

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



JASON C. CHANG
CHAIR
HARRISON KURANISHI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, March 14, 2023
10:00 am to 11:00 am

Virtual Conference Call

MINUTES

OWDB Members present: Dan Doerger, Kevin Holu, Catherine Lederer, Rodney Lee, Chair
Christopher Lum Lee, Erick Pascua, Suzie Schulberg

OWDB Staff present: Raymond Duong, Harrison Kuranishi, Hikari Omuro

Guests present: Merton Chinen, Kama Hopkins, Stacey Katakura, Jackie Sakane

- I. Call to Order..... Chair Chris Lum Lee

Chair Chris Lum Lee called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

- II. Welcome and Introductions.....Chair Chris Lum Lee

(Note: Per the State OIP, OWDB members are allowed to attend board meetings on audio only. Their votes will still count and their attendance will also count toward quorum. However, board members must state their names clearly during introductions and before all of their comments during the meeting.)

All OWDB staff, members, and guests introduced themselves.

- III. Information Briefing.....Chair Chris Lum Lee and Raymond Duong

- Overview of WIOA Funds
Raymond Duong gave an overview of the WIOA Funds. WIOA is a formula grant based on the unemployment rate of each of Hawaii's counties. The federal government of the USA passes down this grant to the State of Hawaii, who keeps 15% and distributes the remaining 85% to the counties. Each county keeps 10% of

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their distribution and passes down 90% to their service provider. WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, support services, and more to succeed in the labor market.

- Status of Program Year 2021

Raymond Duong gave a status update of Program Year 2021. As of January 31, 2023, the Oahu Workforce Development Board is owed around \$400,000 in back payments from the State of Hawaii Workforce Development Division. OWDB is currently working through some issues with WDD in regards to documentation of \$40,000 in training costs. Raymond Duong reported on the percentage of the budget spent down by the following WIOA Programs: Adult, 45.64%; Dislocated Worker, 44.77%; Youth, 38.42%; Rapid Response, 42.76%; One Stop Operator, 40.13%. Raymond Duong clarified that funds come from the City & County budget and any funds not spent are returned to the State.

Rodney Lee expressed concern that funds would not be able to be spent down by the end of the Program Year. Raymond Duong clarified that the explanation provided by the American Job Center of Hawaii is that some of the difficulty in spending down has been due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kama Hopkins asked whether some of the WIOA funds could be used to pay for employers to have spaces at job fairs to help spend down funds. Jackie Sakane suggested that to accomplish this, OWDB should purchase tables and then invite employers.

Catherine Lederer asked whether there is a flowchart or structure chart that describes how each department involved with WIOA feeds into each other. Jackie Sakane responded that this is perhaps something that OWDB can work on.

Kevin Holu shared that he has interest in assisting in spending down funds through training of CDL drivers. There is a serious need for CDL drivers, particularly in Hawaii. Harrison Kuranishi stated that all providers looking to pull from WIOA funds must be on the Oahu Eligible Training Provider List. If individuals interested in training, for example CDL Training, qualify for WIOA, and the provider is on the ETP List, then WIOA may be able to pay for the training. On February 1st, 2023, a CDL training provider was added to the ETP List. There have been inquiries from 2 more CDL training providers regarding the ETP List.

- Status of Program Year 2022

Raymond Duong reported on the status of Program Year 2022. OWDB recently submitted their budget for the third time for their PY22 Contracts. OWDB hopes to receive the contracts soon. Jackie Sakane pointed out that this means OWDB will be behind its expenditures by one year by the time they receive the contracts. Harrison

Kuranishi stated that this matter is something that the Finance Committee could assist with in the future. The Committee could work with OWDB and WDD to ensure that contracts are received on time.

Erick Pascua spoke on the partnership between WDD and the City and County of Honolulu. Erick Pascua stated that members of the Committee could reach out to him regarding issues of budgets, contracts, and more to help ensure that OWDB has enough funds to operate its WIOA programs. Erick Pascua shared three ways that OWDB programs could spend down more funds. 1.) The service provider (American Job Center of Hawaii) could roll more participants into On-the-Job Training. 2.) Every client assisted by the service provider should be recorded onto HireNet. AJCH staff may need training on HireNet. 3.) WDD could collaborate with OWDB on dual enrollment. Clients in the Reemployment Eligibility for Individuals Collecting Unemployment program could dual enroll into WIOA programs. Erick Pascua confirmed that there are about 40 individuals who come to this program every week. Participants can be enrolled in On-the-Job Training but there has not been much interest in this.

Catherine Lederer asked whether there are funds for childcare available for parents or guardians seeking apprenticeship programs or On-the-Job Training. Jackie Sakane responded that OWDB would need a support services policy on this matter.

IV. Announcements.....Chair Chris Lum Lee

Chris Lum Lee announced that the next OWDB Full Board Meeting will take place on ~~April 20th, 2023, 8:30 HST.~~

Note from Hikari Omuro, OWDB Planner: The Full Board Meeting has been rescheduled for April 18th, 2023, 8:00 HST.

The next OWDB Executive Committee Meeting will take place on April 4th, 2023, 3:00 PM HST.

The date for the next OWDB Finance Committee meeting will be sent via email and posted publically on the City and County website.

V. Adjournment.....Chair Chris Lum Lee

Chair Chris Lum Lee adjourned the meeting at 11:20am.