

AGRICULTURE WORKFORCE ADVISORY BOARD
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Tuesday, January 7, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

DATE: Tuesday, January 7, 2020
TIME: 9:30am – 11:30am
LOCATION: Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Princess Ruth Keelikolani Building, Room 321

Members Present:

Scott Murakami, Chair, DLIR
Representative Mark Nakashima
Jeff Goodwin for Nicolas Comerford, Dean - UH Manoa CTAHR
David Fuertes (Representative of Farmers)
Bruce Mathews, UH Hilo (through teleconference)
Michael Moser, Windward Community College
Brian Miyamoto, Farm Bureau - for Randy Cabral
Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser, Deputy, Dept. of Agriculture

Members Excused:

Troy Sueoka, DOE - for Superintendent Christina Kishimoto

Staff:

Maricar Pilotin-Freitas	Staff, DLIR, WDD
Jay Ishibashi	Staff, DLIR, WDD

I. Call to Order and Introductions

With a quorum of members present, the meeting was called to order by Chair Scott Murakami at 9:40 a.m.

Director Murakami shared some key personnel changes at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations with the Board - Anne Perreira-Eustaquio has been appointed to the Deputy Director position in the department; Workforce Development Division Administrator Elaine Young and Deputy Administrator Carol Kanayama of the Workforce Development Division have retired with Maricar Pilotin-Freitas and Joni Heatherly acting in their position respectively. Chair Murakami thanked Elaine Young for her service to the department and the Board. Also, Sheryl Lee has become the administrator for the Wage Standards Division replacing Pamela martin who has retired.

Chair Murakami also shared that he had met with Representative Nakashima to see if the Boards were meeting his expectations and his vision

II. The approval of minutes for the meeting held on September 27, 2019 was deferred until the next meeting as it was not listed as an item for this meeting's agenda.

III. FY 2020 Proposal Review and Recommendation for Budget Allocation

Chair Murakami thanked Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser, Bruce Mathews and Brian Miyamoto for their time in reviewing the proposals submitted to the department and the Board. Having a Senate Ways and Means Committee hearing, Chair Murakami turned the meeting over to Jay Ishibashi.

Jay Ishibashi asked Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser, Chair of the Agriculture Workforce Development Board Proposal Review Committee to lead this portion of the meeting. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser introduced the other members of the Proposal Review Committee - Bruce Mathews and Brian Miyamoto.

The Agriculture Workforce Development Board Proposal Review Committee met on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 to review the proposals submitted to DLIR and formulate recommendations on acceptability to the Board. Chair Shimabukuro-Geiser proceeded to provide the Board members with an overview of the committee's recommendations (as listed below) for the allocation of FY20 State funds appropriated to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Agriculture Workforce Development Board by the State Legislature.

- A. Food Systems/Food Careers (UH CTAHR) – recommendation not to fund proposal due to budget limitations and a need for more focus with partners identified;
- B. GoFarms Hawaii (University of Hawaii) – recommendation to fully fund proposal based on the merits of their business training and offering consultation to participants enrolled in program;
- C. Hawaii FFA AGR Leadership (DOE) – recommendation to fully fund both parts of the proposal and increasing the proposed total on each part of the proposal with the program's continued success and focus on teacher professional development;
- D. Youth Ag Tech (UH Maui) – recommendation not to fund proposal due to budget limitations and concern with the proof in concept;
- E. Molokai High School AGR workforce Development (DOE) recommendation to partially fund the proposal as the committee believed what was being proposed was very ambitious and should be scaled down for a shorter period of time to determine the viability. Additionally, the equipment purchase proposed may not qualify for funding through this mini grant;
- F. County of Kauai Summer Internships (Kauai County/DOE) – recommendation to fully fund proposal with noted success of the program (increased student interest and participation in the internships) over the last few years;
- G. Waipahu High School Ohana Academy "Agriculture Occupations" (DOE) recommendation to fully fund the proposal to incrementally increase landscape technology training for students who could find employment after Graduation.

Committee Chair Shimabukuro-Geiser thanked the committee members for their work on the review of the proposals. Committee recommends to give the department the discretion over any excess funding.

Board Member Jeff Goodwin asked for further clarification on the first proposal's denial of funding to provide feedback to the proposal advocates. Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser responded.

Board member David Fuertes thanked the committee for their work on the proposals and moved with board member Michael Moser seconding the motion to approve the recommendations of the Proposal Review Committee.

The Board then proceeded to vote on the recommendations proposed by the Agriculture Workforce Development Board Proposal Review Committee (vote taken separately on each proposal) (with the results) as follows:

- A. Food Systems/Food Careers (UH CTAHR)
Board approved recommendation to not fund project
- B. GoFarms Hawaii (University of Hawaii)
Board approved recommendation of full funding
- C. Hawaii FFA AGR Leadership (DOE)
Board approved recommendation of fully funding the proposal request and additional funds for both parts of the proposal
- D. Youth Ag Tech (UH Maui)
Board approved recommendation to not fund project
- E. Molokai High School AGR workforce Development (DOE)
Board approved recommendation of partial funding
- F. County of Kauai Summer Internships (Kauai County/DOE)
Board approved recommendation of full funding
- G. Waipahu High School Ohana Academy "Agriculture Occupations" (DOE)
Board approved recommendation of full funding

The Board entertained a motion by Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser on behalf of the Proposal Review Committee to have the department monitor and assess the progress of the approved projects' expenditures after three to five months and if determined that the project(s) are expending funds as proposed – the department be given the authority to move any excess funds to other approved projects.
The Board concurred and approved the motion.

A historical discussion ensued among the Board members about the field and future of agriculture in Hawaii. Board member David Fuertes highlighted the accomplishments improvements in Hawaii agriculture despite the ups and downs in the industry. Board member Brian Miyamoto noted the rebuilding successes of the mini grants by increasing student interest and participation in the Future Farmers of America (FFA) program. Representative Mark Nakashima pointed to the contributions and influence of Riki Hokama and David Fuertes in moving agriculture in Hawaii. The Board members thanked Representative Nakashima for his continued support of the Agriculture industry.

Jay Ishibashi thanked Representative Mark Nakashima and the Board for their continued support and work in helping the agriculture industry.

IV. Announcements and Updates

Jay Ishibashi informed the Board of the briefing to the Legislature highlighting some of the DLIR State funded mini grants being held on January 13, 2020. Board member Brian Miyamoto announced and invited the board members to Agriculture Day (2/5/20) At the State Capitol.

V. Next Meeting

The Board agreed to schedule the next meeting after the beginning of the next fiscal year to discuss FY21 funding if appropriated by the legislature.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Jay Ishibashi at 10:40a.m.