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

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

DATE: Saturday, June 17, 2023

PLACE: Ho'opono Auditorium

1901 Bachelot Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

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

Excused: Ivy Galariada

1. Licensed Blind Operators: Evelyn Ah San, Dyllon Asami, David Cameron, Ron Flormata, Wilmer Galiza, Kenny Johnson, Roxane Kaneshiro-Sasaki, Desiree Lacewell, Gerry Lonergan, Mike Miyashiro, Doug Moises, Rhani Naki, Norman Ota, Gail Sakamoto, Lynn Schempp, Myles Tamashiro, and Martha Vo
2. Certified Trainees: Clifford Miyashiro and Jonah Sniffen
3. Ho'opono: Vending Facilities Specialists (VFS) Tad Matsuno and Bruce Chin, Services for the Blind Branch - Temporarily Assigned (SBA-TA) Gavan Abe and Business Enterprise Program (BEP) Secretary MJ Andres
4. Guest: Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Lili Young
5. PROGRAM REPORT:
6. Expenditures Report Through June 30, 2023: Tad Matsuno reported the following expenditure summary through June 30, 2023:

Food Supplies, Initial Inventory $3,058.09

NFBEI Subscription $3,500.00

Parking (Staff) $18.00

Transportation Intra-State (Staff) $417.32

Transportation Intra-State (BV) $260.85

Subsistence Intra-State (Staff) $20.00

Subsistence Intra-State (BV) $20.00

Hire of Cars (Staff) $72.00

Other Travel (Taxi, Shuttle) $3.00

New Equipment $8,042.13

Replacement Equipment $32,837.62

Maintenance & Repairs $37,441.09

Medical, Life Insurance $462,526.58

Retirement and Pension $117,000.00

Other Expenditures $394,624.73

Total Current Expenditures SFY 23 $1,059,841.41

1. RSRA Balance: Tad Matsuno reported that the remaining balance of the Randolph Sheppard Revolving Account (RSRA) as of June 13, 2023, was $2,601,194.74.
2. NOTICE AND DISCUSSION ON APPROVAL OF ALLOTMENT/APPROPRIATION INCREASE, EFFECTS:

Stan Young noted that the total budget of the RSRA has a limit, which was originally set by the Legislature at about $200,000, a model basically set up for most state-funded agencies. The RSRA receives income from vending machines and contributions from Blind Vendors Ohana (BVO), so the allotment has increased through the years, up to the current $1.3 million, about half of the allotment was paid to benefits and the other half was used for management expenses. The committee is seeking to increase the allotment from $1.3 million to $2 million to both help improve the vending program and maintain the funds of the RSRA at moderate level to avoid possible raid of account by the Legislature.

Gavan Abe reported that the Legislature approved to increase the ceiling from $1.3 million to $2 million. He noted that the agency will be working with the committee to change the budget after July 2023.

1. REVIEW STATE FISCAL YEAR (SFY) 2024 BUDGETED BENEFITS:

Stan Young reported that the benefits this year was for $15,000 (i.e., $7,000 for medical, $5,000 for a supplemental medical benefit, and $3,000 for retirement). With the additional funds in the RSRA, Stan Young proposed to increase the benefit package in SFY 24 from $15,000 to $20,000 (i.e., $10,000 for medical in the fall, $5,000 for supplemental medical benefit in the spring, and $5,000 for retirement in June).

Dane Alani moved to approve $10,000 medical in the fall, $5,000 medical benefit supplement, and $5,000 for retirement, for a total of $20,000 for SFY 2024. The motion was seconded by Steve Kim. Hearing no discussion, the motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no nays or abstentions.

1. REVIEW SFY 2024 BUDGET:

Stan Young noted the current allotment is still $1.3 million which is approximately $880,000 for the benefit package and $420,000 for management services, subject to change with the increase of allotment to $2 million.

Dane Alani moved to accept the proposed benefits and budget for SFY 2024. The motion was seconded by Steve Kim. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no nays or abstentions.

1. TRAINING AND DISCUSSION:

1. Recovery Stimulus Follow-Up: Stan Young noted that the recovery stimulus was intended to help stimulate the program and help the blind vendor recover from covid by providing these funds to help them with inventory.

The following concerns were discussed: the guidelines, copies of receipts, timeline to expend funds, allowable supplies and inventory.

1. The 70-30 Plan: Stan Young presented a 70-30 plan and asked Tad Matsuno to read it out loud. Tad Matsuno noted that this plan was submitted by Stan Young, and was not issued by Ho'opono. The presentation was a purely informational to be used at the members' own discretion. Stan Young noted that this is just a suggested guideline and encouraged those vendors that are doing well to also help the other vendors so the program can progress.
2. ELECTION RESULTS OF THE HSCBV:

Gavan Abe announced that the total ballots received were 32 ballots and read the following results as follows:

Representatives for Non-Federal Properties:

Kyle Aihara 27 votes

Stan Young 23 votes

Dane Alani 19 votes

Ivy Galariada 19 votes

Lespaul Naki 19 votes

Chris Akamine 17 votes

Representatives for Federal Representatives:

Wanda Takaesu 24 votes

Donald Patterson 21 votes

Steve Kim 19 votes

1. ADJOURN MEETING:

There being no further business and hearing no objections, Dane moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Steve and carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no nays or abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

TM:mra

Ho’opono/Employment Section