

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**

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**SPECIAL PROJECTS  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
Monday, October 16, 2023  
1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.  
In-person and online via Zoom**

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

**MEMBER ATTENDEES:**

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

Dion Dizon, Committee Vice Chair, Business Representative, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1186

Cheryl Cross, Principal Owner, C.A. Cross & Associates

Cary Miyashiro, President, Quad D Solutions LLC

**GUESTS:**

Scott Morishige, Administrator, Benefit, Employee and Support Services Division (BESSD), State of Hawaii Department of Human Services

Aldric Ulep, Policy Director, Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Luana Mahi, Economic Development Director, Office of Economic Development, Maui

**STAFF:**

Bennette Misalucha, DLIR, Workforce Development Council, Executive Director

Daven Kawamura, DLIR, Workforce Development Division

**MINUTES**

- I. **Call to Order.....Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director**  
The Special Projects Committee meeting was called to order at 1:19 p.m. by Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director.
  
- II. **Approval of Minutes**
  - A. **August 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes**  
Bennette Misalucha requested a motion to approve the minutes for the August 4, 2023 meeting. Vice Chair Dion Dizon moved to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2023 meeting. Cheryl Cross seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.
  
- III. **Introduction of New Committee Chair Keith DeMello.....Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director**  
Bennette Misalucha introduced new Committee Chair Keith DeMello. Chair Keith DeMello is the Senior Vice President of Communications & External Affairs, Ulupono Initiative.
  
- IV. **Introduction of New Committee Vice Chair Dion Dizon.....Chair Keith DeMello**  
Chair Keith DeMello introduce new Vice Chair Dion Dizon, who is the Business Representative for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1186.
  
- V. **Executive Director’s Report.....Bennette Misalucha**  
Bennette Misalucha shared a presentation. Her presentation can be viewed by clicking on this link: [https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2023/10/WDC-ED-REPORT\\_Oct2023.pdf](https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2023/10/WDC-ED-REPORT_Oct2023.pdf)
  
- VI. **Presentation – Update on Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) and Related Resources available to Individuals Impacted by the Maui Wildfires.....Scott Morishige, Administrator, Benefit, Employee and Support Services Division (BESSD), State of Hawaii Department of Human Services**  
Scott Morishige shared a short presentation. His presentation can be viewed by clicking on this link: <https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2023/10/DSNAP-Overview-from-S.Morishige-101623.pdf>

Scott Morishige noted that non-U.S.-citizens normally do not qualify for DNSAP. He pointed out that the funding is separate from the federal government or FEMA funds that were approved by President Biden. He clarified that DSNAP is a recovery benefit. He confirmed that those families who were previously receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

benefits will continue to receive them, and they will not be affected by the wildfires.

Luana Mahi noted that some families are not accessing DNAP due to previous problems or denials from FEMA and the Red Cross Association. Scott Morishige confirmed that around 400 families were denied DSNAP benefits. Those families will be connected to partner agencies, such as the Food Bank, to receive support.

**VII. Updates from the Workforce Development Division from August 4, 2023 to October 16, 2023**

Since Maricar Pilotin-Freitas was unable to attend this meeting, Bennette Misalucha presented on her behalf. WDD's presentation can be viewed by clicking on this link:

<https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2023/10/WORKFORCE-DEVELOPMENT-UPDATE-as-of-10.16.2023.pdf>

The contract to assist with clean-up services after the wildfires has been granted to Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO). Vice Chair Dion Dizon asked if there is a vetting process to provide guidance and protection from predatory companies who may prey on landowners affected by the wildfires. Bennette Misalucha will follow up with Maricar Pilotin-Freitas.

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

There were no announcements or public testimony.

**IX. Next Meeting**

The next will be determined at a later date.

**X. Adjournment**

Committee Chair Keith DeMello adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.