

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

KEITH A. REGAN  
ACTING LT. GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

KEITH DEMELLO  
CHAIR

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](mailto:dlir.workforce.council@hawaii.gov)

**HAWAII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING- 2026 SECOND QUARTER**

**AGENDA**

**Date:** Thursday, May 8, 2026  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 am  
**In-Person** Princess Ruth Ke'elikolani Building  
**Meeting Location:** 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/84545447227?pwd=V4dGswKg83fxlVhZHw1zSr52oSbaf.1>

**Meeting ID: 845 4544 7227**

**Passcode: 125661**

**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](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** .....Keith DeMello, Workforce Development Council (WDC) Chair
- II. **Approval of Minutes : January 22, 2026**
- III. **Legislative Update of 2026 Legislative Session** .....Keith DeMello

*A report on the bills that were actively supported by the Workforce Development Council during the 2026 Legislative Session. It will also include a discussion on lessons learned and some preliminary proposals for the next legislative cycle.*

**BILLS OF INTEREST**

<a href="#"><u>HB1859 HD1</u></a>	<p><b>Title:</b> RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Requires the Workforce Development Council to recommend to the Governor, a comprehensive Statewide Workforce Strategy to be included 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> <p><b>Title:</b> RELATING TO STATE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS.</p>
<a href="#"><u>HB2315 HD1</u></a>	<p><b>Description:</b> 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 payout to provide home purchase down payment assistance. Requires reports to the Legislature. Requires reports to the Legislature. Sunsets 6/30/2029. (SD1)</p> <p><b>Title:</b> RELATING TO THE WORKFORCE PELL GRANT PROGRAM.</p>
<a href="#"><u>HB2383 HD1</u></a>	<p><b>Description:</b> Establishes a statewide framework for the implementation of the federal Workforce Pell Grant Program to provide financial aid for certain short-term</p>

workforce education and training programs. Establishes a Workforce Pell Grant Program Approval Committee within the Workforce Development Council. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

[SCR 139](#)

**Title:** REQUESTING THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TO RECOMMEND TO THE GOVERNOR, FOR INCLUSION IN THE STATE UNIFIED PLAN, A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE WORKFORCE STRATEGY TO ENSURE THAT ALL PEOPLE OF THE STATE HAVE A PATHWAY TO A CAREER THAT ENABLES THEM TO LEARN, WORK, AND THRIVE IN THE STATE AND CONTRIBUTE TO A VIBRANT LOCAL ECONOMY GROUNDED IN COMMUNITY VALUES BY 2045.

**Description:** Hawai'i Workforce Development Council; State Unified Plan; Comprehensive Statewide Workforce Strategy

## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGES

### *PASSED ADVISE AND CONSENT HEARINGS*

- [GM503](#) Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, **DOUGLAS CHANG**, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.
- [GM504](#) Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, **GEORGE DENISE**, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.
- [GM512](#) 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.
- [GM626](#) Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, **SEAN NAKAMURA**, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.
- [GM627](#) Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, **GINA ANONUEVO**, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.
- [GM629](#) 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.

- [GM630](#) 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.
- [GM631](#) 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.
- [GM726](#) Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, **GINA ANONUEVO**, for a term to expire 06-30-2030
- [GM759](#) 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.
- [GM792](#) 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.
- [GM793](#) Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, **ASHLEIGH LOA**, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.
- [GM779](#) Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, **MARK PHONGSAVATH**, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

#### **IV. Certification of the Kaua'i American Job Center \***

*Certification of an American Job Center (AJC) normally falls within the purview of their local board. However, because Kaua'i does not have a board, the responsibility, by default, goes to the State Board. The Workforce Development Council conducted the certification process last year. It granted provisional certification to the Center but with some conditions. The provisional certification will lapse on May 31, 2026. This is an update on the certification process and the status of the submitted Corrective Action Plan.*

*The Executive Committee's recommendation\* will be forwarded to the full board for further action when it meets on May 21, 2026.*

**\* Requires Executive Committee Action**

#### **V. Restructuring of Employer Engagement Committee and Sector Strategies Committee**

As part of the Council's continued commitment to strengthen the State's eco-workforce system, a restructuring of the Employer Engagement and Sector Strategies functions is being advanced to better align with employer needs and labor market realities.

Recognizing that employer engagement has historically been the weakest link in the three-legged stool of job seekers, public sector, and employers, the Council will elevate this priority through several strategic actions over the next year. These tactics were stated in the State Strategic Plan 2026-2027.

These efforts will require a corresponding amendment to the Council’s bylaws to formally reflect the new committee structure to support the objectives.

The Sector Strategies Committee will be renamed the “Education and Career Pathways Committee” to better reflect its focused mission, while the “sector strategies” function, which is associated with employers, will transition as a subcommittee under Employer Engagement Committee.

**A. PROPOSED BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS ON ARTICLE VI– “COMMITTEES”**

Section 6.3: The following are standing committees of the Council:

- Executive Committee
- Employer Engagement Committee
- Performance Management and Finance Committee
- ~~["Sector Strategies and Career Pathways Committee"]~~ "Education and Career Pathways Committee"\*
- Youth Services Committee
- Special Projects Committee

**\*Requires Executive Committee action**

*The Executive Committee’s recommendation will be forwarded to the full board for further action when it meets on May 21, 2026.*

**VI. Fiscal Reports: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grants .....Ariel Nault, Administrative Services Office**

*An overview of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grant expenditures, budget status, and financial performance. The report will highlight current allocations, spending trends, and forecasts*

**VII. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I and III Annual Performance Report: Program Year 2024... .....Jeanne Ohta, Employment Service Specialist V, WDC**

*Programmatic performance data is important for all workforce system partners, stakeholders such as State and Local Workforce Development Boards (WDBs), and the public to better understand workforce system operations, enhance services, and pursue continuous improvement for job seekers and employers.*

*Hawaii data will be presented in the context of the National 2024 results.*

**VIII. Executive Director’s Report**

A. *Projects/ Activities*

*The Executive Director will report on the First Quarter Activities.*

- *First Hawaii Internship Summit*
- *Internship Excellence Awards*
- *Submission of the modified State Unified Plan*
- *Implementation of the State Unified Plan*
- *webinar series on the Transformation Journey of other states: Maine, North Dakota and North Carolina*
- *Workforce Pell Grant working group*
- *Eligible Training Provider List Task Force*
- *Eligible Training Provider Platform Modernization project with University of Hawaii*
- *Restructuring of the Employer Engagement Committee and the Sector Strategies and Career Pathways Committee*

B. *FOCUS FOR 2026 Quarter 2 and Quarter 3*

*The Executive Director will report on the focus for the next two quarters:*

- *Orientation session for new Council members in April and May*
- *Preparation for the implementation of the Workforce Pell Grant*
- *Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) Task Force (A specialized task force will be convened to streamline and strengthen the process for approving and monitoring eligible training providers.)*
- *State Board Acting as the Local Board on Kaua'i (Training will be conducted to ensure the State Board can fully meet its responsibilities when acting as the Local Workforce Board for Kaua'i)*
- *Certification of the Kaua'i American Job Center*
- *Prepare to conduct a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the operation of the Kauai American Job Center*
- *Mandatory Board Member Training – State and Local Boards (We are planning an in-person statewide joint training session in July, focusing on roles, governance, and compliance).*
- *Symposium Series on Artificial Intelligence, starting with April 30, 2026 event. (Other dates include June 25, September 3, October 29)*
- *Synergy Summit in July 2026*
- *Future of Work Conference on September 23, 2026*
- *Employer Engagement Listening Series (eight sessions) for June, July and August*
- *Research Project in collaboration with the Hawaii Employers Council*
- *Artificial Intelligence (AI) Research Project/ How are Hawaii companies preparing for AI?*
- *Building Staff Capacity (The Council will continue to strengthen its team and align staffing for optimum efficiency.)*
- *Establishing Parameters for WDC Grants and Procurement of these services.*
- *Continuing to maximize the relevance of existing committees and adjust as needed.*

**IX. Renewal of Executive Director's Contract**

*The Executive Committee will discuss and act on the renewal of the Executive Director's*

*employment contract, which is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2026. The Chair has consulted with the Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) Human Resources office to confirm applicable requirements, and the necessary administrative paperwork is currently in process. This agenda item pertains solely to contract renewal and should not be construed as the formal performance evaluation of the Executive Director. Pursuant to the Council's bylaws, the next scheduled annual evaluation will occur during the first quarter of 2027; the prior evaluation was completed in fall 2025. The Executive Committee will forward the recommendation to the full board at its May 21, 2026 meeting.*

**\*Requires Executive Committee action.**

#### **X. Workforce Development Council's Next Executive Committee Meeting**

Tentatively scheduled for August 14, 2026 at 9:30 am-10:30 am.

Virtual Videoconferencing Meeting via Zoom and in-person at 830 Punchbowl Street, Room 317, Honolulu, HI 96813

#### **XI. Adjournment**

---

Reasonable accommodation 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.