

OAHU WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

JASON C. CHANG
CHAIR
TIM WONG
VICE CHAIR
NICOLE KURASHIGE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FULL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, July 21, 2022
8:30 am to 10:30 am

MINUTES

Members Present: Pat Anbe, Trevor Bracher, Chair Jason Chang, Catherine Lederer, Alison Lee (for Iva-Starr Cain), Rodney Lee, Connie Mitchell, Tammi Oyadomari-Chun (for Erika Lacro), Erick Pascua, Suzie Schulberg, Mimi Sroat

Guests Present: Rodrigo "Jon" Almosara Jr., Nicole Anderson, Lorna Fredeluces, Andrea Gaines, Kevin Holu, Lance Jyo, Lisa Truong Kracher, Mark Menard, Lei Nakamura, Roseanne Propato, Ramon Ruiz, Jennifer Sakurai, Nisa Tokunaga, Lee-Ann Williams-Naeole, Reid Yamashiro

Staff Present: Raymond Duong, Nicole Kurashige, Hikari Omuro

I. Call to Order.....Chair Jason Chang

Chair Jason Chang called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM.

II. Welcome and Introductions

(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.)

Chair Jason Chang welcomed everyone. He announced that the following OWDB members have completed their service and have exited the Board: Russel Cheng, Joy Kimura, Janice Wakatsuki, and Tim Wong. He thanked these members for their service. Chair Jason Chang also introduced new OWDB member Catherine Lederer and new OWDB staff Hikari Omuro.

III. Review and Approval of Minutes from April 21, 2022 Meeting

Chair Jason Chang entertained a motion to approve the April 21, 2022 meeting minutes. Suzie Schulberg motioned to approve. Mimi Sroat seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Reports Related to WIOA

• **One Stop Operator.....Andrea Gaines, One Stop Operator**

Andrea Gaines reported that the One Stop Center recently had their AJCH Partners meeting. At this meeting, the Maui Economic Opportunity presented on the National Farmworker Job Program. Alex Ruder from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta also presented on The CLIFF Dashboard.

- **WIOA Title I Programs.....Mark Menard and Nisa Tokunaga, Managers**

Mark Menard announced the AJCH's upcoming job fair will be on July 25, 2022, outside Dole Cannery. There will be around 12 employers present. The theme will be based on Hire Veterans Day. The event will be open to the public. Attendees who are veterans will be identified on arrival, receive 1-on-1 engagement, and recognized with a special name tag.

Ramon Ruiz explained that there will be a special orientation room for veterans. The orientation session will introduce veterans to AJCH and the Resource Center. In addition, Work for Warriors Hawaii will be doing resume reviewing. Finally, the room can be used by employers for interviewing.

Mark Menard announced that public announcements and marketing for the job fair have been done by Mayor Rick Blangiardi, news channels, and iHeart Radio.

Mark Menard reported on the Adult & Dislocated Worker Programs. For Period July 2021 – June 2022, the following numbers were reported:

WIOA Adult: 121

WIOA Dislocated Worker: 77

WIOA DWG – Disaster: 15

WIOA NDWG – Employment: 13

Total number of individuals seen at Resource Center: 894

Most individuals came to seek jobs or use the Resource Center equipment.

Mark Menard reported that in recent months, many individuals have been coming from partner programs. The AJCH is working on better collaboration with these partners and their programs to be able to offer skills such as resume writing and better services to these individuals.

Mark Menard reported on program highlights. AJCH attended a job fairs at Waimea Valley and Ala Moana Hotel. AJCH also held hiring events. The approach this year is to engage businesses one-on-one to understand their needs. The first hiring event was with Y Hata. Around 20 individuals attended, and 1 was hired. The second hiring event was with Moku Kitchen. 19 individuals attended, and 3 were hired. The third hiring event was with AES, a power plant company. They are closing their Oahu location, thus there is need for job counseling. 40 individuals attended. WDD and Unemployment Insurance also attended this event. The last hiring event was with Spectrum. Spectrum will be at the upcoming job fair, and have announced they are hiring about 150 staff for their Mililani Call Center.

Please see attached WIOA Adult/DW Handout for more information.

Nisa Tokunaga reported on the Youth Program. Overall, the Youth Program met its goals in 2021. 239 youth enrolled in the program. Nearly all 2021 funds were spent down. Enrollment is steady for the beginning of 2022.

Nisa Tokunaga thanked the Waipahu and McKinley Community School for Adults for partnering with the Youth Program in obtaining GEDs for youth. She thanked LCC for office administration, technology, and medical reception patient representative training.

Nisa Tokunaga reported that the Youth Program is partnering with the Building Industry Association (BIA). 10 youth have started training with BIA. The youth will be placed in a work experience site, with potential employment afterwards. She also reported a partnership with CVS. 8 youth are receiving training on pharmacy reception, customer service, and more. Nisa Tokunaga also reported on a partnership with the Juvenile Justice Center, where the Youth Program provides counseling, resources, and more.

Nisa Tokunaga shared two success stories, Jensine, who has been employed at Waianae Store and Tristen, who has been employed at Securitas.

Please see attached WIOA Youth Program Handout for more information.

Lei Nakamura expressed her thanks to CVS for partnering with AJCH. Together they have created a career pathway program to help youth transition into the state-certified apprenticeship pharmacy tech program. CVS also donated \$25,000 to the City, which AJCH used to purchase a 15-seat van, which will be used to strategically pop-up hiring events, job education, and other services. CVS will also be traveling with AJCH to provide education, prescreening, and COVID-19 testing.

Lei Nakamura announced that for FY2023, WorkHawaii is committed to reinventing who they are. They are committed to doing more to get more community members housed, trained, and reach their goals. They are working to ensure that their services and work environment is community-focused and rooted in respect and aloha. Lei Nakamura thanked the OWDB for their support.

V. OWDB Committee Reports on Activities

- **Sector Strategies and Career Pathways Committee.....Chair Jason Chang**

Chair Jason Chang reported for Joy Kimura, who has exited the OWDB. At the last meeting, the Sector Strategies and Career Pathways Committee discussed how to support different sectors: Renewable energy with focus on waste management, Manufacturing with a focus on entrepreneurship and agriculture, Healthcare services with a focus on social services, and Information technology with a focus on training credentials. The Committee will continue to focus on these areas.

Chair Jason Chang encouraged any members interested in taking over Joy Kimura’s role as Chair of the Sector Strategies and Career Pathways Committee to please contact Nicole Kurashige.

- **Data Management and Technology Committee.....Rodney Lee**

Rodney Lee reported that the Data Management and Technology Committee has not met since Q1 of 2022. Their next step is to regroup and work on implementing SkillScape and Oahu Skills.

- **Performance Measures and Accountability Committee.....Suzie Schulberg**

Suzie Schulberg reported that the Performance Measures and Accountability Committee is waiting on a finalized third party monitoring report from Jackie Sakane. A plan for remediation and correction is underway. AJCH and OWDB have received a program monitoring report from WDD, and they will collaborate to prepare a response. WDD will be performing a data validation monitoring in late August. Finally, the Committee plans to meet later to discuss overall findings and how to support AJCH.

- **Finance Committee.....Rodney Lee**

Rodney Lee reported that the Finance Committee has been focusing on retrieving reimbursements from the State. \$800,000 out of \$1,300,000 has been received. In addition, the Committee is working on PY2021 and PY2022 budgets.

Rodney Lee encouraged any members interested in joining the Committee to please contact Nicole Kurashige as he is the only current member.

- **Employer Engagement Committee..... Chair Jason Chang**

Chair Jason Chang reported that the Employer Engagement Committee has not met since their last meeting. However the State Workforce Development Employer Engagement Committee has met. They discussed ways to engage the workforce post-COVID, and also raised questions on where Hawai'i's workers have gone post-COVID.

VI. WIOA Core Partner Updates

• **Adult Education and Career Pathways.....Pat Anbe, Waipahu CSA**

Pat Anbe announced that HB 1561 has been passed, which establishes within the DOE a Workforce Readiness Program. Both Waipahu and McKinley School for Adults will also be able to hire a full-time workforce development coordinator. He thanked Helen Sanpei, Principal of McKinley Community School for Adults, for her support on this bill.

Pat Anbe reported that both Schools for Adults have seen a steady increase in enrollment for Spring and Summer 2022. The Waipahu Community School for Adults is having their first commencement ceremony in 2 years at the Pearl City Cultural Center. For career pathways, both schools are focusing on the hotel and medical industries moving forward.

Please see the attached Waipahu Community Schools Handout for more information.

• **Institute of Higher Education, UH System.....Tammi Oyadomari-Chun for Erika Lacro, University of Hawaii**

Tammi Oyadomari-Chun, standing in for Erika Lacro, announced that the University of Hawaii is starting classes on August 23rd. Students can sign up for classes until August 8th. UH is offering short term job training, through their non-credit Workforce Programs, at uhcc.hawaii.edu/training.

Tammi Oyadomari-Chun announced that UH has submitted an application on behalf of their partners to the federal EDA for a Good Jobs Challenge grant. They are asking for \$16,000,000 over 3 years. If the grant is awarded, UH will be notified in August 2022.

Please see the attached UH Handout for more information.

• **Vocational Rehabilitation.....Allison Lee for Iva Cain, DHS Vocational Rehabilitation**

Allison Lee, standing in for Iva Cain, reported that DVR has met with Rehabilitation Services Administration, their federal funder, to negotiate performance accountability rates. DVR is committed to reaching these goals and are working to strategically improve exiting clients into competitive jobs. One challenge for DVR is that, statewide, there are 53 vacancies. Allison Lee announced that moving forward, DVR continues to work with Hawaii Remote Project to offer flex remote positions for DVR participants. In addition, in partnership with the Department of Labor, DVR held a Fidelity Bonds training. DVR also held a Business Highlight session with the Blind Vendors from Hana Incorporated. DVR is working on executing the Memorandum of Understanding for the Social Service Ticket to Work Partnership Program with Hawai'i's Employment Networks to coordinate services for individuals receiving SSI and SSTI to reach competitive employment.

Allison Lee gave details on DVR's partnership with AJCH. Currently 2 DVR staff are at AJCH, and meet with DVR individuals. DVR individuals are given resources, a tour, and help creating a HireNet account. In addition, DVR met with AJCH leadership to discuss how AJCH staff and partners can work better with deaf and hard of hearing individuals. DVR will be holding a deaf awareness training at AJCH.

Allison Lee shared a success story from the partnership between DVR and Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility and Olomana Schools. These institutions thanked DVR for their coordination in assisting disabled youth in their facilities.

Connie Mitchell asked whether youth have positive support systems when they leave these rehabilitation programs. Allison Lee responded that the DVR team tries to create smooth transitions for the youth. If they cannot provide exit services, they will attempt to find outside services. In addition, the Independent Living Center provides mentorship to youth after they are housed.

Please see the attached DVR Handout for more information.

- **Wagner Peyser.....Erick Pascua, Workforce Development Division**

Erick Pascua reported on WDD's Financial Literacy Summer Youth Program. The purpose of this program is to give high school students the opportunity to learn financial literacy, other work-related skills, and meaningful work experience. The program had 60 participants, 40 in high school, 12 in post-secondary, and 8 hired due to program participation.

Erick Pascua reported on WDD's Pilot IT Internship Program. The purpose of this program is to bring government agencies and recent IT-related graduates together for a paid internship opportunity in order for students to get IT job experience and build a skilled pool of candidates into the IT workforce. There were a total of 41 interns, 23 still attending college or a certification program, and 12 hired due to program participation.

Erick Pascua announced that DLIR has been granted \$5,300,000 for a Paid Internship Program. 330 Interns will be placed statewide, with 150 in the public sector, 150 in private, and 30 in the DOE. Interns will be paid \$20/hour for a minimum of 12 weeks and possibly up to 24 weeks. DLIR is currently planning the implementation of this program.

Erick Pascua announced that RKT Media has produced some TV advertisements for AJCH which are now showing on TV channels.

Please see the attached Wagner-Peyser Presentation for more information.

VII. Executive Director's Report.....Nicole Kurashige

Nicole Kurashige thanked all Board members for their support as she continues to navigate her leadership as Executive Director of OWDB. She shared that \$800,000 of \$1,300,000 withheld funds by WDD has been paid. All payments for PY2020 have been paid, and OWDB is now working on PY2019. OWDB has sent budget request details to WDD, and is awaiting feedback to resolve these payments.

Nicole Kurashige thanked Pat Anbe for inviting her to Waipahu Community School for Adult's virtual job fair, which she attended.

Nicole Kurashige announced that OWDB will soon be receiving the program monitoring report from Jackie Sakane. OWDB received WDD's Program Monitoring report and is working on addressing the findings and the formal response. OWDB is waiting on WDD's Fiscal Monitoring Report as well as the PY2021 allotment. Once this allotment is received, the PY2021 Budget can be made. Nicole Kurashige thanked all members and Rodney Lee for their help on the reimbursement issues. She thanked all members and AJCH staff for their hard work and support.

VIII. Announcements and Schedule Next Meeting

Information will be sent regarding the next OWDB meeting, which is currently scheduled for another hybrid session on Tuesday October 20 from 8:30 am to 10:30 am HST. Attendance will have virtual and in-person attendance options. The in-person option will be held at the American Job Center Hawaii. RSVPs will be sent at a later date.

IX. Adjournment

Chair Jason Change adjourned the meeting at 10:16 AM.