

## Kaua`i WIB report to the WDC

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Island:	Kaua`i County
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### 1) SUMMARY

#### **CURRENT STATE OF KAUA`I'S WORKFORCE**

Kaua`i's unemployment rate declined from 9.3% in March to 8.5% in May, the lowest it's been since December 2008, but then rose again to 9.1% in June. Contributing factors included: layoff of Census workers, a 1% rise in total seasonal labor force while Kaua`i's job count declined .5%.

A government contractor with a small operation at PMRF, laid off most of its professional and technical workforce on July 30. One of Kaua`i's larger hotels just issued layoff notices to 112 of their workers due to the pending sale of the property in October.

Despite the challenging economic times, some entrepreneurs see it as an opportunity to establish themselves. A family recently opened a Mandarin Chinese restaurant in a struggling L & L location in Waipouli and also opened Kaua`i's first Orange Grove frozen yogurt shop in the Kukui Grove Shopping Center. Both are gaining clientele as the word gets around the island.

#### **KWIB ACTIVITIES/EVENTS/PROGRAMS**

Kamika Smith, General Manager of Smith's Motor Boat Service, Inc. provided an informative overview of the leisure and hospitality industry (Sports & Recreation and Culture and the Arts industry clusters) at the board's June meeting. Kurt Akamine, Director of Operations for 'Ohana Pacific Management Company operating two long term care facilities on Kaua`i and at least three on O`ahu, will be our speaker at our August meeting.

KWIB members continue to work with high growth industry leaders to identify key skill sets that workers will need to effectively secure and retain employment. Recent focus has been on the energy sector, in conjunction with the WDC's **State Energy Sector Partnership Grant (SESP)** and **Labor Market Information Grant (LMI) focusing on green jobs**. The data is critical to ensuring Kaua`i is able to GROW OUR OWN talent to meet current and future workforce needs.

Board member organizations continue to provide opportunities for community dialogue on economic and workforce issues.

**Kaua`i Planning and Action Alliance (KPAA)** recently held their annual meeting entitled, "Green Jobs, Green Economy" with guest speakers George Costa, Director, County of Kauai Office of Economic Development and State Representative Mina Morita, State House Energy & Environmental Protection Committee Chair which was well-attended by the public and generated meaningful dialogue. KPAA provided oversight for the development of the County's energy sustainability plan which should be available at this location within another week:

<http://www.kauainetwork.org/energysustainabilityplan.asp> KWIB staff will again serve on

the oversight committee for KPAA’s 2010 community indicators report - **Measuring What Matters for Kaua‘i**.

**Kaua‘i Economic Development Board** was contracted by the County of Kaua‘i to update the **Kauai Comprehensive Economic Development Plan Update (CEDS)**. The Kaua‘i CEDS Committee was comprised of about 20 community members including the WorkWise-Kauai Branch Manager and WIA Administrator, and the outcome of their collaboration is now posted for public viewing at: [http://www.kedb.com/\\_library/documents/updated-ceds-final.pdf](http://www.kedb.com/_library/documents/updated-ceds-final.pdf). Workforce development opportunities are included in the plan.

## 2) INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS

### WorkWise – Kaua‘i – ADULT AND DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAMS

The WorkWise Kauai One Stop Career Center relocated to the Lihue Civic Center in April which has enabled the County and State to work more closely on workforce issues. During May – July, walk-ins at the WorkWise Kaua‘i One Stop Career Center have averaged 40 per day with about 25% being first-time visitors. Also, “job search” as the primary purpose of the visit has been steadily increasing: 64% in May, 68% in June, 71% in July.

### FORMULA & ARRA PROGRAMS

The **WIA** formula and ARRA programs continue to enroll, serve, and place new and existing participants.

Program	Seek Work	FT Work	PT Work	Temp	Work Exp	Trng	Enrolled not yet placed	Self Emp	Exit
Formula AD			2			4	4		2
ARRA AD			1			2		1	3
Formula DW						1	1	1	4
ARRA DW	5			1	1	1			8
NEG									2
SCSEP					19		1		1

There are currently 8 participants in **ARRA DW**, 3 participants in formula DW, 4 participants in **ARRA Adult** and 10 participants in formula Adult. There have been 10 exited from programs this past year and total combined placements of 10 participants in jobs and 8 in training.

The **SCSEP** program has 20 active participants, 19 currently placed at worksites. Five (5) former SCSEP participants have been placed in unsubsidized employment and exited from the program.

The two **NEG** program participants were exited from the program. One received her Associate Degree in May and the other completed her CNA.

### **REEMPLOYMENT AND ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT (REA)**

This program which will continue until March 31, 2011 is designed to reduce the number of weeks that UI claimants collect benefits by effectively equipping the job seeker with additional skills that enable him/her to secure job placement sooner. As of July 30, 370 have been assisted through Kaua'i's REA program with 83% having completed all 4 components of the program.

### **VOLUNTEER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (VIP)**

The VIP program matches job seekers to volunteer training opportunities on Kaua'i. Unpaid internships include 4 - 8 weeks of 16- 32 volunteer training hours per week, exempting UI recipients from job search responsibilities for the duration of the training activity.

WDD staff aggressively promoted the program in the private sector presenting the program to business organizations and SHRM. Since the initial 5 placements reported last quarter, 18 more volunteer interns have been successfully matched with sites. These 23 matches have resulted in 4 hires thus far, 2 of which were with the employer where they were placed.

The first VIP site and Kaua'i's Branch Manager were featured in the July issue of Hawai'i Business. The article can be viewed at: <http://www.hawaiibusiness.com/Hawaii-Business/July-2010/Amping-Up-Job-Training/index.php?cparticle=1&siarticle=0#artanc>

### **SUMMER YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE (TANF funded)**

WDD/WorkWise Kaua'i was originally tasked in May to place 77 youth ages 14- 23 into Summer Youth Work Experience at government and non-profit worksites. Supply and demand far exceeded expectations and almost 3 times as many youth were fortunate to be served through this program. As of July 30, 226 of 375 youth applicants (over 60%) were placed within 82 different worksites that offered 276 potential work experience opportunities. Those not placed were primarily 14 -15 year olds who did not meet the specifications of the work sites.

While about 70 youth finished their summer work experience by July 30 due to their return to school, others now available to work to the end of the work experience period on September 10, are being placed at worksites.

Overall feedback has been positive from worksite supervisors and participants. Youth have been afforded opportunities to work on projects, network with key people in these organizations, interact with the public in professional environments, and discover areas of interest they may not have previously been aware of. For others it has reinforced their passion for the career field being pursued.

## **ABOUT FACE! - WIA YOUTH PROGRAM**

As of July 31, the youth program has 42 participants in active case management and 20 participants who are in the one year monthly follow up services.

### 55 - Out-of-School Youth

- 8 graduated
- 3 returned to HS
- 3 studying for GED
- 25 in C-based mastery
- 1 in remedial classes
- 10 CASAS tested
- 5 unknown educational status

### 7 - In-School Youth

- 3 graduated High School
- 3 attending High School
- 1 studying for GED

### 14 - Teen Parents

- 4 fathers – 1 in CB classes, 1 studying for GED, 2 working.
- 1 expectant father –in CB classes and working.
- 7 mothers – 4 in CB classes, 5 working
- 2 expectant mothers – currently not working or in class

### 39 - Unsubsidized Employment

Employment opportunities continue to improve

## **ARRA Summer Youth Employment Program Update**

For the 2010 summer cycle, Kaua‘i’s Summer Employment Program is serving 5 youth, mostly in-school and older youth. Based on an evaluation of last summer’s program, classroom time was increased to two weeks to optimize participant work readiness training prior to being placed at work sites. We anticipate the added time spent teaching the values needed to be an effective employee will result in improved success in the work setting.

Because our service provider also had more preparation time this year, there was greater opportunity to match placements to participant career interests. Work sites include: County Parks and Recreation department, veterinary clinic, child care provider, and two restaurants. Two of the youth are already working.

## **3) OTHER ITEMS**

## **4) KAUA‘I COUNTY ACTUAL VS. GOALS FOR 4th QTR of PY 09 not yet available**