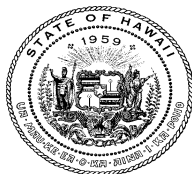


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

BENNETTE MISALUCHA
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HAWAII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 2, 2026

Time: 9:30 am to 10:30 am

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

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:

- Members Present:

Pane Meatoga III, Deputy Political Director, Operating Engineers Local 3, Present in the deliberations but was unable to cast a vote.

Keith DeMello, Workforce Development Council (WDC) Chair, Senior Vice President of Communication & External Affairs, Ulupono Initiative

Trang Malone, WDC Vice Chair, Manager, Workforce Initiatives, CVS Health

Rona Fukumoto, President & CEO, Lanakila Pacific

Shelli Ihuri, Director, Workforce Development, Hawaii Pacific Health

Derek Kanehira, Senior Vice President, Human Resources, Alexander & Baldwin

Sean Knox, President, Hawaii Employment Services, Inc.

Sean Nakamura, Corporate Controller and Treasurer, TradeWind Group

Amber Akana, Union Representative, Seafarers International Union of North America

Scott Collins, Field Services Officer, MSC/Advocacy, Hawai'i Government Employees Association
Dion Dizon, Director, UH West Oahu Center for Labor Education and Research
Carla Kurokawa, Employment and Training Manager, Alu Like, Inc.
Rossella Guardascione, Chair, Hawai'i County Workforce Development Board
Dan Kouchi, Policy Advisor – Office of the Governor, State of Hawai'i
Andrew Garrett, Representative, State House of Representatives
Benson Medina (*Designee-Mayor of Hawaii County*), Director, County of Hawai'i Department of Research and Development
Jade Rojas-Letisi (*Designee-Mayor of Maui County*), Director, County of Maui Office of Economic Development
Nalani Brun (*Designee-Mayor of Kauai County*), Director, County of Kauai Office of Economic Development
David Rodriguez (*Designee-Director of Department of Labor and Industrial Relations*), Equal Opportunity Officer, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Wanelle Kaneshiro (*Designee-Superintendent of Hawai'i Department of Education*), Director, Workforce Development Branch, Hawai'i Department of Education
Thomas Chock, (*Designee-Director of Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism*) Program Specialist, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism

- Guests & Staff:

Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director, WDC
Jeanne Ohta, Employment Specialist, WDC
Margaret Miura, Program Specialist, WDC
Tyrone Apolar, Program Specialist, WDC
Jung Yun Ha, Deputy Attorney General, Labor Division, State of Hawai'i
Maricar Pilotin-Freitas, Administrator, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Carey Price, Program Specialist, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Scott Wheeler, Research Statistician, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Leelynn Brady, Systems Advocacy Coordinator, Aloha Independent Living Hawai'i
Jason Benn, WDC appointee
Doug Chang, WDC appointee
Ashleigh Loa, WDC appointee
Keala Monaco, UH Community Colleges
Judy Oliveira, UH Community Colleges
Jaimee Tabangay, WDD
Lei Ana Green, WDD
Faustino Dagdag
Greenlee Ann M
Chris Wiecking
Linda Weiland
Christine Beaulé
Jayson
Carol K

- Excused:

Donovan Dela Cruz, WDC Assistant Vice Chair, Senator, Hawai'i State Senate

Gina Woo Anonuevo, Vice Chair and Chief Administrative Officer/Chief Human Resources Officer, First Hawaiian Bank

Manu Bermudes, Vice President of Human Resources, Hawai'i Gas

Cheryl Cross, Executive Search Consultant, Inkinen Executive Search

Cary Miyashiro, President, Quad D Solutions

Tui Scanlan, President, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 665

Christopher Lum Lee, President and CEO of TriSec, Inc. and CEO of Hawai'i Coffee Works

Kehaulani Kukahiko (*Kauai Mayor's Representative to WDC*), Manager of Education and Workforce Development for the Kauai Economic Development Board

Leslie Wilkins, Chair, President, Maui Economic Development Board

Andrew T. Kawano, Director, Department of Budget and Fiscal Services, City & County of Honolulu

Lea Dias, Administrator, Department of Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation Division

Lui Hokoana (*Designee-President of Hawai'i System*)

- I. The meeting was called to order by Keith DeMello, Workforce Development Council (WDC) Chair, at 9:41 am. Following roll call, Chair DeMello confirmed that 17 board members were present and 16 board members were needed for quorum. Chair DeMello recognized that Deputy Attorney General Kelly Ha was also present.

Thomas Chock signed into the meeting at 9:40 am and increased quorum to 18 board members.

Jade Roja-Letisi signed into the meeting at 9:41 am and increased quorum to 19 board members.

Pane Meatoga III signed on at 9:34 am but indicated he was at a Council hearing. There were now 20 board members present.

- II. Approval of the 2024-2028 Modified Workforce Development Unified State Plan (Plan)
 - At 9:42 am, Executive Director Bennette Misalucha, presented the highlights of the Plan.
 - At 9:52 am, Chair DeMello opened the meeting to questions.
 - Department of Labor and Industrial Relations designee David Rodriguez inquired about the plan to integrate Perkins V plan into the WIOA Plan. Executive Director Misalucha provided a historical context on the push from the national government to integrate the two plans for greater efficiency. She said that the efforts are underway to align and integrate the two plans and that the goal is to have that effort fully executed by 2028 which is when the next iteration of the workforce Plan is due. Director Misalucha pointed to the most recent effort by WDC to fund P20s intermediaries and career navigators. She asserted that details of these efforts can be found in the Plan.
 - At 9:57 am, Chair DeMello opened the meeting to the public to ask questions or to testify.

- Leelynn Brady, Systems Advocacy Coordinator, Aloha Independent Living Hawai'i proposed 2 amendments to the Plan:
 - 1) **“This includes individuals with diverse disabilities.”** To be included in Goal 4, Priority Tactic 1 in the rationale section on page 122, after the sentence: “Several population groups possess workforce potential but encounter structural barriers to participation.”
 - 2) **“This includes supporting remote and hybrid work for people with diverse disabilities.”** To be included in Goal 4, Priority 1, after the sentence: “WDC and workforce partners will support targeted outreach strategies for populations with barriers to employment.”
 Executive Director Bennette Misalucha assured Chair DeMello that the amendments would be incorporated into the Plan.

- At 10:02 am, Chair DeMello entertained a motion to approve the Plan. Dion Dizon first motioned followed by a second motion from Sean Knox. Chair DeMello requested WDC staff to initiate a roll vote.
- At 10:06 am, motion to approve the plan was carried forward with 19 Yea 0 Nay votes. Because of a scheduling conflict dealing with work matters, Council member Pane Meatoga III had to be excused and was unable to cast a vote during the meeting.

III. Certification of the Local Boards was deferred to the next board meeting which is on May 21, 2026.

IV. Next Quarterly Board Meeting

Tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2026, from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm.

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:09 am.