

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR



JASON C. CHANG  
CHAIR  
HARRISON KURANISHI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**SECTOR STRATEGIES & CAREER PATHWAYS COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**  
**2:00 pm to 3:00 pm**

**Virtual Conference Call**

**MINUTES**

OWDB Members present: Pat Anbe, Dan Doerger, Carla Kobashigawa, Keala Peters for Sherry Menor-McNamara, Lisa Truong-Kracher

OWDB Staff present: Raymond Duong, Harrison Kuranishi

Guests present:

- I. Call to Order.....Committee Chair Lisa Truong-Kracher

Chair Lisa Truong-Kracher called the meeting to order at 2:04pm.

- 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.)*

All members present introduced themselves.

- III. Discussion: Future of the Sector Strategies & Career Pathways Committee

Harrison Kuranishi shared some history of the Sector Strategies & Career Pathways Committee. This Committee has not met since November 2, 2021. OWDB is still seeking a Vice Chair for this Committee. OWDB staff plan to attend the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii's Sector Strategies meetings moving forward. If any OWDB members are interested in also joining, please reach out to Harrison Kuranishi. Because the OWDB Sector Strategies

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& Career Pathways Committee has not met in two years, OWDB looks to start fresh with this Committee. Harrison Kuranishi announced that OWDB will be receiving about \$7 million for PY22. These funds will need to be spent by June 2024. OWDB continues to seek partners and programs to spend down program funds.

Dan Doerger offered to be considered for the OWDB Sector Strategies & Career Pathways Committee's Vice Chair seat.

Harrison Kuranishi explained that since the Sector Strategies & Career Pathways Committee has been inactive for nearly two years, today's meeting will be a discussion on how to restart the Committee and what directions it can take moving forward. One thing for this Committee to consider is how OWDB could spend down program funds for OWDB's service provider, the American Job Center of Hawaii, by pursuing sector strategies and career pathways-related activities and partnerships. The Committee should also consider what sorts of business partnerships are available in the community for the AJCH to partner with. Moving forward, OWDB seeks also to utilize more transitional and incumbent employment funds. PY22 is a critical year for OWDB and targets must be hit for this year.

Carla Kobashigawa shared her experience as an eligible training provider who provides WIOA services to clients. There are several hurdles to overcome in order for clients to receive WIOA funds. One hurdle is that WIOA clients are told that they must have at least two secondary/primary community supportive contacts in order to receive funding. Harrison Kuranishi responded that OWDB is looking into propping up more affiliate sites beyond just the AJCH to extend the program's reach. OWDB has conducted program monitoring of their service provider and has found several issues related to program services. OWDB will work on resolving these issues moving forward. In addition, Document Manager will be launching on July 1, which will help staff upload documents quickly into HireNet. OWDB continues to work to try and streamline intake processes.

Harrison Kuranishi shared that OWDB's service provider, American Job Center of Hawaii, is in critical need of support in reaching their program metrics. Raymond Duong shared that AJCH had a total of 81 new participants up to March 31, 2023 for Program Year 2022. Cathy Lederer asked whether OWDB has had conversations with Maui or Hawaii County Workforce Development Boards as their program metrics are currently stronger than Oahu County's. Harrison Kuranishi responded that yes, OWDB continues to have conversations with these other counties. Harrison Kuranishi shared that OWDB is focused on career pathways moving forward to provide clients with long-term career paths.

Keala Peters shared that her concerns are clients' access to WIOA programs and the hurdles they need to overcome to be enrolled in WIOA. Dan Doerger shared that for the Hawaii Good Jobs Grant programs, there is a high enrollment of students because the intake process has been streamlined to make intake easier for clients.

Dan Doerger asked whether the Sector Strategies & Career Pathways Committee has certain sectors it is focusing on. Harrison Kuranishi responded that WIOA must focus on in-demand

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sectors. For example, OWDB is currently targeting CDL drivers and security guards. Keala Peters suggested that the focus on this Committee could be on jobseekers and entry into workforce programs rather than further down the pipeline.

Carla Kobashigawa asked whether OWDB and its service provider are using HireNet Hawaii as a tool to notify clients that they may be eligible for WIOA Programs. In addition, Carla Kobashigawa asked whether clients being given an option to be added to a list to be contacted by WIOA if they are eligible. Harrison Kuranishi responded that there are currently many clients, such as those attending RECI, who are not being pipelined into WIOA. Carla Kobashigawa shared that she was informed that there is a list of supportive services that clients need to contact and be determined to be ineligible for before they are eligible for WIOA funds. Harrison Kuranishi explained that these supportive services are mandated partners and it is not necessary for clients to be rejected from these services in order to become eligible for WIOA funds. Carla Kobashigawa stated that her clients have had to contact these supportive services before becoming eligible for WIOA funds. Harrison Kuranishi offered to have this conversation outside of the Committee meeting as this discrepancy in program intake could be contributing to the low number of new clients to Oahu's WIOA programs. Carla Kobashigawa also expressed concern that the physical location of the American Job Center of Hawaii is difficult for her clients to access due its location, signage, and distance from bus routes. Harrison Kuranishi acknowledged these concerns and emphasized that moving forward, location must be considered for the OWDB service provider to maximize reach.

Keala Peters stated that many of these issues WIOA is currently facing appear to be foundational issues that may require reengineering of processes. Harrison Kuranishi stated that much work will need to be done before WIOA is where it should be. The approach moving forward is to return to WIOA 101 and train the service provider to properly execute WIOA programs. Harrison Kuranishi asked the Committee how often they would like to meet. Carla Kobashigawa suggested once every 2 months.

Raymond Duong reported that about 30% of WIOA funds will be returned this program year.

Carla Kobashigawa stated that the Committee's mission could be to augment funds towards high-demand sectors in Hawaii's workforce to improve workforce development and WIOA programs.

Harrison Kuranishi confirmed that the Committee will work on identifying their mission, sectors to focus on, and how often they would like to meet.

IV. Schedule Next Meeting

V. Adjournment.....Committee Chair Lisa Truong-Kracher

Chair Lisa Truong-Kracher adjourned the meeting at 3:21pm.

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