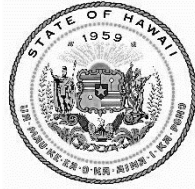


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GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

MARICAR PILOTIN-FREITAS  
ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION  
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**HAWAII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
COUNCIL MEETING  
Thursday, August 17, 2023  
9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.  
In-person and via Zoom**

**MEMBER ATTENDEES:**

Ken Loui, WDC Chair, Vice President, Pacific Marine

Sean Knox, President, Hawaii Employment Services; Chair, Special Projects Committee

Kelly Ueoka, President, Pacxa, Chair, Performance Measures & Financial Accountability Committee

Cheryl Cross, Principal Owner, C.A. Cross & Associates, LLC, Vice-Chair, Employer Engagement Committee

Cary Miyashiro, President, Quad D Solutions LLC; Chair, Sector Strategies & Career Pathways Committee

Jason Brand, President, Brand Industrial Group

Keith DeMello, Senior Vice President of Communications & External Affairs, Ulupono Initiative

Rona Fukumoto, President & CEO, Lanakila Pacific

Gerald Schmitz, Vice President, Lendlease DOD Communities, Vice-Chair, Special Projects Committee

Trang Malone, Workforce Initiatives Manager, CVS Health, Vice-Chair, MVAC

Rossella Guardascione, Chair, Hawaii County WDB; Director of Human Resources, Kona Beach Hotel

Manu Bermudes, Vice President of Human Resources, Hawaiian Dredging Construction Company

Derek Kanehira, Senior Vice President, Human Resources, Alexander and Baldwin

Robert Lietzke, Vice President, Indo-Pacific Western Region, Booz Allen Hamilton

Edmund Aczon, Executive Director, Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship and Training Fund

Mike Anderson, Regional Director, Inland Boatman's Union of the Pacific

Carla Kurokawa, Manager, Employment and Training, Alu Like, Inc.

Shelli Ihori, Associate Director, Workforce Development at Hawaii Pacific Health

Leslie Wilkins, Chair, Maui County WDB; Vice President, Maui Economic Development Board

Doug Adams, (Designee for Mitch Roth, Hawaii County Mayor)

Scott Murakami, (Designee for James Tokioka, Director, DBEDT)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Eileen Caldwell, Director of Human Resources, Marriott Hawaii and French Polynesia  
Jason Chang, Chair, Oahu WDB; President, Queen's Medical Center  
Dion Dizon, Business Representative, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
Jackie Kaina, Chair, Kauai Economic Development Board  
Helen Sanpei, (Designee for Keith Hayashi, Superintendent, Department of Education)  
Lorna Woo, Director, Government Affairs, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 50  
Lea Dias, Administrator, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Dept. of Human Services  
Della Teraoka, (Designee for David Lassner, President, University of Hawaii System)  
Scott Collins, Hawaii Island Division Chief, HGEA  
Jade Butay, Director, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations  
Senator Stanley Chang, Hawaii State Senate  
Representative Andrew Garrett, Hawaii State House of Representatives  
Mayor Richard Bissen, Maui County Mayor  
Mayor Rick Blangiardi, Honolulu County Mayor  
Governor Josh Green, Governor of Hawaii

**GUESTS:**

Anthony Crouch, U.S. Department of Labor. Federal Project Officer  
Dale Fujimoto, Department of the Attorney General  
Harrison Kuranishi, Executive Director, Oahu Workforce Development Board  
Raymond Duong, Budget Analyst, Oahu Workforce Development Board  
Chris Lum Lee, Principal Guard and Chief Administrative Officer, TriSec, Inc., Oahu Workforce Development Board  
Rusnell Pascual-Kestner, Acting Assistant Administrator, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Human Services  
Sheri Cacho, Executive Director, Big Island Workforce Development Council  
Dan Miyamoto, Community Education Specialist, Department of Education

**STAFF:**

Bennette Misalucha, Workforce Development Council, Executive Director  
David Rodriguez, DLIR, State Equal Opportunity Office, Legislative Coordinator  
Lisa Simmons, DLIR Workforce Development Division, Employment Service Specialist  
Jaimee Tabangay, DLIR Workforce Development Division, Employment Service Specialist  
Katrina Ramos, DLIR Workforce Development Division  
Daven Kawamura, DLIR Workforce Development Division  
Leila Shar, DLIR, Workforce Development Division, Program Specialist  
David Liao, DLIR, Workforce Development Division, Program Specialist  
Carol Kaneyama, DLIR, Workforce Development Division, Program Specialist  
Jacqueline Lodge, DLIR, Workforce Development Council

**I. Call to Order.....Chair Ken Loui**  
The Workforce Development Council meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Ken Loui.

**a. Remarks from Chair Ken Loui**  
Chair Ken Loui noted that one of the highlights from his recent trip to Fargo, North Dakota to attend the National Governor’s Association Conference was receiving feedback from other states. He will share more later in the meeting.

**II. Approval of Minutes**  
**a. June 29, 2023 Meeting Minutes**  
Chair Ken Loui requested a motion to approve the minutes for the June 29, 2023 meeting. Cheryl Cross moved to approve the minutes of the June 29, 2023 meeting. Sean Knox seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

**III. Maui Rapid Response Remarks from Anthony Crouch**  
Anthony Crouch shared FAQ file – see attached. Doug Adams asked about individual eligibility to help with employment. Anthony Crouch advised that assistance would come from fund from the National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG).

Cheryl Cross asked about the teams who had “boots on the ground” and were helping the people of Maui, and what resources businesses have. Maui Rapid Response Center will help distribute food, provide clean-up jobs and other “low skill” employment for dislocated workers. They will also help the American Job Center.

Scott Murakami from Department of Business and Economic Development and Tourism noted that the Convention Center and Veterans Center will refer dislocated workers to the American Job Center. Honolulu will prepare locally and get procedural clarification to assist. Bennette Misalucha said that the Workforce Development Division and the Workforce Development Council will provide guidance.

Director Butay was represented by David Rodriguez, who provided a statement – see attached. He stated that Maui is a priority and has the full support from the State. Sean Knox added that this is the fourth dislocated grant for Hawaii. Some of the challenges are related to the timelines to qualify for businesses and employees slow down the response.

Rona Fukumoto noted that the time period from application to award. Applicants have 15 days from FEMA declaration to submit application, which is followed by 45 days of review. Anthony Crouch added the total is around 54 days. He mentioned that after the typhoon / hurricane on Guam, people received funds two weeks later, pointing out that the response time is getting faster. Training will be part of the grant application. The clean-up phase is temporary. Training will provide long term employment.

Leslie Wilkins stated that all the recovery efforts place an emphasis on respecting “iwi”. Maui’s employment total is 75,000. 53% of that comes from the tourism industry, who are now displaced. 2,200 housing structures were damaged. Many families have “ohana” units (with added rooms / garages turned into bedrooms, etc.) so they will work with insurance companies on submitting claims. Small Business Administration (SBA) Director Guzman will access federal resources.

Chentelle Rowland attended the U.S. Department of Labor’s ETA Vision 2030 Conference in San Diego. She was able to talk to other states who also had experiences with wildfires. Starlinks is a cell charging diesel truck located on the west side of the Maui and can provide connectivity to residents.

Leslie Wilkins mentioned that long-term recovery efforts will include mental health support and respect for those who lost loved ones / for the fatalities. Her message was that the rest of Maui (Kihei, Pa’ai, Wailea) is still open for business, as they represent 50% of the economic drivers that provide jobs. It is important to keep people employed. Their goal is to educate visitors to be respectful when visiting other parts of the island.

There will be a Federal Resource Fair on Saturday, August 19th, 2023, with Senator Jill Tokuda.

#### **IV. Reports and Updates from Executive Director Bennette Misalucha from the period of June 29, 2023 to August 17, 2023**

Bennette Misalucha noted that the National Governor’s Association Conference in Fargo, North Dakota was an opportunity to develop relationships with their counterparts from other states. They will incorporate their feedback into developing the State’s Unified Plan, which is due in April 2024. They discussed Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the workforce. North Dakota Governor Doug Virga started Great Plain Software, which employs around 2,000 people in Fargo. They were acquired by Microsoft.

Bennette Misalucha noted that Director Butay and Maricar Pilotin-Freitas have been working tirelessly on Maui since the fire. She announced that Sheri Cacho is the new Executive Director for the Big Island Workforce Development Council.

The Strategic State Plan is a federally mandated report that details what the state plans to do. Bennette Misalucha specified that there are two plans – one is the Workforce Development Council Plan, and the second is the Unified State Plan. The Workforce Development Council Plan is due February 2024. This will delineate roles and responsibilities, include an action plan, and include performance measures. The Unified State Plan is due the beginning of March 2024, which is a new deadline. It is comprehensive and will outline the State’s strategic direction. In addition to engaging other organizations, the plan will also include feedback from the Governor and include WIOA compliance. Local boards will start planning after the Unified State Plan is completed, wherein the vision is outlined. The board retreat is scheduled for September 23, 2023. It will be an opportunity to learn about different issues and to map out the direction for the

council and plan activities to support the strategy.

Bennette Misalucha announced that there will be a webinar hosted by the National Governor's Association on September 8, 2023. The topic will include national trends in the workforce development arena.

**V. Re-Certification of Oahu Workforce Development Board – Kelly Ueoka**

As part of federal guidelines, local Workforce Development Boards must be certified. As of June 30, 2023, the certification has lapsed. There were transitional issues on other islands that affected the certification process.

An ad-hoc committee was formed, comprised of: Kelly Ueoka, Chair, Keith DeMello and Rona Fukumoto as members, to discuss certification of the Oahu Workforce Development Board. They went through the certification process. Items reviewed included: Board Composition, Financial Integrity, and Sustained Performance. The board composition requires that 51% of the board come from the business sector. Currently there are 2 vacancies. The ad-hoc committee recommended the Oahu Board to fill those vacancies in 90 days (deadline = November 16, 2023), whereupon after that, they will receive full certification. The full certification will be valid until June 2025. Until then, they will be granted conditional certification. Kelly Ueoka made a motion to approve the ad-hoc committee's recommendation to grant the Oahu Workforce Development Board conditional certification. Cary Miyashiro seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The motion was adopted.

Leslie Wilkins said that Maui Workforce Development Board meets the certification conditions and will submit their information to the committee before the next board meeting in November. The board will also review Big Island Workforce Development Board before November.

**VI. Presentation – Applying Responsible Artificial Intelligence: Key Trends – Kelly Ueoka**

Kelly Ueoka gave a presentation regarding AI and went over a brief history of Generative AI / Chat GTP and its uses. Since AI is still in its early stages, the standards and governance are still being developed. He summarized its uses by industry such as: retail, healthcare / pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, etc. He also pointed out some of the risks since AI is not 100% accurate. The regulations are different between countries. The future uses of AI include: virtual colleagues who work together with humans, design, synthesizing information.

In regard to Maui, Chair Ken Loui asked how we can use AI to help review best practices, lessons learned, and how to mitigate risk from natural disasters.

There were discussion by the members on ensuring that there are steps taken to ensure the applicants are digitally literate.

**VII. WIOA Reports**

See packet.

**VIII. Committee Reports**

See packet.

**IX. Reports from Local Workforce Boards by County**

Doug Adams from the Big Island introduced Sheri Cacho and Rossella Guardascione. Chentelle Rowland Maui provided a report for Maui – see packet.

Harrison Kuranishi from Oahu said that he is considering three nominees to join the Oahu Workforce Development Board. The ad-hoc committee will discuss them at the next meeting. Harrison Kuranishi invited Bennette Misalucha to speak at their next board meeting on October 19, 2023.

**X. Announcements and Public Testimony (if any)**

There were no announcements or public testimony.

**XI. Next Meeting Schedule**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 16, 2023, at 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

**XII. Adjournment**

Chair Ken Loui adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.