

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
Monday, August 17, 2026
8:00 am to 10:00 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
Christopher Lum Lee
Kanui Bell
Sarah Guay

Staff:

Harrison Kuranishi, Oahu Workforce Development Board, Executive Director
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 8:38 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. Discussion around the OWDB Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Local Plan Revisions

- a. Discussion around the revisions that must be made to the OWDB WIOA Local Plan per the revisions that were made to the United State Plan**

Daven Kawamura, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Specialist, noted that a draft of the local plan was sent out to the OWDB board members on Friday, August 14, 2026. The draft local plan with revisions can be found at the following link:

<https://oahuwdb.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Workforce-Innovation-and-Opportunity-Act-Local-Plan-finalrev.pdf>

Daven Kawamura noted that many of the changes that are seen on the draft local plan are verbiage changes to align more closely with the Unified State Plan. He noted that there are several “key” changes.

- The first key change is the change from the four pillars that was previously in the State Unified Plan to a “Generational Workforce Commitment”. It changed from four “generic” focus areas to six strategic goals. The OWDB WIOA Local Plan was revised to also change the verbiage in the Local Plan to align with the “Generational Workforce Commitment”.
- Another key change was the focus put onto Artificial Intelligence and Workforce Pell implementation, which was added to the OWDB WIOA Local Plan. The verbiage is mostly from the State Unified Plan with tweaks that better align to the Local Areas.

Christopher Lum Lee wanted clarification on the changes made to the OWDB WIOA Local Plan. He inquired if the changes are being made to the previously approved OWDB WIOA Local Plan draft that was approved through the Board.

- Daven confirmed that the revisions are being made to the previously approved OWDB WIOA Local Plan. He noted that the draft OWDB WIOA Local Plan was submitted to the State, however prior to being approved the State had revised the Unified State Plan so revision needed to be made to the Local Plan(s).

Daven Kawamura also noted there were small changes such as the removal of “Second Chance Act of 2007” from the partners list, changing the Community School for Adults’ organizational name to the combined “Hawaii State Community School for Adults”, addition of disability verbiage, etc.

- Christopher Lum Lee inquired if the issue with the Second Chance Act was the funding reduction and the fund changing hands multiple times.
 - Harrison Kuranishi, Executive Director of OWDB, noted that per the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) they had noted to take Second Chance Act of 2007 off as a partner.

Daven Kawamura noted that there were also several waivers that were added to the OWDB WIOA Local Plan, that have been approved and added to the State Unified Plan.

- The first of which is a waiver for the allocation of Youth program funding requirement of 75% for Out-of-School Youth. The waiver reduces that minimum of 75% to 50%.
- Another waiver was the permission of Individual Training Accounts (ITA) for In-School Youth participants.

- Harrison noted that the reason the waivers were requested was because over the past couple of years the in-school enrollment numbers have been less than 5% and have returned ~1.4MM. The waivers should help with the spend down of Youth funding. A notable change with the waivers will be In-School Youth participants utilizing ITAs such as community college courses, private trainings, etc.
- The last waiver included on the OWDB WIOA Local Plan was a waiver to the limit of employer reimbursement for On-the-Job training of 50%. Changing to a reimbursement of up to 90% for employers with 50 or fewer employees.
- Harrison Kuranishi noted that each county needed to apply for the waivers, and he is unsure if the other counties applied for the same waivers. He noted that the above waivers were input into the Unified State Plan as waivers requested.

Daven Kawamura noted the last key change that was made to the OWDB WIOA Local Plan was the addition of the negotiated performance metric rates for Program Year 26 and 27. It was noted to the State that they needed to add their negotiated rates to the Unified State Plan, following suit it was added to the OWDB WIOA Local Plan.

- Daven noted that the negotiated rates are from the negotiations that OWDB staff had with State DLIR, which was an agenda topic for the Performance Measures and Accountability committee meeting.

Chair Wesley Akamine inquired if there are any other questions regarding the revisions that were discussed at the meeting. With no further questions Chair Wesley Akamine requested a motion to approve posting of the revised Local Plan for public comment. Sarah Guay moved to approve the posting of the revised Local Plan for public comment. Kanui Bell seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The revised Local Plan was approved to post for public comment.

Harrison Kuranishi noted that the document will be up for public comment until 10:00 am on September 1, 2026. The OWDB WIOA Local plan will be routed for signatures in the meantime, and will be submitted to the State by 4:30 pm on September 1, 2026. Per United States Department of Labor (USDOL) the draft of the Local Plan will be available on the OWDB website, the previous OWDB WIOA Local Plan draft was submitted to the Workforce Development Council on January 6, 2026 but was never approved so it was thought that OWDB had no Local Plan.

V. Announcements

The next Special Projects committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 15th from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

VI. Adjournment

Chair Wesley Akamine adjourned the meeting at 8:54 am.