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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STATEWIDE ANNUAL MEETING of the HAWAII STATE COMMITTEE OF BLIND VENDORS

DATE: Saturday, June 18, 2022

PLACE: Ho'opono Auditorium

1901 Bachelot Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

1. ROLL CALL
2. Committee: Kyle Aihara, Chris Akamine, Dane Alani, Ivy Galariada, Steve Kim, Lespaul Naki, Don Patterson, Wanda Takaesu

Excused: Stan Young

1. Licensed Blind Operators: Evelyn Ah San, Dyllon Asami, David Cameron, Ted Chinn, Joel Cho, Ron Flormata, Tony Fuimaono, Wilmer Galiza, Shontel Jones, Roxane Kaneshiro-Sasaki, Desiree Lacewell, Mike Miyashiro, Doug Moises, Tom Morikami, Rhani Naki, Norman Ota, Gail Sakamoto, Lynn Schempp, Jonah Sniffen (Certified Trainee), Virgil Stinnett, Brian Tamashiro, Myles Tamashiro, and Martha Vo
2. Ho'opono: VFS Tad Matsuno and Bruce Chin, and BEP Secretary MJ Andres
3. Guests: VRA Maureen Bates, James Gashell, DAG Erin Lau (via Zoom)
4. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM and CALL TO ORDER

Noting the presence of a quorum, Vice-Chair Don called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. DECISION MAKING TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 26, 2021 ANNUAL STATEWIDE COMMITTEE MEETING AND TRAINING: Vice-Chair Don noted anyone wanting to make a public testimony can do so and asked if there were any testimony. Hearing none, Don asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Dane moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Steve seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, the minutes were approved as follows:

Yes: Steve, Wanda, Dane, Ivy, Lespaul, Chris, Kyle, Don

1. STATE LICENSING AGENCY (SLA) REPORT
2. Update on the Randolph Sheppard Revolving Account Balance: VFS Tad noted that the balance as of June 17, 2022 is $2,059,273.04.
3. Status of $3,000 Retirement Benefit: Tad noted that the purchase orders have been processed.
4. Public Testimony: none.
5. ANNUAL BUDGET AND BENEFITS FOR SFY 2023
6. Review the SFY 2023 Budget and the Related Benefits Package, as Proposed by the Budget and Finance Sub-Committee and the Regular Committee, to be approved by All Licensed Blind Vendors: Don noted that the committee proposed a $1.2 million budget, which includes a benefit package of $7 thousand medical, $5 thousand supplemental medical in the spring, and $3 thousand retirement. Don asked if there were any discussion. Hearing none, he then asked if there were any public testimony. There being no discussion or public testimony, Dane moved to accept the SFY 2023 Budget and the Related Benefits Package. Wanda seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote, with no nays or abstention.
7. Review Projected Additional Contributions to the Randolph Sheppard Revolving Account from Blind Vendors Ohana (BVO), to be Spent for Improvements to the Program (i.e. Inventory, Equipment, Facility Improvements). The maximum for each vendor at this point is $10 thousand per licensed vendor and may vary based on the amount contributed by BVO: Following clarification by DAG Erin and discussions, Dane moved to approve additional funds up to $10 thousand per facility for facility improvements, contingent upon availability of additional funds. Ivy seconded the motion.

VRA Maureen noted the agency wants to support and can provide funding for purchase of new equipment in this current fiscal year and additionally for improvement construction of facility beginning in the next fiscal year.

Hearing no further discussions, Don asked if there were any public testimony. There being none, Don called for a vote. The committee passed the motion unanimously as follows:

Yes – Lespaul, Kyle, Chris, Dane, Ivy, Wanda, Steve, and Don

No - none

Abstain – none

Licensed Blind Vendors voted as follows:

Yes – Lespaul, Kyle, Steve, Virgil, Ivy, Dane, Wanda, Tony, Norman, Lynn, Myles, Roxane, Tom, Wilmer, Ron, Dyllon, Mike, Martha, Shontel, David, Brian, Chris, Evelyn, Rhani, and Don

No - none

Abstain – none

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

1. TRAINING AND INFORMATION:

Chair Don noted not all the merchants were available.

1. Greentech Environmental: Not present.
2. Blind Agenda/Legislature 2022: Guest speaker, Jim Gashel, shared his experience working with Hawaii’s Legislature in the past couple years, namely a challenge with another group wanting to be part of the Randolph Sheppard Program, and noted the importance of laws, statewide trainings of committees and advocacy to protect this program. He also spoke regarding the importance of accessibility to technology.
3. Advantage Health Insurance 65+ OR (-65) Social Security Disability Insurance: Guest speakers, Melissa & Anastasia of Medicare, shared general information to simplify the process, help participants understand the different plans available under Medicare, and encouraged the blind vendors to use their services as a resource.
4. Update on Vending Machine Operations: Deferred.
5. Why is Human Resources or Payroll Management Critical: Guest speaker, Jeff McNair of Makai HR, spoke regarding the support services offered through their agency including payroll, benefits, workman’s comp, healthcare, tracking, and TDI.
6. How to Project a $1 Million Retirement Plan: Deferred.
7. Square Point of Sale Systems and Credit Cards: Guest speaker, Ernest Chan and Lucy Yee of Square, gave a presentation on the Square system and how it can help them manage their business easily and the support services they provide.
8. ADJOURN MEETING:

There being no further business and hearing no objections, Dane moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Steve and passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

LD:mra

Ho’opono/Employment Section