

OAHU WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

715 SOUTH KING STREET, SUITE 211 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 768-7790 • www.OahuWDB.com

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR



JASON C. CHANG  
CHAIR

CHRISTOPHER K. LUM LEE  
VICE CHAIR

HARRISON KURANISHI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**OAHU WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
BOARD MEETING**  
**Thursday, April 18, 2024**  
**8:30 am to 10:30 am**

*Note: Per the State Office of Information Practices (OIP), members of the public may contact [OahuWDB@honolulu.gov](mailto:OahuWDB@honolulu.gov) to be added to a mailing list for future meeting announcements*

**Members Present:**

Jason Chang, Queen's Health System Innovation Institute, President; Board Chair  
Christopher Lum Lee, Tri Sec Inc., Principal Guard and Chief Administrative Officer  
Andrew Giles, Kaiser Permanente – Moanalua Medical Center, Chief Operating Officer  
Steve Goo, Lanakila Pacific, Assistant Vice President of Administration  
Suzie Schulberg, Arcadia Family of Companies, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Lisa Truong Kracher, Array Corporation, Vice President  
Rodney Lee, Spire Hawaii LLC, Executive Vice President  
Pat Anbe, Waipahu Community School for Adults, Principal  
Carla Kobashigawa, Applied Computer Training & Technology, Inc., Director  
Mimi Sroat, Hawaii Electricians Training Fund, Director  
Kevin Holu, Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Local 996, President/Principal Officer  
Jeff Wagoner, Outrigger Hospitality Group, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Keala Peters, (Designee for Sherry Menor-McNamara)

**Members Absent:**

Pina Lemusu, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Temporarily Assigned Oahu Branch Manager  
Nicole Anderson, Office of Economic Revitalization, Workforce Development Program Manager  
Trevor Bracher, Sheraton Waikiki/Marriott, Complex Director of Human Resources  
Catherine Lederer, Hawaii State AFL-CIO, Director of Labor Community Services  
Frederick Pascua, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Oahu Branch Manager  
Erika Lacro, University of Hawaii Community College system, Vice President for Community Colleges

**Guests:**

Reid Yamashiro, City & County of Honolulu, Deputy Corporation Counsel  
Leina'ala Nakamura, WorkHawaii Division, Administrator  
Cassidy Patmont, WorkHawaii Division, Planner  
Jill Takasaki Canfield, Hawaii Literacy, Executive Director  
Cary Miyashiro, Quad D Solutions LLC, President  
Joshua Kaakua, Office of the Vice President of Community Colleges, Academic Affairs Program Officer  
Randall Higa, Workforce Transition Center, Owner and Founder

Reginald Dela Cruz, Project SEARCH, Instructor and Coordinator  
Lorraine Cruz, Project SEARCH, Instructor and Coordinator  
Kristie Yuh-Gatewood, Central District, District Resource Teacher  
Ashley Schendel, Project SEARCH program, Intern  
Jacob Salazar, Project SEARCH program, Intern  
Jason Hong, Project SEARCH program, Intern  
Kyle Burkhart, Project SEARCH program, Intern  
Luke Yoshikawa-Skelton, Project SEARCH program, Intern  
Makenna Mullins, Project SEARCH program, Intern  
Malia Fukushima, Project SEARCH program, Intern  
Jhobel Langaman, Project SEARCH program, Past Intern  
Sikhota Gnoulaphi, Work Now Hawaii, Project Specialist  
Scott Murakami, Department of Health, Public Health Infrastructure Grant, Director of Workforce  
Josiah Akau, Kinai 'Eha, Chairman of the Board of Directors  
Bennette Misalucha, Workforce Development Council, Executive Director

**Staff:**

Harrison Kuranishi, Oahu Workforce Development Board, Executive Director  
Raymond Duong, Oahu Workforce Development Board, Budget Analyst  
Daven Kawamura, Oahu Workforce Development Board, WIOA Specialist

**I. Call to Order**

The Oahu Workforce Development Full Board meeting was called to order at 8:32 am by Board Chair Jason Chang.

Jason Chang officially announced that Christopher Lum Lee was elected as the Vice-Chair of the Oahu Workforce Development Board (OWDB). A vote was distributed and conducted amongst the private sector members.

**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.)

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**a. January 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Chair Jason Chang requested a motion to approve the minutes for the January 18, 2024 meeting. Christopher Lum Lee moved to approve the minutes. Andrew Giles seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**IV. Chamber of Commerce Hawaii Sector Partnerships Funding Request**

Keala Peters, Executive Vice President of Education and Workforce Development at Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, gave an update on Chamber of Commerce Hawaii's Sector Partnerships funding request. Jason Chang let the board know that after multiple meetings between himself, Harrison, and Keala, due to constraints on timing and the processes that funding must go through the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii team was guided to request the funding from the Workforce Development Council instead.

## **V. Hawaii Literacy Presentation**

Jill Takasaki Canfield, Executive Director of Hawaii Literacy, presented on Hawaii Literacy. The presentation can be found at the following link:

[https://oahuwdb.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Hawaii-Literacy-Presentation\\_WDC-April-18-2024.pdf](https://oahuwdb.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Hawaii-Literacy-Presentation_WDC-April-18-2024.pdf)

## **VI. Project SEARCH Presentation**

Reginald Dela Cruz, Instructor and Coordinator of Project SEARCH, introduced Project SEARCH. He let the attendees know that 80% of program graduates have become employed and two are still in college. Currently project SEARCH is associated with Kaiser and is now in talks with Outrigger. The project SEARCH interns presented on project SEARCH.

Christopher Lum Lee asked if there are any particular industries that are targeted for enrollment and if there are any career skills that the interns will develop before leaving the program.

- Reginald let him know that many of the interns are in the entry level type positions but if the interns are able to increase to other positions that is a possibility. He gave an example of an intern that was delivering food to patients/working on their communication and interaction. He mentioned the best part of the program is that it can be scaled to where the intern is and their own skillsets.

## **VII. Reports Related to WIOA**

### **a. WIOA Title I Programs**

Leina‘ala Nakamura, Administrator of the WorkHawaii division, went over the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I Programs. Cassidy Patmont, planner from the WorkHawaii division, presented the newly developed WorkHawaii Data Dashboard which will be updated monthly.

- Christopher Lum Lee wanted clarification on the measurable skills gain performance measure for the Adult and Dislocated Worker program. He asked if there will be a bump up in numbers when semesters and quarters end.
  - Lei let him know that for Adult and Dislocated Worker program a diploma needs to be obtained for the measurable skills gain performance measure, the credential attainment rate is where the short-term training comes in.
  - Lei also mentioned that for the Youth program, milestones in the credential path count as measurable skills gains.
- Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director of the Workforce Development Council, wanted to know how the numbers are looking for PY23 and any precautions being taken to advance the numbers.
  - Lei let her and the board know that currently their teams are at the Unemployment offices twice a week and are currently in 10 state libraries across the island (servicing ~300 individuals up to date).

### **b. One Stop Operator**

The One Stop Operator (OSO) was unavailable to give the OSO report, the written report was distributed to in-person attendees and will be available online.

The reports for the WIOA Title I programs and the One Stop Operator can be found at the following link:

<https://oahuwdb.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Reports-Related-to-WIOA.pdf>

The Data Dashboard can be found at the following link:

<https://www8.honolulu.gov/dcs/wh-data-dashboard/>

## **VIII. OWDB Committee Reports on Activities**

### **a. Sector Strategies and Career Pathways**

Lisa Truong Kracher was unavailable to give updates on the last Sector Strategies and Career Pathways committee meeting that was convened on January 25, 2024. Harrison Kuranishi gave updates on her behalf.

- Lisa, Harrison, and Daven had a meeting with Mufi Hannemann, the president and CEO of Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association. To discuss a potential partnership with the hospitality industry.
  - Jeff Wagoner, President and CEO of Outrigger Hospitality Group, wanted to clarify that “Hospitality” is a broad spectrum and that tourism is a better definition of what Mufi and his team is focusing on.
- The chambers funding request was another topic that was talked about in the meeting, the results of the funding request were discussed earlier in the meeting.

### **b. Performance Measures and Accountability**

Suzie Schulberg gave the board updates from the last Performance Measures and Accountability committee meeting that was convened on February 13, 2024.

- The main talking point of the meeting was the performance data for PY23.
- The next Performance Measures and Accountability committee meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2024.

### **c. Finance**

Christopher Lum Lee gave the board updates from the two Finance committee meeting that were convened on February 13, 2024 and March 13, 2024.

- The February meeting was mainly to finalize the withholding amount that was brought up at the last board meeting. The final amount that was decided on was \$2.2 dollars. Christopher let the board know that although an amount was finalized, since the MOU/IFA’s have not been completed the budget modifications will not be approved.
  - Also discussed during the February meeting was the fiscal monitoring with the State will happen the second week of May, Christopher will be sitting in.
  - The estimated returned funds amount for June 30 is \$4.5 million. The return amount includes the QUEST amount which is just under \$2.3 million and will expire in mid-September. The state is looking to get an extension.

- The March meeting was convened to speak about the Chamber of Commerce funding request, which was discussed earlier in the full board meeting.

**d. Employer Engagement**

Jason Chang informed the board that the last scheduled Employer Engagement committee meeting was cancelled. The next committee meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2024.

**e. Data Management and Technology**

Currently there are no scheduled meetings for the Data Management and Technology committee.

**IX. WIOA Core Partner Updates**

**a. Adult Education & Career Pathways**

Pat Anbe, Principal at Waipahu Community School for Adults, gave an update for Adult Education and Career Pathways. The updates were distributed to in-person attendees and will be made publically available online.

**b. Institute for Higher Education, UH System**

Joshua Kaakua, Academic Affairs Program Officer for the Office of the Vice President of Community Colleges, gave an update from the UH System. The updates were distributed to in-person attendees and will be made publically available online.

**c. Vocational Rehabilitation**

There were no available representatives to present on behalf of Vocational Rehabilitation. The updates were distributed to in-person attendees and will be made publically available online.

**d. Wagner-Peyser**

There were no available representatives to present on behalf of Wagner-Peyser. The updates were distributed to in-person attendees and will be made publically available online.

The WIOA Core Partner Updates can be found at the following link:

<https://oahuwdb.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/WIOA-Core-Partner-Updates.pdf>

**X. Executive Director's Report**

Harrison Kuranishi, Executive Director of the OWDB, gave updates from the last board meeting.

- Harrison informed the board that OWDB staff was able to attend the National Association of Workforce Boards' (NAWB) conference held in Washington DC. The OWDB is looking to join NAWB as a member and to continue attending the yearly conferences.
- Harrison also informed the board that they will be monitoring the service provider on the week of April 29, and invited any interested board members to attend.

**XI. Announcements and Public Testimony**

Harrison Kuranishi let the board know that there will be a federal training on the week of June 24<sup>th</sup>. It is requested that the training is attended in person. An email will be sent out after the meeting including more details and the agenda.

Reginald Dela Cruz let the board know ways that organizations can help with project SEARCH.

- Starting up as a host business, he noted a host business must be 150 employees or more. To offer different departments or rotations to the interns.
- Another option is externships, which smaller businesses are eligible. Towards the end of the internship at the host business, interns are welcome to leave and experience another industry.
- School level training.
- Employment opportunities.

Reginald gave his contact information for anyone interested in project SEARCH. His phone number is (808)381-7601 and his email is [Reginald.dela\\_cruz@k12.hi.us](mailto:Reginald.dela_cruz@k12.hi.us), there is also a project SEARCH email, [projectsearchhawaii@gmail.com](mailto:projectsearchhawaii@gmail.com).

**XII. Schedule Next Meeting**

The next Full Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 18, 2024 from 8:30 am to 10:30 am. Meeting location to be determined and shared with members at a later date.

**XIII. Adjournment**

Chair Jason Chang adjourned the meeting at 10:26 am.