JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

KEITH A. REGAN
ACTING LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

BENNETTE MISALUCHA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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KA MOKUʻĀINA O HAWAIʻI
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
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HAWAII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING – 2026 FOURTH QUARTER

AGENDA

Date: November 12, 2026

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 pm

In-Person Meeting Location: Princess Ruth Ke'elikolani Building
830 Punchbowl Street, Room 310
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Virtual Participation: Virtual Video Conference Meeting – Zoom Meeting (Link Below)
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83294500603?pwd=Ob2XHXPvQhM7WbqW0GyYgbYuEGZWN3.1

Meeting ID: 832 9450 0603
Passcode: 367635

Dial-in: +1 (719) 359-4580

Agenda: The agenda was posted to the State electronic calendars as required by §92-7(b), Hawai'i Revised Statutes ("HRS")

Board Meeting Materials: Meeting materials are available for review at https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/meeting-docs/

Individuals may submit written testimony by hard copy mail or hand delivery to: Attn: Workforce Development Council, 830 Punchbowl Street, Suite 317, Honolulu, HI 96813 or by email at DLIR.Workforce.Council@hawaii.gov. We request submission of testimony at least 24 hours prior to the meeting to ensure that it can be distributed to the Board members. Any written testimony submitted after such time will be retained as part of the record and distributed to members as soon as practicable, but we cannot ensure members will receive it in sufficient time to review prior to any decision-making.

Internet Access:
To view the meeting and provide live oral testimony, please use the link at the top of the agenda. You will be asked to enter your name. Providing your name is optional, and you may use a pseudonym or other identifier if you wish

to remain anonymous. You will also be asked for an email address. You may fill in this field with any entry in an email format, e.g., *****@***mail.com.

Your microphone will be automatically muted, and video may be turned off. When the Chairperson asks for public testimony, you may click the Raise Hand button found on your Zoom screen to indicate that you wish to testify about an agenda item. When recognized by the Chairperson to testify, unmute your microphone and turn on your video. At the conclusion of your testimony, please mute your microphone.

Phone Access:
If you do not have internet access, you may get audio-only access by calling the Zoom Phone Number listed at the top on the agenda. Upon dialing the number, you will be prompted to enter the Meeting ID which is also listed at the top of the agenda. After entering the Meeting ID, you will be asked to wait until you are admitted into the meeting. When the Chairperson asks for public testimony, you may indicate you want to testify by entering "*" and then "9" on your phone's keypad. After entering "*" and then "9", a voice prompt will let you know that the host of the meeting has been notified. When recognized by the Chairperson, you may unmute yourself by pressing "*" and then "6" on your phone. A voice prompt will let you know that you are unmuted. Once you are finished speaking, please enter "*" and then "6" to mute yourself.

For both internet and phone access, when testifying, you will be asked to identify yourself and the organization, if any, that you represent. You are not required to identify yourself. Providing a name is optional. Each testifier is limited to five minutes of testimony per agenda item and testimony should be confined to agenda items for this meeting. Pursuant to section 92-3.7(e), HRS, the Board may remove or block any person who willfully disrupts or compromises the conduct of the meeting.

If connection to the meeting is lost for more than 30 minutes, the meeting will be continued on a specified date and time. This information will be provided on the Council's website at https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/meeting-docs/

Instructions to attend State of Hawaii virtual board meetings may be found online at https://cca.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/State-of-Hawaii-Virtual-Board-Attendee-Instructions.pdf

Vision Statement:

The Workforce Development Council's vision is that all employers have competitively skilled employees and all residents seeking work or advancement have sustainable employment and self-sufficiency.

Mission Statement:

It is the intent of the Workforce Development Council to support and guide the implementation of the Unified State Plan through active collaboration and regional sensitivity for the purpose of aligning, coordinating, and integrating workforce services to meet the needs of employers and residents to foster a robust economy.

I. Call to Order……. Keith DeMello, Workforce Development Council Chair

II. Approval of Minutes of September 10, 2026, WDC Board Meeting

Requires Board Action

III. University of Hawaii Presentation…….Dr. Wendy Hensel, President, University of Hawaii System

Hawai'i's University for Today and Tomorrow: A Strategic Briefing to the State of Hawai'i Workforce Development Council

- The Need for Systemic Transformation

- From Ten Campuses to One Unified Workforce Engine
- Reducing Bureaucracy: A Single Front Door
- The Unified Talent Pipeline in Action
- Pervasive Artificial Intelligence (AI) Literacy for Hawai‘i
- Advanced Tech Skill-Building and Micro-Credentials
- Fostering Employer Partnerships & Work-Based Learning for Emerging Industries
- Reclaiming the Adult Learner Through System-Wide Alignment
- The Learner Pathway: Stackable, Industry-Informed Credentials
- Scaling Seamless Career Readiness Pipelines
- A Partnership Engineered for Speed and Scale

IV. Presentation by the Federal Reserve Board…….Dr. Elizabeth Kneebone, Assistant Vice President of Research in Community Engagement and Analysis, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

This presentation will introduce the functions of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco (FRBSF), with a focus on how its Community Engagement and Analysis (CE&A) team supports the Bank's dual mandate of price stability and full employment. It will also provide a preview of CE&A research examining the workforce composition of lower-income households in Hawaii, with particular attention to occupational trends, demographic characteristics, and exposure to AI-driven labor market change.

V. Proposed Modification of Designated Council Representatives for 2027 Legislative Session

Background: For the past three legislative sessions, the Workforce Development Council (WDC) has participated in the legislative process effectively by designating WDC Chair Keith DeMello and Council member Tui Scanlan to facilitate timely legislative engagement, including reviewing proposed legislation coordinating with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), and providing testimony consistent with the Council’s established legislative policy and priorities. Due to scheduling commitments, however, Council member Tui Scanlan has requested to step down from this role effective immediately.

Recommended Action: Starting with the 2027 legislative session, it is proposed to designate WDC member Chris Burnett as one of the two designated Council representatives authorized to engage in legislative matters, consistent with applicable Sunshine Law requirements and the Council’s established legislative policy. Chair DeMello will remain as the lead designee.

Requires Board Action The Executive Committee voted to approve the recommended action during its October 19, 2026, meeting. The matter is now forwarded to the full board for further action during its quarterly board meeting on November 12, 2026.

VI. Executive Director Annual Performance Evaluation—Implementation of Bylaws Section 7.3

Background: Pursuant to Section 7.3 of the WDC Bylaws, which was passed and approved by the full board on November 19, 2025, the Council is required to conduct an annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director, beginning in the first quarter of 2027.

As this is the first implementation of the provision, the evaluation will establish a structured process for assessing progress, accomplishments, and areas for improvement, consistent with good governance practices. The evaluation is not intended to result in any salary or monetary adjustments.

Recommended Action: Recommend that the Workforce Development Council designate the Chair and Vice Chair to establish the evaluation framework, process and criteria. The evaluation will be presented to the Executive Committee and subsequently to the full Council during the first quarter of 2027.

Requires Board Action* The Executive Committee voted to approve the recommended action during its October 19, 2026, meeting. The matter is now forwarded to the full board for further action during its quarterly board meeting on November 12, 2026.

VII. Modification of Sector Partnership Focus under the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges Contract

Background: The WDC's existing contract with the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges (UHCC) identifies agriculture as a priority industry in sector partnerships. Following further due diligence and assessment of workforce needs and opportunities, WDC recommends shifting the focus to manufacturing and advanced manufacturing. This modification does not require a new contract and is anticipated to be implemented through a formal letter notifying UHCC of the revised sector focus, subject to applicable contract requirements.

Recommended Action: Approve the change in sector partnership focus from agriculture to manufacturing and advanced manufacturing under the existing UHCC contract and authorize WDC staff to communicate the modification to UHCC through formal written notification.

Requires Board Action* The Executive Committee voted to approve the recommended action during its October 19, 2026, meeting. The matter is now forwarded to the full board for further action during its quarterly board meeting on November 12, 2026.

VIII. Status Report on Workforce Pell Implementation and Timeline

Staff will provide an update on the status of Workforce Pell implementation, including the new Workforce Pell Accelerator Cohort, federal timelines, anticipated requirements, and potential implications for Hawai'i's workforce development and postsecondary training systems.

IX. Department of Labor Director's Update……Designee David Rodriguez

The Director's Office will announce a temporary waiver of the weekly work-search requirement for unemployment insurance claimants in Kauai County affected by Hurricane Lowell. This waiver will provide temporary relief to eligible residents as they recover from the storm's economic and infrastructure impacts.

X. Executive Director's Report……Bennette E. Misalucha

A. Projects/ Activities

The Executive Director will report on the Fourth Quarter Activities.

- Future of Work conference: September 23, 2026
- The Recognition of Workforce Heroes 2026
- Workforce Pell Grant working group
- Eligible Training Provider Platform Modernization project with University of Hawaii
- Symposium Series on Artificial Intelligence; Third series was held on October 10, 2026.
- Governor's Committee on Economic Development/Sub Committee on Workforce will meet on October 20, 2026
- Status of Research Project in collaboration with the Hawaii Employers Council
- Strategic Planning Session for WDC Board- December 2026
- Enhanced Wage Data Project to map out better data for job seekers
- Connecting Talent to Opportunity Challenge Grant Efforts to build Artificial Intelligence (A1)-enabled talent Marketplaces.

B. FOCUS FOR First Quarter 2027

The Executive Director will report on the focus for the next quarter.

- Mandatory training for all State and local board members, focusing on roles, governance, and compliance) – January 2027
- Preparation for the implementation of the Workforce Pell Grant
- Eligible Training Provider Platform Modernization project with University of Hawaii
- State Board Acting as the Local Board on Kaua‘i
- Prepare to conduct a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the operation of the Kauai American Job Center
- Re-alignment of staff roles
- Continuing to maximize the relevance of existing committees and adjust as needed.

XI. Fiscal Reports: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grants……Jeanne Ohta, WDC

An overview of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grant expenditures, budge status, and financial performance. The report will highlight current allocations, spending trends, and forecasts.

XII. O‘ahu Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title I Service Delivery and Contract Status Update ……Chris Lum Lee, Board Chair and Harrison Kuranishi, Executive Director, Oahu Workforce Development Board

The Oahu Workforce Development Board (OWDB) will provide an update on contracting and service-delivery matters affecting the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I Adult/Dislocated Worker and Youth services on O‘ahu, including the transition between contracts. The briefing will address the status of the contract, impacts on participants, challenges in invoice payments, and actions taken in response. OWDB will also discuss lessons learned and measures being implemented to strengthen contract planning, transitions, and continuity of workforce services going forward.

XIII. Acceptance of Written Reports from Core Partners of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (No Oral Presentations)

Written reports are included in the Board Packet and will be accepted into the official record. This agenda item is for informational purposes only; no oral presentations will be made.

A. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I & Title III—Workforce Development Division*……Maricar Pilotin-Freitas, Administrator, Workforce Development Division

*Power Point slide deck will be part of the Board Packet

1. WIOA Title I Performance Report
2. Wagner-Peyser (Title III) Performance Report
3. WIOA Contract Distribution Status
4. HELE Imua Internship Program
5. Community Outreach
6. Success Stories

B. WIOA Title II—Adult Education Family Literacy Act (AEFLA)……Wanelle Kaneshiro, Workforce Development Branch, Hawaii Department of Education

1. Program Data on learners served
2. How These Numbers Reflect the Range of Adult Learning Needs Across Hawai‘i—The data highlights how adult education programs respond to varying educational, language, and workforce needs across Hawai‘i's communities.
3. Strategic Alignment with WIOA goals
4. Key Program Updates

C. WIOA Title IV—Vocational Rehabilitation……Lea Dias, Administrator, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Department of Human Services

1. Program Year 2026 Performance Tables can be found in the Board Packet.
2. Agency Updates
3. Staffing Vacancies Update

XIV. Acceptance of Written Reports from Local Workforce Development Boards

Written reports are included in the Board Packet and will be accepted into the official record. This agenda item is for informational purposes only; no oral presentations will be made.

A. Oahu Workforce Development Board (OWDB)……Harrison Kuranishi, Executive Director
   1. Report on Quarterly Board Meeting
   2. Approval of a new comprehensive American Job Center location
   3. Approval of Service Provider's Program Budget
   4. Board Priorities Updates
   5. Updates on Monitoring Findings and Responses

B. Maui County Workforce Development Board (MCWDB)……..Chentelle Rowland, Executive Director
   1. Local Board meeting update
   2. Funding and Contracting of WIOA expenditures
   3. Project Pilina and Workforce System Alignment
   4. WIOA Program performance
   5. Approved WIOA Waivers
   6. Events/Announcements

C. Hawai'i County Workforce Development Board (HCWDB)……..Clinton Mercado, Executive Director
   1. Status Updates/Key Milestones and Convenings
   2. Youth Outreach Activities
   3. Workforce Development Partnerships & Service Delivery
   4. Ongoing challenges
   5. Upcoming Activities and Plans

XV. 2027 WDC Meeting Dates

Quarterly Board Meeting Dates
Thursday, February 18, 2027, 9:30 am to 12 noon
Thursday, May 13, 2027, 9:30 am to 12 noon
Thursday, August 19, 2027, 9:30 am to 12 noon
Thursday, November 18, 2027, 9:30 am to 12 noon

WDC Executive Committee Meeting Dates
Thursday, January 21, 2027, 1:30 pm to 3 pm
Thursday, April 22, 2027, 1:30 pm to 3 pm
Thursday, July 22, 2027, 1:30 pm to 3 pm
Thursday, October 21, 2027, 1:30 pm to 3 pm

XVI. Next Meeting

Tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2027 at 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The virtual videoconferencing meeting will be via Zoom and in-person at 830 Punchbowl Street, Room 317, Honolulu, HI 96813.

XVII. Adjournment

Reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities is available upon request. Requests for accommodations should be submitted via email to Bennette.E.Misalucha@hawaii.gov or by calling Bennette Misalucha at (808) 586- 8815 (voice) as soon as possible. Such requests should include a detailed description of the accommodation needed. In addition, please include a way for the requester to be contacted if more information is needed to fulfill the request. Last-minute requests will be accepted but may not be possible to accommodate. Upon request, this notice is available in alternate formats.