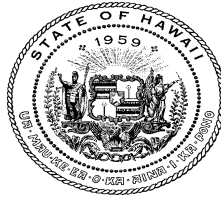


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GOVERNOR

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ACTING 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**

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**HAWAII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Performance Management and Finance Committee Meeting**

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 2, 2026

Time: 1:30 p.m.

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

Virtual Participation: Virtual Video Conference Meeting – Zoom Meeting (Link Below)
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87192849271?pwd=SpjOJDCK00tldu2goSfPdGG6wftcq.1>
Meeting ID: 871 9284 9271842468
Passcode: 842468

One tap mobile
+1-719-359-4580

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/>

Attendance:
Sean Nakamura, Committee Chair
Lea Dias, Committee Vice Chair
Rona Fukumoto, Lanakila Pacific
Margaret Miura, Program Specialist

Staff:
Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director
Tyrone Apolinar,
Margaret Miura, Program Specialist

- I. Call to Order..... Sean Nakamura, Performance Management & Finance Committee Chair
[Video 00:12] Chair Sean Nakamura called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

He acknowledged Lea Dias, Vice Chair of the Committee and thanked Sean Knox whose term on the Council ended on June 30th for his years of service.

Attendees introduced themselves, where they were calling from and confirmed that they were alone at their locations.

- II. Approval of Minutes of April 14, 2026 [Video 03:39]
Chair Nakamura asked for corrections to the minutes, hearing none, the minutes were approved as distributed.

- III. Reports

- A. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Grants [Video 04:10]
Referring to pages 13-19 in the Committee Meeting Packet, Jeanne Ohta, (WDC staff) provided an overview of WIOA grant expenditures as of April 30, 2026, for the Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Programs and the Local Administrative Cost funds for the local areas. The status of the Program Year 2023 recaptured funds was also presented.
- B. Performance Reports-Statewide [Video 19:38]
Referring to pages 13-19 in the Committee Meeting Packet, Jeanne Ohta, (WDC staff) provided an overview of WIOA grant expenditures as of April 30, 2026, for the Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Programs and the Local Administrative Cost funds for the local areas. The status of the Program Year 2023 recaptured funds was also presented.

- IV. Report on the Use of General Appropriation Funds for FY 2026 [Video 29:51]
WDC Executive Director Bennette Misalucha provided an overview of FY 2026 General Appropriation Funds. WDC received an appropriation of \$455,000. With a February 2026 governor's restriction of \$27,526, WDC's allocation was \$427, 474. The budget was approved by the full WDC board in November 2025, and a modified budget was approved in February 2026. The report included budgeted items, the actual expenditures and the variances as of June 2026. Due to procurement issues one budgeted project was deferred and WDC allocated funds to two major projects: 1) Contract with University of Hawai'i Community Colleges (UHCC)for \$361,250 to continue the work of sector partnerships 2) Contract with the University of Hawai'i office of the President for \$40,000 to partially fund the AI institute Day on August 11, 2026. The scope of work for both contracts was included in the committee meeting packet.

Executive Director Bennette Misalucha explained that funding to the UHCCs is a two-year grant to sub-award to the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii who originally received Good Jobs funds for a few years, but those funds have sunsetted. Workforce partners were concerned that the work on sector partnerships would go away. This sector partnership work aligns with WDC's focus on Employer Engagement, so the funds will be well invested in the work of the Chamber and the UHCC.

The funding to the UH office of the President is for an AI Institute Day organized by Dr. Gloria Niles; Chief Academic Technology Innovation Officer is organizing the event along with UH President Wendy Hensel who believes that UH should be at the forefront of this transformation. Executive Director Misalucha asked for the committee's support for both projects. The Committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the Executive Committee at their meeting on August 10, 2026.

Chair Sean Nakamura asked for a motion to approve the recommendation to allocate WDC Fiscal Year 2026 General Appropriation funds to two projects as described. Vice Chair Lea Dias so moved; Councilmember Rona Fukumoto seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

- V. Report on the Proposed FY 2027 General Appropriation Funds Budget [Video 37:37]
Executive Director Misalucha explained that \$445,355 was appropriated after restrictions of \$26,966.42, the allocation for the fiscal year is \$418,388.58. She described the projects that will be funded: Employers' Pulse Survey; a qualitative and quantitative survey of employers to determine: their employment challenges; their awareness of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program and the resources available; and their AI readiness. The qualitative part of the survey are the eight listening sessions held by the Employer Engagement Committee.

Commitments have been made to the Department of Education to fund two \$20,000 grants for seminars and convenings related to WIOA, one is for Title II, Adult Education. One grant is for the UH office of the President, the remaining \$20,000 from the previous year.

As of June 2026, \$91,108 of the FY 2027 funds have been encumbered. Executive Director Misalucha asked for the Committee's support for the budget as presented.

The Committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for further action when it meets on August 10, 2026. Chair Sean Nakamura asked for a motion to approve the fiscal year 2027 funds as described by Executive Director Misalucha. Vice Chair Lea Dias so moved; Councilmember Rona Fukumoto seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

- VI. Executive Directors Report [Video 44:26]

Executive Director Bennette Misalucha started by highlighting the first quarter 2026 activities which included the First Internship Summit on March 4, 2026, which was sold out. The first ever Internship Excellence Awards were presented at the event. She reported that Hawaii's Modified State Plan was recently unconditionally approved by the U.S. Department of Labor. She thanked the core partners, Title II, Title IV, and the Workforce Development Division of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. The key now is to implement the plan.

For the second and third quarters, Workforce Pell continues to be an important part of our priorities. July 1, 2026, was the start of the program, but each state is allowed flexibility to

decide when to start the program. The consensus now is that Hawai'i will be able to offer the program in Spring 2027.

Staff will be going to Kauai shortly to work with stakeholders to prepare for WDC to take the local board's role in administering the WIOA program for Kauai. There will be a mandatory board training in September 2027. The AI Symposium series continued with an event on June 25, 2026. Pent up demand for AI information was demonstrated by the 330 reservations made for the event and required a move to a larger venue.

A Synergy Summit will be held August 2, 2026, at the Entrepreneur's Sandbox. It will be an energizing event. The Future of Work Conference another big event for us will be held on September 23, 2026.

Chair Nakamura invited the public to announce upcoming events and comment on relevant issues that were not included in today's agenda. There were no announcements.

VII. Next Meeting [Video 50:30]

Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2026, Virtual Videoconferencing Meeting via Zoom and in-person at 830 Punchbowl Street, Room 317, Honolulu, HI 96813.

VIII. Adjournment [Video 50:50]

Chair Nakamura adjourned the meeting at 2:21 p.m.

Reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities is 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.