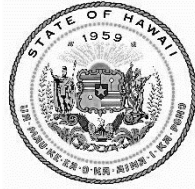


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**MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, October 13, 2022
1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.
Online via Zoom**

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:

Ken Loui, Committee Chair, Vice President, Pacific Marine
Trang Malone, Committee Vice-Chair, CVS Health
Ramon Ruiz, Local Veterans' Employment Representative, Oahu American Job Center
Victoria Harvey, Hiring Our Heroes, Senior Program Manager
Deb Nakashima, Program Manager, Hawaii National Guard Work for Warriors Employment Program
Kealoha Daubert, Goodwill Hawaii, Program Coordinator
Michael Yadao, Hawaii Masons' and Plasterers' Unions Industry Stabilization, Executive Director
Kim Graves, Vocational Rehab Specialist at Veterans Affairs
Melinda Gomez, Hiring Our Heroes, Regional Program Manager
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STAFF:

Harrison Kuranishi, DLIR Workforce Development Division, Employment Services Specialist
Katrina Ramos, DLIR Workforce Development Division
Daven Kawamura, DLIR Workforce Development Division

I. Call to Order.....Committee Chair Ken Loui
The Military & Veterans Affairs Committee (MVAC) meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Committee Chair Ken Loui.

A. DOD Skillsbridge Program

Chair Loui asked Trang Malone to discuss the DOD Skillsbridge program which is a program where military members that are transitioning out of the military can work for a certified Skillsbridge partner to get on the job training, paid by the government.

Trang Malone went over the Skillsbridge programs that CVS Health pilots. The business intel analyst program is a 12 week fully online program. Another one CVS is piloting is the service operations supervisor program which is a eight week program, which orients the participants to customer service operations. CVS health has just received approval for an eight-week program with US army reserve soldiers which has not been rolled out yet.

Deb Nakashima asked if the newly received program for US army reserve soldiers is strictly for active guard and reservists or traditional army reservists. At the time Trang Malone didn't have to solidify the answer and said when that information is available, she will be sharing it with the group.

Victoria Harvey from Hiring Our Heroes, a certified Skillsbridge provider, talked about the DOD Skillsbridge program. She mentioned the website which is, skillbridge.osd.mil, on the website there is a link there specifically for industry partners and employers, Victoria asked Melinda to talk more about Skillsbridge since she works with most of Hiring our Heroes, companies. Melinda listed off the employers that the current service members that are on Hawaii participating in the Skillsbridge programs.

Ramon Ruiz asked how you get started with becoming a participating Skillsbridge program. Melinda mentioned the website that Victoria mentioned above but let him know that it is currently backed up. She also offered that Hiring our Heroes could be used as a bridge while things are being set up.

B. Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment Program (IBAS)

Chair Loui talked about the IBAS program, which is a program to make sure that there is a trained and skilled workforce to support DOD needs. Chair Loui met with a group of representatives and was informed that they are anticipating a shortage of ~6000 workers for an upcoming project for the navy. There is also a shortage of skilled workers across the US.

C. Status of the Military Spouse subcommittee

Chair Loui updated the committee about the status of the Military Spouse subcommittee. The subcommittee hasn't had much activity since the transitioning out of the previous committee chair. Chair Loui asked for volunteers, or any people known that may want to be the chair for the subcommittee. There was no response from the committee members.

II. Approval of Minutes for the July 5, 2022, MVAC Committee Meeting

Committee Chair Loui requested a motion to approve the minutes for the July 5, 2022, meeting. Deb Nakashima moved to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2022, meeting. Melinda Gomez seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

III. Information and Updates

A. Workforce Development Updates

Jarret Yip was unavailable to provide an update on Workforce Development so Ramon Ruiz gave an update on the hiring event put on by WDD coming up on October 26th 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ke'ehi Lagoon memorial.

Harrison Kuranishi let the committee know that the first hour of the hiring event is strictly for veterans only, open to the public at 10 a.m.

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

Deb Nakashima let the committee know that all reservists are off orders, and a few got contract work through the Department of Health but will be ending in the middle of the month. As of now all National Guard is off any COVID-19 order. Deployments are scheduled for 2023, location is undisclosed at this time. Deb Nakashima also mentioned the active army, reserve and guard didn't meet the recruiting goals.

Victoria Harvey let the committee know that on October 19th they are having their GROW (Grass Roots Opportunity Workshop) event at Hickam from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is primarily for military spouses but open to veterans and transitioning service members as well.

V. Announcements and Oral Testimony (if any)

The next meeting has not been scheduled yet but will be worked on between Chair Loui and Harrison Kuranishi.

There was no Oral Testimony at the meeting.

VI. Adjournment

Committee Chair Loui adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m.