

Date	August 2011
Title	WDC Staff Report

In This Report:

- WDC attends OHA’s Income Advocacy Initiative as a key stakeholder
- Healthcare Workforce Planning Grant Update
- Software Industry Skill Panels
- Agriculture Skill Panels
- College and Career Access Grant Update
- New Grant Opportunities
- SESP Federal Monitoring
- Workforce Readiness Curriculum and Testing
- Homeless Initiative Update
- HireNet Hawaii RFP
- WIA State and Local Plans
- SESP Grant Update
- Staff Training for Serving Persons with Disabilities

WDC attends OHA’s Income Advocacy Initiative as a key stakeholder

WDC participated in OHA's Income Advocacy Initiative Key Stakeholder Meeting on Thursday July 28th. The meeting discussed OHA's new initiative called "Empowering Hawaiians: Strengthening Hawaii." The initiative focuses on creating systemic change of six strategic priorities which affect Native Hawaiians: HO'OKAHUA WAIWAI (Economic Self-Sufficiency), 'AINA (Land and Water), HO'ONA'AUAO (Education), EA (Governance), MO'OMEHEU (Culture), and MAULI OLA (Health). These 6 strategic priorities are planned to produce the following results by 2016: Transfer Assets to Entity, Value History and Culture, Participate in Cultural Activities, Decrease Chronic Disease Rates, Understand Need for Viable Land Base, Achieve Pae'Aina Sustainability, Improve Family Lifestyle Choices, Build Stability in Housing, Exceed Education Standards, and Increase Family Income. The meeting focused on gaining stakeholder input on ways to meet their first strategic priority, Economic Self Sufficiency, by increasing family income. The project will focus on pilot programs in two communities within the state which have a high population of Native Hawaiians and a lower than average Median Family Income. The WDC will continue to participate in this initiative and provide information on the current job market, growing industries, and educational and training opportunities.

Healthcare Workforce Planning Grant (“HWPG”)

The WDC held healthcare Skill Panel meetings in September and November of 2010. Skill Panel meetings were conducted in July 2011 in the four counties—Oahu, Kauai, Maui and Hawaii. Planning is continuing for the health careers website, which is part of the deliverables for the Healthcare Workforce Planning Grant. At the meetings, stakeholders commented on the final HWPG report. WDC staff members are in the process of completing the Planning Grant requirements. The Health Resource Services Agency (“HRSA”) announced a suspension in the anticipated Healthcare Implementation Grants, but the WDC and partners will continue to work on healthcare workforce issues in anticipation of a future release of funds. The initial report, *Hawaii’s Healthcare Industry Skill Panels Initial Report and Addendum to the Comprehensive State Workforce Development Plan*, is available at: http://hawaii.gov/labor/wdc/FINAL%20Printed%20HC%20Report_031011.pdf.

Hawaii's major hospitals are collaborating to launch the first nurse residency program to provide local RNs more opportunities for higher level nurse positions. Participating employers include Hawaii Pacific Health, Queen's Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente Hawaii, Castle Medical Center and Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. Curriculum was developed by a consortium of employers and educators for Critical Care RN positions.

Software Industry Skill Panels

The WDC, UH Community Colleges, Career and Technical Education-UH and the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (“HTDC”) held Skill Panel sessions for the software development industry in April. Four Panels focused on “New Developer,” “Experienced Developer,” “Small Company,” and “Large Company.” A Report is being finalized and will be on the WDC website by September 1: www.hawaii.gov/labor/wdc.

Agriculture Skill Panels

The WDC is beginning the planning process for Skill Panels to be held in all four counties during the fall. These Panels will again bring together stakeholders to examine skill gaps that can be addressed by community colleges to better prepare job seekers for jobs within the agricultural sector.

College and Career Access Grant Award

The CACG Portal will be operational for Stage 1 during Fall 2011. Once the Portal is operational, WDC partners P-20 and UH will assume responsibility for the continuing implementation phases. Portal users will gain access to innovative tools that support student performance and make the college application process more efficient, such as longitudinal data reporting and analytics, as well as an electronic student transcript and application systems.

New grant opportunities

Since the beginning of the year, the WDC has prepared applications for a number of new grant opportunities from the US DOL and US DOE:

- Green Jobs Innovation Fund: This application was submitted but the funding was cancelled by US DOL.
- Career Pathways Innovation Fund: Providing LWIBs up to \$5 million in Community-Based Job Training funds to support career pathway programs.
- Native Hawaiian Education Program Grant: Developing innovative education programs to assist Native Hawaiians in training and job placement in healthcare occupations. The award level is up to \$950,000.
- H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants: To provide funding over five years for education, training and job placement assistance in occupations for which employers are using H-1B visas to currently hire foreign workers. The application focuses on accounting and high technology occupations.
- Disability Employment Initiative: This 3-year US DOL opportunity helps One-Stop Centers better meet the job-seeking needs of adults with disabilities. If funded, the WDC will work with the Center for Disability Studies to provide technical assistance. The requested amount is \$2.5 million would also cover purchase of assistive technologies and other equipment for One-Stops Centers participating in the grant.

Federal Monitoring

The fiscal and programmatic monitoring by the US DOL Regional Office that was to occur during the week of August 1 has been postponed by the federal office until September.

Workforce Readiness Curriculum and Training

Workforce readiness (WR) is a major issue for employers, and has been highlighted in WDC Skill Panel meetings. A new initiative at the UH Community Colleges will address WR using ACT’s WorkKeys program. WDC staff attended a planning session with CC staff developing the program for implementation at Leeward Community College in conjunction with SESP training and job placement. If successful and funding is available, the program will be placed in all community colleges within three years.

Homeless Initiative Update

The WDC, Office of Community Services, DLIR, DHS and Mark Alexander are collaborating to provide job and job training opportunities for unemployed and under-employed homeless persons through leverage of SESP Grant and WIA funds. WDC is meeting with SESP partners and will execute an MOU to enable participants to engage in SESP training and job placement primarily in the recycling industry.

HireNet Hawaii RFP

DLIR will be issuing a Request for Proposal for the WIA/Wagner-Peyser data management system and virtual job board, called HireNet Hawaii. The WDC and LWIBs will be submitting comments on how to improve on the current system and better equip the system to meet future demands.

WIA State and Local Plans

The US Department of Labor is seeking comments for consideration in the next round of WIA State and Local Plan development. WDC and LWIBs will be submitting comments. Site of the formal announcement: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-07-19/pdf/2011-18137.pdf>. Explanation of State Plans: <http://www.doleta.gov/usworkforce/wia-planning/docs/integrated-planning-guidance.pdf>

State Energy Sector Partnership (“SESP”) Grant

Summary of Grant Activities: For the Quarter ending June 30, 2011, the WDC executed. WDC staff provides continuous training and technical assistance to providers as we proceed with implementation. Nearly 600 incumbent construction workers have completed training to date. Collaborative partners include LWIB project teams, Hawaii Solar Association, Building Industries Association of Hawaii. Other employer/agency partner outreach include, Pacific Biodiesel, Johnson Controls, Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative focus group, Ma’o farms, Masons Union, Plumbers Union, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Apprenticeship program, and Hawaii Job Corps.

Update of SESP Grant Partner Activities

Community-Based Organizations:

- **Goodwill Industries of HI:** 28 people have been or are being trained in OSHA safety, LEED GA, and solar photovoltaic.
- **Catholic Charities of Hawaii:** 14 people trained or in training for LEED GA, Commercial Driver Licensing, job readiness and sustainable green cleaning.

Industry Organizations/Utilities:

- **Associated Builders and Contractors of HI:** 25 people training in green LEED training using six courses of ANSI guidelines.
- **Building Industry Association of HI:** 60 people in green training at CTC-Pacific including a 3-day Certified Green Building Professional Designation course and a 2-day Advanced Green Building course.
- **General Contractors Association of Hawaii:** 26 people trained in LEED for New Construction, LEED Green Associate, LEED AP Building Design and Construction, and Introduction to Sustainable Construction and LEED.
- **Kauai Island Utility Coop:** 10 people trained in Certification for Renewable Energy Professionals, Carbon Reduction Management testing, Certified Energy Manager & Energy Manager, Certified Residential Energy Auditor testing, and LEED certification courses.

Labor:

- **International Union of Painters and Allied Trades:** 341 trained in Green Awareness and HazLead.
- **The four County LWIBs:** *Hawaii County*—33 people trained in Introduction to Green Building and Energy Management, Home Energy Survey Professional, LEED GA. *Kauai:* 15 people in training for solar photovoltaic. *Oahu:* 52 trained in Green Apprenticeship with IBEW, on-the-job training, solar and photovoltaic. *Maui:* Contracts are pending between Maui County and WDD Maui.
- **UHCC:** *Hawaii County*—7 people trained in Introduction to Green Building and Energy Management, Home Energy Survey Professional, and LEED GA. *Maui:* 26 people in training for photovoltaic, Green Building, Home Energy Survey Professional, and Building Operations. *Honolulu*—13 people trained in solar and photovoltaic, LEED Green Advantage and LEED Associate.

In June, WDC staff members attended the Open House at the Business Industry Association (“BIA”) “Net Zero Green House” on 22nd Avenue in Kaimuki. The 3-bedroom home was a BIA project with participation by over 50 contracting vendors. The homeowners moved in on August 1 and will provide the BIA information on energy usage and food waste (composted) for one year. If no air conditioning is used, the energy use is “net zero.”

Staff Training for Serving Persons with Disabilities

The Office of Community Services (OCS) is hosting training sessions by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities in Hawaii August 22-26 in Hawaii. Training will focus several issues:

1. Establish blueprints for the creation of community employment services based on needs of employers, job seekers and the community they serve;
2. Examine and identify employment placement best practices;
3. Create a list of support services for maintaining supported employment; and
4. Identify methods for monitoring and continuously improving contracted agency performance.

The WDC was allotted 10 spaces and has offered space for eight staff from LWIBs, One-Stops, CDS and DHS-VR. The training covers monitoring of contracts and providing services to clients deemed "Hard to Serve."