

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 317
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor
Phone: (808) 586-8815 / Fax: (808) 586-8822
Email: dlir.workforce.council@hawaii.gov

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S
EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA
Wednesday, April 16, 2025
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Remote Meeting:

This meeting will be held remotely by Zoom interactive conference technology. Board members, staff, and members of the public may participate in the remote meeting by using the following Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87933808655?pwd=JTa9AGG4LoZboCDkISk2TkaKDSs1RG.1>

If you do not have the technology or ability to join the remote meeting via Zoom, please dial +1 (669) 444-9171 on the telephone to participate in the remote meeting.

Meeting ID: 879 3380 8655

Passcode: 557233

Physical Meeting:

A physical meeting location will be open to the public and will have an audiovisual connection, which will allow individuals at the physical meeting location to participate in the remote meeting. The address of the physical meeting location is 680 Iwilei Road, Dole Cannery Office Building, Suite 700, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817.

Written and Oral Testimony:

Individuals may submit written testimony by U.S. mail or hand delivery at 830 Punchbowl Street, Suite 317, Honolulu, HI 96813 or by email at

DLIR.Workforce.Council@hawaii.gov. To ensure that members are able to review testimony prior to the meeting, we encourage interested persons to submit written testimony by 24 hours prior to the meeting. Any written testimony submitted after such time testimony will be retained as part of the record and distributed to members as soon as practicable, but we cannot ensure members will receive it in sufficient time to review prior to any decision-making.

Individuals may provide remote oral testimony during the remote meeting at the Zoom link listed above. Individuals participating at the physical meeting location may also provide oral testimony during the remote meeting.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, please contact Bennette Misalucha at (808) 586-8815 (for TTY/TTD Dial 711 then ask for (808) 586-8815) or email dlir.workforce.council@hawaii.gov as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible will allow adequate time to fulfill your request. Upon request, this notice is available in alternative formats such as large print, Braille, or electronic copy.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order..... Chair Derek Kanehira
- II. A Panel Discussion on Breaking Barriers: Real Talk from Employers
facilitated by Mark Menard, Business Services Coordinator, American Jobs Center, Work Hawaii Division.

Three local organizations will candidly share their experiences partnering with the American Job Centers (AJCs), from initial hesitations and perceived red tape to impactful collaboration and workforce success. The panelists will highlight lessons learned, practical insights, and tips for navigating the system. This session is designed especially for employers who are curious about working with the AJCs but may feel unsure about where to start.

The panelists and their respective contributions are as follows:

1. **Roz Funakoshi**, Vice President of Samurai, Incorporated (Inc).

2. *Samurai, Inc. is a Honolulu-based company specializing in manufacturing and distributing snack products, including their well-known soft-serve ice cream and freshly popped popcorn. Roz has successfully utilized the QUEST and On-the-Job Training (OJT) programs to hire employees, demonstrating how AJCH services can help small businesses recruit and retain talent.*
3. **David Makilan**, *Founder and Executive Director of He Ala Hou O Ke Ola Inc. (HAHOKO)*

HAHOKO is a Christian-based community reintegration program in Honolulu that assists homeless and formerly incarcerated individuals with workforce development and life skills training. David has used the QUEST grant to help individuals overcome barriers to employment, specifically for those reintegrating into society after incarceration

4. **Charlie Yoshimoto**, *Manager of Talent Acquisition & Mobility, Bank of Hawaii*

Bank of Hawaii is a leading commercial bank serving individuals and businesses across Hawaii, with a strong focus on fostering local economic growth. Charlie has actively participated in American Job Center's Hiring Events since 2022, highlighting the events as an effective platform for connecting employers with potential candidates.

- III. Update on the Workforce Opportunity Tax Credit*Maricar Pilotin Freitas, Workforce Development Division Administrator*

An update on the status of the backlog of the Workforce Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) applications that are currently being processed.

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

A. Update on the 2024-2028 Unified Plan Implementation

A report on the activities related to the implementation of the State's Unified Plan including the recent convening of the four pillars of the Strategic Plan.

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

The Workforce Development Council became an attached agency to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations in July 2024. The transition process is still ongoing, and the report will touch upon the status of the move.

C. Status on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act unexpended funds for Program Year 2022.

1) Three Memorandum of Agreements with three Entities: a) University of Hawaii Community Colleges; b) Hawaii P-20 Partnership for Education; c) University of Hawaii Systems.

2) Three projects which will commence shortly: a) American Job Centers Awareness Public Relations Campaign; b) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Research; c) Fiscal training for relevant fiscal officers.

V. Announcements and Constituent Comments (if any)

At this time, the public is welcome to announce upcoming events and comment on relevant issues that were not included in this meeting's agenda. Please be advised that in compliance with the Sunshine Law, the Committee cannot discuss or act on issues that were not included in this meeting's agenda, but issues raised in constituent comments may be included in a future agenda for the Committee's consideration.

VI. Next Meeting: The next meeting is for the Employer Engagement Committee is tentatively set on July 16, 2025 at 1:30 pm on Zoom and at the DLIR building at 830 Punchbowl Street, Room 317, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

VII. Adjournment