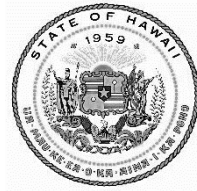


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

MARICAR PILOTIN-FREITAS
ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 329
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

<http://labor.hawaii.gov/wdd/>

Phone: (808) 586-8877 / Fax: (808) 586-8822

Email: dlijr.workforce.develop@hawaii.gov

**SPECIAL PROJECTS
COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, February 12, 2024
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
In-person and online via Zoom**

MINUTES

MEMBERS:

Keith DeMello, Chair, Special Projects Committee, Senior Vice President of Communications & External Affairs, Ulupono Initiative

GUESTS:

Tamber Miller-Garcia, Supervisor, American Job Center Hawaii, WorkHawaii Division
Mark Menard, Business Services Coordinator, American Job Center Hawaii, WorkHawaii Division
Debbie Cabebe, Chief Executive Officer, Maui Economic Opportunity
Clinton Mercado, Business Representative, American Job Center, Hawaii County
Sheri Ann Cacho, Executive Director and Economic Development Specialist, Workforce Program, Hawaii County
Andrea Gaines, One-Stop Operator, American Job Center Hawaii, WorkHawaii Division
Lee Williams-Naole, Manager, American Job Center Hawaii, WorkHawaii Division

STAFF:

Bennette Misalucha, DLIR, Workforce Development Council, Executive Director
Denise Pacheco, DLIR, Workforce Development Division, Office Manager
Napua Adviento, DLIR, Workforce Development Division, Office Assistant IV
Lisa Simmons, DLIR, Workforce Development Division, Program Specialist

Carol Kanayama, DLIR, Workforce Development Division, Program Specialist
Jacqueline Lodge, DLIR, Workforce Development Council

I. Call to Order

The Special Projects Committee meeting was called to order at 11:01 a.m. by Chair Keith DeMello

II. Approval of Minutes

A. October 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Chair DeMello requested a motion to approve the minutes for the October 16, 2023 meeting. Since none of the attendees from October 16, 2023 meeting were present, the approval of minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

III. Executive Director's Report

Bennette Misalucha shared a presentation. Her presentation can be viewed by clicking on this link: <https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2024/02/PRESENTATION-SLIDES-FOR-UNIFIED-PLAN-COMMUNITY-ENGAGEMENT-VER3.pdf>

Chair DeMello reconfirmed that the end of the public comment period for the first draft of the Unified State Plan is February 16, 2024.

Mark Menard announced that there is a hiring event for high school seniors on April 16, 2024. He mentioned that the minimum hourly wage is around \$18 per hour, so that it's aligned with the Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) living wage threshold.

IV. Update on Efforts Around Temporary Job Opportunities Following the Maui Wildfires

Debbie Cabebe shared a presentation. Her presentation can be viewed by clicking on this link: <https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2024/02/Update-on-Efforts-Around-Temporary-Job-Opportunities-Following-the-Maui-Wildfires-D.Cabebe.pdf>

Bennette Misalucha asked how many people have benefitted from the grant. Debbie Cabebe advised there are 400 applicants. Out of the 400 applicants, 100 found employment, and 65 are ready for employment / are in the que. She noted that some don't follow up or realize they applied to the wrong program. Out of the \$21M grant funding, \$10M has been received. They have two years to spend the funds with the possibility of an extension.

Bennette Misalucha asked Debbie Cabebe what challenges she faced. Debbie Cabebe answered that she felt they were on target and that they are doing a good job.

Mark Menard pointed out that their program is similar to the Quest grant / internship program. Currently there are 100 people enrolled in the Quest program. Debbie Cabebe confirmed that

their program is less restrictive than the Quest grant and the focus is on quick employment. Bennette Misalucha asked if the applicants are not qualified or if they don't follow up on their paperwork, can they refer them to other partners like the American Job Centers or within Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO).

V. Updates from American Job Center, Hawaii County

Denise Pacheco and Clinton Mercado shared a presentation. (Sheri Cacho had to leave the meeting early.) The presentation can be viewed by clicking on this link: https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2024/02/Update-from-American-Job-Center-Hawaii-County-D.Pacheco_S.Cacho_C.Mercado.pdf

Bennette Misalucha noted that she is inviting members of the Maine Workforce Board present best-practices for supporting justice-involved and at-risk youth sometime in May or June 2024. Denise Pacheco mentioned that, with the help of the Workforce Development Division and Maricar Pilotin-Freitas, they hosted a Justice Involved Summit on the Big Island in August 2023. She also noted that Going Home Hawaii has 50 partners statewide.

Bennette Misalucha asked what the enrollment for at-risk youth is. Denise Pacheco said that she would check with Goodwill Industries, who is the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) provider and will get back to us.

VI. Update on Legislative Efforts

Chair DeMello shared a list of workforce development related bills that he is currently monitoring. The bills include HB 2199 and SB 2351; HB 1827 and SB 3225; HB 2271, HB 2575, SB 2291, SB 2943. He noted that HB 1827 passed the first committee.

Chair DeMello noted that last week was the deadline for triple-referral bills to be heard in their first committee. As part of the continuing legislative process, the next major deadline (First Lateral) is for bills to be heard in their final committees.

Lisa Simmons asked if he was tracking SB 560. Chair DeMello advised he was not, but he would add it to his list.

VII. Announcements and Public Testimony (if any)

There were no announcements or public testimony.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

Committee Chair Keith DeMello adjourned the meeting at 12:28 p.m.