



WORKFORCEDEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL

Special Projects Committee Meeting Packet

Tuesday April 14, 2026

10:30 am to 12:00 pm

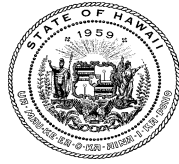


Meeting Agenda

April 14, 2026

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
SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE MEETING**

AGENDA

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2026
Time: 10:30 a.m.-12:00 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)
Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88294776587?pwd=88BRI0WDheEbZKjgnF2XPrQpr8SLWN.1>

Meeting ID: 882 9477 6587

Passcode: 934605

One tap mobile
+1-669-444-9171

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/>

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. 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.

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/>.

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 January 28, 2026, Special Projects Committee Meeting
- III. Legislative Updates for 2026 Legislative Session..... *Workforce Development Council Chair Keith DeMello*

BILLS OF INTEREST	
<u>HB1859 HD1</u>	<p>Title: RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Description: Requires the Workforce Development Council to recommend to the Governor, a comprehensive Statewide Workforce Strategy to inclusion in the State Unified Plan and be responsible for facilitating the alignment of workforce development efforts and programs conducted by state departments and agencies to achieve the State Unified Plan and the Comprehensive Statewide Workforce Strategy. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)</p>
<u>HB2315 HD1</u>	<p>Title: RELATING TO STATE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS.</p> <p>Description: Authorizes the Department of Health to establish a vacation payout pilot program in which eligible Department of Health employees may defer unused vacation leave credits in favor of a pay out to provide home purchase down payment assistance. Requires reports to the Legislature. Requires reports to the Legislature. Sunsets 6/30/2029. (SD1)</p>
<u>HB2383 HD1</u>	<p>Title: RELATING TO THE WORKFORCE PELL GRANT PROGRAM.</p> <p>Description: Establishes a statewide framework for the implementation of the federal Workforce Pell Grant Program to provide financial aid for certain short-term workforce education and training programs.</p>

	Establishes a Workforce Pell Grant Program Approval Committee within the Workforce Development Council. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)
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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGES

<i>PASSED ADVISE AND CONSENT HEARINGS</i>
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<u>GM512</u>	<p>Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, JASON BENN, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.</p> <p>Description: See Title</p>
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<u>GM629</u>	<p>Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, TRANG MALONE, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.</p> <p>Description: See Title</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>GM630</u></p>	<p>Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, CARY MIYASHIRO, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.</p> <p>Description: See Title</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>GM631</u></p>	<p>Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, KEITH DEMELLO, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.</p> <p>Description: See Title</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>GM759</u></p>	<p>Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTOPHER BURNETT, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.</p> <p>Description: See Title</p>
<i>Pending Hearing / Not Yet Heard</i>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>GM792</u></p>	<p>Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHERYL CROSS, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.</p> <p>Description: See Title</p>
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IV. Update from the Military Spouses Committee

- a. Introduction of the Military Spouses Permitted Interaction Group*
- b. Virtual Job Fair Pilot Program*

V. Executive Director's Report

- a. Status of the 2026 Modification Plan*
- b. Accomplishments*
 - i. First Annual Hawaii Internship Summit 2026*
 - ii. Internship Excellence Awards*
- c. Focus for the next quarter*
 - i. Workforce Pell Working Group*
 - ii. Legislative Matters*
 - iii. Operational Transition*
 - iv. Implementation of Unified Plan/collaboration with Hui stakeholders*
 - v. Building Strategic Alliances with key community organizations*
 - vi. Procurement of Services for Research and Grants*
 - vii. Staff Training and Transition*
 - viii. AI Training*
- d. Update on the 2024-2028 State Unified Plan Implementation*

VI. Next Meeting

Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. Virtual Videoconferencing Meeting via Zoom and in-person at 830 Punchbowl Street, Room 317, Honolulu, HI 96813

VII. Adjournment

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Requests for accommodations should be submitted via email to 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.

Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2026

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'
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**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S
SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, January 28, 2026

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance:

Dion Dizon, Committee Chair

Pane Meatoga III, Committee Vice Chair

Thomas Chock, Committee Vice Chair

Keith DeMello, WDC Chair (present ~2:10pm)

Cheryl Cross, Executive Search Consultant, Inkinen Executive Search

Lei Ana Green, Workforce Development Division

STAFF:

Bennette Misalucha - Executive Director, Workforce Development Council

Jeanne Ohta – Employment Specialist, Workforce Development Council

Margaret Miura – Program Specialist, Workforce Development Council

LOCATION:

Remote Meeting via Zoom & Physical Location: 830 Punchbowl Street, Room #317, Honolulu, HI 96813

I. Call to Order [00:00:00 – 00:03:54]

Chair Dion Dizon called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

II. Minutes for the October 21, 2025, meeting [00:03:55 – 00:05:18]

Motion to accept the Minutes was made by Council member Cross and seconded by Council member Chock. The motion passed without discussion and unopposed.

III. Creation of the Military Spouses Permitted Interaction Group [00:06:00 – 00:]

At the November 19, 2025, WDC Council Meeting, the Council voted to deputize Trang Malone and Cheryl Cross, former Chair and Vice Chair of the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee to

continue with the Military Spouses Workforce Project Working Group and to report to the Special Projects Committee. To enable the work to continue, the motion to establish a permitted interaction group for the purpose of continuing the initiatives under the Military Spouses Workforce Project and report back to the Special Projects Committee was made by Council member Pane Meatoga and seconded by Council member Cheryl Cross. Motion was carried and Resolution 2026.1.28.26 CREATING A PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP FOR THE MILITARY SPOUSES WORKFORCE INITIATIVE was adopted on January 28, 2026.

IV. Special Projects Discussion Roles and Responsibilities [00:09:00 – 00:43:29]

The mission of the Employer Engagement Committee is to strengthen partnerships with Hawaii's business community by aligning workforce programs with employer needs, improving access to talent, and supporting strategies that help employers hire, train, and retain a skilled workforce.

Executive Director (ED) Misalucha presented current outline of committee roles and responsibilities and coordinated the discussion on how the Special Projects Committee plan to advance board priorities.

Point of Order. Special Projects Chair Dizon pointed out, following Robert's Rules, procedurally, the meeting minutes do not require motion. Following a call for corrections, if there are none, the minutes are approved. Executive Director Misalucha will consult with the parliamentarian, Mr. Pruitt. WDC will then abide and adopt this rule for future meetings.

V. Legislative Plans [00:43:30 – 00:52:09]

- WDC Chair DeMello and Council member Scanlan, as authorized by the Workforce Development Council, met and will keep Labor Director Butay and Deputy Director Bill Kunstman informed of bills and testimony throughout the legislative session.
- Stay consistent with the scope of the WDC and as it pertains to the state unified plan and four pillars.
- Identify specific bills and ensure they are on the board agenda for discussion
- Provide testimony on and for the confirmation of WDC nominees and renewing of current board members for a second term
- Testified on Workforce Bill 742 which established the Workforce Data Sharing Working Group
- Thomas Chock, Designee for Council member James Tokioka, raised interest in the WDC following up on Senate Bill SB 3170. If appropriate, it will be placed on a future meeting agenda.

VI. Executive Director's Report [00:52:10 – 00:54:44]

Executive Director Bennette Misalucha provided a brief overview on

- Unified plan, implementation
- Status of the modified state plan
- Quarter activities and events
 - Consider attending the March 4 Internship Summit
 - Nominations are currently being accepted

VII. Announcements - none

VIII. Next Meeting [00:54:45 – 00:55:12]

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 7, 2026, at 1:30 p.m., online via Zoom and in person at 830 Punchbowl Street, Room 317.

IX. Adjournment [00:55:13]

Meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Legislative Updates

Keith DeMello

BILLS OF INTEREST

[HB1859 HD1](#)

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Description: Requires the Workforce Development Council to recommend to the Governor, a comprehensive Statewide Workforce Strategy to inclusion in the State Unified Plan and be responsible for facilitating the alignment of workforce development efforts and programs conducted by state departments and agencies to achieve the State Unified Plan and the Comprehensive Statewide Workforce Strategy. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

[HB2315 HD1](#)

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Military Spouses Committee Update

Cheryl Cross and Trang Malone

Executive Director's Report

Bennette Misalucha



WORKFORCEDEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL

Executive Director's Report

Special Projects Committee
April 14, 2026

Bennette E. Misalucha



Agenda

Highlights of the first Quarter

Status of the Modified State Plan

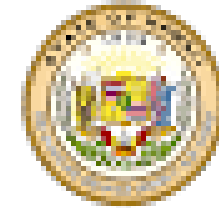
Focus for Second Quarter 2026/Events

Update on Unified Plan Implementation

- Four Pillar Catalyst Teams will evolve into the Generational Commitment values of Learn, Work, Thrive and Belong
 - Community-Driven Effort led by the Hawaii Funders Collaborative and the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii
 - Lessons Learned from Other States Webinar Series
 - Timeline for Implementation

Unified Plan (MIOA)

PHS 2024-2027





HIGHLIGHTS: FIRST QUARTER 2026

- Webinar Presentations on Other States's Best Practice: Maine, North Dakota, North Carolina
- First Annual Hawaii Internship Summit 2026
- Internship Excellence Awards
- Workforce Pell Working Group
- NGA Convening in Washington, DC.
- Legislative Matters
- Operational Transition on pertinent WIOA roles
- Implementation of Unified Plan/collaboration with Hui stakeholders
- Building Strategic Alliances with key community organizations
- Staff Transition: added Tyrone Apolinar



FOCUS: SECOND QUARTER 2026

- Workforce Pell Working Group: Implementation by July 1, 2026
- Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) re-engineering
- Certification of Local Boards by Special Projects Committee
- Procurement of Services for Employer Engagement, and Pertinent studies
- Re-structuring of Committees
- Operational Transition on pertinent WIOA roles
- Implementation of Unified Plan/collaboration with Hui stakeholders
- Building Strategic Alliances with key community organizations
- Implementing AI strategic initiatives

Modification of Unified Plan

- Background: Every two years, the State Unified Plan needs to be updated.
- Working with core partners
- Submitted: April 6, 2026

Hawaii State Unified Plan Implementation Timeline

January/February 2026

Webinar Presentations on Other States's Best Practice

Activities under the Community-driven "**Learn, Work, Thrive Hui**"

Announcement of Generational Commitment Goals

Community efforts to codify Generational Commitment

July 2026

Anticipated Approval of the Unified Plan Modification

Planned Synergy Summit III: A pulse check

November/December 2026

Produce Annual Report on State of Generational Commitment

FOUNDATIONAL WORK

MODIFICATION PLAN DUE

SYNERGY SUMMIT III

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH

ANNUAL REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

2025 Milestones

June- unconditional Approval of State Unified Plan

July - Synergy II Summit

August to November - Pillar Meetings

December: Creation of "**Learn, Work, Thrive Hui**"

March/April 2026

Modification Plan Incorporates Generational Commitment

Four Pillars Evolve into GC values: Learn, Work, Thrive, and Belong

September 2026

Future of Work Conference

Proposed Governor's Proclamation of Workforce Dev Month

2027 Milestones

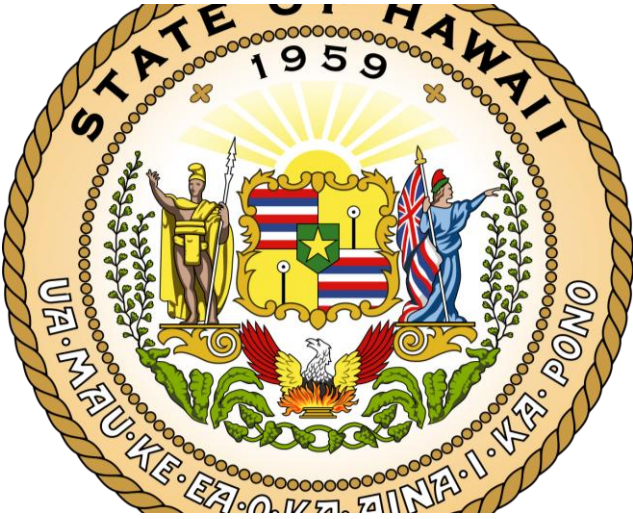
Process continues

2028 Milestones

March/April 2028: Four Year Unified Plan is due

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **April 30, 2026**: Symposium 1: [Where is AI and Where is it Going? 8:30 to 4:30 at Capitol Auditorium](#)
- **May 21, 2026** - WDC Quarter 2 Board Meeting
- **May 27, 2026**: Mandatory Board Training
- **June 25, 2026**: AI Symposium 2
- **July TBD** : Synergy Summit III
- **September: Workforce Development Month**
- **September 3, 2026**: AI Symposium 3
- **September 10, 2026**: WDC Quarter 3 Board Meeting
- **September 23, 2026**: Future of Work Conference/ Workforce Heroes Awards
- **October 29, 2026**: AI Symposium 4
- **November 12, 2026**: WDC Quarter 4 Board Meeting



**Workforce
Development Council**

MAHALO!

Next Meeting

**Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2026
1:30 PM to 3:00PM**

Adjournment