

OAHU WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



CHRISTOPHER K. LUM LEE
CHAIR

HARRISON KURANISHI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**SECTOR STRATEGIES AND
CAREER PATHWAYS
COMMITTEE MEETING**
Thursday, February 27, 2025
1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

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

Members Present:

Lisa Truong Kracher, Array Corporation, Vice President
Christopher Lum Lee, Tri Sec Inc., President and Chief Executive Officer
Vanessa Rogers, Designee for Sherry Menor-McNamara
Mimi Sroat, Hawaii Electricians Training Fund, Director

Guests:

Andrew Rosen, Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director
Wes Akamine, 'Ōlelo Community Media, Director of Operations and Project Management
Su Lazo, Office of Economic Revitalization, Workforce Development Program Manager
Neva Kanani Supe-Roque, Windward Community College, Workforce Development Coordinator
Debbie Cabebe, Maui Economic Opportunity, Chief Executive Officer

Staff:

Harrison Kuranishi, Oahu Workforce Development Board, Executive Director
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 1:01 pm by Committee Chair Lisa Truong Kracher.

II. Welcome and Introductions

(Note: Per the State OIP, Oahu Workforce Development Board (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. November 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Chair Lisa Truong Kracher requested a motion to approve the minutes for the November 7, 2024, meeting. Christopher Lum Lee moved to approve the minutes. Andrew Rosen seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Sector Partnerships Quarterly Update

Vanessa Rogers, Vice President of Workforce Development at Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, gave a quarterly Sector Partnership update. The presentation can be found at the following link:

<https://oahuwdb.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/OWDB-SP-Update-2.27.25.pdf>

V. Executive Director's Report

Harrison Kuranishi, Executive Director of the OWDB, gave updates from the OWDB. Some key updates include:

- As of February 15, 2025, former OWDB Chair Jason Chang termed out. Per the bylaws Vice-Chair Christopher Lum Lee is now sitting in the Chair seat, nomination submissions for the Chair and Vice-Chair seats were open to the board and will be closing on Friday, February 28, 2025.
- QUEST grant funding initially had 2.7 MM in funding, which was fully spent down. An extra 400k in funding will be allocated to OWDB, the QUEST grant will be expiring in September 2025.
- There will be another period of performance (POP) extension to the service provider, up until June 30, 2025. During the June 2024 Full board meeting the POP was extended to December 31, 2024. In addition to the POP extension, there will also be an addition of funds.
 - The additional funds per program are: \$694,000 to the Adult program, \$271,000 to the Dislocated Worker program, and \$790,000 to the Youth program.
- The Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) had 91.9% of the programs purged by the State, as in the past 2 ½ years there were no participants or credential earnings.
 - There will be a policy coming including a tighter pre-screening of ETP's and a provision requiring the need for employers tied to the training to be eligible for the ETPL.
- There are upcoming revisions for the Local plan, OWDB will be working with the Workforce Development Council on the changes.
- Per past years, WorkHawaii has gotten all Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds. This year Request for Proposals (RFP) will be used for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs. Projects that will help increase total number of participants will also be RFP'd out.
- Program Year 24 program monitoring will be done by April 7, 2025, notifications are currently being sent out, this means the monitoring will be completed prior to the next OWDB Full Board meeting.
- OWDB will be bringing in a staff member to replace the Budget Analyst IV position previously held by Raymond Duong. However the position will not be specified as a Budget Analyst but rather as a WIOA Specialist position.

Paperwork is currently being processed, potentially by next full board meeting a new staff member will be on board.

VI. Announcements and Public Testimony

There were no announcements or public testimony.

VII. Schedule Next Meeting

The next Sector Strategies and Career Pathways committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 29, 2025 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Lisa Truong Kracher adjourned the meeting at 1:28 pm.