

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



CHRISTOPHER K. LUM LEE
CHAIR

HARRISON KURANISHI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**SECTOR STRATEGIES AND
CAREER PATHWAYS
COMMITTEE MEETING**
Thursday, May 29, 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
Trevor Bracher
Wes Akamine
Pat Anbe
Sarah Guay
Frederick Pascua
Christopher Lum Lee
Andrew Rosen

Guests:

Roseanne Propato, Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation, Corrections Education Program Manager
McKenna Dale, Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, Manager of Workforce Development
Su Lazo, Office of Economic Revitalization, Workforce Development Program Manager
Samantha Larson, AE Consulting, Project Manager
Josiah Akau, Kinai 'Eha, Chairman of the Board of Directors
Neva Supe-Roque, Windward Community College, Career and Community Education Specialist

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, a quorum of members must be visible throughout the public portion of the meeting, but so long as that requirement is met, 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 February 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Chair Lisa Truong Kracher requested a motion to approve the minutes for the February 27, 2025, meeting. Wes Akamine moved to approve the minutes. Pat Anbe seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Sector Partnerships Quarterly Update

McKenna Dale, Manager of Workforce Development at Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, and Samantha Larson, Project Manager at AE Consulting, gave an update on Sector Partnerships. The presentation can be found at the following link:

<https://oahuwdb.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/OWDB-SP-Update-5.29.25.pdf>

The newest sector partnership is Transportation, with the lead convener being the State Department of Transportation. The first full partnership meeting is being held May 29, 2025.

- Stakeholder outreach has identified the in-demand certifications and trainings including entry-level/transferrable credentials such as Forklift Operator or OSHA certification. As well as more specialized credentials such as Commercial Driver's License A and B, Commercial Pilot License, etc.
- Through the quantitative labor market data and stakeholder input, eight recommendations were identified to enhance Hawaii's collective effort in Transportation Workforce Development. Including the following:
 - Career Awareness;
 - Developing Clear Pathways from Secondary to Career;
 - Developing and Expanding Local Training Opportunities;
 - Addressing Shortages of Instructors and Examiners;
 - In regard to this recommendation Andrew Rosen inquired if the shortage of instructors is due to regulations that slow down the process. Samantha informed him that there are some subsectors that involve teaching certifications but overall the pay gap between being an instructor vs. working in the field seems to be a large recruitment challenge.
 - Increasing Funding for Training and Wraparound Support;
 - Addressing barriers to public sector transportation careers;
 - Aligning training with evolving technologies;
 - And Industry-Education collaboration

Andrew Rosen inquired if there were any actionable items or outcomes to move forward for individuals that have the aptitude for the fields of work but are ineligible due to not having minimum requirements such as a four year degree.

- McKenna informed Andrew that many of the industry partners revisit their minimum qualifications to access if a degree is necessary for the entry level positions. However as of now there is no large readjustment to the minimum qualifications.

Wes Akamine inquired if there are any programs or projects aimed towards the businesses to change the minimum requirements they have or if it is a one on one with current partners.

- McKenna informed Wes that there is currently no projects or key initiatives in the current sector partnerships. Samantha added that a challenge that has come up to have an overarching initiative focusing on all sectors is that minimum qualifications are different for each sector, agency, department, etc.

V. Executive Director's Report

Harrison Kuranishi, Executive Director of OWDB, gave some updates.

- OWDB staff and Board Chair Christopher Lum Lee had the opportunity to go down to Job Corp. With the Job Corp set to close its doors May 30, 2025, work with OWDB's Service Provider is happening to try to capture affected individuals.
- Harrison called upon Roseanne Propato, Corrections Education Program Manager at Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation, speak on the project that OWDB is working with her on.
 - Roseanne informed the committee that she is working with the OWDB and Simply 3D Hawaii to start a Dental Assisting and Digital Dentistry pilot program.
- OWDB staff and Chair Christopher Lum Lee had the opportunity to go the UH Community College Chancellors meeting to share what Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is and to increase presence on the different campuses.
- OWDB is still looking for staff, there are currently three open positions.

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 August 28, 2025 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Lisa Truong Kracher adjourned the meeting at 1:34 pm.