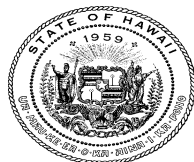


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

BENNETTE MISALUCHA
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HAWAII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

Date: Friday, April 17, 2026

Time: 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

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:

Dion Dizon, Committee Chair
Keith DeMello, Workforce Development Council (WDC) Chair
Thomas Chock, Committee Vice Chair
Trang Malone, Committee Member
Cheryl Cross, Committee Member
Jason Benn, WDC Board Member

- Guests & Staff:

Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director, WDC
Jeanne Ohta, Employment Specialist, WDC

Margaret Miura, Program Specialist, WDC
Tyrone Apolinar, Program Specialist, WDC
Lei Ana Green, Workforce Development Division

- Excused:

Pane Meatoga III, Committee Vice Chair

- I. [Video 00:00:05] The meeting was called to order by Dion Dizon, Special Projects Committee Chair, at 2:32 pm.
- II. [Video 00:05:18] Minutes were approved without changes at 2:38 pm.
- III. [Video 00:05:43] Legislative Updates by Keith DeMello.
 - a. Bills of Interest
 - i. HB 1859 HD1 did not advance in the Senate.
 - ii. HB 2315 HD1 is moving forward, and Keith will continue to monitor.
 - iii. HB 2383 HD1 did not move forward.
 - b. Governor’s Messages
 - i. All individuals listed in the Governor’s Messages (presented in the agenda) were confirmed today, April 22, 2026.
 - c. Keith noted that the committee may want to reconsider the two-person permanent interaction group—of which he is a member—that represents the WDC on legislative matters, given his role as Chair of the WDC. Keith stated that Executive Director (ED) Bennette Misalucha had been empowered by the WDC Board to present testimony on its behalf and expressed appreciation for her efforts.
- IV. [Video 00:13:32] Military Spouses Virtual Job Fair Presentation by Cheryl Cross and Trang Malone.
 - a. [Video 00:50:00] Cheryl moved to amend the Military Spouse Workforce Initiative, with herself and Trang Malone, as permitted interaction with the intent to advance the concept of the Military Spouses Workforce Initiative Virtual Hiring Series for further development, including partner engagement, scope refinement, and a proposed WIOA aligned funding plan to return to the committee or board for consideration. Keith second the motion. Motion passed with no objections.
- V. [Video 00:51:39] Executive Director’s Report
 - a. Hawaii Internship Summit
 - b. Workforce Pell Grant Working Group

- c. Update on the 2024-2028 State Unified Plan Implementation & Plan Modification
- d. Upcoming Event: AI Symposium on April 30, 2026

VI. [Video 00:54:52] Next Meeting

Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 1:30 pm.

VII. [Video 00:55:40] Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:28 pm.