



**Permitted Interaction Group Meeting
February 2, 2010 9:00 – 10:30 am
830 Punchbowl, Keelikolani #321**

Attending meeting: Allen Chung, Signe Godfrey, Leinaala Nakamura, Marilyn Matsunaga, Cynthia Nakamura, Carl Hinson, Jan Miyamoto, Joann Insmasu, Wayne Aguiran, Lee Ah Yen, Carla Kurokawa, Kathleen Nielsen, Denise Dombek (US DOLETA), Janice Shordike (US DOLETA), Stan Fichtman, Anna Powell.

Co-chairs: Allen Chung and Signe Godfrey

After introductions, the group reviewed the materials mailed out.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Ms. Lei Nakamura (Associate Director Oahu Worklinks and Director of Oahu Youth Services Program), gave a brief overview of the Oahu Youth (“OY”) Services program. She noted that Program Year (“PY”) 2008 numbers are lagging—some of the youth measured in the 2008 PY entered the program many years ago. Oahu Youth Services has implemented strategies to improve the success rate:

- a. There is bi-weekly contact with each individual youth**
- b. The participant’s network is engaged to help keep in contact**
- c. Use of web technology including MySpace, Facebook and email.**
- d. There are more support services, including visual aids to reinforce benefits of education**
- e. To get the youth almost always have multiple issues including substance abuse, transitioning from foster care, lack of family support, lack of transportation, and lack of HS diploma. The program accepts everyone and tries to get the best fit for the youth.**

Mr. Wayne Aguiran, youth service provider for Maui, spoke about the OY program, which is housed at Maui Community College. For the first semester, the participants have a preview where they learn about the requirements for the program, attend success-oriented workshops and engage in campus club activities. Once completes, the participants are formally enrolled in the program.

Ms. Marilyn Matsunaga, Executive Director-Oahu Workforce Investment Board, noted that in researching Extended Learning Opportunities (“ELO”), mentoring is listed as a best practice. She encouraged the group to explore matching mentors with Workforce Investment Act (“WIA”) participants.

A question was posed regarding follow-up and employment for Pacific Islanders (Micronesians, Samoans and Filipinos primarily) who return to their countries and may not

get work, or may work at a rate much lower than in the US. Ms. Janice Shordike, from the US DOLETA, will follow-up on that information for clarification.

Ms. Signe Godfrey mentioned that she is associated with the new Annie E. Casey Foundation program for foster youth, and that is a source of outreach for the Youth Programs. The Casey programs focuses on foster youth transitioning to adulthood.

The Summer Employment program was mentioned. Ms. Shordike noted that it is expected that there will be Recovery Act funds for a summer program in 2010. However, Oahu needs to complete use of its funding from last summer. Liability was mentioned as an issue in involving private organizations, and Janice noted that in San Jose there is a risk assessment manager as part of the summer program. Ms. Matsunaga noted that the OWIB has already spoken with the City's Corporation Counsel regarding this issue. Janice also noted that she visited a Target store that hosted 40 youth for the program last summer. Mr. Carl Hinson, WDC member, noted that he was interested in connecting youth to private employers.

Ms. Shordike noted the third week of April as a possible date for her trip to Hawaii. She indicated that she also hopes to visit at least one neighbor island.

NEXT STEPS:

The group decided on five immediate action steps on which work can begin:

- **Mentoring (matching adults with Older Youth in program) – Signe will speak with Marilyn and will spearhead this effort.**
- **More community college involvement. Examine the Maui County model for running the program from Maui Community College and investigate whether this might work for other Youth Programs. Key person TBD.**
- **Broadening the network for youth services providers, such as the Casey program. Anna will be the point person to identify resources.**
- **Prioritize ARRA funds – Allen will be the contact for this**
- **Connecting private employers to the summer employment program (tentative Carl Hinson to work with Lei Nakamura and Marilyn Matsunaga).**

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