



Workforce Development Council Board Meeting  
Wednesday, November 19, 2025

REPORT  
Special Projects Committee

Highlights for the Quarter

- I. **COMMITTEE MEETING:** The Special Projects Committee (SPC) met on October 21, 2025. The agenda included:
  - a. **Legislative Plans for 2026 Legislative Session**
    - i. Members DeMello and Scanlan plan to continue as deputized representatives authorized to submit testimony on behalf of WDC during the 2026 legislative session
    - ii. Process will remain collaborative with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), with Deputy Director Kunstman copied on all final testimony for coordination
    - iii. Testimony, if any, will be strategic, out of recognition of finite time and resources, with focus on legislation aligned with the four pillars of the State Unified Plan
  - b. **Timeline for 2026 session:**
    - i. Session begins mid-January, runs through early May
    - ii. Bill introduction cutoff typically in late January
    - iii. Two SPC meetings anticipated during session, at which legislative updates will be made for transparency
    - iv. One full Workforce Development Council (WDC) meeting anticipated during session, which can be used for further updates and transparency
    - v. Committee discussion clarified that permitted interaction within Sunshine Law allows up to two authorized WDC members to work together to ensure timely testimony submission while maintaining transparency through periodic public meeting updates
- II. **Proposed Bylaws Amendments**
  - a. Executive Director Misalucha presented comprehensive bylaws amendments designed to align WDC with federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act requirements and Hawai'i Revised Statutes
  - b. Amendments developed through year-long collaboration between WDC staff, DLIR leadership and Deputy Attorney General Kelly Ha

- c. Deputy Attorney General Ha emphasized importance of broad guidelines for flexibility rather than overly restrictive rules that might interfere with the governor's appointment authority
- d. Committee member Rossella inquired about term limits for local boards; clarified that HRS Section 26-34 limits service to eight consecutive years, and local board bylaws must be consistent with state board bylaws

**III. COMMITTEE ACTIONS:**

- a. **Approved recommendation to forward proposed bylaws amendments to Executive Committee and full WDC board** (Motion: Dion Dizon; Second: Tui Scanlan; passed unanimously)
- b. Noted legislative engagement process for 2026 session with Members DeMello and Scanlan continuing as permitted interaction group
- c. Noted elimination of Military and Veterans Affairs Committee with appreciation for committee's accomplishments under co-chairs Cheryl Cross and Trang Nguyen

**IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- a. Future of Work Conference held September 24, 2025, drew more than 330 attendees
- b. State Unified Plan modification due March 2026; planning process beginning with core partners (DLIR, Workforce Development Division)
- c. Current staffing: Two vacancies being recruited

**V. FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES:**

- a. Board retreat being scheduled for December 2025
- b. Strategic plan modification aligned with State Unified Plan update (due March 2026, as noted above)

**VI. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:** January 21, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. (Zoom and in-person at DLIR, Room 317)

Submitted by:



Keith DeMello

Chair

Special Projects Committee