

## WDC Quarterly Board Meeting

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report

#### Youth Services Committee

Prior to the call to order, WDC staff member and program specialist Kelly Quitevis shared procedures to participate in the hybrid meeting

1. COMMITTEE MEETING: FRIDAY, October 17th, 2025 @ 1:30 – 3:00 pm in-person (DLIR Rm 317) and via Zoom. Meeting called to order at 1:31pm

2. Scheduled Presentations:

#### ❖ HawaiiKidsCan – Executive Director David Sun-Miyashiro

➤ Director Sun-Miyashiro was joined by HawaiiKidsCan Advocacy Director Erica Nakanishi-Stanis

➤ Topics presented:

- Financial Literacy and Education Initiatives
  - Highlighted the need to educate students about available funds for higher education Pyramid of Student Financial needs
  - FAFSA Engagement
  - Also expressed the need to teach foundational financial literacy to students, potentially as a high school requirement
- High-Dosage Tutoring Model Discussion
  - Interest around and access to high quality, high dosage virtual tutoring for rural communities
  - Partners: Hawai'i Tutoring Plus, the Boys and Girls Club, State Library System
  - Even with a small number of families, great impact can be achieved
- State Data Sharing Legislative Framework
  - Youth Advocacy – Delegation to Ireland, Hawai'i Executive Collaborative/Rediscovering Hawai'i's Soul network, and more
  - SB742 – promotes concept of cross-agency data sharing
  - Gap in wage data e.g. a graduating Hawaii DOE student that doesn't go on to UH – virtually no data insights
  - Honolulu Tech Week Presentation on AI
- WiFi Solutions and Infrastructure challenges
  - Highlighted the need for digital equity – “WiFi on Wheels project” (created during COVID) helped to provide WiFi service to communities that had a

➤ For more information, visit <https://hawaiikidscan.org>

- ❖ Maui WIOA Youth Program Update – Maui Workforce Development Board Executive Director Chentelle Rowland. Kealoha Daubert was called to another event in Hawai'i County, and was unable to attend. Director Rowland was joined by Jenna Silifaiva with the Youth program of Ola I Ka Hana

- Presentation: Trends Among Youth Enrolled in WIOA Programs in Maui County and Hawaii Island
- Highlighted a current disinterest in post-secondary education. Reasons included:
  - High tuition
  - Desire to avoid debt
  - Perception that degrees aren't a necessity
  - Mental health issues and stress associated with higher education
  - Family obligations play a role in decision making process
- Greater interest in alternative paths to employment and OTJ Training
  - Opting for vocational training and certification programs
  - Cost saving, shorter duration
  - Accelerated entry into workforce
  - Lower debt burden
  - Focus on practical skills for the workplace
  - Hands on training
- Trades with highest interest
  - Carpentry
  - Plumbing
  - Beauty/estheticians
  - Health and medical fields
  - Construction and Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training
  - Tech-related fields

- ❖ Executive Director's Report – WDC Exec Director Bennette Misalucha
  - Currently implementing Workforce Development Unified plan/Pillar Catalyst teams
  - Modification of the Plan Due March 2026
    - Hopeful to hold a Board Retreat to prepare elements for March 2026 deadline
    - Two staff vacancies (one which has never been filled)
    - Transition plan – Ongoing work
  - Update on the operational transition of the Workforce Development Council
  - Committee Work/Making them Relevant
  - Convening on Important Workforce Issues of the Day
  - Highlights of recent events

- Future of Work Conference 09/24/2025
  - More than 330 attendees
  - Focus on workforce development in the counties
  - Keynote speakers: Dr Patrick Sullivan and Dr Seth Colby
  - Workforce Heroes awards

3. FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

❖ Announcements and Constituent Comments:

Events - Pride March and No Dictators rally – 10/18/2025

No constituent comments were submitted

4. Meeting adjourned at 2:54pm. Next Committee Meeting was scheduled for a time and date yet to be determined in the first quarter of 2026 via Zoom and Room 317 at the DLIR offices

Submitted By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tuia'ana Scanlan', is written over a horizontal line.

Tuia'ana Scanlan

Chair

Youth Services Committee