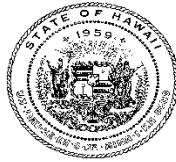


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**MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, January 23, 2025
1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Online via Zoom and in-person**

MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Trang Malone, Work Initiatives Manager, CVS Health, Chair Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
Cheryl Cross, Owner, C.A. Cross and Associates, LLC, Co-Chair Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
Ann Greenlee, Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Services

GUESTS:

Deb Uemura, Hawaii National Guard Work for Warriors Program
Steve Janke, Founder of Semper Forward - Wisconsin
Paige Williams, Island Palm Communities
Ka'eo Winner, Island Palm Communities
Carrie Akamine, Work Hawaii - Rent to Work
Robert Lietzke, Booz Allen
Michael G. Subee, Work Hawaii HVRP
Lisa Pereira, WorkHawaii Division of City and County
Tracy Steele, Hiring Our Heroes, US Chamber of Commerce Foundation
Diana Randall, Hiring Our Heroes
Nicole Anderson, Workforce Development Specialist
Kat Andrews, Department of Veteran Affairs HI

STAFF:

Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director, Workforce Development Council
Evan Palmer, Specialist, Workforce Development Council

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Meeting Timestamps:

I. Call to Order (00:12:16)

Chair Trang Malone called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

II. Chair's Report (00:17:33)

Chair Trang Malone shared information from her discussion with Kelli May Douglas, Pacific Southwest Regional Liaison, Defense-State Liaison Office:

- Overview of DSLO's role in providing state policymakers with expert insight on priorities affecting military families
- The DSLO has helped enact more than 800 bills covering licensure, education, and other priorities affecting military families
- Discussion of interstate medical licensure compacts and occupational licensure
- Focus on military spouse employment and economic opportunities, including childcare initiatives

III. Roundtable Group Discussion (00:37:22)

Vice Chair Cheryl Cross facilitated discussion on Pillar 3 of the State of Hawaii Workforce Development Unified Plan, focusing on Inclusivity and Equity.

Topics discussed included:

- Ensuring veterans with disabilities and those from diverse backgrounds are fully supported
- Barriers faced by underrepresented groups within the military and veteran community
- Specific strategies for improving military spouse employment opportunities
- Suggestions for addressing stigma and bias in civilian hiring practices

IV. Project Updates (01:21:03)

A. Military Spouse Subcommittee Initiatives

- Lisa Pereira obtained approval to provide information at military installation newcomers' briefings
- Discussion of remote work opportunities for military spouses
- Report on hiring events with military spouses

B. Hiring our Heroes Event on December 10, 2024

- Brief update on the successful event

V. Executive Director's Report (01:23:36)

Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director of the Workforce Development Council, provided:

- Update on the transition of Workforce Development Council as an attached agency to DLIR
- Annual Report: Highlights in 2024, including completion of the State Unified Plan
- Implementation progress of the State Unified Plan, including the December launch with 70 stakeholders
- Focus for 2025, with emphasis on collaboration

VI. Announcements and Constituent Comments (01:32:02)

No announcements were made.

VII. Next Meeting (01:32:31)

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. at the DLIR building, room 317.

VIII. Adjournment (01:32:47)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

Chair Malone adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.