



Oahu Workforce Development Board Mtg. - Oct. 19, 2023 Waipahu Community School for Adults Updates

- Due to the efforts of Dr. Christine Park, Waipahu Community School for Adults received a \$20,000 grant from Spectrum to be used for our digital literacy efforts.
- Congratulations to Waipahu Community School for Adults iCAN Coordinator, Dr. Christine Park, for being honored as a Workforce Development Hero Award recipient by the State Workforce Development Council.
 - Also noteworthy is Lance Jyo of the McKinley Community School for Adults who was a Workforce Development Hero Finalist.
- The Hawaii Community Schools for Adults would like to welcome Winston Sakurai as the AEFLA (Adult Education and Family Literacy Act) State Director and temporarily assigned Curriculum Innovation Branch Director.
- The Hawaii Community Schools for Adults recently completed an OCTAE (Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education) monitoring visit. During that period OCTAE and DOE personnel visited several adult education sites and the American Job Center and saw and heard about the great work we are doing with our clients.



Workforce Development Division

Oahu Workforce Development Board Meeting
 Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023

Submitted by: Erick Pascua, Oahu Branch Manager

I. Summary

- Staff from the WDD Oahu branch have been traveling to Maui to support the disaster recovery centers and assist in providing essential services to those impacted by the Maui Wildfire.
- Actively engaged in a limited number of meetings facilitated by the one-stop operator to enhance service coordination and integration at the American Job Center.
- Constantly exploring the possibility of more collaborations with partners to facilitate the enrollment of individuals in various programs.
- Co-sponsored or supported the AJC hiring events recently held at Dole Cannery Square on July 25 and September 12, 2023.
- Finalized and submitted a response to the recent monitoring reports conducted by WDD administration staff for the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and Wagner Peyser (WP) programs.

II. Wagner Peyser Program: PY 2023 Qtr. 1 (July 1, 2023, to September 30, 2023)

Oahu Enrollment and Current Performance Outcomes

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS SERVED	TOTAL REPORTABLE INDIVIDUALS	EMPLOYMENT RATE (Q2)	PY23 PERFORMANCE GOAL (NEGOTIATED LEVEL)	EMPLOYMENT RATE (Q4)	PY23 PERFORMANCE GOAL (NEGOTIATED LEVEL)	MEDIAN EARNINGS	PY23 PERFORMANCE GOAL (NEGOTIATED LEVEL)
3746	3707	61.7%	48.0%	58.4%	52.0%	\$10,650.52	\$7,300.00
		EXCEEDED		EXCEEDED		EXCEEDED	

III. WDD- Internships Programs: <https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdd/intern/>

a. Hele Imua State Internship Program: Current Enrollment (July 1, 2023 – current)

- is a 12-week internship opportunity for the State of Hawai'i. The purpose of this program is to provide eligible candidates exposure to various high-demand occupations in state government that may transition into gainful employment within Hawaii's labor market.
 - #250 – Applications Received
 - # 145 – Interns Placed at Worksites

b. The Quality jobs, Equity, Strategy and Training (QUEST) Grant – \$1,473,025 award for 50 to enroll.

- Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG) seeks to help dislocated workers and other eligible participants, including underserved and historically marginalized individuals, develop economic resilience to future economic shocks through employment, training, and entry into high-quality jobs, especially in growing and critical industries.

- 11- currently enrolled in this grant – we work closely and collaborate with the city to ensure a smooth transition of individuals interested in interning in a non-profit, private, or city worksite for internship opportunities.
- 5 –Interns placed at State worksite.
- The difference between QUEST and Hele was that we could pay the prevailing wages of the position that interns are enrolled with versus Hele internship, paid \$20/hour within 6 months of internship.

c. Maui Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant

- Federal DOL, conditionally approved request of State, DLIR, \$21,062,640; awarded first increment of \$10,531,230 on August 25, 2023.
- Help with cleanup of debris and recovery from Maui wildfire disaster and provide humanitarian services such as distribution of food and clothing.
- Funding to use to pay for temporary jobs up to one year with possible extension for another year if approved by DOL.
- Grant budget includes average \$22/hour in wages, full time but could be fewer hours.
- Worksites in public, private non-profit, or qualified private sector sites (with prior DLIR approval)
 - Project Operators:
 1. Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc (MEO) – who focus on temporary jobs with private non-profit agencies and Maui County. Will use staffing agency.
 2. DLIR, Workforce Development Division (WDD) Maui Branch – focus on temporary jobs with Executive Branch on 89-day hires with DLIR WDD.
 - Project Goals:
 1. Provide earned income to Maui residents while they assist with clean up and recovery of Maui.
 2. Increase experience and skills of participants to help them secure jobs after participation.
 3. Connect participating residents with employment and related resources to help them navigate through these trying times.

d. Digital Literacy Grant update:

- Contracts being developed with Hawaii State Public Library System, DOE Community School for Adults, Dept. of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.
- Classes projected to begin on September 18, 2023.
- Target populations to include those in covered populations, WIOA participants, veterans, individuals with disabilities, aging individuals, those with limited digital skill literacy, other target groups.
- Curriculum to include basic computer operations, email, basics of web browsing, video conferencing tools, intro to basic computer applications (word processing, presentations, spreadsheets, etc.), basic computer and network security principles.

IV. Success Stories:

Jobs for Veterans' State Grant (JVSG)

Name: Aaron A.

Employer: Banyan Networks

During the COVID pandemic, Aaron A was laid off due a lack of work. He was referred to a Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist through the unemployment office's Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) program representative. Through his experience with the DVOPs, he was able to learn about many professional certifications which could help highlight his education. This information on free certification programs proved to be valuable as he continued improving his marketability. The JVSG program also allowed him to network with many companies during military and civilian job fairs, and connections established by his DVOP. Currently, Aaron is working full-time as a Project Manager at Banyan Networks. He got this position through TekSystems, a temporary resourcing agency that recruited him. Aaron completed his six-month contract and was successfully hired on as a full-time employee. Aaron intends to further his managerial knowledge through Project Management Professional and Agile project management certifications.

Aaron is grateful for all the assistance and would like to offer continued support for by identifying and hiring qualified veterans participating in the JVSG program.

Jobs for Veterans' State Grant (JVSG)

Name: Jovento Ross

I met, Local Veteran Employment Representative (LVER) Ramon Ruiz while working at American Savings Bank in Honolulu, Hawaii during the summer of 2023. Ramon was interested in American Savings Bank and the job opportunities it may have for military veterans. I was able to tell my story of how I landed my role at American Savings Ban while also describing the struggles I had trying to secure employment in Hawaii. Due to the struggles, I was experiencing in Hawaii, I had been preparing to move my family to North Carolina later in the year for better opportunities (networking, employment, cost of living, and resources). The only issue was that I am not originally from North Carolina and have no connections in the state.

After our conversation about American Savings Bank, Ramon listened to my plans of moving to NC, and invited me to a job fair that summer with intentions of introducing me to federal agencies. When I attended the job fair, Ramon wasted no time with connecting me with several federal agencies like FBI, IRS, FEMA, and DHS. He specifically introduced me to professionals at the IRS booth that truly sparked my interest. After the job fair, I set my goal for employment with the IRS.

Following the job fair, Ramon connected me with additional professionals in NC with federal government connections. I had conversations about resume editing and how to properly approach federal government employment. Three months later I landed an interview with the IRS and received a life changing job offer. If it weren't for the connections made with the help of Ramon and the advice given from him and the network provided, I don't know if my goal would have been accomplished. I appreciate everything from Ramon and his team and thank them all for their assistance.