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KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA**

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**HAWAII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
SECTOR STRATEGIES & CAREER PATHWAYS MEETING**

AGENDA

Date: November 6, 2025

Time: 1:00 p.m.

In-Person Meeting Location: Princess Ruth Ke'elikolani Building
830 Punchbowl Street, Room 317
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Virtual Participation: Virtual Videoconference Meeting – Zoom Meeting (Link below)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84547872676?pwd=BwdenafXJU4tyzV98ky9GEaAWN6tw.1>

Meeting ID: 845 4787 2676

Passcode: 805667

Dial-in: 1 (253) 215-8782

Agenda: The agenda was posted to the State electronic calendars as required by §92-7(b), Hawai'i Revised Statutes ("HRS")

Board Meeting Materials: Meeting materials are available for review at
<https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/meeting-docs/>

Individuals may submit written testimony by hard copy mail or hand delivery to: Attn: Workforce Development Council, 830 Punchbowl Street, Suite 317, Honolulu, HI 96813 or by email at DLIR.Workforce.Council@hawaii.gov. We request submission of testimony at least 24 hours prior to the meeting to ensure that it can be distributed to the Board members. 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.

Internet Access:

To view the meeting and provide live oral testimony, please use the link at the top of the agenda. You will be asked to enter your name. The Board requests that you enter your full name, but you may use a pseudonym or other identifier if you wish to remain anonymous. You will also be asked for an email address. You may fill in this field with any entry in an email format, e.g., *****@***mail.com.

Your microphone will be automatically muted, and video will be turned off. When the Chairperson asks for public testimony, you may click the Raise Hand button found on your Zoom screen to indicate that you wish to testify about an agenda item. You will individually be enabled to unmute your microphone, turn on your video if you choose to, and testify. When recognized by the Chairperson, please unmute your microphone and turn on your video if you choose to before speaking and mute your microphone and turn off your video after you finish speaking

Phone Access:

If you do not have internet access, you may get audio-only access by calling the Zoom Phone Number listed at the top on the agenda. Upon dialing the number, you will be prompted to enter the Meeting ID which is also listed at the top of the agenda. After entering the Meeting ID, you will be asked to wait to be admitted into the meeting. When the Chairperson asks for public testimony, you may indicate you want to testify by entering “*” and then “9” on your phone’s keypad. After entering “*” and then “9”, a voice prompt will let you know that the host of the meeting has been notified. When recognized by the Chairperson, you may unmute yourself by pressing “*” and then “6” on your phone. A voice prompt will let you know that you are unmuted. Once you are finished speaking, please enter “*” and then “6” again to mute yourself.

For both internet and phone access, when testifying, you will be asked to identify yourself and the organization, if any, that you represent. Each testifier will be limited to five minutes of testimony per agenda item. Pursuant to section 92-3.7(e), HRS, the Board may remove or block any person who willfully disrupts or compromises the conduct of the meeting.

If connection to the meeting is lost for more than 30 minutes, the meeting will be continued on a specified date and time. This information will be provided on the Council’s website [at https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/meeting-docs/](https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/meeting-docs/).

Instructions to attend State of Hawaii virtual board meetings may be found online at <https://labor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/State-of-Hawaii-Virtual-Board-Attendee-Instructions.pdf>.

Vision Statement

The Workforce Development Council’s vision is that all employers have competitively skilled employees and all residents seeking work or advancement have sustainable employment and self-sufficiency.

Mission Statement

It is the intent of the Workforce Development Council to support and guide the implementation of the Unified State Plan through active collaboration and regional sensitivity for the purpose of aligning, coordinating, and integrating workforce services to meet the needs of employers and residents in order to foster a robust economy.

I. Call to Order

II. Presentations

A. Hawai’i Pacific Health school programs

Shelli Ihori, Director of Workforce Development at Hawai’i Pacific Health, will discuss the organization’s engagement with Hawai’i schools. In addition to highlighting various projects, she will share insights on the Waipahu High School Health Clinic. Shelli is a distinguished Human Resources professional with nearly two decades of experience in the health care sector. Her expertise encompasses benefits administration, talent acquisition, organizational effectiveness, regulatory compliance, and workforce development.

B. ‘Ōlelo Community Media Projects

Wes Akamine is a seasoned professional with over two decades of experience at ‘Ōlelo Community Media, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing public access television

services in Hawai'i. Since joining 'Ōlelo, he has played a key role in expanding community access to media production resources and developing training programs that empower individuals to share their stories, with a particular focus on youth engagement. Wes will share about 'Ōlelo's K–12 programs and school partnerships, as well as the organization's vision and desired outcomes for the future.

C. Hawai'i Pacific University Re-entry Program

Jennifer M. Merkle, Assistant Professor at Hawai'i Pacific University, brings extensive experience in law, criminal justice, and corrections. A former Honors Attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, she has held multiple federal and academic roles focused on criminal law, human rights, and workforce training. Her research spans offender preparation, re-entry, emotional intelligence in law enforcement, and evidence-based correctional practices. Professor Merkle will discuss HPU's initiatives supporting offender re-entry, including current efforts, key challenges, and collaboration with Corrections and Parole & Pardons. The discussion will also explore what is needed to build a sustainable re-entry model and identify desired outcomes for program success.

III. Executive Director's Report

A. Report on the accomplishments of Quarter 3 of 2025

- i. Webinar in collaboration with Strada Foundation on the topic: Hawaii's Scorecard on its Workforce Potential
- ii. Meetings on the subject matter of Eligible Training Provider List best practices with the states of Delaware and Illinois
- iii. The holding of the Workforce Synergy Summit on July 9, 2025
- iv. A Collaboration with First Hawaiian Bank and Society for Human Resource Management Hawai'i on training sessions for Hele Imua interns
- v. A review of proposed reorganization of council committees
- vi. A review of proposed amendments to the council by-laws
- vii. Holding of the Future of Work Conference on September 24, 2025
- viii. Recognition of the 2025 Workforce Heroes

B. The Executive Director will discuss the continuing challenges facing the council and emerging opportunities

- i. Resource limitations and concerns about federal funding
- ii. State-wide coordination – as each county workforce board advances its plans, ensuring state-wide consistency through communication and shared accountability
- iii. Technology – modernizing technology infrastructure will be key to sustaining current council momentum
- iv. Board engagement and development – plans to enhance the knowledge and capacity of our board members to make informed policy and program decisions

C. A review of the focus areas for Quarter 4 of 2025 and Quarter 1 of 2026

- i. Strategic Planning Retreat December 2025 - plans are underway to conduct a board planning retreat to establish priorities and strategic direction for the coming year
- ii. Building staff capacity – the council will continue to strengthen its team and align staffing for optimum efficiency
- iii. Modified State Plan due March 2026 – work beginning and we will initiate development of the Modified State Workforce Plan with stakeholder input and clear milestones
- iv. Establishing parameters for Workforce Development Council grants - efforts are underway to create a consistent, transparent framework for state workforce grants administered by the council
- v. Committee structure and relevance – assess the effectiveness and alignment of current council committees and ideas for improvements
- vi. Operational transition with Workforce Development Division– continue to clarify

- roles and responsibilities between the Workforce Development Division and the Workforce Development Council to ensure efficiency and compliance
- vii. Eligible Training Provider List Task Force – establish a task force to streamline and strengthen the process for approving and monitoring eligible training providers
 - viii. State board acting as the Kaua'i County local board - training will be conducted to ensure the state board can fully meet its responsibilities as the acting local workforce board for the county of Kaua'i
 - ix. Board member training – planning an in-person statewide training session in January 2025 focusing on roles, governance, and compliance under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
 - x. Implementation of Hawai'i's Unified State Plan & four Pillar Catalyst Teams - the council will continue driving progress on unified plan initiatives and supporting the cross-sector Catalyst Teams aligned with the four pillars of the unified plan
 - xi. Commitment to continuous improvement and best practices - the council will commit to identifying opportunities for growth and effectiveness

IV. Next Meeting

The next Sector Strategies & Career Pathways committee meeting will be held during the first quarter of 2026 with meeting information forthcoming.

Virtual Videoconferencing Meeting via Zoom and in-person at 830 Punchbowl Street, Room 317, Honolulu, HI 96813

V. Adjournment

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Requests for accommodations should be submitted via email to Bennette.E.Misalucha@hawaii.gov or by calling Bennette Misalucha at (808) 586- 3018 (voice) as soon as possible. Such requests should include a detailed description of the accommodation needed. In addition, please include a way for Bennette Misalucha to contact the requester if more information is needed to fulfill the request. Last minute requests will be accepted but may not be possible to accommodate. Upon request, this notice is available in alternate formats.