



## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### STATE AWARDED \$897,420 FOR JOB TRAINING FOR LAID-OFF WORKERS Funding Will Support Partnerships in High Demand Industries

HONOLULU — The Hawaii State Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR) today announced the receipt of a Job-Driven National Emergency Grant (JD NEG) that will help create or expand employer partnerships that provide opportunities for on-the-job training, registered apprenticeships or other occupational training that result in an industry-recognized credential. Funding will also be used to provide services, such as career coaching and counseling, as well as assisting with job placement that help connect laid-off workers, including the long-term unemployed, with available jobs.

"We are focusing on expanding employer engagement to help dislocated workers benefit from short-term certification programs, work-based training, and work readiness training to better qualify for today's jobs," said DLIR Director Dwight Takamine. "While jobs are increasing in many industries in Hawaii, there continues to be a mismatch between job openings and qualifications of jobseekers as employers struggle to develop and maintain a home-grown skilled workforce."

Employer partnerships will be focused on the Construction, Hospitality, Healthcare, Information Technology, and Ship Repair industries, which have been identified as currently having the greatest demand in Hawaii. The following are brief descriptions of some of the initiatives partially funded through the grant:

**Ship Repair Pilot Project:** A partnership is already underway with the four major ship repair contractors in the state (BAE Hawaii Shipyards, C&S Services, Marisco, Ltd. and Pacific Shipyards). A package of services including skills training and On-the-Job Training (OJT) is under development in a partnership with the Community Colleges, the DLIR and the employers to address the shortage of ship repair tradesman in Hawaii's ship repair industry.

**Industry Specific Skill Panels:** The DLIR has transitioned to a sector-based approach to strategic planning for workforce development. The industry skill panel approach adopted in 2010 has allowed the department to develop workforce initiatives based on national best practice models. Through Skill Panels, skill needs by industry are relayed to the workforce system, which then develops effective programs to address those industry needs. The DLIR has conducted Skill Panels in the areas of Healthcare, Software, and Agriculture. The department will use the relationships developed with employer stakeholders in these industries to recruit more employers to participate in the JD NEG.

**Manufacturing Extension Partnership:** The National Institute of Standards and Technology's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) in Hawaii emphasizes product development in high tech industries. Operated out of the State's High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC), INNOVATE Hawaii provides practical assistance to help manufacturers address short-term and strategic needs. INNOVATE Hawaii helps connect small and medium sized businesses in Hawaii to critical educational workshops designed to develop the company's workforce. The services offered by this JD NEG and DLIR fit well with the training needs of these businesses and present an opportunity to build stronger relationships with the businesses currently assisted by MEP. Together, these elements can help contribute to a higher skilled manufacturing workforce in Hawaii.

**Healthcare Policy Planning Work Group (PPWG):** The Healthcare PPWG was developed out of the Community Colleges' Trade Adjustment Assistance grant. These work groups help to validate curriculum so that training at the Community Colleges aligns with industry needs. In addition, PPWG members are tasked with identifying internship and job opportunities within their own companies or industries. In partnership with Community Colleges, the DLIR is currently planning and coordinating a PPWG Summit for Healthcare for employers in September 2014. The DLIR will utilize this summit to present its JD NEG program to prospective partner employers and replicate the Ship Repair Pilot Project for the Healthcare Industry.

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