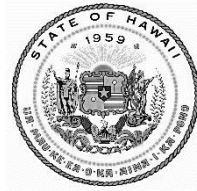


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**EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, February 15, 2023
1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.
Online via Zoom**

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:

Brian Tatsumura, Committee Chair, Principal Consultant, Briant808 LLC
Cheryl Cross, Committee Vice-Chair, Principal Consultant, Cleared DOD
Deborah Leong-Yep, Human Resources Generalist, UHA Health Insurance
Dan Doerger, Director of Workforce Innovation, UH
Evan Nakatsuka, Director of Workforce Programs, Lanakila Pacific
Adele Manera, Manager, Kauai County Workforce Development Division
Derek Kanehira, Senior VP, Human Resources, Alexander & Baldwin
Harrison Kuranishi, Executive Director, Oahu Workforce Development Board
Christine Park, HIDOE, Program Coordinator
Nicolette van der Lee, HIDOE, Program Manager, UHCC

STAFF:

Jarret Yip, DLIR Workforce Development Division, Program Officer
Katrina Ramos, DLIR Workforce Development Division
Daven Kawamura, DLIR Workforce Development Division

I. Call to Order.....Committee Chair Brian Tatsumura
The Employer Engagement meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Committee Chair Brian Tatsumura.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. October 20, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Committee Chair Tatsumura requested a motion to approve the minutes for the October 20, 2022, meeting. Cheryl Cross moved to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2022, meeting. Evan Nakatsuka seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

III. Updates and Reports on Partner Program Activities

A. Presentation on Good Jobs Hawaii

Dan Doerger let the committee know that the official launch for Good Jobs Hawaii at happened at HCC a couple of weeks ago and was pretty much just to let everyone know that the grant has started. They are currently reaching out to multiple sides including the students and the employers.

Lots of information can be found at the website: <https://uhcc.hawaii.edu/goodjobshawaii/>. Such as the Job Seeker function which is for the students and people looking to take classes, it has the four sectors that have free skills training listed.

On the Employer section of the website they are asking employers to sign a talent action pledge form.

Many grants have been pulled together under the Good Jobs Hawaii umbrella having close to \$35 million for these trainings. Oahu back to work funding will be a part of the umbrella and will open the trainings up to more than the four sectors but will be limited to Oahu.

Brian Tatsumura asked about who is on the list of employers or if the information is available anywhere, Nicolette let him know that 30 or so employers that have signed the pledge on the website, Dan chimed in saying that in the future the logo of those that signed on would be featured on the website.

IV. Presentation on Partnership with Oahu Workforce Development Board

Harrison Kuranishi let the committee know that one of the big initiatives for the Oahu Workforce Development Board is going to be partnerships. He brought up what was presented at the last employer engagement meeting with HTA and talked about how as of February 1st, 2023, they are on the ETPL with five sectors: solar, fire, police, construction, and CDL.

He also brought up the misconception that ANY training can be paid for but in fact it needs to be on the ETPL. Harrison went over the process of how people get training at the AJC, with pre-screening and completion of forms, specialists go over programs with possible participant, file is put together and a case worker is assigned which shouldn't take more than a week.

At the OWDB they focus on the WIOA programs, so they have the ETPL but also have the work

readiness, career skills, and prevocational list since most of the participants have some sort of barrier. This is good for when participants don't qualify for certain qualifications such as math and English to get them to where they need to be.

Harrison went into detail about the Eligible Training Provider List, such as the qualifications for providers being that they must have been in business for a minimum of one year and they must provide a credential, secondary education degree, or employment. An initiative being pushed for is to have training providers from the community.

Jarret Yip asked Harrison to have a report of what OWDB is doing to be sent out to the other counties and to leverage opportunities with the money at WDD. Harrison let Jarret know that a report will be sent and invites to board meetings will be sent to be kept in the loop.

V. Opportunities Population Subcommittee Report

Evan Nakatsuka let the committee know that the Opportunities Population Subcommittee last met on October 22nd. A big ask from the subcommittee to the committee members is if there are any groups or barriers that job seekers are facing that they can help with their programs and resources.

Cheryl Cross let Evan know that Military spouses and those who support active duty individuals, she reiterated that Hawaii hosts the 4th largest concentration of US military. Many people are brought here as a family structure and are unable to find jobs that align, so workforce development is extremely important.

VI. Updates from State Workforce Agency

A. Workforce Development Division

Jarret Yip brought up the recurring base budget funding around ~\$5.5 million that is for providing internship opportunities including the Hele Imua internship which is a \$20/hour internship at state agencies. The state agencies' only need to provide a safe working environment and an overall good internship experience i.e., mentorship and supervision; since the funding and position number, etc. is not provided by said agency.

Jarret also let the committee know about the QUEST grant which is federally funded for two years in the amount of \$10.9 million. Eligibility will closely follow WIOA Title I eligibility and provide internship opportunities through both the state and counties. A contract for a Sector Strategies engagement portion which will be handled by the Chamber of Commerce is being drafted.

On April 12th Wednesday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. there will be a job fair on Kauai at the Kauai war memorial convention hall. There was a job fair at the AJC on February 16th for the OWDB. There was also a job fair on February 7th for the Hawaii National Guard. A federal/state job fair is being planned for some time in April.

Jarret Yip brought up the WOTC program and let the committee know what the situation is like and how it is improving from how it was being handled on a manual level. File Transfers with

WDD sister state agencies are happening to have data exchanges. The data exchange process with Unemployment Insurance is already in place and test transfers are in place with DHS for SNAP and TANF recipients. Once the data transfers for all targeted groups are in place and the backlog becomes less of a looming issue the hope is that the WOTC program can be actively promoted.

Another program that is in WDD sights is the ETF program which is training subsidies for current employees, which is a training fund that provides subsidies for employers to send employees to training programs at the CC's or private institutions. Through ETF trainings can be covered halfway up to a certain amount provided the employer pay the other half.

The Legislature provided additional money for two additional staffers for apprenticeship to monitor the current apprenticeship providers and to bring more apprenticeships to the board.

VII. Roundtable discussion on Labor Trends, Layoffs, and Impact to Hawaii

The roundtable discussion was led by Derek Kanehira, he brought up points such as the ratio between the number of people available to work and the number of jobs which is 84% for Hawaii, whereas the numbers for some other states are much worse. He got these numbers from a website that was referred to by a "Where are the Workers?" segment from PBS.

Deborah Leong-Yep brought up the fact that the new generation of workers coming in are always multitasking to find connections. On the HR front a point that is needed is the velocity to keep up with the new generation and how fast they do things, all while mitigating and keeping quality.

Brian Tatsumura brought up the ability of employers to look at things from the employees point of view like the work from home situation that came about because of COVID. He wanted to applaud the employers that are looking out for their people.

VIII. Announcements and Public Testimony (if any)

There were no announcements or public testimony.

IX. Next Meeting

The Employer Engagement Committee will have their next meeting on April 13, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

X. Adjournment

Committee Chair Tatsumura adjourned the meeting at 2:29 p.m.