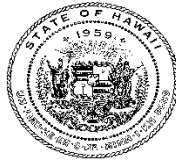


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
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EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 15, 2025
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
In-person and online via Zoom

MINUTES

MEMBERS:

Derek Kanehira, Senior Vice President, Human Resources, Alexander and Baldwin (Chair)
Rosella Guardascione – Director of Human Resources, Marriott King Kamehameha Kona Beach Resort, Chair, Hawaii County Workforce Development Board
Cheryl Cross – Principal, C.A. Cross & Associates, Executive Search Consultant, Inkinen Executive Search, Vice Chair, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
Cary Miyashiro, Vice Chair, Workforce Development Council, President, Quad D Solutions
Trang Malone – Workforce Initiatives Manager, CVS Health, Chair, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee

GUEST:

Jacqui Low – Chaminade University
Kazu Hayashida – Workforce Planning Manager, Hawaiian Electric
Thomas Chock – DBEDT Hawaii
AJ Hoffman - Director of Human Resources, Y. Hata & Co., Limited
Kelii Opulauoho – Human Resources, Hawaiian Electric
Tamara Addison - Human Resources & Labor Relations, Oahu Transit Services

STAFF:

Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director, Workforce Development Council

Recording Link: [Recorded Minutes of January 15, 2025 EEC Meeting](#) Passcode: e1T9L5#0

I. Call to Order

Video [00:01:10] by Derek Kanehira, Chair

Derek Kanehira called the meeting to order and confirmed it was public under the open meeting law.

II. Committee Update

Video [00:02:44] by Derek Kanehira, Chair

Derek outlined plans to increase business engagement and improve AJC utilization through partnerships and a PR campaign.

III. Workforce Opportunity Tax Credit Update

Video [00:06:12] by Derek Kanehira, Chair

Derek reported a backlog of 36,000 WOTC claims, with no solutions proposed despite systemic issues.

Video [00:10:59] by Cheryl Cross, Incann Executive Search

Cheryl expressed frustration and suggested requesting an audit to address the backlog.

IV. Update on Workforce Unified Plan Implementation

Video [00:12:13] by Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director, Workforce Development Council

Bennette reviewed the State Unified Plan and highlighted the Workforce Synergy Summit.

Video [00:16:49] by Rosella Guardascione, Marriott Kingdom Kona Beach Resort

Rosella shared her positive experience at the summit and excitement about the economic growth team.

V. Presentation: Update on High Impact and Emerging Industries by DBEDT

Video [00:17:24] by Thomas Chock, DBEDT Designee

Thomas discussed emerging industries in Hawaii and the need for workforce alignment with economic growth.

Video [00:42:34] by Thomas Chock, DBEDT Designee

Thomas highlighted the Value-Added Facility in Wahiawa as a model for supporting entrepreneurs and graduates.

VI. Executive Director's Report

Video [00:43:10] by Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director, Workforce Development Council

Bennette summarized 2024 highlights, including the State Unified Plan and WIOA fund allocations.

VII. Announcements and Constituent Comments

Video [01:03:32] by Derek Kanehira, Chair

No public comments or announcements were made.

VIII. Next Meeting

Video [01:03:32] by Derek Kanehira, Chair

The next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

Video [01:03:32] by Derek Kanehira, Chair

Derek adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.