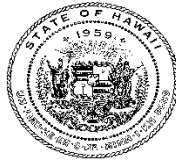


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**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S  
YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**April 2, 2025**  
**1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDIES:**

Tui Scanlan, Chair, Youth Services Committee, President, IATSE Local 665  
Carla Kurokawa, Vice Chair, Alu Like  
Kealoha Daubert, Goodwill Industries, WIOA Youth Program  
Jenna Silifaiva, Maui County WIOA Program through Goodwill Industries  
Shy Kepo'o, Maui WIOA Goodwill Industries  
Kekoa Kalua, WIOA Youth Program in Hilo  
Mark Menard, Business Services Coordinator, American Job Center Oahu  
Chentelle Rowland, Executive Director, Maui County Workforce Development Board  
Matt Stevens, Hawaii Workforce Funders Collaborative  
Lisa Aquino, City and County of Honolulu Juvenile Justice Center  
Cristal Garan, WorkHawaii Youth Program, WIOA Youth  
Lea Dias, DVR Administrator  
Earl Kalani, American Job Center Hawaii, Job Resource Specialist  
Rossella Guardascione, Chair, County of Hawaii Workforce Development Board  
Rona Fukumoto, Lanakila Pacific and Workforce Development Council  
Naomi Rose Caywood, Program Manager, Kinai 'Eha (with youth participants Brock and Jace)  
Ce Takahashi, Parents and Children Together  
Thomas Chock, DBEDT/Creative Industries Division  
Cary Miyashiro, QDS LLC

Kay McGee, American Job Center

Jay Hidalgo, American Job Center

Wanelle Kaneshiro-Erdmann, Hawaii State Department of Education Workforce Development Branch

Lord Ryan Lizardo, Vice President of Education, Chamber of Commerce Hawaii

Tai-An Miao, Partners in Development Foundation/Evaluation Team

Valynn Kwon, WorkHawaii Youth Program Office Assistant/Social Media Specialist

**STAFF:**

Bennette Misalucha - Executive Director, Workforce Development Council

Evan Palmer – WDC Staff

Kelly Quitevis – WDC Staff

**Location**

Remote Meeting via Zoom & Physical Location: 830 Punchbowl Street, Room #317, Honolulu, HI 96813

**I. Call to Order [Video 00:04:24]**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chair Tui Scanlan. The Chair acknowledged Vice Chair Carla Kurokawa and noted that this was a public meeting under the open meeting law, with members and guests participating via Zoom and staff available at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Office, Room 317.

**II. Presentation: Kawailoa: A Transformative Indigenous Model to End Youth Incarceration [Video 00:09:32]**

**Presenter:** Naomi Rose Caywood, Program Manager, Kinai 'Eha

**Overview of the Kawailoa Collaboration:**

- Kinai 'Eha is part of the Kawailoa Project, which is supported by a \$20 million grant from the Kellogg Foundation awarded in the Racial Equity 2030 global competition.
- The grant is for 8 years, and they are currently in year 3 of the project.
- The Kawailoa project aims to transform the youth justice system by replacing incarceration with a Native Hawaiian restorative model.
- Partners include the nonprofit group "Opportunities for Youth Action, Hawaii" which consists of Kinai 'Eha, Partners in Development Foundation (PIDF), and RISE (Residential Youth Services and Empowerment).
- PIDF serves as the fiscal sponsor for the grant and manages the financial part. They also have a farm on campus for food security efforts.
- RISE operates an emergency shelter on the same campus, with a focus on homelessness/houselessness.

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- Public partners include Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility and Olomana School.
- All are located on a 50-acre property in Kailua, the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center, which serves as a pu'uhonua (place of refuge) for justice-involved youth.

### **Highlights of the Kinai 'Eha Program:**

- Founded in 2017, Kinai 'Eha (meaning "to extinguish pain") aims to reach young people in the community who are struggling with different challenges.
- Located in Kailua, they provide workforce development and wraparound services including housing security, personal growth, and mental health support.
- Works with youth ages 14-24, with a residential program for 18-24 year old males on campus.
- All programs are based in Hawaiian values and culture.
- Focus on disrupting the pathway to prison by diverting youth into positive avenues and supporting those transitioning out of incarceration.

### **Program Components:**

1. **Work Training:** [Video 00:17:52]
  - Construction work, landscaping, facilities maintenance, emergency response
  - Looking at opportunities in wastewater management
2. **Career Counseling & Personal Development:** [Video 00:18:29]
  - Career exploration, resume development, job applications, job fairs
  - Professional development conferences
3. **Certifications:** [Video 00:19:11]
  - Monthly CPR/First Aid training (open to collaborative partners)
  - OSHA 10 training
  - Community response training
4. **Documentation Support:** [Video 00:19:48]
  - Help obtaining vital documents (state IDs, driver's licenses, birth certificates, school transcripts)
5. **Education:** [Video 00:20:34]
  - GED and HiSET preparation and testing with a dedicated teacher
  - Volunteer program for community members to help youth one-on-one during GED preparation
6. **Community Service:** [Video 00:21:09]

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- Regular assistance at Waimanalo Food Bank
- Beach cleanups at Kailua Beach, including shoveling sand and cleaning walkways for kupuna
- Support for community events (volleyball tournaments, hospital events)

**7. Mental & Physical Well-being:** [Video 00:22:21]

- Mental health services with on-staff psychiatrist and psychologist
- Fitness courses on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings (open to community)
- Basic medical well-being (doctor and dentist appointments)

**8. Hawaiian Cultural Activities:** [Video 00:23:29]

- Cultural education including oli (chants), haka, and mele
- Work with kupuna for ho'oponopono
- Partnership with Luluku Farms Association for Hawaiian farming, ku'i (poi pounding), and medicinal plant education

**9. Technology Training:** [Video 00:26:58]

- Virtual reality training program (Skill Mill) to introduce youth to various trades
- Certification opportunities across many fields that can be added directly to resumes
- Courses include electrical concepts, construction foundations, aggressive driving, OSHA, HVAC, and facility maintenance

**III. Roundtable Discussion [Video 01:01:32]**

Chair Scanlan facilitated a discussion on four key areas related to justice-involved youth:

**1. Access to Education and Skill Building Opportunities:**

- Wanelle Kaneshiro-Erdmann (DOE) noted they have regular high schools and adult education programs that can help with high school credentials, and are building skill development programs with industry partners.
- Need for community partnerships including businesses, unions, and state agencies.
- Chair Scanlan highlighted OSHA, First Aid/CPR, and fall protection as critical baseline certifications for trades.

**2. Barriers to Reentry:**

- Carla Kurokawa (Alu Like) emphasized that vital documentation is a major barrier - youth leaving facilities often lack birth certificates, IDs, etc., making employment and education enrollment impossible.
- Discouragement and despair can set in when barriers remain, leading to recidivism.
- Rona Fukumoto (Lanakila Pacific) noted the issue of continuity - youth may receive services in one program but are "lost" when transitioning between programs or locations.

### **3. Justice-Involved Youth in Workforce Programs:**

- Jay Hidalgo (American Job Center) shared that they serve justice-involved youth though it's not always initially disclosed. They provide GED services, training opportunities, work experience, and wraparound supports.
- Youth may face additional barriers with financial aid restrictions.

### **4. Policy Recommendations:**

- Need to reconsider blanket bans on financial aid for youth with justice involvement.
- Tai-An Miao suggested extending policy considerations to include 18-24 year olds, not just juvenile records, since many barriers still apply to young adults.
- Job-readiness is crucial - having documents, transportation (driver's license), and high school credentials are foundational before employment.

## **IV. Executive Director's Report [Video 01:23:25]**

**Executive Director Bennette Misalucha provided updates on:**

### **1. Unified Plan Implementation:**

- Received a grant from the National Governors Association for technical assistance on developing the "North Star"
- Four catalyst teams have been formed, aligned with the pillars in the Unified Plan
- Timeline includes development of the North Star, a planned Synergy Summit in July, and a report to the Governor by December

### **2. Structural Transition:**

- The transition between Workforce Development Division and Workforce Development Council aims to be completed by June 30, 2025
- Building operational capacity to handle the transition

## **V. Announcements and Constituent Comments [Video 01:27:46]**

Bennette Misalucha mentioned that Eric Pascual would be launching a summer internship program for Title One schools, a 12-week paid program. Detailed information would be circulated after receiving the flyer.

#### **VI. Next Meeting [Video 01:27:57]**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom and at the Department of Labor offices, 830 Punchbowl Street, Room 317.

#### **VII. Adjournment [Video 01:28:15]**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

DRAFT