HO’OPONO

Business Enterprise Program

Services for the Blind Branch

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

State of Hawaii Department of Human Services

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M I N U T E S

ANNUAL STATEWIDE MEETING and REGULAR MEETING of the HAWAII STATE COMMITTEE OF BLIND VENDORS

DATE: Saturday, June 22, 2019

PLACE: Ho`opono Auditorium

1901 Bachelot Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

PRESENT:

1. Committee: Joel Cho, Kyle Aihara, Dane Alani, Ivy Galariada, Don Patterson, Chris Akamine, Steve Kim, and Clyde Ota
2. Members: Evelyn Ah San, Dyllon Asami, David Cameron, Ted Chinn, Ron Flormata, Flordeliza Galiza, Wilmer Galiza, Kenny Johnson, Shontel Jones, Gerry Lonergan, Mike Miyashiro, Doug Moises, Tom Morikami, Lespaul Naki, Norman Ota, Gail Sakamoto, Lynn Schempp, Virgil Stinnett, Brandon Tamashiro, Brian Tamashiro, Myles Tamashiro, and Stan Young
3. Ho’opono: VRA Maureen Bates, SBA Lea Dias, BEP Manager Kat Fujimoto, VFS Tad Matsuno, and Secretary MJ Andres
4. Guests: Wanda Takaesu, Desiree Lacewell, Martha Vo, Nicky Gacos, DAG Lori Wada, Beth Flormata, Nancy Davlantes and Betty Goodwin (League of Women Voters)

CALL TO ORDER:

Noting the presence of a quorum, Kyle called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Kyle reminded the members that all ballots are due by 11:00 a.m.

MERCHANTS PRESENT FOR TRADESHOW:

1. **Lance, Pint Size**
2. **Jesse Jespersen, Frito Lays**
3. **Carrie Sanders, Pepsi**
4. **Jade, Hansen Distributions**
5. **Stacy Higashi, Wholesale Unlimited**
6. **Stan, Old Trapper Beef Jerkey**
7. **Dan Boretto, Jade Food**
8. **Jay Lawson, CBD products for Jade Food**
9. **Scott, Coca-Cola**

**The meeting was recessed for the tradeshow at 10:15 a.m.**

GUEST SPEAKERS:

1. Mark Spain, Deputy District Director of Small Business Administration, provided a guide to help with small businesses.
2. Nicky Gacos, Blind Entrepreneur and Committee Chair of New Jersey Committee, and President of National Association of Blind Merchants (NABM)

REGULAR MEETING:

At this time, Chair Joel called the regular committee meeting to order.

He reported that because of a problem with the appropriation this year, there was a Budget and Finance Sub-Committee held this past Thursday to address this issue and there’s a new proposal for health and retirement benefits.

Don noted that as a result of the B&F Sub-Committee meeting, he moved to recommend $7 thousand for medical, $3 thousand for retirement, and a $2 thousand medical supplement in the spring. Dane seconded and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

There being no further business to conduct and hearing no objections, the regular meeting was adjourned and the committee resumed the annual statewide meeting.

ANNUAL STATEWIDE MEETING

Joel noted there’s a proposal for $7 thousand for medical, $3 thousand for retirement, and $2 thousand for a supplemental in the spring. Virgil move to accept the proposal, Stan seconded, and the motion was accepted by unanimous voice vote.

BIENNIAL ELECTION RESULTS:

Kat read the following results:

Elected to represent 3 federal properties were:

Ivy Galariada

Steve Kim

Don Patterson

Elected to represent 6 non-federal properties were:

Kyle Aihara

Chris Akamine

Dane Alani

Lespaul Naki

Clyde Ota

Stan Young

PROGRAM REPORT:

1. Certified Trainees: Tad recognized the following blind vendors and presented them with certificates for completing their blind vending training:

Desiree Lacewell

Wanda Takaesu

Martha Vo

1. Strategic Plan: BEP Manager Kat reviewed the Strategic Plan originally initiated and prepared by Terry Smith in 2006. She suggested the newly elected committee revisit this initiative and encouraged everyone to get involved and to help make this program very lucrative, open and inviting, and where everyone works together.

Topics of interest and possible consideration for the committee are: annual reporting vs. quarterly reporting, unannounced site visits by agency, promoting new products, and accepting credit cards.

NEXT MEETING: To be announced.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss and any objections, the meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

KF/mra/Ho'opono