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**HAWAII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**AGENDA**

**Date:** Wednesday, January 28, 2026

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

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

**Virtual** Virtual Videoconference Meeting – Zoom Meeting (Link below)

**Participation:**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86500214146?pwd=4baxIqYMTUzlWb3uMa7bvXgpN6pBWf.1>

Meeting ID: 865 0021 4146

Passcode: 905867

One tap mobile

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

**Board Meeting:** 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](mailto: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](mailto:*****@***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 .....Committee Chair Dion Dizon

II. Approval of Minutes of October 21, 2025, Special Projects Committee Meeting

III. Legislative Plans for 2026 Legislative Session.....Workforce Development Council Chair Keith DeMello

*For the 2026 Legislative Session, the Special Projects Committee will review and refine its legislative engagement protocols based on lessons learned from the past three years. The goal is to ensure timely coordination, consistent communication, and clear roles in advancing workforce priorities aligned with the State Unified Plan. This includes strengthening collaboration with legislative partners and improving internal tracking of proposed measures and testimony processes.*

IV. Creation of the Military Spouses Permitted Interaction Group within the Committee

*Amongst the various activities of the Military and Veteran Affairs Committee, one of the more successful initiatives was the Military Spouses Project (the Project). Even though the Military and Veteran Affairs Committee is no longer in operation, the Project will continue to exist as a working group under the Special Projects Committee. It is proposed that former Military and Veteran Affairs Chair Trang Malone and former Military and Veteran Affairs Vice Chair Cheryl Cross will continue to provide leadership for this initiative.*

V. Strategic Discussions : Review of the current mission, vision, and role of the Special Projects Committee

VI. Executive Director's Report

- a. *Update on the 2024-2028 State Unified Plan Implementation*
- b. *Status of the 2026 Modification Plan*
- c. *Focus for the first quarter*

- 1. *First Annual Hawaii Internship Summit 2026*
- 2. *Internship Excellence Awards*
- 3. *Workforce Pell Working Group*
- 4. *Legislative Matters*
- 5. *Operational Transition*
- 6. *Implementation of Unified Plan/collaboration with Hui stakeholders*
- 7. *Building Strategic Alliances with key community organizations*
- 8. *Procurement of Services for Research and Grants*
- 9. *Staff Training and Transition.*

VII. Next Meeting

Tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. Virtual Videoconferencing Meeting via Zoom and in-person at 830 Punchbowl Street, Room 317, Honolulu, HI 96813

VIII. Adjournment

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Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Requests for accommodations should be submitted via email to [Bennette.E.Misalucha@hawaii.gov](mailto: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.