

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

BENNETTE MISALUCHA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 317
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
<https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/>
Phone: (808) 586-8815 / Fax: (808) 586-8822
Email: dlir.workforce.council@hawaii.gov

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

WRITTEN SUMMARY

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/>

Attendees: Cary Miyashiro, President, Quad D Solutions
Lorna Woo, Director of Government Affairs, Intl Union of Painters & Allied Trades, D.C. 50
Wanelle Kaneshiro, Director, Workforce Development Branch, Department of Education
Jennifer Merkle, Asst. Proferssor, Hawai'i Pacific Univeristy
Wes Akamine, Director of Operations & Project Management, Olelo Community Media
Kanani Supe-Roque, Community Engagement, University of Hawai'i at Hilo
Jennifer Sakurai, Workforce Coordinator, Waipahu Community School for Adults
Maurea Walsh, Workforce Resource Teacher, Kapolei-Campbell Complex
Stacie Higgins, Alignment Specialist, Hawai'i P-20
Julia Althoff, Program Specialist, Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Randy Higa, Workforce Transition Center
Bennette Misalucha, Advocay Director, Workforce Development Council
Sahara Sauni-Medina, Intern, Workforce Development Council
Kelly Quitevis, Program Specialist, Workforce Development Council
Margaret Miura, Program Specialist, Workforce Development Council

- I. [Video 00:01:25] Meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m.
- II. Presentations
 - A. [Video 00:06:14] Ms. Ihori was unable to attend the meeting and will present at a future date.

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. [Video 00:06:30] '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. [Video 00:21:30] 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. [Video 01:04:35] 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 Kaua'i County Local Board
 - ix. Board member training
 - x. Implementation of State Unified Plan
 - xi. Continuous improvement and best practices

IV. [Video 01:09:23] 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. [Video 01:10:04] Meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.