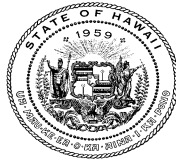


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
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SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

MARICAR PILOTIN-FREITAS  
ADMINISTRATOR

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KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA  
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**Youth Services Committee Meeting  
Friday, June 21, 2024  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS:**

Tui Scanlan, Committee Chair, President, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) Local 665

Carla Kurokawa, Vice Committee Chair, Manager, Employment and Training, Alu Like Lea Dias, Administrator, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Dept of Human Services

David Rodriguez, Designee for Jade Butay, Director, Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations

**GUESTS:**

Wanelle Kaneshiro, Director, Workforce Development Branch, Hawaii Dept of Education

Nisa Tokunaga, Manager, Dept. of Community Services - WorkHawaii Youth Program, City and County Honolulu AJC

Daven Kawamura, WIOA Specialist, Oahu Workforce Development Board

David Sun-Miyashiro, Executive Director, HawaiiKidsCAN

Matt Stevens, Executive Director, Hawaii Workforce Funders Collaborative

Celia Chang Takahashi, Program Coordinator, Parents and Children Together

Doug Adams, Director, Research and Development Hawaii County

Deborah Spencer-Chun, President and Chief Executive Officer, Adult Friends for Youth

Steve Sue, Chairman, ID8

Daven Kawamura, WIOA Specialist, Oahu Workforce Development Board

Harrison Kuranishi, Executive Director, Oahu Workforce Development Board

**STAFF:**

Bennette Misalucha, DLIR, Workforce Development Council, Executive Director

**I. Call to Order**

The Youth Services meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Committee Chair Tui Scanlan.

Chair Tui Scanlan requested a motion to approve the minutes for the April 22, 2024 meeting. Carla Kurokawa moved to approve the minutes. David Sun-Miyashiro seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The minutes were unanimously approved.

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## II. Executive Director's Report

Bennette Misalucha presented her updates from April 22, 2024 to June 21, 2024.

- Bennette Misalucha informed the committee that the State Unified plan has been approved. The plan will be taken to the Governor for his approval before the final implementation.
- Bennette Misalucha shared upcoming trainings/events with the committee.
  - During the week of June 24<sup>th</sup> there will be the Workforce Development Council (WDC) board training. It will be the first time that all the local area boards and WDC are gathered together.
  - Currently WDC is trying to set up a webinar with the National Governor's Association on National Workforce Trends. It is tentatively scheduled for July 2, 2024 but may be moved, if dates are adjusted notice will be given.
  - There is a webinar on Youth coming out of the Justice System from the State of Maine that will happen sometime in the month of July.
- Bennette Misalucha informed the committee know that she attended Hawaii on the Hill, a showcase sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii.

## III. Roundtable Discussion

Chair Scanlan prefaced the roundtable discussion with the information that the WDC Youth Services committee is doing a reset. Various Youth-focused organizations were invited to the last committee meeting, today's goal of the roundtable discussion is to discern future steps to create career pathways for youth, especially those with barriers to employment.

- Chair Scanlan initiated a discussion about the barriers to employment faced by at-risk youth in the community.
  - Tui Scanlan identified the lack of access to identification documents as a significant hurdle, particularly for those in the correction system and English second language learners.
  - Doug Adams shared that the National Guard Youth Challenge academy, provides discipline and skills training but not vocational skills. Similar to the Job Corps here in Hawaii on Oahu and Maui, and that the academy structure is a good step forward to have some knowledge provided to students for when they enter the workforce.
  - Bennette Misalucha discussed the potential of collaborating with school counselors to identify at-risk youth and understanding their needs.
  - Wanelle Kaneshiro brought up the issue of transportation as a barrier to employment.
    - Matt Stevens shared that a study from Vibrant Hawaii identified lack of information about work-based learning opportunities and transportation as significant barriers to students' participation.
    - Carla Kurokawa identified that WIOA can provide support services including transportation, but acknowledged that many youth are not aware of these opportunities.
  - Lea Dias highlighted the challenges that youth with disabilities face in accessing employment and benefits, and the need for counseling to help them navigate these issues.
  - Nisa Tokunaga discussed the American Job Center's Youth program,

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- which focuses on individualized barrier removal for each youth, including driver's license acquisition, digital literacy, GED acquisition, etc.
- Ce Takahashi highlighted that during the COVID lockdowns, socialization skills and development were really impacted. Many youths during the lockdowns were in crucial times for the socialization skill development.
  - Tui Scanlan identified that it's important to have information in a centralized space, such as a website. Lea Dias and Matt Stevens discussed the potential outreach opportunities alongside having a "good website" including social media.
    - Steve Sue emphasized that website content is key and should be written with search engine optimization in mind, he suggested using free tools such as ChatGPT to improve writing skills for the internet.
  - Tui Scanlan asked the meeting participants what barriers their respective organizations are experiencing, he noted that lack of information has been an ongoing topic of discussion during this meeting.
    - Wanelle Kaneshiro who works as the Director of the Hawaii Department of Labor Workforce Development Branch, cited that they are looking at being able to offer opportunities across more pathways, programs, and studies. Some being the Trade and Creative industries and IT.
    - Lea Dias and Carla Kurokawa stated the need to challenge the misconceptions among employers regarding the hiring of individuals with disabilities.
      - Tui Scanlan suggested reaching out to employer participants and getting the correct implicit bias training across.
    - Ce Takahashi noted that as the Coalition coordinator for underage drinking at parents and children together, something they are experiencing is the difficulty of getting in touch/connecting with youth to be a part of their youth council.
    - David Rodriguez, from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, brought up the expectations that today's youth have regarding work-life balance, what they work on and how they do it, pay, etc.
      - Tui Scanlan chimed in saying that the "Go to work, do it, no complaining" mindset of the older generations doesn't seem to work for this generation. Hoping moving forward to a healthier, better, and more humane space in the work environment.
    - Debbie Spencer-Chun from Adult Friends for Youth, stated a problem that they have is not getting youth participants but getting people to come to the youth rather than taking the students off campus to go to them.
    - David Sun Miyashiro from HawaiiKidsCAN brought up the need for foundational financial literacy. The State Student Council polls their members every year and for many years running the number one item is financial literacy.
    - Lea Dias added that not only knowing different organizations is important but knowing someone who's willing to be a career mentor from said organizations.

#### **IV. Announcements and Constituent Comments**

Nisa Tokunaga announced that the American Job Center will be hosting a hiring event at the Blaisdell Arena on Saturday, July 13, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Over 100 employers are attending.

Ce Takahashi informed the committee that Community works 96744 is hosting a Pokémon Health fair on August 10<sup>th</sup> 2024 at the Windward Mall. Registration closes on July 19<sup>th</sup> 2024.

**V. Schedule Next Meeting**

The next committee meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. The meeting location will be 830 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, Hawaii, **Room 314**.

**VI. Adjournment**

Committee Chair Scanlan adjourned the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

DRAFT