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

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**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S
SECTOR STRATEGIES AND CAREER PATHWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Friday, October 4, 2024

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Council Member Attendees

Cary Miyashiro, Sector Strategies and Career Pathways Committee Chair
Lorna Woo, Sector Strategies and Career Pathways Committee Vice-Chair

Guests

Abigail Eli Arthur, Department of Education, Homeless Concerns Liaison, Waianae Community Leader
Cyndee Uchima, HR business partner, Kaiser Permanente Hawaii
Che Silvert, Hawaii State Council Developmental Disabilities
Brianna Villaroza, Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii
Dan Doerger, Pacific Center for Advanced Technology Training
Danielle Himalaya, Campbell-Kapolei Complex CEO
Erin Yagi, Leeward Community College, Teacher Education Program
Faustino Dagdag, Leeward Community College
Harrison Kuranishi, Oahu Workforce Development Board
Julia Althoff, Program Specialist, Hawaii State Council Developmental Disabilities
Kanani Supe-Rogue, Coordinator at Windward Community College for Community
Kathy Silva, Campbell Kapolei Complex, Department of Education
Keala Peters Executive Vice President, Hawaii Chamber of Commerce
Kurt Uchimura, Command Chief, 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard

Lala Fernandez, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii

Mareah Walsh, Transition and Workforce Development Teacher, Campbell-Kapolei Complex, Department of Education

Paddy Kauhane, President and CEO, Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii

Randy Higa, Workforce Transition Center

Col. Regina Komine, Deputy Commander, 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard

Stacey Higgins, Hawaii P-20

Susan Gonzalves, Aiea High School

Toby Portner, DOE, Education for Homeless children and Youth

Wanelle Kaneshiro, Director, HIDOE and Workforce Development Branch

Staff

Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director, Workforce Development Council

I. Call to Order..... *Chair Cary Miyashiro*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Miyashiro at 1:30 p.m.

II. Approval of August 1, 2024 Minutes

The approval of minutes was deferred. A video of the August 1, 2024 minutes has been posted on the Workforce Development Council website.

III. Presentations:

A. Boys and Girl’s Club of Hawaii*Lala Fernandez/Paddy Kauhane*

The Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii discussed their workforce related initiatives, particularly the “What’s next initiative.” It is a 12-week program that allows young people to discover their strengths and start planning for their future, whether it be college or other non-traditional careers. The program has resulted in impactful gains in graduation rates and the improvement was particularly attributed to the Power Hour program which provides after school homework help.

The Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii is affiliated with the national entity and they receive program and technical assistance from them. However, financially, the local office is independent and relies on the local efforts to sustain operations.

The importance of partnership was highlighted. The potential partnerships with the Department of Education (High School) as well as the trade unions will be a follow item.

B. 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard*Col. Regina Komine*

Col. Komine shared her personal journey of overcoming homelessness and other challenges, emphasizing the lessons of resiliency and taking advantage of opportunities. Col Komine emphasized the diverse roles and achievements of the Hawaii Air National Guard and their efforts to recruit and retain personnel.

The presentation also touched on the educational benefits offered to military personnel, including tuition assistance and the GI Bill for funding college education. The presenters mentioned career paths within the military including engineering, even plumbing. They emphasized the sense of purpose, the sense of community and opportunities for skills development, travel, and leadership development, that the Air National Guard provides. They also discussed accommodations for individuals with disabilities to join the Guard. The presenters stated that the National Guard intends to explore partnering with schools to promote military pathways, engaging with students and addressing such issues as homelessness and breaking the cycles of poverty through education.

C. Homeless and Social Concerns in Waianae..... *Abigail Eli Arthu*

Ms. Arthur discussed the challenges faced by vulnerable populations on the West side, particularly in Waianae. She emphasized the need for stability and resources to support mental health for these populations who have barriers to employment. She suggested that additional funding could be beneficial in providing vocational training and certifications just for the high schools in the community. She stressed the importance of addressing the root causes of homelessness and poverty, and how to break the cycle of generational poverty.

IV. Executive Director’s Report.....*Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director, Workforce Development Council*

- a. Update on the transition of Workforce Development Council as an attached agency to Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

The Workforce Development Council Executive Director reported that a

task force composed of the Deputy Director of Labor and Industrial Relations William Kuntsman, the head of the Administrative Services Office Lynn Araki Regan, the Workforce Development Division Administrator Maricar Pilotin Freitas and herself, have been meeting regularly once a week to discuss the roles and responsibilities of each organization. The goal is to come up with a Memorandum of Understanding amongst the organizations which can be implemented.

b. Highlights in 2024

a) Board training: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act(WIOA) academy.

Since June, the Council has been conducting training for all local and state board members. These training sessions have been very helpful for the staff members as well. The training on a variety of subject matters are scheduled until the beginning of 2025.

b) Future of Work: September 30, 2024

The Executive Director reported that the Future of Work conference was successful and drew more than 350 attendees. There was good feedback from the audience on their takeaways based on a survey conducted after the conference. The highlight was futurist Peter Schwartz, who painted an inspiring picture of what Hawaii is capable of becoming as the hub for workforce development. This event was a collaboration between the Workforce Development Council, the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

c) Workforce Development Heroes

The Council recognized outstanding performances of those in the workforce development field with the Workforce Development Heroes Awards. For a complete list of the awardees, please refer to the WDC website. Amongst those honored was Senator Donovan dela Cruz as Legislator of the Year. The Lifetime Achievement Award was given to David Lassner, President of the University of Hawaii for his 40 plus years of commitment to workforce development. Dr. Lassner will retire from UH at the end of the year.

d) September was Workforce Development Month

The Council marked Workforce Development month with a proclamation from Governor Josh Green.

e) Long Term Care - Workforce Taskforce

The Executive Director reported on her participation on the long-term case workforce task force. The report will be delivered to the legislature for further action in the 2025 legislative session.

V. Announcements and Constituent Comments (if any)

Hawaii State Council Developmental Disabilities will have its legislative forum in Hilo on October 26.

The Boys and Girls Scouts will have its Legacy program on October 5 at the Nanakuli Clubhouse.

VI. Next Meeting: The next meeting for the Sector Strategies and Career Pathways Committee is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. at the DLIR office, with the room # still to be determined.

VII. The meeting adjourned at 2:56 pm.