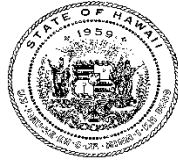


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

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 DIVISION
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 329
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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HAWAII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, August 20, 2025
9:30a.m. – 12:00 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/85308113989?pwd=6S1XLMrWU78NYTTafyQjPITMw1O2rG.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: 853 0811 3989
Passcode: 628108

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 830 Punchbowl Street, Room #310, Honolulu, HI 96813.

Meeting materials are available for review at: <https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/workforce-development-council-meetings/> at least three (3) business days prior to the Board meeting as prescribed under Hawaii's Open meetings law.

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 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Any written testimony submitted after such time 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 locations may also provide oral testimony during the remote meeting. Public testimony on agenda items will be accepted prior to the discussion of each item, at the time designated by the Chair.

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) 586-8877) 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.....*Workforce Development Council Chair Ken Loui*

II. Approval of Minutes

a. June 24, 2025

Requires Board Action

III. Presentation: Federal Funding Matters*Tim Carlton,
National Governors Association, Director of Legislative Affairs.*

A. Program Year 2025 and Program Year 2026 Budget Appropriations for
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

*There is considerable anxiety surrounding the federal budget
appropriations for WIOA, as states await clarity on the release of funds
for Program Year 2025 and the funding levels for Program Year 2026.
The National Governors Association has been closely monitoring the
situation and will share the latest updates on the approved Budget Bill,
along with insights into what it could mean for the states, particularly
Hawai'i.*

B. Possible Changes to WIOA Infrastructure

*Although there is no official proposal to abolish WIOA entirely, there is
significant structural overhaul that is being proposed as part of the
Fiscal year 2026 Presidential budget. The discussion will center on the
details of the proposed block grant called "Make America Skilled
Again" (MASA).*

C. Possible Re-Authorization of WIOA

*Congress has not enacted the WIOA re-authorization, and National
Governors Association will share the latest efforts and the chances for
passage.*

IV. Presentation: Awareness Outreach Campaign for the American Job
Centers *Caroline Witherspoon, President, and
Jocelyn Collado, Vice President, Becker Communications*

Becker Communications will present on the public awareness campaign which was launched in June and is anticipated to continue until September. Leveraging video applications, social media platforms, and traditional Public Relations channels, the campaign seeks to boost public recognition of American Job Center services across Hawai'i. The presentation will also include findings from a preliminary survey assessing current awareness levels in Hawaii, followed by an overview of planned messaging and platform rollout.

V. Governor's Report *Dan Kouchi, Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor*

An overview on the recent accomplishments and initiatives of the Office of the Governor.

- A. Update on Governor's leadership roles in the National Governors Association and the Western Governors Association
- B. Green Fees Signed into Law
- C. Insurance Stabilization
- D. Fireworks

VI. Labor Director's Update..... *David Rodriguez, Designee for Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Director Jade Butay*

An update on the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) key priorities, and ongoing initiatives that support Hawaii's workforce and economic resilience.

- A. Budget Process
- B. Legislative Process

VII. Fiscal Reports *Bennette Misalucha, Workforce Development Council Executive Director and Hong van Radke, from the Administrative Services Office.*

- A. Summary of Current Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program year 2023 Grant funds for the State of Hawaii as of June 30, 2025..... *Hong Van Radke*

B. Preliminary Forecast of WIOA Program Year 2023 Unexpended funds..... *Bennette Misalucha*

C. General Funds Fiscal Status

The presentation will focus on the Spending Plan proposal for the Fiscal year 2026 Workforce Development Council's General Appropriations (GA) funds and the Fiscal Year 2027 proposed budget.

This presentation was first vetted by the Executive Committee, which is in line with the Workforce Development Council's By-laws which stipulates that "The Executive Committee reviews and makes recommendations on all personnel matters, Council governance and compliance matters, standing committee matters, and other matters as directed by the Council". The Executive Committee unanimously approved both proposals at its July 30, 2025 meeting.

Requires Board Action

VIII. Status Report of Program Year 2022 WIOA Unexpended Funds.

The Workforce Development Council has been tasked with the disposition of \$1.5 million in Program year 2022 Unexpended Funds. This report will discuss the status of the six projects that are being funded by these funds.

- a. Increasing Work-Based Learning Opportunities for Students (Grades 7-12) through Work-Based Learning Intermediary Support (Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education)
- b. Building Community College Workforce Capacity (University of Hawaii Community College)
- c. Research to Improve Hawai'i's WIOA Workforce Systems (Axios Consulting)
- d. Professional Public Relations Services to Increase Awareness of the American Job Centers (AJCs) in Hawai'i (Becker Communications)
- e. Expanding Sector Partnerships into new High Growth Industries (University of Hawaii/Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii)
- f. Fiscal Management *and Budget Processes Training* (TheGAteam)

IX. Success Stories

We have invited individuals who have successfully navigated their career

journeys after engaging with the services and support of the American Job Center, to share their stories. These stories highlight the real-life impact of workforce development efforts and the power of personalized guidance, training, and wraparound support.

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

A. Executive Director's Annual Report

The Program Year for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) concluded on June 30, 2025. As is customary, the Executive Director has prepared a summary of the prior year's key highlights and milestones. The report was reviewed by the Executive Committee at its July 30, 2025 meeting.

1. Highlights

- *Implementation of the State Unified Plan*
- *Board Governance*
- *Delineation of Role and Functions*
- *Fiscal Management*
- *Local Board Coordination*
- *Opportunities to be a Convenor, Analyst and Voice*
- *Community Collaborations*

2. Challenges

- *Uncertainty in federal funding*
- *Limited resources*
- *Prioritizing Initiatives*

3. Opportunities

- *Statewide alignment and Synergies*
- *Generational Commitment or North Star*

B. Update on the Implementation of the State Workforce Development Unified Plan

The State Workforce Unified Plan was submitted on March 4, 2024 as prescribed by United States Department of Labor and was approved in June 2024. As part of its federal mandate, the

Workforce Development Council is charged with the implementation of the Plan. A Synergy Summit II was held on July 9, 2025 attended by about 100 community stakeholders.

C. Update on the delineation of duties of the Workforce Development Council as an attached agency to Department of Labor and Industrial Relation effective July 1, 2024.

D. Focus for Third Quarter 2025

- *Operational Transition*
- *Continuing Implementation of the Unified Plan*
- *Building Strategic Partnerships with Community Organizations*
- *Kauai Operations*

E. Upcoming Activities/Events in 2025

- *Workforce Development Heroes*
- *September is Workforce Development Month*
- *September 24 is the Future of Work conference*

XI. Discussion of Written Reports from Core Partners Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). *

** To ensure efficient use of time, oral reports will not be presented during the board meeting. Instead, written reports will be accepted into the record, with full details available in the Board Packet.*

A. WIOA Title I and Title III - Workforce Development Division..... *Maricar Pilotin-Freitas, Administrator, Workforce Development Division*

- *Wagner-Peyser Performance Reports for PY 2025*
- *Success Stories/ Testimonials of Hele Imua Internship*
- *Outreach Services*
- *Family and Family Readiness Expo*

B. WIOA Title II – Adult Education Family Literacy Act (AEFLA).....
Wanelle Kaneshiro, Hawaii Department of Education, Workforce Division

1. The United States Department of Education released the federal funds for the Adult Education Family Literacy Act for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. AEFLA was in jeopardy of not being funded. Future funding is still questionable.

2. Regular meetings have been conducted with the Federal Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE). Hawaii Department of Education remains under corrective action until agreement with Kauai one-stop shop is submitted.

C. WIOA Title IV – Vocational Rehabilitation *Lea Dias, Administrator, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Human Services*

- 1. Performance Measures matrix and graphs*
- 2. Key Metrics and Outcomes*
- 3. Employment Outcomes*
- 4. Staff Vacancies*
- 5. Staff development initiatives*
- 6. Budget Issues*

XII. Discussion of Written Reports from the Local Workforce Development Board.*

** To ensure efficient use of time, oral reports will not be presented during the board meeting. Instead, written reports will be accepted into the record, with full details available in the Board Packet.*

A. Kauai..... *Adele Manera, Kauai Island Manager, Workforce Development Division*

- 1. Performance Measures: A report on the measurements for participants.*
- 2. Priorities: Staff recruitment; building alliances with businesses*
- 3. Challenges: low participation numbers*

B. Oahu..... *Harrison Kuranishi, Executive Director, Oahu Workforce Development Board*

The last Oahu Workforce Development Full Board meeting was held on July 24, 2025.

- 1. *New Oahu Workforce Development Board Staff Update*
- 2. *Updates on the status of the partner Memorandum of Understanding/Infrastructure Funding Agreements*
- 3. *Alignment with Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act*
- 4. *New Oahu Workforce Development Board Members*
- 5. *Program Year 24 Data Metrics*

C. Maui..... *Chentelle Rowland, Executive Director, Maui Workforce Development Board.*

- 1. *Maui County Workforce Development Board (MCWDB) meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 09/04/25 at 9:30am.*
- 2. *Sector Strategies & Employer Engagement Sub-Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 08/07/25 at 9:00am.*
- 3. *Program/Youth Sub-Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, 08/05/25 at 9:00am.*
- 4. *Finance Sub-Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 9:00am.*
- 5. *Business and Community Outreach Activities*
- 6. *Performance Measures Results*
- 7. *Forthcoming Events : 2025 Ka Pewa Youth Leadership Summit*

D. Hawaii Island..... *Clinton Mercado, Executive Director, Hawaii County Workforce Development Board*

- 1.Board / Oversight Meetings
 - *The Hawaii County Workforce Development Board (HCWDB) convened its Oversight Committee meeting on June 12, 2025. The Committee reviewed a new policy and procedure that outlines what steps will be taken if there were to be a*

cessation of funding for WIOA programs for adults, youth and dislocated workers.

- *Job Seeker Services*
The Title I service provider, Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, continues to provide support for in-demand job training in the healthcare and transportation industries. The HCWDB continues to work with various organizations and entities in diversifying training opportunities through the Workforce Development Councils' Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL).
- *Employer Services*
Board staff have continued to actively reach out to local employers to better understand their needs so that training programs can be tailored to meet those specific requirements.

2. Workforce Development Partnerships

- *Community & Economic Development Collaboration*
- *The board staff continues to strengthen its partnerships with local economic development organizations, including Neighborhood Place of Puna, and Youth Connect Point, to ensure alignment of workforce development strategies with economic growth initiatives that align with county and state goals.*
- *Support for Underserved Populations*
- *Programs targeting veterans, individuals with disabilities, and those involved in the justice system continue to be expanded to improve access to training, career counseling, and supportive services.*
- *HCWDB Staff, Servicer Providers, and Partners attended fiscal training in June 2025.*

3. Challenges & Areas for Improvement

Transportation Certification and Licensing Barriers: Staff, Servicer Providers, and Partners continue to send candidates to the County of Hawaii to apply for the open examiner positions. Licensing for Commercial Drivers continues to be held back due to the County of Hawaii having no examiners.

4. Upcoming Plans for 2025

Expansion of Partnerships

HCWDB Staff continue to work with partners and community organizations to expand its network of available resources.

Collaboration efforts are being utilized to reduce the amount of return funds at the end of the program's fiscal year.

XIII. Discussion of Written Reports from Standing Committees

* To ensure efficient use of time, oral reports will not be presented during the board meeting. Instead, written reports will be accepted into the record, with full details available in the Board Packet.

A. Sector Strategies and Career Pathways Committee.....Chair Cary Miyashiro/Vice Chair Lorna Woo

Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, July 1, 2025

Presentations:

Speaker: Shirlene Cardenas, President of the Hawaii Air National Guard State Advisory Council and a 22-year veteran with the Hawaii Air National Guard. Her distinguished military service included technology projects at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. She worked across both public and private sectors and is now Chief Executive Officer of MC3 Technologies, a firm specializing in Information Technology (IT) modernization and cybersecurity, supporting the Department of Defense.

- How National Guards can help solve the labor shortage.*
- Potential resource Workforce partnership*

Speaker: Michael Cardenas, CTO, MC3Technologies
Michael Cardenas is Chief Technology Officer of MC3 Technologies, leads technology strategy and oversees secure system design. He has worked on cybersecurity and IT modernization for over 20 years.

- Identified current cyber and IT workforce challenges in Hawaii.*
- Why is it important?*
- Presentation on impact on business and national security.*

Speaker: Tui Scanlan, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE)
Tui Scanlan is the President of IATSE Local 665, the union

representing Hawaii’s behind the scenes professionals in film, television, stage, and trade show production. A longtime member and current International Trustee, he brings deep experience in the State’s media workforce.

- What is IATSE Local 665?*
- Media programs in high schools and post-secondary*
- Growing & expanding the media sector in Hawaii.*
- How can we support this effort?*

Speaker: Dr Janet Davidson, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Chaminade University who spoke about the Symposium/Pathways to Meaningful Work Symposium (Prison to College) @ Chaminade University, which was held on Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Speaker: Rosanne Propato, Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation
A look at successful programs for reentry to the community for justice involved youth and adults.

Other Events:

- Communication Access Conference @ Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii- Thursday, June 26, 2026/ “Pono” Tokioka, Department of Health/ Disability Communication & Access Board/ Supporting the Deaf and hard of hearing community.*
- Kawaiiloa Project & Family Wellness Learning Center, site visit on Friday, July 11, 2025 with Tai-An Miao, Asst. Professor, Department of Psychology, UH-Manoa. The Center uses a transformative model using indigenous values to end youth incarceration.*

Next Sector Strategies and Career Pathways Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 1:00pm to 2:30pm.

B. Special Projects Committee.....Chair Keith DeMello/Vice Chair Dion Dizon

The Special Projects Committee (SPC) met on June 30, 2025. The agenda included:

- 1. Presentation: Public Awareness Campaign Overview by Becker Communications*

- a. *Pre-campaign survey results included that 81% of Hawai'i residents have never heard of American Job Centers (AJCs)*
- b. *Campaign Theme: "If I Can, You Can" featuring local personalities Augie T., Lanai Tabura, and Pashyn Santos*
- c. *Multi-channel approach including TV, radio, social media, digital advertising, and community outreach*
- d. *Campaign running through October 2025, with translation for some of the print and radio materials*
- e. *Committee feedback was positive, with members appreciating the comprehensive reach and appropriate talent selection*

2. Committee Discussion: 2026 Legislative Topics

- a. *Chair DeMello recapped the 2025 legislative session process and protocols*
- b. *Members DeMello and Scanlan submitted testimony during session on measures aligned with Workforce Development Council (WDC) priorities*
- c. *2025 Legislative Session outcomes:*
 - *Senate Bill 742 (Data Sharing) — Signed by governor, creates data sharing and government development working group; includes chair of WDC or his designee*
 - *Governor's messages (WDC member confirmations) — All confirmed*
 - *Note: Workforce Excellence Award Program resolution — Passed concurrently, sponsored by Sen. Stanley Chang*
- d. *Committee identified need for pre-session preparation timeline (now through December 2025), including discussion of potential housekeeping measures for WDC bylaws alignment with Hawai'i Revised Statutes*
- e. *Areas for improvement include proactive bill development, comprehensive position papers in advance of session, and coalition building*

Note: Potential special legislative session in fourth quarter 2025

3. Committee Actions

- a. *Recommended tracking intake data at AJCs to measure campaign effectiveness by asking clients how they heard about services*
- b. *Agreed to formalize legislative preparation timeline for 2026 session*
- c. *Supported continued collaboration with county partners for social media amplification*

4. Forthcoming Events

- a. *Workforce Synergy Summit on July 9 at Honolulu Community College*
- b. *Future of Work Conference on Sept. 24, 2025*
- c. *Launch of Workforce Development Heroes nomination process*

5. Announcements

- *Legislative coordination meeting with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) will be requested post-July*
- *NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: Sept. 29, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. (Zoom and in-person at DLIR Room 317)*

C. Youth Services CommitteeChair Tui Scanlan/Vice Chair Carla Kurokawa

Presentations:

1. *Pathways to Meaningful Work Symposium Highlights*
Presenter: Rylie Hager, Program Manager, Prison Education, Chaminade University; Hosted by Chaminade University, the Pathways to Meaningful Work Symposium highlighted collaborative efforts to strengthen education and employment pathways for formerly incarcerated individuals in Hawai'i. This event brought together educators, employers, policy leaders, and community organizations to explore how education can serve as a bridge to career readiness and successful reentry.

2. *Creative Careers and Youth Empowerment Through Film*
Presenter: Kanani Foster, Director, Cherry Street Films. Cherry Street Films champions creative storytelling while nurturing the next generation of filmmakers through innovative youth development programs. Through hands-on film camps and mentorship opportunities across Hawaii, the organization provides young people with technical skills, creative expression outlets, and professional development in the growing creative economy. Foster's work demonstrates how the film and media industry can serve as a powerful platform for youth engagement, cultural preservation, and career pathway development in Hawaii's evolving creative landscape.
3. *Executive Director's Report: Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director, Workforce Development Council provided an a) update on the 2024-2028 Workforce Development State Unified Plan Implementation; b) Agenda for the upcoming Workforce Synergy Summit II 3; c) Update on the Workforce Development Council roles and responsibilities; d) Status on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act unexpended funds for Program Year 2022.*

XIV. Evaluation of the Executive DirectorWDC Chair Ken Loui

A discussion regarding the survey results for the Executive Director's Performance Review.

In the past, personnel discussions such as this were conducted in executive session. However, upon seeking guidance from the Office of Information Practices (OIP), we were advised that this evaluation should be conducted in an open session in accordance with current transparency requirements.

The Executive Committee discussed this agenda item at its July 30, 2025 meeting, which is in line with the Workforce Development Council By-laws which stipulates that "The Executive Committee reviews and makes recommendations on all personnel matters, Council governance and compliance matters, standing committee matters, and other matters as directed by the Council".

The Full board will vote on the Executive Committee's recommendation.

Requires Board Action

XV. Announcements and Public Testimony (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.

XVI. 2025-2026 BOARD MEETING DATES (subject to change)

2025 Fourth Quarter Wednesday, November 19, 2025 9:30 am to 11:30 am

2026 First Quarter Wednesday, February 18, 2026 9:30 am to 11:30 am

2026 Second Quarter Wednesday, May 20, 2026 9:30 am to 11:30 am

XVII. NEXT MEETING

*The next quarterly board meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, November 19, 2025** at 9:30 a.m. at 830 Punchbowl Street, Room 310, Honolulu, Hawaii 96701.*

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT