

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION UPDATE

July 1, 2025, to Sept. 30, 2025








# PERFORMANCE

July 1 - September 30, 2025

# Performance Outcome

**Wagner Peyser PY 2024 - 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr.  
July 1 – September 30, 2025**

| TOTAL PARTICIPANTS SERVED | TOTAL REPORTABLE INDIVIDUALS | EMPLOYMENT RATE (Q2) | PY24 PERFORMANCE GOAL (NEGOTIATED LEVEL) | EMPLOYMENT RATE (Q4) | PY24 PERFORMANCE GOAL (NEGOTIATED LEVEL) | MEDIAN EARNINGS | PY24 PERFORMANCE GOAL (NEGOTIATED LEVEL) |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|--|----------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| 1,549                     | 5,908                        | 60.2%                | 57%                                      | 61.9%                | 61%                                      | \$9,610.50      | \$8,300.00                               |
|                           |                              | EXCEEDED             |  | EXCEEDED             |  | EXCEEDED        |  |



# **WDD ON THE MOVE**

CONNECTING IN THE COMMUNITY



# RAPID RESPONSE

## Rapid Response Efforts 2025 | July - September



During the months of July-September of 2025, WDD contacted 6 employers that filed WARN notices with the state, 2 of whom are receiving transition services to both employers and affected employees

Our Rapid Response team has also been contacting businesses directly and through hiring events to share WDD programs and services designed to assist employers with layoff aversion.

Paradise Cove was one of the employers that recently took advantage of Rapid Response services.



# HIRING & RESOURCE EVENTS

## OAHU

- 7/12/25 Brigade Readiness Center Event
- 7/22/25 Military Spouse Hiring Event
- 8/12/25 Salvation Army College Fair
- 9/02/25 Biannual Transition Resource Event
- 9/03/25 Webling Elementary School Career Fair
- 9/08/25 UH Manoa Recruitment Event
- 9/10/25 HCC Recruitment Event / Career Pathways Committee
- 9/12/25 Chaminade University Recruitment Event
- 9/24/25 Keehi Lagoon Memorial Career Fair
- 9/30/25 Chaminade University Fall 2025
- 10/01/25 UH Manoa Career Fair / Brigham Young University (BYU) Fair
- 10/08/25 Hawaii Pacific University (HPU) Career Fair
- 10/09/25 UH West Oahu Career and Internship Fair / UH Manoa Shidler Fall 2025 Career Fair
- 10/15/25 HPU Information Session
- 10/22/25 UH Manoa Internship Fair/ UH Honolulu Community College Fall Job Fair / UH Windward Community College Career Fair

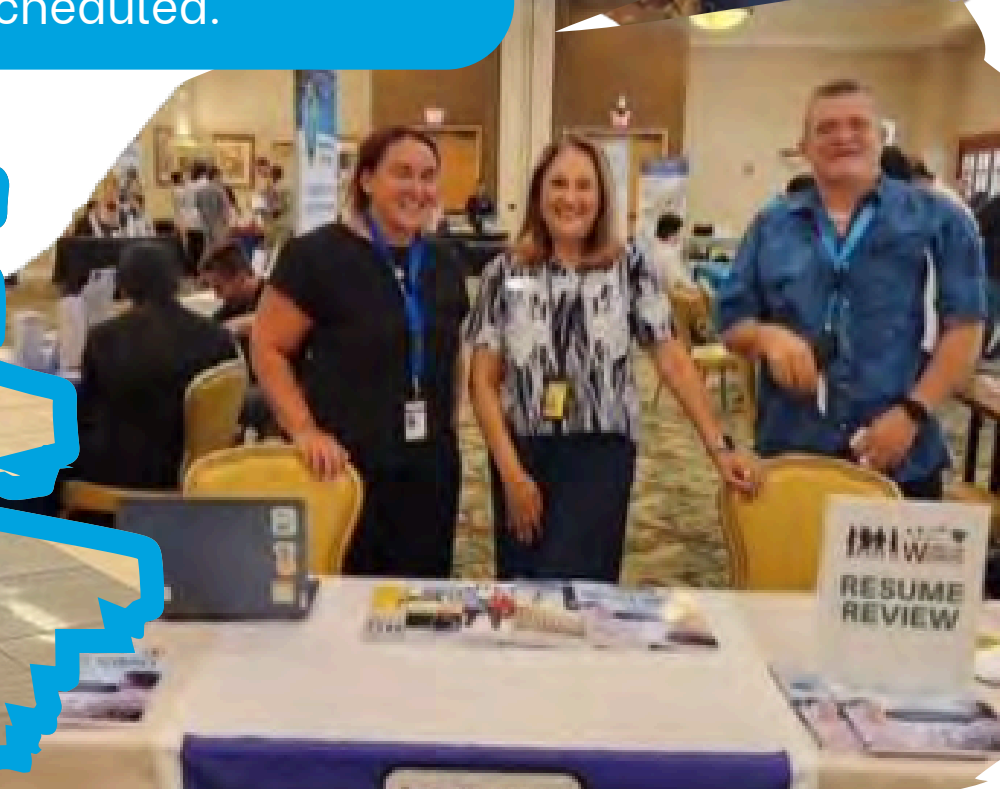
Over 400 guardsmen attended the Brigade Readiness Center event, with 160 expressing interest in the WDD services.

WDD held its first successful hiring event on a military base for military spouses—70 attended, 8 were hired within two weeks.

Nearly 300 job seekers, including 255 from the local job market, attended the event with nearly 40 vendors. Attendees shared positive feedback and appreciation. Thanks to our joint efforts, at least five job offers were made and several interviews are scheduled.

## HAWAII ISLAND

- 8/16/25 Career Fair, Prince Kuhio Plaza
- 9/09/25 Going Home Hawaii Consortium
- 9/16/25 Waimea Elementary Career Fair







# UPCOMING EVENTS

## OAHU

**11/12/25**

UH Manoa Recruitment Fair

**11/14/25**

DHRD Recruitment Event in Wahiawa

**11/17/25 & 11/18/25**

Hiring our Heros Career Summit in Schofield Barracks

**11/19/25**

Joint Base Pearl Harbor - Hickam Amplify

**11/21/25**

Adult Client Services Branch Resource Fair at Judiciary

**11/21/25**

DLIR Job and Resource Fair





# **SERVING THE YOUTH**



# READY TO WORK PROGRAM

The Ready to Work program helps students get ready for employment after high school by offering practical experience. Through collaboration with the Workforce Transition Center, schools can deliver hands-on job training tailored to students in special education programs.



## Participating Schools

OAHU

Castle High School  
Kapolei High School  
Leilehua High School  
Roosevelt High School

HAWAII ISLAND

Konawaena High School  
Waiakea High School

MAUI

Maui High School



**Scan the QR code to  
watch how Ready to  
Work impacts the youth!**





# SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

On August 1, 2025, the Workforce Development Division (WDD) celebrated the successful conclusion of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) with nearly 200 participants. This event marked the third consecutive year of this enriching initiative. The celebration was attended by Director Jade Butay and WDD Administrator Maricar Pilotin-Freitas. In a hybrid format, participants from Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, and Oahu gathered both virtually and in person to highlight the program's positive impact across the islands.



## 2025 Summer Youth - Hilo High School KVIKS

Students assisted with media projects for community events and helped enhance and beautify the school campus.





## Hilo High School – Lanakila Learning Center

Students explored six different career paths and learned about the process to pursue them.



## Kea'au High School

Student fieldtrip to Mauna Kea with the Division of Forestry and Wildlife assisting with the care of the Chukar bird.



## Ka'u High and Pahala Elementary School

Students built websites, created a digital course catalog, crafted products for the school store launch, designed school brochures, and set up new tech devices. Students on the farm prepared soil for planting, cleaned an industrial building for Career & Technical Education kits, and supported the Pahala Kaukau 4 Keiki hub by packing and distributing food weekly.



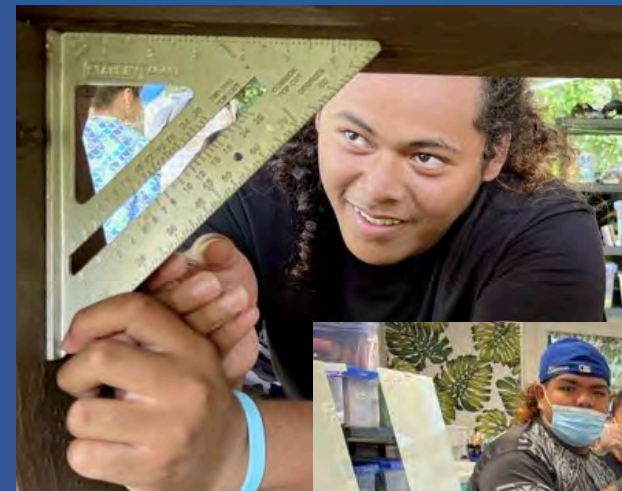


## Waimea Elementary School Career Fair & Department of Defense: Hawaii Job Challenge Academy Fair

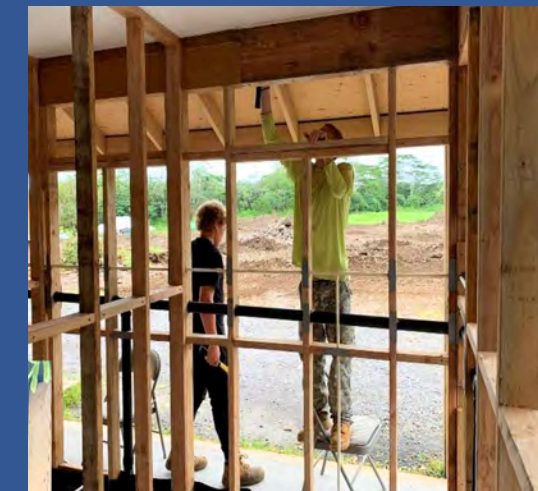
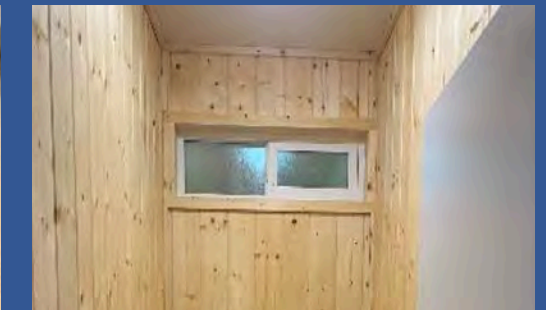
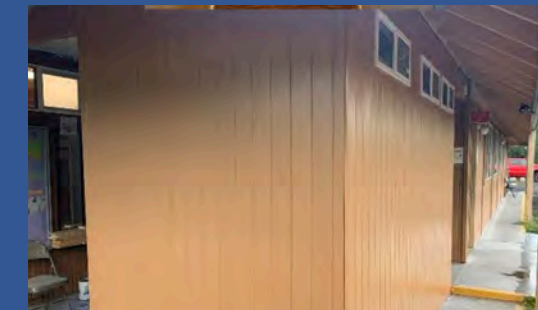


## Industrial & Engineering / Human Services Career Pathway

Supporting the community by making blankets  
and prepping meals for those in need.



## Hawai'i Academy of Arts & Science Public Charter School







# **SUCCESS STORIES & TESTIMONIALS**

WDD HELPING TO MAKE WORKERS'  
DREAMS COME TRUE



# Hele Imua Internship:

## Mia's Journey from Intern to Full-Time State Employee

After graduating from UH Mānoa with a B.B.A. in Management, Mia was eager to gain work experience that would help her launch a career with the State of Hawai'i. She learned about the Hele Imua Internship Program during a resource fair and decided to apply to gain firsthand experience working in a state office. In February 2025, Mia was placed with the Department of Health's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division. There, she received training in a variety of administrative support functions and played an active role in the division's daily operations.

“ My Hele Imua Internship lasted 6 months and was truly amazing! The training and work experience I received from my host site helped me qualify for a full-time position at the very office I interned at. I'm now working as an Administrative Specialist – Professional Trainee I as of August 15th, and I'm so grateful for everything this internship program has done for me. It truly helped launch my career, and I'll always look back on this experience as a meaningful steppingstone. ”

Mia's story is a testament to how the Hele Imua Internship Program empowers recent graduates to gain valuable experience and transition into meaningful careers in public service.





# Veteran Success Story:

## Corey's Transition from Navy to Civilian Career



After being honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy, where he served as a Gas Turbine Mechanic and Power Plant Operator, Corey B. was ready to transition into civilian employment. He was eager to apply the mechanical skills he developed in the military but needed support navigating the job search process. As a Qualified Veteran, Corey was eligible for individualized services through the Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) program. In March 2025, he met with Keith, a Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) specialist, to assess his experience, interests, and employment goals. Together, they identified a career path as a Service Technician, which aligned well with Corey's background.

To support his job search, Keith enrolled Corey in the Monthly Résumé Writing Workshop hosted by the Workforce Development Division at the American Job Center. Corey also received assistance through the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP), which provided essential pre-employment resources such as tools and work clothing. Keith continued to support Corey by generating job leads and connecting him directly with a hiring manager at Pacific Aquascape. The company scheduled an interview and offered him a full-time position as a Pump Service Technician, starting July 2nd, with a starting wage of \$20 per hour and a competitive benefits package.



*I'll be forever grateful for the support and assistance I received through the HVRP and JVSG programs. They helped make my transition to civilian life successful!*



Corey's journey is a powerful example of how coordinated veteran services can lead to meaningful employment and a fresh start.





# Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP):

## Carol's Success Story

After retiring from a long career in the housekeeping industry in 2020, Carol found herself needing to re-enter the workforce in 2022 when she became the legal guardian of her granddaughter. Due to the physical demands of her previous work, she sought a new path—one that would allow her to support her family while accommodating her current needs. Through the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), Carol received office skills training while placed at the Department of Accounting & General Services Surplus Property Office. There, she gained hands-on experience in inventory control and administrative tasks, supporting the office's daily operations. Carol's dedication and the skills she developed through SCSEP paid off.

On July 1, 2025, she began a new full-time role as a Hawaii Home Energy Assistance Program Intake Aid at the Honolulu Community Action Program's (HCAP) Central District Office.

“ I never imagined I'd start a second career at this stage in life. But SCSEP gave me the training, confidence, and opportunity I needed to support myself and my granddaughter. I'm so grateful. ”







# Internship Program Journey:

Yvette's Career Pivot with Purpose



*After many years in the retail industry, I was ready to pivot into a new career while continuing to pursue my higher education. I discovered the State of Hawaii's Internship Program through infomercials and the Workforce Development Division (WDD) website, which highlighted opportunities to gain hands-on experience and transition into roles within the State. As an intern with WDD at the American Job Center, I sharpened my office skills and gained valuable experience in:*

- *Resume writing and job search assistance*
- *Hiring event preparation*
- *Daily administrative support under the guidance of the Office Manager*

*I was also encouraged to explore job opportunities through the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) postings. As a result, I received conditional employment offers from both the Department of Human Services and the State Public Housing Authority. I'm excited to use the knowledge and experience I've gained to better serve my community as I begin this new chapter in public service.*







# Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP):

## Stuart's Success Story

In March 2022, Stuart received employment services at the American Job Center through Wagner Peyser Employment Counselor Lesieli Pota. After navigating labor market information, researching in demand jobs and matching employee/employer interests, Stuart joined the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and began his employment at the Hawaii County Office of Aging as a Clerical Aide. From the very beginning, Stuart brought enthusiasm, reliability, and a positive attitude to his role. His strong work ethic quickly made an impression on the staff and program manager, Meredith Catalini.

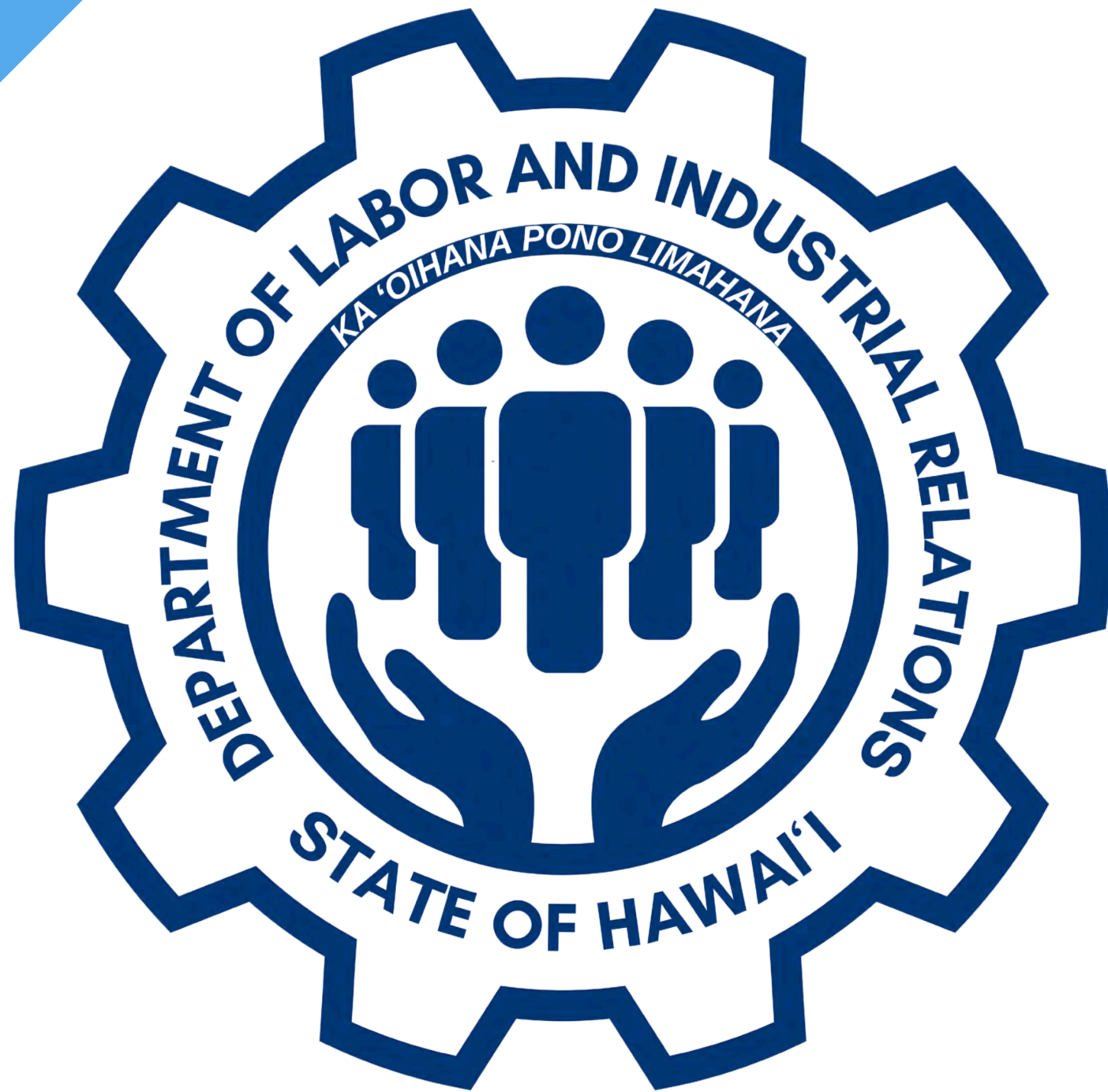
Throughout his time with the Office of Aging, Stuart demonstrated professionalism and dedication, forming a strong working relationship with his colleagues and supervisors. His efforts reflected not only his personal commitment to growth but also the mission of SCSEP—to provide meaningful employment and training opportunities that help older adults re-enter the workforce.

As the SCSEP contract was set to conclude on June 30, 2025, Meredith recognized Stuart's valuable contributions and was determined to keep him as part of the team. She took initiative by making budget reallocations and preparing a new contract, which required approval from the Mayor's office, to create a position that would allow Stuart to be hired directly under their payroll.

A few weeks later, Meredith proudly shared the exciting news—Stuart had officially secured employment with the Hawaii County Office of Aging. On his first official day as a permanent employee, I had the privilege of visiting the office to congratulate him in person and capture the moment with a photo.

Today, Stuart continues to thrive in his role. He loves what he does and remains grateful to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Workforce Development Division and the SCSEP program for bridging the opportunity that led to his new career and employment. Stuart's story is a shining example of how dedication, teamwork, and the right support can lead to lasting success.





# Thank you!

Maricar Pilotin-Freitas  
Workforce Development Division