

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

**SPECIAL PROJECTS
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday, June 9, 2026
10:00 am to 11:00 am**

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:

Wesley Akamine
Trevor Bracher
Frederick Pascua
Andrew Rosen
June Fernandez
Janna Hoshide

Guests:

Amy Asselbaye, Office of Economic Revitalization, Executive Director
Andrea Gaines, WorkHawaii Division, Assistant Administrator
Lee Williams-Naeole, WorkHawaii Division, WIOA Title I Programs Manager
Colin Inamasu, WorkHawaii Division, Planner

Staff:

Harrison Kuranishi, Oahu Workforce Development Board, Executive Director
Lisa Pereira, Oahu Workforce Development Board, WIOA Specialist
Sherrie Garedo, Oahu Workforce Development Board, WIOA Specialist
Erin Nicole Fernandez, Oahu Workforce Development Board, WIOA Specialist
Daven Kawamura, Oahu Workforce Development Board, WIOA Specialist

I. Call to Order

The Special Projects Committee meeting was called to order at 10:01 am by Committee Chair Wesley Akamine.

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. Public Testimony Relating to Agenda Items

There was no public testimony relating to agenda items.

IV. Approval of March 10, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Chair Wesley Akamine requested a motion to approve the minutes for the March 10, 2026 meeting. Andrew Rosen moved to approve the minutes. Janna Hoshide seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The minutes were unanimously approved.

V. Updates on previous Small Project Proposals

Daven Kawamura, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) specialist at the OWDB, noted that there are no representatives from any of the Small Project proposals.

- Daven noted that budgets were received from two of the small project proposals, those being Workforce Transition Center/Youth Workforce Training (Pathway to Success) and Leeward Community College Alternative Certification Program. Those two will be the only small projects that will be moving forward through the process with Fiscal.

VI. Local Plan Revisions and Submission

Erin Nicole Fernandez, WIOA Specialist at OWDB, noted that the Local Plan that was voted on and approved by the Board was submitted to the State, however it was never fully approved. Since the State Unified Plan was revised and accepted as of April 2, 2026 the Local Boards must be modified to align with the State.

The main shift in the State Unified Plan was moving away from the Four Pillars, Alignment with Economic Growth, Strengthening Education and Training Alliances, Eliminating Barriers to Career Success, and Creating Workforce Synergy across Hawaii ecosystem to a Generational Commitment. The Four Pillars were led by separate working groups, as to move away from that siloed approach they moved to the Generational Commitment where it focuses on the shared responsibility of all those in the workforce system.

The Generational Plan focuses on four areas, Learn, Work, Thrive, Belong:

- Learn emphasizes credential attainment, continuous skill acquisition, knowledge development, and adaptability across the lifespan.
- Work focuses on connection to meaningful, quality employment opportunities. Such as Career Pathways, work-based Learning, alignment with industry, and reducing barriers for participation.
- Thrive focuses on how individuals can thrive in Hawaii, so economic mobility, resilience, and long-term advancement. Reflecting wage progression, career sustainability, financial stability, etc.
- Belong focuses on social inclusion, opportunity access, and equitable participation in Hawaii's economy and communities.

Frederick Pascua inquired if there is a deadline for submittal of the revised Local Plan, Erin noted that at this time there is no official deadline. An official bulletin will be pushed out and that will set the date of submission.

Harrison Kuranishi, Executive Director of OWDB, noted that the revision should first run through the Special Projects committee similarly to the initial Local Plan process.

VII. Implementation of One-Stop Operator responsibilities and coordination among workforce partners

Harrison Kuranishi noted that a Request for Proposal (RFP) was done for the One Stop Operator (OSO). Many questions came in regarding the RFP, however there were no responses submitted. In the case of no bids a BFS-15 form was submitted, which allows an alternate form of procurement noting sole-source, non-competitive proposal, the board taking over as the OSO, etc.

- The board was looking to take the OSO role while another RFP process is facilitated to possibly find an OSO.
- For the Board to take over the OSO role there are a few steps to take.
 - Approval from the Governor and Mayor approval, which documentation has been submitted.
 - Policies such as Conflict of Interest and Firewall policy which was submitted with the letters.
 - The completed BFS-15 form mentioned above.
- In the event that a board staff takes over the OSO role, they will no longer be reporting to the Executive Director or Board Chair but rather the Executive Committee, to navigate firewalls and conflict of interest.

Erick asked if the board taking over the OSO is an intermediary between getting another RFP through, if the proposed RFP will incorporate the answers to the questions from the previous RFP, and the status on the letters from Mayor and Governor.

- Harrison Kuranishi noted that the letters were submitted to the Mayor and Governor on June 4th. He noted that the BFS-15 form needs to be signed prior to anything being official.
- Harrison noted that the RFP process had started in the beginning of 2025, the timeline for how long the interim period will last is unpredictable with the amount of time it took to get the initial process started.

VIII. Oahu Workforce Development Board to oversee the One Stop Operator

During the discussion of agenda item VII, the talking points for this agenda item were discussed. No further questions were proposed.

IX. Announcements

The next Special Project Committee is tentatively scheduled for September 15, 2026 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. If at the Full Board meeting a group of individuals points out that they would work collaboratively on the revision an additional meeting will be scheduled for the modified local plan discussion.

X. Adjournment

Chair Wesley Akamine adjourned the meeting at 10:25 am.