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

REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING of the HAWAII STATE COMMITTEE OF BLIND VENDORS (HSCBV)

DATE: Saturday, April 29, 2023

PLACE: Ho'opono Auditorium

1901 Bachelot Street

Honolulu, HI 96817

1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER:
2. Committee: Chair Stan Young, Vice Chair Don Patterson, Secretary Wanda Takaesu, Treasurer Steve Kim, Chris Akamine, Dane Alani, and Lespaul Naki

Excused: Kyle Aihara and Ivy Galariada

1. Licensed Blind Operators: Evelyn Ah San, David Cameron, James Chinn, Joel Cho, Ronald Flormata, Itutaua Fuimaono, Kenneth Johnson, Shontel Jones, Michael Miyashiro, Thomas Morikami, Rhani Naki, Norman Ota, Lynn Schempp, and Martha Vo
2. Certified Trainees: Emily Cruz, Jessica Parsell, and Clifford Miyashiro
3. Ho'opono: Services for the Blind Branch Administrator – Temporarily Assigned (SBA-TA) Gavan Abe, Vending Facilities Specialists (VFS) Tad Matsuno and Bruce Chin, and Business Enterprise Program (BEP) Secretary MJ Andres
4. Attorney General Office: Deputy Attorney General Lili Young

Noting the presence of a quorum, Don Patterson called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Stan Young asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the 5/7/22 B&F Sub-Committee and Regular Committee meetings. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Don Patterson moved to accept the minutes, Chris Akamine seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

1. PROGRAM REPORT:

Gavan Abe reported that the applicants for the BEP Business Manager declined the position so it will be going back out for recruitment. We also still have vacancies for the account clerk and an additional vending facilities specialist which are both permanent positions and we are pushing for hire.

We also recently hired 2 new vocational rehabilitation (VR) counselors who are currently going through blindness training and will need to enroll for vocational rehabilitation classes.

As discussed in the previous meeting, we are working on raising the ceiling for the budget from $1.3 million to $2 million. When it does happen, we will work with the committee to adjust the budget.

Gavan Abe also reported that he and Adjustment Section Supervisor Dean Georgiev are both temporarily assigned as Branch Administrator while Lea Dias has been temporarily assigned as the VR Administrator, which is out for recruitment due to the resignation of Maureen Bates. He noted that Lea Dias extends her hellos and misses Ho’opono.

1. REFERRAL OF State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024 BUDGET TO BE PLACED FOR VOTING AT THE STATEWIDE ANNUAL MEETING IN JUNE:

Don Patterson reported that the Budget Sub-Committee approved $10,000 for medical in August, $5,000 for a medical supplement in the Spring, and $5,000 for retirement in June, for a total benefit package of $880,000 and $420,000 for management services for a total of $1,300,000.

Stan Young asked for a motion to recommend the proposed budget approved by the budget sub-committee be forwarded to the annual meeting for a statewide vote.

Dane Alani moved that the budget be approved for vote at the June meeting. Chris Akamine seconded the motion. Stan Young clarified that the meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 17 at 10 a.m.

Hearing no further discussion, Stan Young called for the vote:

Voting in favor – Don Patterson, Lespaul Naki, Stan Young, Dane Alani, Steve Kim, Wanda Takaesu, Chris Akamine

There were no nays or abstentions.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

1. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, Don Patterson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dane Alani moved to adjourn the meeting, Stan Young seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote. There were no nays or abstentions. Don Patterson adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

BC:mra

Ho'opono/Employment Section