**STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL (SRC)**

**3rd Quarterly Meeting**

**Thursday May 16, 2024**

**10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

**M I N U T E S**

**Attendees:**

**SRC Members Present:**

Annette Tashiro (Disability Advocate Group & SRC Chair)

Judy Guajardo (State Independent Living Council Chair)

Sandi Jakob (Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor-Private)

Vickie Kennedy (Disability Advocate Group)

Sean Knox (Workforce Development Council)

Howard Lesser (Client Assistance Program)

Rosie Rowe (Parent Training and Information Center)

Ramon Ruiz (Business Industry and Labor, American Job Center)

Catherine Taylor (Disability Advocate Group)

Nani Watanabe (Disability Advocate Group)

Stan Young (Disability Advocate Group)

**SRC Members Absentees:**

Dr. Heather Chapman (Department of Education)

Scott Hedrick (Business Industry and Labor, US DOD-Navy)

Tira Kamaka (Community Rehabilitation Program)

Meriah Nichols (Former VR Recipient)

**Other Attendees:**

Lea Dias-Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Administrator

Alison Lee-Staff Services Office

Cheryl Matthews-Staff Services Office

Gregg Van Camp-SRC Liaison

Shauna Tanner-DVR-Maui

Cynthia Mew-Department of Education (in lieu of Dr. Heather Chapman)-virtual

Verna Chinen-Department of Education-virtual

Zosimo Arista-Department of Health, DDD-Specialist (SAAC)

CART-Natalie Ennis

Virtual ASL Interpreters: Regina Sapko, Jason Allen

**General Public:**

Mike Tomita-Retiree/Deaf Advocate

Mary Temate-Deaf Advocate

David Tallant-Maui Wheelers

Jeanette Rucci-Hawaii Disability Rights Center-Maui

Brian Hauser-Aloha Independent Living

Donald Sakamoto-CFADAR

1. Call to Order 
   1. Meeting was called to Order at 10:22 a.m. by Chair Annette Tashiro. Meeting was held at University of Hawaii Maui College in the Ka Lama Room 102.
   2. Chair Tashiro thanked the UH Maui College staff for assisting with the room arrangements.
2. Members Introduction
   1. Chair Tashiro introduced self and explained the icebreaker as the Maui Connection.
   2. Chair Tashiro proceeded to have SRC members, HDVR staff, and guests to introduce themselves and share their personal Maui connections.

1. Consent Agenda

Chair Tashiro entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda which included the following which was sent to members for their review prior to the meeting:

* 1. Approval of Minutes for the 2nd Quarterly meeting held on February 16, 2024
  2. State Rehabilitation Council Partner Council Reports
     + Client Assistance Program (CAP)
     + Department of Education (DOE)
     + Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
     + Workforce Development Council Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
  3. State Rehabilitation Council Standing Committee Reports
     + Membership Committee Report

H. Lesser moved and N. Watanabe seconded to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

1. State Rehabilitation Council Verbal Reports
   1. Community Rehabilitation Program – no report
   2. SRC Chair Updates: Chair Tashiro announced that she had worked on a draft for an SRC Flier. The flier was edited and used as an announcement for today’s meeting. Chair Tashiro has continued to develop a Work Plan for the SRC.
   3. Chair Tashiro called on Catherine Taylor and Howard Lesser to report on their attendance at the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils, Inc. (NCSRC) and Councils of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) Spring Conference.

* Catherine Taylor expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate at the NCSRC/CSAVR Conference. It was the first time for her.
  + - Howard Lesser has been a veteran participant at these conferences and introduced C. Taylor to Graham Sisson, President of the NCSRC.

Both delegates shared highlights of the conference including how AI has become an asset as well as worrisome to the population with disabilities. Pre-ETS was also presentation topics and some of the successful outcomes experienced in other States. Another successful area was the collaboration with businesses which promoted more employment opportunities for people with disabilities. VR funding is still being returned and possible solutions were presented.

1. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Data Report was given by HDVR Administrator, Lea Dias who explained:
2. Status of Total Served
3. Status of DVR Data by County last Quarter
   * + New Applicants
     + New Determined Eligible
     + New Individualized Plan for Employment
     + New Cases Closed
4. Status of DVR Competitive Integrative Employment Detail
5. Status of DVR Potentially Eligible (PE) Student with Disabilities
6. Status of Fair Hearings

Written reports were sent to SRC Members to review before the scheduled meeting.

1. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Verbal Updates and Answers to questions by attendees was given by HDVR Administrator, L. Dias.

We need a state educational agreement signed between DOE and DVR. And Cheryl Matthews has been working on this project for the longest time. It's been going back and forth between attorneys at DOE and attorneys with us. And right now, it's in DOE's court with their attorney general. But this has been a process that RSA is getting impatient with.

Staff vacancies continue to be a concern to HDVR; while working with rehabilitation services administration, the UH College of education, as well as the State HR Department. Other State Administrators were also consulted when L. Dias attended the CSAVR Conference. She asked about their minimum requirements for VR counselors. From those consulted she discovered that Hawaii has one of the strictest, highest, and hardest requirements for minimum qualifications. L. Dias also found out that DVR is the only division in the Department of Human Services that requires a master's degree.

The minimum that RSA requires is a bachelor's degree. Taking all that have into account, there are no final decisions yet. Making the standards more attainable so that HDVR can be an attractive place to work and retain good people already employed has been a challenge. Presently there is 45.5 vacancies which a fluid number (40%). Matching the federal standards may be helpful. That is what SRC did with quorum.

The VR Administrator has been seeking a proposal or an idea about what the changes would be in terms of the hiring requirements for rehabilitation counselors and match it up with the federal guidelines or federal requirements. There are other universities that offer bachelors in rehabilitation counseling.

Perhaps the skill acquisition in the bachelor's program may be matched up with some of the acquisitions that they need to do post-baccalaureate if they want to continue in a master's program. SRC can advocate and help that along so employment targets can be improved and at the same time partnering with the university.

L. Dias is working on the possibility of lowering the minimum requirement for a bachelor's degree. She also feels that there is value to what is learned in a master's degree program.

Maybe contracting out for training that we could bring into the staff and if SRC might be able to help with advocating for a trainer position in DVR. There is no such position. It would need to be created. This past Legislative session was not the right time for anything extra and HR must be in approval.

Another thing is that it would be a benefit to those who do get their master's degrees. That's another thing that needs to be worked out with HR; to find out how can we build in some sort of incentive for people to get their master's degrees. There are also union rules and other issues that needs to be considered.

One of the current requirements is that any master's degree must be from a CACREP- (Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs) accredited university. University of Hawaii system does not have that accreditation, but they do have a master's program in rehabilitation. L. Dias would like to remove that stipulation from the Hawaii State recruitment process.

A question from C. Taylor to L. Dias regarded the difference in the skill levels between a bachelor's degree and a master's degree. Would there be a way flush out and address training needs and can SRC assist in that area? L. Dias agreed that any SRC intervention in this area would be appreciated.

H. Lesser commented that some states like New York, not in VR area but in the education, such as teachers that have requirements are for master's degree. Entry level starts with a bachelor level and the contract included within the five years of service that they gain a master’s level degree.

L. Dias stated that Hawaii State DVR employment rules stipulate that if you are not enrolled in a graduate program within six months of being hired the employee no longer has a job. That causes anxieties among the new recruits.

L. Dias continued with her verbal report. She explained that every state has an organizational chart and a functional statement. She was working on adding the State Rehabilitation Council into the official state organization chart. Which doesn't sound like a big deal, but it is because it becomes an official document.

Through this organizational structure, the State Rehabilitation Council will be considered part of the DVR administration as a partner. She wanted to inform the SRC that the DVR Functional Statement will be completed by June 2024.

Finally, L. Dias reported that most of the corrective actions were resolved and the problems regarding the vacancies are being addressed. In the middle of all these challenges and leadership changes, not to mention COVID, and everything else that's happened, it has given DVR and the leadership some time to contemplate on the where the agency is and in what direction it wants to go.

The Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act passed a while ago. DVR has not completely caught up to the spirit of the law despite all the good work from very good people who are committed to what needs to get done.

The DVR Administrator decided that she wants the agency to move more strongly in the direction of WIOA’s intent. She wants HDVR to be an organization that is responsive and is kind to the consumers who come through the doors at all levels. She would like to see more rapid engagements. So, when people request for services, there is swift response; meaningful movement through the process; and VR staff can have eligibility as quickly as possible based on available information. By keeping high expectations, individuals who come in with a high employment goal are encouraged to reach them. If they want to go on to higher education, they will receive the necessary foundations to achieve their goals through coaching, building confidence and self-advocacy.

There is also a need to focus on vocational training and finding ways to remove obstacles for people with disabilities, the consumers; to achieve the goals that they may have. There is a need to find ways to say yes instead of no.

As part of this plan, specialist from the Technical Assistance Center will be coming in to assist. First, they will be working with the Branch Administrators, then, the supervisors for a couple of days. There will be all-staff meetings where the plans will be discussed to find what actions are needed to move in the direction of successful outcomes.

The VR Administrator believes that staff want this. There are just so many of them experiencing the strain of the vacancies with double and triple caseloads. There is optimism for the future and looking forward together with the SRC’s partnership as well.

1. DVR Administrative Rules Revision
   1. 17-400.1 DVR Administrative Rules

DVR Staff Services Specialist Alison Lee explained that the DVR administrative rules are going through a massive overhaul because it's been a while since those administrative rules have been updated. There is a need to update the rules to bring the policy to WIOA guidelines and looking at the various fee schedules. It’s going to be a heavy lift because it will involve a lot of work on DVR’s part to look at medical fee schedules and other types of fee schedules and bring it up to speed to current 2024. It is being worked on diligently and SRC will be updated at future meetings.

* 1. 17-401.1 DVR Services Manual Policy

DVR Cheryl Matthew reported that in coordination with the Hawaii administrative rules and all the various policies, she was tasked at looking specifically at the service manual. Her role is with transition and the DVR Pre-employment Transition Services policy. It was disseminated to everyone via hard copy at our February meeting.

DVR has plans to move forward with the pre-ETS public hearing on our pre-ETS policy and our transition policy to update and bring it into compliance with WIOA.

There was a question from the Council as to having advocates review the document. At present the document is being reviewed internally before it is sent to the attorney general for approval as to form before it goes to public hearing. The SRC is part of the feedback process. The revisions are based on the federal regulations. The SRC is now tasked to review this policy and provide feedback.

1. New Business Chair Annette Tashiro
2. Discussion: What can DVR/SRC do to assist Maui’s People with Disabilities obtain the services they need?
3. Old Business

Chair Annette Tashiro called on Stan Young

* 1. Budget Committee: Stan Young volunteered to assist with the Budget Ad hoc committee and has done some research. There was a concern about stipends for Council members. S. Young explained that there was a need for more time. He is currently an employer, with the Blind Vending services at the airports in Hawaii. He has a staff of 90 full time and part time employees. It is a very complex system. For example: the vendors need to abide by the Department of Labor requirements and have a federal EIN, employer identification number. There are all kinds of regulations including minimum wage and so forth. It's complicated and since this is an official State board we would have to comply with the sunshine law. How and what state regulations do we as Council members volunteers comply? What are the requirements that non-state employee other contractors have? These questions need research and seem quite complex for our committee. That's why the committee want to defer action and do further research.

1. FFY24 SRC Strategic Work Plan (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024)
   * As earlier reported, Chair Tashiro tried to work on a Work Plan and wanted to get to know Council members better to further develop a more workable plan.
   * Chair Tashiro will use reports from Council members for the Annual Report that will be due after the 4th Quarterly Meeting.
2. Upcoming Events

Chair Tashiro asked Nani Watanabe to announce the upcoming Abilities Fair

* 1. June 22: Maui Abilities Fair is scheduled for Saturday, June 22, 2024. Nani just finished her term on the Maui Commission for Persons with Disabilities. One of the goals was to really start educating people about who we are and what we do in our community. We need people with disabilities to be involved. And I think this is a good start. There is a lack of services for individuals with disabilities that live independently in our community.

Maui County Office of aging asked her to coordinate the abilities resource fair. Even though retired, she decided to take it on. When she was employed by the Maui Economic Opportunity, she coordinated two of the fairs and was very successful.

The goal was to invite resources from O‘ahu to go to Maui, introduce them to the community and make connections. When the Office of aging asked Nani to help, she decided to step in. Since there is the Office of Aging-ADRC. She felt that by stepping in and making this happen she could make sure that there is the D in ADRC. (Aging and Disability Resource Center).

People told her that there was no money but in 2018 she was able to ask the mayor for funds. When he asked her: “for what?” She answered that she wanted to start independent living services. She received the funds. She was sitting in the restaurant, and he asked: “How much do you need?” She was kidding but she received the money and there were services for four years. Services was for everybody. She hoped that by having the Abilities Fair that services would return.

Flyers will be sent out and she invited all the SRC members. She was also seeking out employers and companies such as Costco, Target, and others.

The people in various communities will have opportunities to connect with each other. The Office on Aging just had their Senior Fair. Nani wanted to make those agencies aware that many of individuals with disabilities are also seniors. She wanted to get employers to join in because there are lots of People with Abilities who want to work.

* 1. SRC 4th Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for August 23, 2024

Chair Tashiro announced that the next meeting will be held on O`ahu and will be a hybrid meeting. Announcements will be sent through the networks.

1. Comments from the Public

Chair Tashiro recognized Donald Sakamoto, who was attending the SRC Meeting by Zoom. D. Sakamoto is the President of a Citizens for Fair Americans with Disabilities Act Ride (CFADAR). He has been involved with CFADAR since 2010 as an advocate. CFADAR focus on public transportation such as bus, paratransit (Oahu’s Handi-Van), and now the Skyline rail system.

CFADAR advocates for persons with disabilities and elderly to have equal transportation. There is need a fair ride. Although Handi-van is a shared ride, it is a fair ride.

D. Sakamoto also does advocacy work on outside islands. D. Sakamoto has been working with the State Executive Office of Aging in 2013-14, Mobility Task Force, to have better transportation for the neighbor islands, especially: Maui, Kauai, Molokai, and Hawaii Island. Unfortunately, efforts were discontinued in 2015. It was re-introduced in 2016 and finally brought back in 2023. Unfortunately, it didn't go to the final conference committee. Legislation was brought back again at this year 2024 legislature. Unfortunately, due to funding shortage there was no money for coordinators to oversee all the counties.

There is a need for accessible transportation on all islands. We need transportation for employment, school, and just to get out of the home to be with other people and for independence.

1. Chair Annette Tashiro adjourned the meeting at 1 P.M.

***Closed Captioning - Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) and American Sign Language (ASL) was available at the Meeting.***

**NCSRC/CSAVR Conference Report, Washington, D.C., 4/6/24-4/10/24, submitted by Howard Lesser, Client Assistance Program (CAP) representative**

**Key takeaways:**

**● Congress diverted funds intended for VR to Homeland Security when passing the stopgap budget.**

**● Catherine Taylor and I were able to personally meet with the new RSA Commissioner, Dante Q. Allen.**

**● VR State agencies that hired a business specialist had significant employment outcomes.**

**● Development of 30 second videos and long-form, documentary-style videos, individual success stories.**

**● The session on Artificial Intelligence was very interesting and could impact VR service delivery and automate time-consuming tasks.**

**● Hawaii SRC met the Guam and American Samoa representatives.**

**● Very little reference to client’s rights.**

**●NCSRC.US is the national website**

**●Booklet can be purchased on Amazon, but we have it.**

**●The NCSRC conference started out with an overview of SRC basics, which included the structure, purpose, function, as well the the extent, scope and effectiveness of VR.**

**●SRC’s are set in Federal law, established in 1992.**

**●We are the consumer voice.**

**●Each table had a discussion of what their SRC’s are struggling with as well as their success. Our table had members of Louisiana, Connecticut Blind, Oklahoma and Hawaii.**

**●Struggles included pre-ets, Order Of Selection, annual report, and meeting full complement of members (business and labor).**

**●Successes included having a good rapport with VR Director and government, members get along with each other.**

**SRC Committees are similar, except Okla. Has a strategic Planning committee.**

**● Client satisfaction surveys include phone calls, snail mail and email to obtain responses**

**Highlights of the 2nd day of NCSRC INCLUDED:**

**●It was reported that the Federal government appropriations bill, money initially that was intended for VR was diverted to Homeland Security in the amount of $190 million(?), partly due to VR returning unspent funds, mostly pre-ets.**

**●Partners In Policymaking -with DD Councils**

**●Steve Wooderson, executive CEO of CSAVR, gave an introduction (daughter was a teacher on Lanai), Section 107 – monitoring, Title 6, includes supported employment**

**●Next NCSRC conferences will be in Seattle in October**

**CSAVR (Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation) is the website**

**The CSAVR conference welcoming was highlighted by RSA ●Commissioner Dante Q. Allen, an individual who has spina bifida and who is a wheelchair user. He is from California and, following the presentations, came over to where Catherine and I were siiting and was engaged in our conversation. He told us that he needed to do a lot of listening. We were delighted and we invited him to visit.**

**Next, 2024 is the 10th anniversary of WIOA and a presentation was made on behalf of former Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), whose brother had a hearing impairment.**

**Highlighting the Tuesday sessions were legislative aides from the 118th Congress and included staff from Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA), Sen Mike Braun (R-IN), Rep. Virginia Fox (R-NC) Rep Marcus Molinaro (R-NY), and presided by CSAVR President Elect Felicia Johnson, State Director, SC.**

**●A highlight of this conference was a presentation on Artificial Intelligence and the future of Emerging Technologies. Daniel Van Sant, Director of Disability Policy, The Harkin Institute, Drake University. Mr. Van Sant wowed us all with his presentation and gave us three websites for resources. Examples were given that included locating vocations and what is entailed as well as typing in brief information to write a letter. I was amazed at how easy it is, even for a non-techie like me! Resources were provided. (Note: AI, given our government review, if implemented by VR, could expedited workload and better serve clients.)**

Department of Education (DOE) Announcements for 5/16/24 State Rehabilitation Council Meeting :

Note: Dr. Heather Chapman is on leave. DOE representation will be virtual by Cynthia Mew, Resource Teacher accompanying Administrator Verna Chinen.

1. The SEA/DVR Guidelines went thru the DVR AGs. The document is presently being reviewed by the State SPED office before it goes to the DOE AGs.
2. NTACT/CBI update – Work with DVR to include services to schools throughout the state. 12 schools in the SBE/WBL project, one from each complex.

Dr. Chapman is in the process of securing a contract to assist work coaches.

1. SBE/WBL – cohort #1 schools have their plans and how they plan to provide for their certificate students. Implementation will take place in Fall 2024. Curriculum training overview was provided in April 2024. More in-depth curriculum training will take place August 26-27. Videotaping of both SBE programs as well as implementation of the curriculum will take place August 27-28. 5-minute video.

Each cohort #1 school will submit a portfolio by the end of this school. This portfolio showcases what they’ve done with the SBE/WBL project.

1. State Transition Websites – Assessments were taken to almost every high school in the state. Transition assessments were mailed to the few schools not visited. Information is also available on the DOE transition website.
2. 4th Quarterly Transition Meeting – March 17. The registration link and flyer was sent out to DOE personnel.

***SILC Report for SRC Quarterly Meeting May 16, 2024***

***Submitted by Judy Guajardo, Chairperson SILC Representative***

*The Statewide Independent Living Council of Hawaii (SILCH) continues to promote independent living, skill building, peer support, individual and system advocacy, and transition services for youth and people who are aging as requested by consumers in their communities statewide.*

Activity report since the last SRC meeting on February 16, 2024

February 21 – National Volunteer Caregivers Network (NVCN) - 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM via Zoom

Volunteer Leaders meet to identify and resolve issues with gaps in services. This meeting was focused on the need for transportation services for “on-demand” or extended hours to meet needs for seniors and persons with disabilities.

February 26 – Hawaii VOAD – 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – Report updates from the Long-Term Recovery Group Committees and Community activity regarding the Maui Wildfires.

February 28 – May 8 and continuing – Maui Disabilities Task Force - 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM – via Zoom. This group of community leaders, FEMA, HIEMA, Red Cross and representatives from numerous organizations throughout the Nation is hosted by the Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies and Aloha Independent Living Hawaii, meet each Wednesday to identify gaps in services, individual rights, and civil liberty concerns. “Boots on the Ground” community members share individual service needs for consumers and requests to aid in supporting their independent living requirements. This watch group has been instrumental in securing appropriate housing, DME’s and other life enhancing aid to persons impacted by the wildfires of August 8, 2024.

February 28 – Kupuna Collective – 11:00 AM -12:00 PM via Zoom – This group meets once a month (last Wednesday) and represents organizations from all generations and abilities. It is Co-coordinated by HIPHI and UH Center on Aging. Through this program, Na Hoaloha was granted funds to hire and train a community navigator. This addition has been valuable in providing specialized support and training for participants who are blind, vision imparted, deaf and hard of hearing. The program is designed to promote independent living.

March 7 – SILC Board meeting – 9:00 AM -10:00 AM – (1st Thursday) Monthly meeting with the SILC Board to discuss SILC Business, follow-up with new member applications and the issuing of commissions from the Governor’s office.

March 8 – PPR progress review via Zoom

March 14 – Community partners meeting – 9:30 AM -11:00 AM – (2nd Thursday) Monthly meeting with Public Health Nurses to review cases and share resources for solving critical needs.

March 26 – PPR and Beyond Review – 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM – Met with Patrick Gartside to review PPR.

April 3 – Maui Disabilities Task Force – 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

April 4 – SILC Board – Meets 1st Thursday each month. 9:00 AM -10:00 AM

April 5 – Kupuna Caucus – 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM – Executive Office on Aging presented information on Alzheimer’s Disease and related Dementias. Review of long-term care policy goals and support for community health worker/navigators to provide case management.

The SILC Committee for developing the SPIL continues to meet every Friday morning from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM

April 16 – SILC Chair submitted the PPR to ACL

April 18 – SILC Quarterly Meeting – 10:00 AM -12:00 PM via Zoom. Presentation from Brian Hauser on the importance of creating a community of leaders who collaborate in addressing the immediate and long-range needs of persons with disabilities in the event of a disaster. The presentation focused on what was in place and what was not and how to navigate through the systems to ensure the care is person-centered. He spoke on what worked and what needs to be improved and how to be better informed and prepared for possible future disasters.

April 20 – Community Reunion Event with Care Hawaii 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM - Partnered with Care Hawaii to provide a day of activity and reunion for families who have been relocated from their community in West Maui. SILC and Na Hoaloha distributed materials for Falls Prevention. It was great to meet many people who we had only met via phone and to see them interacting and engaging with newfound friends.

April 27 – West Maui Senior Fair – 8:00 AM -2:00 PM – Event hosted by Kaunoa Senior services and Maui Office on Aging. Many members of the Lahaina community were able to come out and enjoy the activities while learning about what resources are available. It was amazing to see the resilience of folks. Materials on how to “Stay on Your Feet” and reduce the risk of falling was the topic at the Na Hoaloha booth.

Respectfully submitted by

Judy Guajardo, Chairperson for SILC of Hawaii

WDC Quarterly Report submitted to the State Rehabilitation Council

May 6th. 2024

Submitted by, Sean K. Knox, Vice Chair of the Special Projects Committee

STATE UNIFIED PLAN

Progress reported by WDC Executive Director, Benette Misalucha.  
- Submitted to the US Department of labor on March 4, 2024  
- Going through a process of revision through review and feedback – Due April 30  
- Will create a dashboard on initiatives and status on after final version is complete

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL UPCOMING BOARD TRAINING; June 24, 2024  
- Sunshine Laws  
- Ethics Training  
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Basic WIOA Training)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Soroptimist International - SIH is committed to improving the lives of women and girls in Hawaii through economic empowerment, elimination of violence and gender equality

Hawaii Summit on Employment First – Held February 29th, 2024.

Building on the momentum of Hawaiʻi’s Employment First efforts to increase and improve employment among people with disabilities, the 2nd Annual Summit on Employment First brought together self-advocates and those who support their full participation in work and careers. The post-conference summit featured a full day of training, inspiration, and collaboration to expand competitive integrated employment and community inclusion.

Hawaii-Las Vegas Business Symposium – April 21st, 2024

The Vegas Chamber, the largest business association in Nevada, and three chamber organizations in Hawaii held a business exchange in Honolulu to share expertise on mutual community and business issues.

May 2, 2024

SRC – Membership Report

Submitted by: Nani Watanabe

Recruiting new members has not been easy. Individuals that I have asked had questions on SRC Roles and what does SRC really do. I am focusing on recruiting from the Disabled community and seeking individuals that is very active on our neighbor island communities. This is an opportunity for members of our Maui Community who plans to attend our 1st SRC Mtg. Attendees will get to know who we are, meet, and ask questions. Information about SRC is very vague.

Each of our neighboring island’s communities are different. So, what works in Oahu might not fit for Maui etc. I feel membership is very critical for SRC. I want to see new membership recruits join SRC sharing their skills, talents, knowledge, ideas and most of all Support. Educating our community about SRC Roles and Responsibilities will help with recruiting new members.

The following SRC Members were on interim status from 2023 and had their testimony hearings on February 28 and were confirmed on March 1, 2024, during the 2024 Legisalative sessions.

* Sean Knox – Workforce Development Council
* Ramon Ruiz – Business, Industry & Labor –
* Sandi Jakob – Qualified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
* Vickie Kennedy – Disability Advocacy Group (2nd term)

The following SRC Members have submitted timely apllications for second term but were not scheduled a testimony hearing for consideration and

confirmation during the 2024 Legislative Sessions. The SRC are awaiting the Governor’s approval to be granted interim status until 2025 Legislative Sessions.

* Scott Hedrick – Business, Industry & Labor
* TIra Kamaka – Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP)
* Meriah Nichols – Former Recipient of VR Services

In addition, the following new applicant was also not scheduled a testimony hearing for consideration and confirmation during the 2024 Legislative Sessions.

* Business, Industry & Labor – Evan Nakatsuka

Data Report

**Hawaii Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) SRC Meeting 3rd Quarter – May 16, 2024**

# Program Year (PY) 2023 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)

1. **Data period for this quarterly report is PY23** **Q3 (January 1, 2024 – March 30, 2024)**

Total PY23 Served

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| VR Participants (VR Case Type) | 3200 | 3195 | 2805 |  |
| Potentially Eligible (PE): Students with  Disabilities (SWD) – these are not VR Participants but are receiving Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS). | 766 | 797 | 1343 |  |
| Total | 3966 | 3992 | 4148 |  |

The following data reflects VR cases only, data of Potentially Eligible (PE) students with disabilities (SWD) cases are not included in these tables below.

1. **Status of DVR Data by county PY23 Q2**

Total PY23 Applications – VR

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Applications  by Branch | Q1  July – Sept. | Q2  Oct. – Dec. | Q3  Jan.- March | Q4  April - June | PY 2023 Total |
| Oahu | 107 | 65 | 71 |  | 243 |
| Hawaii | 7 | 2 | 26 |  | 35 |
| Maui | 6 | 0 | 22 |  | 28 |
| Kauai | 5 | 0 | 5 |  | 10 |
| Total | 125 | 67 | 124 |  | 316 |

Total PY23 Determined Eligible – VR

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Eligibility by Branch | Q1  July – Sept. | Q2  Oct. – Dec. | Q3  Jan.- March | Q4  April - June | PY 2023 Total |
| Oahu | 77 | 67 | 50 |  | 194 |
| Hawaii | 8 | 4 | 22 |  | 34 |
| Maui | 14 | 0 | 18 |  | 32 |
| Kauai | 7 | 0 | 8 |  | 15 |
| Total | 106 | 71 | 98 |  | 275 |

Total PY23 IPEs Developed – VR

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| IPE by  Branch | Q1  July – Sept. | Q2  Oct - Dec. | Q3  Jan.-March | Q4  April - June | PY 2023 Total |
| Oahu | 63 | 59 | 52 |  | 174 |
| Hawaii | 8 | 3 | 23 |  | 34 |
| Maui | 14 | 5 | 18 |  | 37 |
| Kauai | 5 | 2 | 10 |  | 17 |
| Total | 90 | 69 | 103 |  | 262 |

Total PY23 Cases Closed (Rehabilitated and Other than Rehabilitated) – VR

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Closures by  Branch | Q1  July – Sept. | Q2  Oct - Dec. | Q3  Jan.-March | Q4  April - June | PY 2023 Total |
| Oahu | 55 | 30 | 25 |  | 110 |
| Hawaii | 9 | 8 | 12 |  | 29 |
| Maui | 3 | 5 | 1 |  | 9 |
| Kauai | 4 | 4 | 7 |  | 15 |
| Total | 71 | 47 | 45 |  | 163 |

Total PY23 Rehabilitated in Competitive Integrative Employment – VR

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CIE | Q1  July – Sept. | Q2  Oct - Dec. | Q3  Jan.-March | Q4  April - June | PY 2023 Total |
| Total | 2 | 7 | 9 |  | 9 |

1. **Status of DVR Cases Closed - Rehabilitated in Competitive Integrated Employment**

**T**otal PY23 Q2 Successful Rehabilitations by Branch/Section Detail – VR

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Branch | Position | Hourly Wage | Hours/Week |
| 1 | Oahu | Transportation Workers, All Other | $27.18 | 40 |
| 2 | Maui | Psychiatric Technicians | $20.66 | 30 |
| 3 | Maui | Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers | $16.05 | 40 |
| 4 | Oahu | Dishwashers | $14.00 | 20 |
| 5 | Oahu | Residential Advisors | $13.50 | 24 |
| 6 | Hawaii Kona | Stock Clerks and Order Fillers | $12.00 | 40 |
| 7 | Maui | Dishwashers | $12.00 | 30 |
| 8 | Oahu | Graphic Designers | $12.00 | 19 |
| 9 | Oahu | Helpers--Production Workers | $12.00 | 10 |
|  |  | Average for Quarter | $15.49 | 28.11 |

1. **Status of DVR Potentially Eligible (PE) Student with Disabilities**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Pre-ETS Service Type | In-House Staff | Purchased CRP | | Total  Serviced | Percentage |
| 1 | Job Exploration Counseling | 60 | 7 | | 67 | 54% |
| 2 | Work based learning | 1 | 2 | | 2 | 2% |
| 3 | Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or post-secondary education programs at institutions of higher education | 11 | 26 | | 37 | 30% |
| 4 | Workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living | 1 | 0 | | 1 | 1% |
| 5 | Self-advocacy skills | 16 | 0 | | 16 | 13% |
|  | Total | 89 | | 35 | 124 | 100% |

1. **Status of DVR Fair Hearings**

Form RSA-722 Report for FFY2023 (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024) thus far;

1. Total requests for mediation this fiscal year – 0

2. Total disputes resolved during mediation process – 0

3. Total requests for impartial hearings this fiscal year – 2

4. Disputes resolved without IHO decision – 0

5. IHO decisions favoring the individual – 0

6. IHO decisions favoring the agency – 2

7. Total civil actions this fiscal year – 0

8. Civil actions resolved in individual favor – 0

9. Civil actions resolved in agency favor – 0

Results for this quarter, January 1 – March 30, 2024: There were no Fair Hearings Requests and 1 decision favoring the agency..

**Work Plan Proposal FY 2024** (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024)

**SRC Executive Committee:**

SRC Chair Check-in: Monthly

SRC Executive Committee Meetings:

**SRC Standing Committee**

**Legislative**

Role: Informing the SRC membership and advocating for new legislation and changes to existing laws and regulations for the benefit of the VR community.

Goals:

Timeline:

**Membership**

Role: Continuously monitor current classification of membership and advise SRC members what member classifications are lacking. Search and recruit new members to ensure proper quorum is obtained. Fall is active recruiting time for new members.

Goals:

Timeline:

**Needs Assessment**

Role: Review and analyze the effectiveness of, and consumer satisfaction with, the performance by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, vocational rehabilitation services provided by state agencies, and other public and private entities, and employment outcomes achieved by eligible individuals receiving services, including the availability of health and other employment benefits in connection with employment outcomes.

Goals:

Timeline:

**Policy and Procedures**

Role: Advise the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation on eligibility, order of selection, extent, scope, and effectiveness of services provided; and performance of state agencies that affect or potentially affect the ability of individuals with disabilities in achieving employment outcomes. Basically, review and monitor policies and procedures of the DVR and provide input to assist in achieving desired outcomes.

Goals:

Timeline:

**State Plan**

Role: Assist with the development and review state goals and priorities. Advise the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation regarding authorized activities, and assist in the preparation of the state plan and amendments to the plan, applications, reports, needs assessment, and evaluations.

Goals:

Timeline:

**Ad Hoc Media Committee**

Role: Develop role statement(s)

Goals:

Timeline:

**Guideline:**

S=Specific

M=Measurable

A=Achievable

R=Relevant

T=Time Bound