

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

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HARRISON KURANISHI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**SECTOR STRATEGIES AND  
CAREER PATHWAYS  
COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Thursday, July 25, 2024**  
**2:30 pm to 3:30 pm**

*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:**

Lisa Truong Kracher, Array Corporation, Vice President  
Jeff Wagoner, Outrigger Hospitality Group, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Kevin Holu, Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Union 996, President/Principal Officer  
Trevor Bracher, Marriot International Kyo-ya Hotels & Resorts, Complex Director of Human Resources  
Christopher Lum Lee, Tri Sec Inc., Principal Guard and Chief Administrative Officer  
Nicole Anderson, Office of Economic Revitalization, Workforce Development Program Manager  
Sherry Menor-McNamara, Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, President and Chief Executive Officer

**Guests:**

Vanessa Rogers, Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, Associate Vice President of Workforce Development  
Anna Pacheco, SMS Research, Vice President  
Mark Menard, American Job Center, Business Services Coordinator  
Tamber Miller-Garcia, American Job Center, Job Resource Specialist  
Sherrie Garedo, American Job Center, Job Resource Specialist  
Cristal Garan, American Job Center Work Hawaii Youth Program, Community Services Specialist  
Roxsand Okuna, American Job Center Work Hawaii Youth Program, Community Services Specialist  
Jared Higashi, Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Association, VP of Government & Community Affairs  
Jodi Kawahara, Moana Surfrider, Director of Human Resources  
Nona Tamahana, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc., Regional Director of Human Resources

**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 Sector Strategies and Career Pathways Committee meeting was called to order at 2:31 pm by Oahu Workforce Development Board (OWDB) Sector Strategies and Career Pathways Committee Chair Lisa Truong Kracher.

## **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.)

Lisa Truong Kracher, Vice President of Array Corporation and Chair of the Sector Strategies and Career Pathways committee, shared that she had the opportunity to meet with Executive Director of San Bernardino and two Orange County Executive Directors. She will share what she learned with Harrison Kuranishi offline.

## **III. Approval of Minutes**

### **a. April 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Chair Lisa Truong Kracher requested a motion to approve the minutes for the April 25, 2024 meeting. Nicole Anderson moved to approve the minutes. Sherry Menor-McNamara seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The minutes were unanimously approved.

## **IV. Sector Partnerships Quarterly Update**

Chair Lisa Truong Kracher used chairs prerogative to move the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association presentation to agenda item VI.

Vanessa Rogers shared updates on Quarterly Sector Partnerships. The slide deck can be found at the following link:

[https://oahuwdb.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/OWDB-SSCP\\_SP-Update-7.25.24.pdf](https://oahuwdb.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/OWDB-SSCP_SP-Update-7.25.24.pdf)

Jeff Wagoner, President and Chief Executive Officer of Outrigger Hospitality Group, noted that the criteria for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) has presented a struggle to outreach to more people. He wanted clarification if the WIOA requirements hinder the possibility of helping the participants of the Good Jobs Hawaii grant.

- Harrison Kuranishi, Executive Director of the OWDB, clarified that WIOA is not an entitlement program and there needs to be a need. Vanessa noted that although the requirements for the Good Jobs programs are more lenient, work is being done with American Job Center of Hawaii (AJCH) staff such as Mark Menard, Business Services Coordinator at AJCH, to see eligibility to programs such as Quality Jobs, Equity Strategy, and Training (QUEST) and enroll them.
  - In regards to QUEST, Mark gave a quick update stating that a verbal notification was received that they will be receiving a one-year no cost extension, allowing them to go past the September 15, 2024 contracted date.

## **V. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title I Program Qualifications and Requirements**

Harrison Kuranishi went over the requirements of WIOA. For WIOA title I programs there needs to be a barrier, for example for QUEST long-term unemployment is defined as four weeks whereas WIOA's long-term unemployment is defined as 27 weeks. Although there are strict requirements customization is possible, i.e. trainings

done through WIOA must be selected from the Eligible Training Provider List and currently the maximum cost is \$4,000. A change in policy for the total allowable cost is currently being looked at and will go through the board.

Harrison noted that even if a participant qualifies for WIOA funds there needs to be justification and a need.

Harrison explained that WIOA has three pots of money; Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth.

- Adult includes individuals with barriers to employment including difficulty finding/maintaining employment (with justification), public assistance recipients, basic skills deficient individuals, etc.
- Dislocated Workers include those who are long-term unemployed, those who have lost employment due to mass layoff or global trade dynamics, etc.
- Youth program includes In-School and Out-of-School.
  - In-School includes low income individuals that are between the ages of 14 and 21 that are attending school that fall under certain categories such as: Homeless, in the foster care system, disabled youth, etc.
  - Out-of-School includes individuals between the ages of 16 and 24 that are not attending any schooling. Some categories include: school dropouts, justice involved individuals, pregnant/parenting, etc.

Harrison indicated that for the Youth Program it must provide fourteen elements to the youth participants.

- Harrison identified Entrepreneurial skills training as one of the program elements.

## **VI. Presentation from Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Association**

Jared Higashi, Vice President of Government and Community Affairs at Hawaii Lodging and Lodging Association (HTLA), presented on behalf of Mufi Hannemann. HTLA is a membership-based trade organization, the primary industry being Tourism and Hospitality. Some past projects done are as follows:

- Through a partnership with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and the University of Hawaii Manoa Shidler College of Business, School of Travel Industry Management, HTLA has provided four-year full-ride scholarships to students who enroll at UH Manoa and declare a major in Travel Industry Management.
- Worked with High School programs to help bolster the Tourism academies, and provide mentorship programs through the leaders of the industry to get university-level students ready for leadership level opportunities.
- During the last legislative session they worked on Senate Bill 2286 to utilize funding from the State's Hele Imua program to fund internships in the visitor industry on the private sector side. Unfortunately the bill did not pass but will be sought again at next year's legislative session.
  - Since it is State funds, generally for state and government positions, that is why the OWDB has been in contact because they have federal funding for opportunities such as this, through QUEST and the WIOA Title I programs.

Christopher Lum Lee, Principal Guard and Chief Administrative Officer at Tri Sec Inc., asked about other types of “entry level” positions (such as bookkeepers and accountants) and if there is a venue that is being developed.

- Jeff Wagoner informed Chris that with proper training there may be entry level accounting jobs but the example of room attendants was being thrown around as that is the position with the largest number of jobs needed, versus a few accountants.
  - Trevor Bracher noted that internal movement in positions is common practice. Trevor noted that he started as a banquet porter and moved through different positions. Jeff Wagoner added he started as a front desk clerk and moved up the ladder.

**VII. Announcements and Public Testimony**

There were no announcements or public testimony.

**VIII. Schedule Next Meeting**

The next meeting Sector Strategies and Career Pathways Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 24, 2024 from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

**IX. Adjournment**

Chair Lisa Truong Kracher adjourned the meeting at 3:33 pm.