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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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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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**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S
SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, April 17, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
In-person and Online via Zoom**

MINUTES

MEMBERS:

Keith DeMello, Committee Chairperson, Vice President of Communications & External Affairs, Ulupono Initiative
Shelli Ihori, Associate Director, Hawaii Pacific Health
Sean Knox, President, Hawaii Employment Services
Rosella Guardascione, Director of Human Resources, Marriott King Kamehameha Kona Beach Resort
David Rodriguez, State's Equal Opportunity Officer, Designee for DLIR Director Jade Butay

GUEST:

Chentelle Rowland, Executive Director, Maui Workforce Development Board
Kamalu Carroll, One Stop Operator, Maui American Job Center
Gabby Saba Zimmer, Program Manager, Wastewater Alternatives and Innovation
Adele Manera, Workforce Development Division, Kauai American Job Center
Harrison Kuranishi, Oahu Workforce Development Board
Alia Smigel, Wastewater Alternatives, and Innovation
Leina'ala Nakamura, Administrator, Dept of Community Services, City & County of Honolulu

STAFF:

Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director, DLIR Workforce Development Council

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Keith DeMello

The Special Projects Committee meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Chair Keith DeMello

II. Approval of Minutes

A. October 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Keith DeMello requested a motion to approve the minutes for the October 16, 2023 meeting.

Sean Knox moved to approve the minutes and Shelli Ihori seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

B. February 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Keith DeMello requested a motion to approve the minutes for the February 12, 2024 meeting.

Sean Knox moved to approve the minutes and Shelli Ihori seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

III. Executive Director's Report

Bennette Misalucha presented her updates from January 18, 2024 to April 18, 2024. The presentation can be viewed at this link:

<https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2024/05/WDC-Exec-Directors-Report-1.2024-4.2024.pptx>

IV. Presentation - Update on Oahu American Job Center performance and initiatives - Leina'ala Nakamura, Administrator, City & County of Honolulu, Dept of Community Services, WorkHawaii Division

Leina'ala Nakamura shared a presentation of the new WorkHawai'i Data Dashboard. The website can be viewed at this link:

<https://www8.honolulu.gov/dcs/wh-data.dashboard/>

Leina'ala Nakamura noted that business partners are committed to providing training opportunities to individuals to become part of their workforce. WorkHawaii reimburses up to 50% of the employee's hourly wages.

A. Update on Oahu AJC collaboration with Oahu's ten libraries

Partnership with Oahu Libraries has received positive feedback. There have been over 300 individual interactions which included enrollments into various programs.

B. Update on Oahu AJC and Palama Settlement

WorkHawaii continues to offer services at Palama Settlement monthly. It's an ongoing and beneficial collaboration and is well appreciated by the staff. There is also a high number of the COFA population who also receive services.

V. Presentation and Update on Maui American Job Center

Chentelle Rowland shared a presentation of the Maui American Job Center. The presentation can be viewed at this link:

<https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2024/05/Maui-AJC-Presentation-04-24.pdf>

VI. Updates on Kauai American Job Center

Adele Manera gave an overview of Kauai’s AJC services. Although they have minimal foot traffic, they continue to work diligently to improve their number of participants by doing more outreach programs with schools, employers, and partner agencies. She highlighted positive outcomes from programs and challenges faced by those in the construction trades.

Kauai AJC will have a booth at an upcoming job fair on April 24, 2024, at the Kauai Memorial Convention Hall from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Kauai AJC offered Rapid Response services to 42 Macy’s employees on March 14, 2024.

VII. Presentation on Wastewater Alternatives and Innovation (WAI)

Gabby Saba Zimmer shared a presentation on Wastewater Alternatives and Innovation. The presentation can be viewed at this link:

<https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2024/05/WAI-Wastewater-Alternative-and-Innovations.pdf>

VIII. Update on DLIR Legislative Efforts

David Rodriguez,

Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Legislative Team and DLIR Director’s Designee

David Rodriguez reported there are 8 bills he is following that are of interest to the WDC. The bills are listed in the agenda. The State Senate is set up to pass the state supplemental budget and in it, the WDV program ID was restored. The House still needs to agree. Both legislative bodies appear to agree on a bill related to Occupational Safety and Health Administration inspectors. The House is passing 5 good government bills. The Office of Information Practices (OIP) will notify and update if these new bills become new laws. The 2024 Legislative session adjourns on May 3, 2024.

IX. Announcements and Public Testimony

There were no announcements or public testimony.

X. Next Meeting

The Special Projects Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 15, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

XI. Adjournment

Committee Chair Keith DeMello adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.