job Training Specialist
Katrina Ramos, DLIR Workforce Development Division
Daven Kawamura, DLIR Workforce Development Division

I. Call to Order.....Committee Vice Chair Cheryl Cross
The Employer Engagement meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Committee Vice Chair Cheryl Cross.

Vice Chair Cross let the committee know that a survey will be conducted for the committee members to see how they are aligned with the mission of the committee. Also, if the mission needs to be realigned moving into the new year.

Cheryl Cross brought up the Focus Group Subcommittee and encouraged engagement for the committee members.

Vice Chair Cross let the committee know that 60 internship positions have been given to the WDC, specifically this committee, they will be 12 weeklong internships. Melissa Gerber asked what the targeted population for the internships are, Cheryl Cross let her know that as of now the logistics are being worked on and currently in the early stages.

II. Approval of Minutes for the July 14, 2022, Employer Engagement Committee Meeting
Committee Vice Chair Cross requested a motion to approve the minutes for the July 14, 2022, meeting. Cary Miyashiro moved to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2022, meeting. Judy Bishop seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

III. Hawaiian Trades Academy Presentation
Mehanaokala Hind went over what the CNHA does in general and Kamuela Barr went over the Hawaiian Trades Academy. The presentation can be found at the link below:
https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2022/10/CNHA-Hawaiian-Trades-Academy_WD-Presentation_2022-10-20.pdf

Vice Chair Cheryl Cross asked if something is being worked on for Big Island, Kamuela let Cheryl know that meetings are being held to see what will be offered in 2023.

Judy Bishop asked if the programs are federally/state funded and wanted to know the differences between what is existing in Hawaii already. Kamuela let her know that they have both private and federal funding. Kamuela stated that it is more complimentary in accordance with the CC's

and other programs in Hawaii, to have services that are available in a broader spectrum. Judy also asked about the requirements for CC's and if the HTA can accommodate those who don't qualify, which Faustino answered that they are an open education system with no barriers.

Alan Hayashi asked if there are any differences between the certifications received in CC's and HTA. Mehanaokala answered that the certifications are the same for the industries. Alan followed up asking about the qualifications of instructors as CC instructors need a educational certification. Mehanaokala stated that the instructors are not needed to have educational certifications, but the instructors must be licensed/certified and experienced in the field they are teaching.

Evan Nakatsuka asked if there is a referral system with the county American job centers, Mehanaokala let Evan know that it is something that they want to work on as all participants have been referred by family members, industry members, etc.

IV. Report from the Opportunities Population Subcommittee

Evan Nakatsuka updated the committee on what the Opportunities Population Subcommittee have been doing. The special populations that the workforce system is looking to prioritize include veterans & eligible spouses, individuals with disabilities, English language learners, Migrant/seasonal farm workers, OOS Youth, Public Assistance recipients, long-term unemployed, foster care youth, and much more.

The subcommittees focus is to connect organizations that serve people with barriers with the AJC's and resources they can provide. Evan has met with Oahu's AJC operator and attended the quarterly partner meeting to see how support can be provided for outreach efforts. His next meeting with them is 10/27/22 where Evan will again see what needs support.

V. Kinaole Program

Deborah Leong-Yep presented on the Kinaole program that has been part Farrington Highschool for six years but has recently had the opportunity to take the students and program to the employers at the AJC.

Deborah explained the difficulties of getting the pilot of the ground, not due to lack of eligible students but the inability to get them to the AJC. Out of 10 students nobody made it, due to several factors including having childcare responsibilities, the parents not being able to make it to the AJC to sign off, not being able to take off work, etc.

In the 2021 – 2022 academic year there were 62 students enrolled in the Kinaole program, 27 seniors among them that graduated and acquired the workforce diploma. 19 of those 27 went on to get employment. Although successful, with the number of students the drop out rate was higher as the resources to address students individually were not there.

The 2022 academic year will have 25 students and out of those, 15 are already volunteering and 4 have found employment. Deb is looking for mock interviewers on December 6th for the class of 25, so the volunteering students can become employed, etc.

VI. Updates from Workforce Development Division

Jarret Yip gave updates on the Workforce Development Division which included the following items:

- DLIR WDD/AJCH ads that are continuing to run through digital media programs
- State internship program tentatively named Hele I Mua
- Job Fair/Hiring Event on October 26th @ Keehi Lagoon Memorial 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with priority of service for veterans for the first hour.
- Sector Strategies initiative being continued through the QUEST grant.
- Apprenticeship week (November 14-18) will have in-person and virtual events including Apprenticeship focused job fairs and virtual apprenticeship sponsor tours. There will be a hiring event on November 14th.

VII. Roundtable Discussion and sharing by Members Relating to Industry Impact of Economy, COVID-19 Pandemic, Industry Sector Concerns, and Workforce Status and Projections

There was no roundtable sharing amongst the committee members.

VIII. Next Meeting Schedule

The date of the next Employer Engagement committee will be determined based off of the next scheduled full board meeting, and the committee will be updated when the date and time has been finalized.

IX. Announcements and Public Testimonies (if any)

There were no announcements or public testimonies.

X. Adjournment

Committee Vice Chair Cross adjourned the meeting at 2:28 p.m.