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BRIEFING: HIGHLIGHTS OF DECEMBER 2 TO FEBRUARY 10 STAFF ACTIVITIES

State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Workforce Development Council Awarded \$6 Million State Energy Sector Partnership Job Training Competitive Grant from the USDOL

In late January, The U.S. Dept. of Labor announced that the DLIR's Workforce Development Council has been awarded a \$6 million, 3-year State Energy Sector Partnership Competitive Job Training Grant ("SESP"). Thirty-four grants ranging from \$2 million to \$6 million each were awarded to State Workforce Investment Boards in partnership with their State Workforce Agencies, Local Workforce Investment Boards and One-Stop Career Center delivery systems.

Staff is currently establishing a roll out and partnership meeting schedule to discuss specifics with key stakeholders.

WDC Partners with State Department of Education, Department of Labor and the University of Hawaii in \$11.9 million Grant Proposal to develop P20 Statewide Longitudinal Data System

The WDC has been working with the DLIR and P-20 Council on implementing shared intra-agency-data to support a statewide P-20 Longitudinal Data System. The WDC is a partner in supporting the P-20 Council's \$11.9 million grant request to the U.S. Department of Education which focuses on using *inter-agency* individual-level data throughout the educational pipeline from early childhood education to the workforce to:

- Make data transparent, accessible in secure environments and action-able for multiple stakeholders;
- Evaluate the impact of programs, policies, interventions and resource allocations on educational attainment and workforce development;
- Inform decision-making for governance, management, resource allocation, student choices, curriculum and instruction;
- Improve quality and efficiency of data analyses and reporting.

A copy of the grant abstract can be found on the WDC website and in committee member folders.

DLIR and WDC Gear Up For Labor Market Information Improvement Grant

As reported in December, the Hawaii State Department of Labor was awarded a Labor Market Information Grant. With the work for the grant now in full swing, the WDC is assisting in the hiring of staff to perform the work.

The WDC is assisting in the screening and interviewing of applicants.

Selection is expected to be completed this week and the hiring of staff will finalize once the the funds have been approved for release.

The Permitted Interaction Group (“PIG”) on Economic Development

The Economic Development PIG met on January 27, 2010 in order to implement oversight of the Labor Market Improvement Grant awarded to the DLIR. The PIG, chaired by James Tollefson, is working with several state agencies and stakeholders to determine what data is necessary per the requirements of the grant and needs of the end users. The committee is also assisting the DLIR in the development of the “Green” employer survey, as well as preparing a plan to distribute the survey to Hawaii’s estimated 38,000 employers.

MIG Grant Forum

On January 5, WDC staff members participated in a luncheon forum hosted by the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant ("MIG") project. The speaker, Diane Dunphy from Washington State's Developmental Disabilities Council, gave an overview of the state's successful employment practices for persons with developmental disabilities. Service agencies such as Goodwill are called "employment agencies" to reinforce the notion that the clients will prepare for and seek work in the private sector. In Washington, employed clients represent 40-45% of the population, whereas in Hawaii it is around 5%. Ms. Dunphy met with a number of agencies and to provide technical assistance and share Washington State's success stories. The event was attended by James Hardway, Anna Powell and Representative Karl Rhoads; staff from private and governmental agencies; and clients and their caretakers. The WDC is a signatory to the MIG Project in Hawaii and has a seat on the MIG Advisory Council.

Annual report comes together

WDC staff, in between holidays, furloughs and the occasional moving of furniture in the office, is also hard at work putting together the 2010 Annual Report to the Governor. At this time, the report will feature updates to the previous report put out in May, 2009, along with information from the WDC annual report to the US Department of Labor, discussing overall performance of WIA programs in the State of Hawaii and Reed Act information.

Reed Act Report

Since early December, WDC Staff has been working on collecting information on how Reed Act monies, distributed to the four county WIB’s, have been used since 2007. To assist in obtaining the information, WDC staff put together a template by which all LWIB’s can report on programs and services funded by Reed Act funds. Along with putting the information into the Annual Report, this information will also be used to determine a timeline when Reed Act funds are spent down.

The Joint Evaluation and Accountability/Education and Training Coordination Subcommittees

Two committees, the Evaluation and Accountability/Education and Training coordination committees met on February 2 to start reviewing, evaluating and producing recommendations on improving state workforce performance measures for younger and older youth, as defined by the U.S. Department of Labor of individuals between the ages of 14 and 24. This is the first of a number of meetings to determine what steps to implement and craft a plan of action to improve youth performance measures. The Evaluation committee created a Permitted Interaction Group to facilitate idea sharing on this critical issue that has received “national attention.”

