

OAHU WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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VICE CHAIR

HARRISON KURANISHI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, May 13, 2024
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:

Jason Chang, Queen's Health System Innovation Institute, President; Committee Chair
Trevor Bracher, Sheraton Waikiki/Marriott, Complex Director of Human Resources
Nicole Anderson, Office of Economic Revitalization, Workforce Development Program Manager
Kevin Holu, Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Local 996, President/Principal Officer
Christopher Lum Lee, Tri Sec Inc., Principal Guard and Chief Administrative Officer

Guests:

Dan Doerger, Pacific Center for Advanced Technology Training, Director
Keala Peters, Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, EVP of Education and Workforce Development
Randall Higa, Workforce Transition Center, Owner and Founder

Staff:

Harrison Kuranishi, Oahu Workforce Development Board, Executive Director
Daven Kawamura, Oahu Workforce Development Board, WIOA Specialist

I. Call to Order

The Employer Engagement Committee meeting was called to order at 1:01 pm by Committee Chair Jason Chang.

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 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Chair Jason Chang requested a motion to approve the minutes for the November 16, 2021, meeting. Christopher Lum Lee moved to approve the minutes. Trevor Bracher seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Open Discussion regarding the goals of the committee

Harrison Kuranishi, Executive Director for the OWDB, gave a brief overview of the roles of the Employer Engagement committee. A big initiative for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL). Trainers must be on the ETPL in order to enroll WIOA participants into the training.

- A main responsibility for the committee is to go over the ETPL/Apprenticeship/Work Readiness, Career Service, Prevocational services list applications.
 - For the Apprenticeship list, they are allowed to be on the ETPL automatically if they wish to be.
 - The Career Services list has pre-training, such as English 22, 23, and 24, to meet qualifications of ETPL trainings.
- The ETPL includes a category titled “Business Partnerships”. This category is to build a pipeline from training to employment. This topic will be an initiative that will be focused on in this committee.

Nicole Anderson, Workforce Development Program Manager for the Office of Economic Revitalization, suggested observing the Labor Market Information data to see the in-demand industries, therefore being able to be proactive to make sure the correct providers are on/applying to the ETPL.

- Nicole shared her thoughts on the current state of the ETPL, it was stated that as it is currently it may not be easily digestible for the participants.

Keala Peters, Executive Vice President of Education and Workforce Development for Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, wanted clarification on what exactly the committee is “engaging” employers on.

- Harrison Kuranishi stated that in the future once the committee grows, that private sector businesses will be in attendance and the businesses themselves will tell the committee what is needed.
 - There is a provision that details that if there are not enough Eligible Training Providers in in-demand occupations it is acceptable to use Training Providers not on the ETPL.

Keala Peters brought up the employer survey that was circulated back in 2019/2020 to get an understanding on the perception and awareness of the American Job Center (AJC). This was done to bring awareness to the AJC and what services are offered.

- There has been a shift from what exactly the Employer Engagement committee were discussing from the last meeting. Differing from reaching out to and building relationships with employers to bringing the employers and the ETP’s together to bridge what information is needed so that participants can come out job-ready.

Trevor Bracher, the Complex Director of Human Resources at Sheraton Waikiki/Marriott, stated that what is being discussed sounds structurally correct but will need to show more benefit for employers than in the past to get any interest. He mentioned that currently with other programs they have more connection and control over the structuring of the training to better align to the needs.

- Jason Chang proposed to choose industries, then focus on revising the focus of the ETP’s so that the participants can be fed into the system after training.

- Harrison proposed writing a policy to include the pathway handing off participants to employers. If the policy is written it can then be enforced for the service providers.
 - Policies can be more stringent on the local level, e.g., currently the Individual Training Account (ITA) policy is \$4,000 but at the board level it can be increased. There are three pots of money including training, Supportive Services, and on-the-job training, which could be utilized but due to the current policies cannot be.
 - Nicole Anderson suggested in addition to writing policies, as an employer engagement committee engage the employers to bring them to the AJC to let them know the services available.

Kevin Holu, President and Principal Officer of Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Local 996, informed the committee that in addition to finding quality employers there is also a need to find quality individuals to train. He gave the example of TheBus, where they are always hiring because it is hard to retain employees/get individuals to apply. As well as the labor unions, where many workers are aging out and the unions are going into schools to find workers.

Nicole Anderson sent a link that AJC's in other states are using, that take participants through questions to better align them with careers that may be a good fit. The link can be found below:

<https://www.onetonline.org/>

V. Announcements and Public Testimony

There were no announcements or public testimony.

VI. Schedule Next Meeting

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 12, 2024 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Jason Chang adjourned the meeting at 2:07 pm.