**STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL (SRC)**

**2nd Quarterly Meeting Friday February 14, 2025**

**10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

**M I N U T E S**

**Attendees:**

**SRC Members Present:**

Judy Guajardo (State Independent Living Council Chair) Tira Kamaka (Community Rehabilitation Program) Vickie Kennedy (Disability Advocate Group)

Howard Lesser (Client Assistance Program) Evan Nakatsuka (Business Industry and Labor)

Ramon Ruiz (Business Industry and Labor, American Job Center) Annette Tashiro (Disability Advocate Group & SRC Chair) Catherine Taylor (Disability Advocate Group)

Nani Watanabe (Disability Advocate Group)

**SRC Members Absentees:**

Sandi Jakob (Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor-Private) Sean Knox (Workforce Development Council)

Meriah Nichols (Former VR Recipient)

Rosie Rowe (Parent Training and Information Center) Stan Young (Disability Advocate Group)

**DVR Attendees:**

Lea Dias-Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Administrator Cheryl Matthews-Staff Services Office

Shauna Tanner - Maui Branch Administrator Gregg Van Camp-SRC Liaison

**General Public:**

Presenter- Violet Harvath - UH Pacific Disabilities Center Patrick Gartside - Work Now Hawaii/SILC Chair

Lanh Nguyen- Assistive Technology Resource Center (ATRC) Emily Wilkinson- Hawai’i Disability Rights Center

Julia Althoff- Developmental Disabilities Council

1. Call to Order Chair Evan Nakatsuka

Meeting was called to Order at 10:06 a.m. by Chair E. Nakatsuka.

* 1. Housekeeping remarks- Chair Nakatsuka reminded attendees to state your name before speaking and to mute yourself when not speaking.

1

1. Members Introduction Vice Chair Catherine Taylor
   1. Chair Nakatsuka introduced self and assisted by Vice Chair Catherine Taylor gathered attendance of SRC members, HDVR staff, and guests.
2. Consent Agenda Chair Evan Nakatsuka

Chair Nakatsuka thanked the members for their reports and opened discussion on the 1st Quarter meeting minutes as well as partner council reports, including the following which was sent to members for their review prior to the meeting:

* 1. Approval of Minutes for the 1st Quarterly meeting held on November 7, 2024
  2. State Rehabilitation Council Partner Council Reports
     + Client Assistance Program (CAP)

Chair Nakatsuka opened it up for comments or discussion on the CAP report. H. Lesser mentioned that CAP’s funding comes from the Department of Education which in all the news reports is about to be dismantled. CAP is optimistic that funding will continue, however H. Lesser wanted to add that to the CAP report.

* + - Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP)

Chair Nakatsuka highlighted that mention of the memorandum of understanding between DVR and Developmental Disabilities Division.

* + - Department of Education (DOE)

A.Tashiro and H. Lesser asked if a DOE representative can send out the information on various Footsteps to Transition Fair’s statewide as soon as those are scheduled. H. Lesser stressed the importance that transition is a priority and we should all be informed so we can participate. N. Watanabe added there is a transition fair on February 27th at UH Maui College.

* + - State Independent Living Council (SILC)
    - Workforce Development Council (WDC)
  1. State Rehabilitation Council Standing Committee Reports
     + Membership Committee Report

After discussion Chair Nakatsuka entertained a motion to approve the minutes and partner/committee reports. N. Watanabe moved to approve the motion. V. Kennedy seconded the motion. Chair Nakatsuka asked for the voting members of those in favor and opposed.

Seven votes in favor, motion carries.

1. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Data Report VRA Lea Dias

L. Dias introduced herself and shared her screen and reviewed and explained the following information:

1. Status of Total DVR Consumers Served

In Quarter 2 October 1, 2024-December 30, 2024: 4569 Potentially eligible for VR but only receiving Pre-ETS: 1145

2

VR participants: 3424

1. Status of DVR Data by County last Quarter

In Quarter 2 October 1, 2024-December 30, 2024:

* + Total New Applicants: 203

Oahu 121, Hawaii 29, Maui 44, Kauai 9

* + Total New Determined Eligible: 196 Oahu 118, Hawaii 35, Maui 36, Kauai 7
  + Total New Individualized Plan for Employment: 169 Oahu 101, Hawaii 30, Maui 31, Kauai 7
  + Total New Cases Closed(other than rehabilitated): 53 Oahu 25, Hawaii 16, Maui 8, Kauai 4
  + Total New Cases Closed(rehabilitated): 16

1. Status of DVR Competitive Integrative Employment Detail In Quarter 2 October 1, 2024-December 30, 2024:
   * 16: Various jobs from Occupational therapists, project management specialist, legal support workers, mechanical engineers, stock clerks and order fillers, food preparation workers, janitors, landscaping and groundskeeping workers.
2. Status of DVR Potentially Eligible (PE) Student with Disabilities In Quarter 2 October 1, 2024-December 30, 2024:
   * Total:102

Job Exploration Counseling: 33 Work based learning experiences: 0

Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or post-secondary education programs at institutions of higher education: 46

Workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living: 0

Self-Advocacy Skills: 23

H. Lesser asked a questions in regards to eligibility to L. Dias; do you have any information on the number of individuals that were found ineligible for VR? L. Dias responded that they do not have that number of people or information but if that is something that the SRC wants VR to track, VR can get that information to the SRC. C. Taylor added that it would also be beneficial to make note of what determined the potential consumer to be ineligible for VR. L. Dias also discussed that VR is remaining optimistic in regards to the current political discussions around DOE with the Trump administration. L. Dias also stated that per request

3

of Governor Green, she has written out justifications for all VR programs and the impacts it would have if we lost federal funding. L. Dias stated that VR is working together with the Department of Human Services on the strategic plan, which is all in line with things we have in our unified state plan. San Diego State University completed the latest statewide needs assessment. Also mentioned taking a look at the CSNA which is the comprehensive statewide needs assessment that was completed after three years.

5. Status of Impartial Hearings

L. Dias reported DVR didn’t have any this quarter. No request for fair hearings. Chair Evan asked if anyone had questions, Vickie Kennedy asked L. Dias what she thinks the reason for the increase in numbers was attributed to. L. Dias answered not positive why the increase other than speculating has to do with people coming out of covid fog, early rapid engagement, ongoing engagement. Building relationships between the counselors and participants. Successful closers looking at removing obstacles. Julia from DDD council asked if DVR has a report broken down per service. L. Dias stated we don’t have a report separating out each service, but if that’s something you’d like we can talk about it. C. Taylor asked what is your capacity to take on more cases? Number of vacancies in different offices, what's your plan to make sure you’re staffed enough to take on more cases. L. Dias stated we have more people coming into our agency than leaving. We have more than enough money and although staff are stretched thin, we are trying to remove obstacles, continue looking to hire more. Building a workplace of kindness and respect towards each other and the people that we serve.

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

V. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Verbal Updates VRA Lea Dias.

L. Dias mentioned the MOU between the Division of VR and Developmental Disabilities Division and Allison from DVR and Julie from DDD have been completing statewide training with DVR counselors, DDD case managers, and provider agencies. Per the compliance report with the feds, VR finally got the state educational agreement signed between DOE and DVR. The document outlines the responsibilities and how important it is to work with students with disabilities and what role advocacy would have. C. Matthews from DVR is working on a training between DOE and DVR.

L. Dias stated that it’s been a busy Legislative session, noting the budget bill and the administrative bill which is to support the blind and visually impaired, called the blind and low vision pilot project. It is basically an expansion of the blindness training skills out in the community, particularly for the people not eligible for the full program. Due to either they don’t want to work or they’re under 55. DVR is requesting a little over $2 million in order to get it up and running over a two year trial period. The low vision community doesn’t not like the term “visually impaired” so we are changing it to blind and low vision. Currently on 3 teachers statewide to service the blind or low vision consumers. VR provided testimony on a number of bills related to allowing emotional support animals, dyslexia screening to be universal

4

screening in the DOE, and requiring places of public accommodations to provide accessibility, including technology accessibility, such as to have kiosks or websites to make them accessible.

L. Dias reported that VR vacancy rate is still high, currently at 42% vacancy. Experienced a number of people retire at the end of December 2024. The Hawai’i Island Administrator Carol Fujimoto retired in December. Oahu has 5 vacancies in the Administrative office, 20.5 vacancies in the Oahu Branch, 9 vacancies in the Services for the Blind Branch (Ho’opono), 4 Hawai’i Branch(Hilo/Kona), 3 vacancies in the Maui Branch(Maui, Molokai, Lana’i), and 4.5 vacancies in the Kaua’i Branch. C. Matthews stated that she will be attending a recruitment fair in East Hawai’i next week. L. Dias stated C. Matthews is attending job fairs throughout the state to help with the recruitment of vacant positions.

Chair E. Nakatsuka paused the meeting for a break at 11:06am Chair E. Nakatsuka resumed the meeting at 11:15am.

VI. 2024 Consumer Satisfaction Survey Results Presentation Presenter Dr. Violent Horvath

1. University of Hawai’i, Pacific Disabilities Center

Chair E. Nakatsuka introduced presenter Violet Horvath from the University of Hawai’i Pacific Disabilities Center. V. Horvath shared her screen and discussed the Consumer Satisfaction Survey results. V. Horvath stated data from October 2024 - December 2024: of the total 226 cases, 176 were closed as other, and 50 closed as rehabilitated. That’s actually double the number of cases that closed as rehabilitated from the year before. 78 surveys returned, 121 of the 226 who didn’t respond but did appear to at least have some valid form of contact. 11 individuals were deceased. We had a 39% response rate which is the highest we’ve ever had of consumer satisfaction surveys. Generally a response rate of over 20% is considered good. 136 were the highest number served under the most significantly disabled, 57 were significantly disabled, and 2 were not significantly disabled. Of the ones who answered yes if they currently have a job, the range was from one hour/week to 50 hours/week. Average was 23 hours/week. Hourly wage reported ranged from $12/hour to $40/hour. Average hourly wage was $19.97/hour. Reviewed overall levels of satisfaction calculated by dividing those into two categories. Those with an average score of 2.99 or lower are considered to have lower level of satisfaction. Higher level of satisfaction would be anyone who has a 3.0 or higher. There were 13 who had scores that indicated they had lower levels of satisfaction overall, and of those 13, 11 had their cases closed as other, and 2 were closed as rehabilitated. 62 people with scores indicating higher levels of satisfaction overall, and of the 62, 37 of those closed as other, and 25 as rehabilitated. Their average score for those 62 people was 3.42. The overall average for the 13 people was a score of 3.13. There were 176 cases classified as "closed other." The bulk of those were 99 who are no longer interested in receiving services, and 35 unable to locate or contact. V. Horvath mention that this number

5

has come way down, as it used to be very, very high. 15 were transferred to another agency for services, 13 cases closed because of health or medical reasons, 11 for the death of the individual, and there were 2 persons who were incarcerated or criminal offenders. Lastly, one ineligible because they did not require VR services.

Every year people will name maybe three, maybe four counselors by name. However, this year, there were 20 different ones named by name. Of the 18 counselors, there were only positive comments. One of the counselors had a positive comment and a negative comment, and only one counselor had a negative comment. Counselors and even some staff members were named and were definitely just overwhelmingly reviewed in a positive light. They talked about positive relationships with counselors, good communication and assistance, and this was the case even if the person ultimately did not end up with a job. Many of them wrote about their pride in their achievements, what they were able to do with assistance from VR. The few negative responses were the processes and bureaucracy, they were not able to change counselors because sometimes this is not a good fit. But my understanding is that the issue had been resolved. Other things mentioned were clients do have one opportunity to change, asked to change a counselor, if it is just not working. Some people had issues with being assigned to different counselors, issues of communication, lack of communication.

Some felt like the counselor really didn't understand their disability. A few of them were talking about how they had to wait for services, waiting to find a job.

L. Dias asked V. Horvath, why do you think this is happening? V. Horvath stated that the stability in the leadership, having the top positions filled and stable, has had a positive effect. I also know that Lea and company have been doing a lot of training for staff on engagement and keeping people engaged in the process and other things customer service. I think those are having a positive effect, too. I realize that I don't know the overall cases that are open, but I know there are a small number that are closed. Perhaps that if the number of active cases was low, it is probably at the number that it should be, because it is actually allowing the counselors to spend the needed time with clients. If you have such a high number, a high volume, and there are always deadlines, things that have to be done within a certain period of time, if you've got a high case load, that's obviously extremely difficult. But if you have a realistic case load, you're going to have a much better chance of being able to spend the necessary time with the clients. So based on what I have learned over the years and some of feedback, those would be my thoughts on why we're seeing good results this year.

Chair E. Nakatsuka thanked V. Horvath for the presentation and wanted to highlight what was said regarding the training and engagement focus and monitor vacancies and number of people actively served.

V. Kennedy asked V. Horvath what is the age range of applicants? V. Horvath responded that the lowest was 14 years old up to 70’s. Chair E. Nakatsuka noted that the largest groups mentioned were 20 to 29 years old and 50 to 59 years old. Chair E. Nakatsuka asked if there were any other questions for V. Horvath before moving onto the next topic of discussion.

6

VII. Old Business Chair E. Nakatsuka

1. County Outreach

Chair Nakatsuka mentioned that, from the last meeting, a motion was passed for the SRC to engage DVR at the county level and to ask to support the VR staff and the VR mission from the branch perspective. Annette, Cheryl and I(Chair Nakatsuka) met with the Oahu Branch Administrator and supervisors from four different sections here on Oahu. Priorities that were identified were staffing, specifically advocating for comparable pay to other human services positions within the state and DHS. As well as increasing ASL proficiency and capacity was highlighted as a need from the VR perspective. Another discussion point was partner collaboration, and this has been mentioned earlier in the meeting about Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Division, MOU, and the ongoing training with that. DOE collaboration also came up including collaboration with public schools, charter schools and Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility. We need collaboration with adult mental health, OMHD and clubhouses in the community trying to bridge that partner collaboration similar to what VR has been doing with developmental disabilities division and DOE. Also the importance of attending job fairs and outreach for VR recruitment was highlighted. The job fair with the Federal District Court was mentioned. The American Job Center collaboration specifically working with an intern from the (Indiscernible) program.

1. FFY25 SRC Strategic Work Plan (October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025) and Standing Committee Goals

Legislative Committee Chairs Stan Young/Howard Lesser

Chair Nakatsuka opened the conversation about how the SRC, specifically the Legislative Committee can support VR. L. Dias stated that the SRC members really serve as an essential voice in advocating for the needs of DVR and individuals we serve. Legislative engagement, if the SRC an work with the state and federal delegation to convey the importance of the state funding for our program, and the services we provide. SRC could potentially help VR with strengthening employer relationships, create job opportunities, and create a more sustainable employment pipeline. Engaging in the Workforce Development Council meetings, outreach at community colleges or universities.

Chair Nakatsuka announced the need for a five minute break for the captioner. Meeting resumed at 12:15pm.

Chair Nakatsuka mentioned the four main partners that were identified when it comes to legislative advocacy as, Cultural and Developmental Disabilities, Special Education Advisory Council, the Disability Communication Access Board, SILC, State Independent Living Council. Chair Nakatsuka made a motion to provide information from our organizations tot he SRC regarding legislative priorities for informational purposes only and not for council action. Eight in favor, no opposition, motion has passed.

7

Membership Committee Chair Nani Watanabe

Chair Nakatsuka stated that VR vacancies have come up at every meeting, and reminded the SRC to share about the open vacancies statewide. Separate from that is our SRC membership, as we have new incoming members to the SRC that include, Dr. Judy Daniels who is the Director of the Rehab Counseling Program, Dr. Christine Park is an instructor for the Rehab Counseling Program.

Chair Nakatsuka mentioned the importance of SRC members to engage with employers around the state. Made motion to create an Employer Engagement Ad Hoc Committee. C. Taylor seconded the motion, 100% in favor, no opposition.

Needs Assessment Committee Chair Rosie Rowe

Chair Nakatsuka made mention that the Needs Assessment was included in today’s packet. Chair Nakatsuka asked if the Needs Assessment Committee can summarize the consumer Comprehensive Needs Assessment, flush out the details and present it at our next meeting. Chair Nakatsuka made a motion that the Needs Assessment Committee meet in this next quarter before our next SRC quarterly meeting in May to review the comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment and make recommendations. A. Tashiro seconded the motion.

Policies & Procedures Committee Chair Catherine Taylor Chair Nakatsuka tabled discussion until next meeting as we were short on time.

State Plan Committee Chair Annette Tashiro Chair Nakatsuka tabled discussion until next meeting as we were short on time.

1. New Business Chair E. Nakatsuka
   1. Selection of Neighbor Island SRC Quarterly Meeting Location and Date
      * 3rd Quarter, Friday, May 9, 2025 - Oahu and virtual option
      * 4th Quarter, Friday, August 22, 2025 - Potentially going to be held in Kona, Hawai’i Island.
   2. Nominees to attend National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils, Inc. (NCSRC) and Councils of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) Spring Conference at Bethesda, MD, Saturday April 5 - Wednesday April 9, 2025.
2. Upcoming SRC Events Chair E. Nakatsuka
   1. February 21, 2025 - 3rd Quarterly Department of Education Transition Meeting
   2. April 5-6, 2025 - National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils, Inc. (NCSRC)
   3. April 7-9, 2025 - Councils of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) Spring Conference

8

4. May 9, 2025 - SRC 3rd Quarterly Meeting

X. Comments from the Public Chair E. Nakatsuka

Evan Nakatsuka asked public members to introduce themselves.

XI. Adjourn Chair E. Nakatsuka

Meeting adjourned at 1:09pm Chair Nakatsuka moved a motion, Vicky Kennedy seconded.

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

**HDRC/CAP report for 2/14/25 SRC Quarterly Meeting,**

**submitted by Howard Lesser, CAP representative**

**● HDRC/CAP completed and submitted its annual Program Performance Report (PPR) to its federal funding source and will be posted on the HDRC website at** [**www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org**](http://www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org)

**● HDRC/CAP has compiled a list of disability-related bills, as currently indicated, for the 2025 State Legislative session.**

**● HDRC/CAP moved its office to 1001 Bishop St., Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96813 (same phone and email). Official open house soon to be announced.**

**● Emily Wilkinson, who has served as HDRC Advocate for over 18 years, submitted her application to Governor Josh Green and will serve as the CAP representative on the SRC, effective July 1, 2025. The CAP representative on the SRC is mandated by federal law and is exempt from term limits. Ms. Wilkinson replaces Howard Lesser, who has served on the SRC as CAP representative. Mr. Lesser will continue working at HDRC as Senior Advocate.**

State Rehabilitation Council

Community Rehabilitation Provider (CRP) Report

February 14, 2025

Provider agencies are in the second half of the school year delivering the pre-employment transition services (Pre-ETS) to students with a disability. The five required activities in Pre-ETS are Job exploration counseling; Work-based learning experiences; Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary educational programs at institutions of higher education; Workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living (often referred to as soft skills); and Instruction in self-advocacy, which may include peer mentoring.

Launched in July 2006, the SELN acts as a joint initiative of the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts Boston. The SELN supports states to improve integrated employment outcomes. The SELN is a membership-based network of state developmental disability (DD) agencies committed to making changes in their service systems. The SELN is a community of practice where members meet to connect, collaborate, and share information and lessons learned across state lines and system boundaries. Participating state agency officials build cross community support for pressing employment-related issues.

The goal of their Hawaii visit is to meet with case managers, Waiver employment providers, self-advocates, families and DDD leadership to learn all aspects of Hawaii’s employment services and suggest policies and protocols that will align with our goals to grow employment for participants with I/DD. Meetings to take place starting in February 2025.

DHS-DVR and DOH-DDD joint provider training on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE). Meetings take place in February and March. See attachment for more details.

Announcements for 2.14.25 State Rehabilitation Council Meeting :

DOE Updates:

1. The SEA/DVR Guidelines has been approved.
2. WBL for those with Significant Disabilities – 12 schools are in Cohort #1. 4 schools have joined in Cohort #2.

2a – DVR counselors were invited to Cohort #1 schools.

2b – Middle schools were invited to Cohort #1 schools so that transition can take place from middle school.

1. Video of WBL for those with Significant Disabilities posted on our google classroom.
2. The 3rd Quarterly Transition Meeting will be held on 2.21.25. The link to register for this has gone out. A few of our Cohort #1 schools will be presenting on what their school has done with regards to this project.



**STATEWIDE**

**INDEPENDENT**

**LIVING COUNCIL OF HAWAII**

SRC Quarterly Meeting

Partner Council Report

The Statewide Independent Living Council of Hawaii has been focused on the execution of the State Plan for Independent Living through our Work Plan, including areas:

# SILC Staffing

The Executive Committee of the Council has developed job descriptions for part time positions of an Executive Director, and administrative staff. These positions are listed on our website along with a digital application. We will soon publish on HireNet Hawaii, and Indeed. We aim to find staff to support the work of the Council.

# SILC Membership Growth

The Engagement Committee, which is tasked with recruitment and engagement with Council members and committees has been proactively working to recruit members to our Council. We’ve received five applications from community members, and have also extended the deadline to apply until February 28th, 2025. The Engagement committee will make recommendations to the full Council at the March 6th, 2025 meeting, who will then vote on the slate of candidates, and make recommendations to the Governor’s office for July 1st appointments.

Additionally, SILC has been recruiting ex-officio members with the goal of expanding our reach and information network. This includes possible membership from The State Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the Elderly Affairs Division with the City and County of Honolulu. We hope to continue to expand ex-officio membership to include each county’s ADRCs.

# Systems Change Activities

SILC will be presenting at the Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity, sharing information about Hawaii's State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), which is a federally funded plan that aims to empower individuals with disabilities and create an inclusive society by enhancing the capabilities of support organizations and promoting data-driven decision-making.

SILC has been actively participating in conversations about Accessible and Affordable Housing with members of Hawaii Congress, including Speaker Nadine Nakamura’s Housing Group, and conversations with Representative Mark Hashem about developing housing set aside for people with disabilities. We’ve also engaged with the City and County of Honolulu about four properties they have listed for proposed affordable housing.

SILC has also been participating with the Employment First Task Force and the Hawaii Association of People Supporting Employment First, focusing on planning for the Hawaii Summit on Employment First in April of 2025. This conference will bring together people with disabilities, professionals and service providers for training and inspiration in best practices in disability employment.

# Emergency Preparedness & Response

SILC has been actively working with the FEMA Disability Integration team, including their transition to the FEMA Maui Long Term Recovery Office.

SILC is also in conversations and in support of Disability Communication Access Board’s (DCAB) Interagency Action Plan.

SILC has also been working with the Disability Task Force focused on the Maui recovery efforts.

SILC has been working with Vibrant Hawaii as they support the development of the Koolau Resilience Hub, and has registered to support as a Disability Resilience Hub member.

**Call or Text:** (808) 585-7452 **Email:** [info@HawaiiSILC.org](mailto:info@HawaiiSILC.org) **Online:** [www.IndependentLivingHawaii.org](http://www.independentlivinghawaii.org/)

1050 Queen St Suite 100, Honolulu Hawaii 96814

**WDC Quarterly Report**

November 2024 to February 2025

Executive Committee Meeting

CreatedCreated by Bennette E. Misalucha,

Executive Director

Submitted by Sean Knox,

Vice Chair of the Special Projects Committee

Available upon request.

February 14, 2025

SRC – Membership Report

The SRC Membership Committee had been busy with recruiting new members as the SRC will be losing ten (10) members whose terms are ending June 30, 2025 or have already left.

* Statewide Independent Living Center (SILC) representative Judy Guajardo
* Parent Training & Information Center representative Rosie Rowe
* Client Assistance Program representative Howard lesser
* Department of Education (DOE) representative Dr. Heather Chapman
* Business, Industry & Labor representative Scott Hedrick
* Disability Advocacy Group representatives:
  + Vickie Kennedy
  + Annette Tashiro
  + Catherine Taylor
  + Nani Watanabe
  + Stan Young

The Membership Committee successfully recruited and secured six (6) new applicants with the generous assistance of members’ recommendations. These applicants are are waiting for their testimony hearing date for consideration and confirmation during the Spring Legislative Sessions.

* Statewide Independent Living Center (SILC) representative Patrick Gartside
* Parent Training & Information Center representative Carly Dowda-Hood
* Client Assistance Program representative Emily Wilkinson
* Department of Education (DOE) representative Cynthia Mew
* Business, Industry & Labor representative James “Monty” Mongommery
* Disability Advocacy Group representatives:
  + Dr. Judy Daniels
  + Christine Park

If the SRC are fortunate and all applicants are confirmed, the SRC will still be short the following representatives per Federal/State Regi;ations:

* Business, Industry & Labor
* Disability Advocacy Group
  + Representative from Maui and Kauai
  + Representative from the Deaf Community

**SRC Tentative Roster**

**July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2026**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| # | **Composition** | **Member Name** |
| **1** | Statewide Independent Living Center | Patrick Gartside |
| **2** | At least one Representative of a Parent Training & Information Center (§348-8(a)(1) | Carly Dowda-Hood |
| **3** | At least one Representative of the Client Assist Program (§348-8(a)(2)) | Emily Wilkinson |
| **4** | Qualified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (§348-8(a)(3)) | Sandi Jakob |
| **5** | Representative of Community Rehabilitation Program Service Providers (§348-8(a)(4)) | Tira Kamaka |
| **6** | 1. Representative of Business, Industry, and Labor (§348-8(a)(5)) | Ramon Ruiz |
| **7** | 2. Representative of Business, Industry, and Labor (§348-8(a)(5)) | Evan Nakatsuka |
| **8** | 3. Representative of Business, Industry, and Labor (§348-8(a)(5)) | Monty Montgommery |
|  | 4. Representative of Business, Industry, and Labor (§348-8(a)(5)) | Vacant |
| **9** | Representative of Business, Industry, and Labor (§348-8(a)(5)) | Dr. Judy Daniels |
| **10** | Representative of a Disability Advocacy Group (§348-8(a)(6) | Christine Park |
| **11** | Representative of a Disability Advocacy Group (§348-8(a)(6) | Vacant |
| **12** | Current or Former Recipient of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (§348-8(a)(7)) | Meriah Nichols |
| **13** | At least one Representative of the State Educational Agency Responsible for the Public Education of Students with Disabilities (§348-8(a)(8)) | Cynthia Mews |
| **14** | One Representative of the State Workforce Development Council (§348-8(a)(9)) | Sean Knox |
|
| **15** | Administrator of the Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the Department of Human Services (§348-8(a)(10) ex-officio/non-voting member. | Lea Dias |
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Data Report

**Hawaii Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) SRC Meeting 2nd Quarter – February 14, 2025**

# Program Year (PY) 2024 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

1. **Data period for this report is PY24** **Q2 (****October 1, 2024 – December 30, 2024)**

Total PY24 DVR Consumers Served

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| Potentially Eligible (PE): Students with Disabilities (SWD) – these are not VR Participants but are receiving Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS). | 937 | 1145 |  |  |
| VR Participants (VR Case Type) | 3264 | 3424 |  |  |
| Total | 4201 | 4569 |  |  |

The following data reflects VR cases only. Data on Potentially Eligible (PE) students with disabilities (SWD) cases are not included.

1. **Status of DVR Consumers Data by county PY24 Q2 (October 1, 2024 – December 30, 2024)**

* Honolulu County includes Oahu Section 1 (Kapolei), Oahu Section 2 (Transition), Oahu Section 3 (Honolulu), Deaf Services Section, and Services for the Blind Branch (Ho’opono)
* Hawaii County includes Hilo Section and Kona Field Office.
* Maui County includes Maui Section and Molokai Field Office.

Total Applications Received

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Applications Received  by County | Q1  Jul – Sep  2024 | Q2  Oct – Dec  2024 | Q3  Jan – Mar  2025 | Q4  Apr – Jun  2025 | PY 2024  Total  as of 12/31/24 |
| Honolulu | 153 | 121 |  |  | 274 |
| Hawaii | 42 | 29 |  |  | 71 |
| Maui | 41 | 44 |  |  | 85 |
| Kauai | 9 | 9 |  |  | 18 |
| Total | 245 | 203 |  |  | 448 |

Total Determined Eligible

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Eligibility by County | Q1  Jul – Sep  2024 | Q2  Oct – Dec  2024 | | Q3  Jan – Mar  2025 | | Q4  Apl – Jun  2025 | | PY 2024  Total  as of 12/31/24 |
| Honolulu | 124 | 118 | |  | |  | | 242 |
| Hawaii | 39 | 35 | |  | |  | | 74 |
| Maui | 39 | 36 | |  | |  | | 75 |
| Kauai | 10 | 7 | |  | |  | | 17 |
| Total | 212 | | 196 | |  | |  | 408 |

Total Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) Developed

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| IPEs by  County | Q1  Jul – Sep  2024 | Q2  Oct – Dec  2024 | Q3  Jan – Mar  2025 | Q4  Apr – Jun  2025 | PY 2024  Total  as of 12/31/24 |
| Honolulu | 98 | 101 |  |  | 299 |
| Hawaii | 41 | 30 |  |  | 64 |
| Maui | 34 | 31 |  |  | 72 |
| Kauai | 7 | 7 |  |  | 14 |
| Total | 180 | 169 |  |  | 349 |

Total Cases Closed Other than Rehabilitated

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Closed Other by County | Q1  Jul – Sep  2024 | Q2  Oct – Dec  2024 | Q3  Jan – Mar  2025 | Q4  Apr – Jun  2025 | PY 2024  Total  as of 12/31/24 |
| Honolulu | 41 | 25 |  |  | 66 |
| Hawaii | 7 | 16 |  |  | 23 |
| Maui | 12 | 8 |  |  | 20 |
| Kauai | 6 | 4 |  |  | 10 |
| Total | 66 | 53 |  |  | 119 |

Total Cases Closed Rehabilitated in Competitive Integrative Employment (CIE)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CIE | Q1  Jul – Sep  2024 | Q2  Oct – Dec  2024 | Q3  Jan – Mar  2025 | Q4  Apr – Jun  2025 | PY 2024  Total  as of 12/31/24 |
| Total | 27 | 16 |  |  | 43 |

1. **Status of Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) Detail**

PY24 Q2 Successful Rehabilitants in Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) in detail

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | County | Position | Hourly Wage | Hours/Week |
| 1 | Honolulu | Occupational Therapists | $44.00 | 40 |
| 2 | Honolulu | Occupational Therapists | $32.40 | 40 |
| 3 | Honolulu | Project Management Specialists | $34.27 | 27 |
| 4 | Maui | Legal Support Workers, All Other | $30.00 | 10 |
| 5 | Honolulu | Mechanical Engineers | $28.85 | 40 |
| 6 | Honolulu | Managers, All Other | $26.90 | 40 |
| 7 | Kauai | Packers and Packagers, Hand | 20.17 | 40 |
| 8 | Honolulu | Stock Clerks and Order Fillers | $21.00 | 20 |
| 9 | Kona | Stock Clerks and Order Fillers | $18.50 | 30 |
| 10 | Kona | Nonfarm Animal Caretakers | $18.00 | 40 |
| 11 | Kauai | Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession, and Coffee Shop | $18.00 | 30 |
| 12 | Kauai | Food Preparation Workers | $14.50 | 24 |
| 13 | Honolulu | Food Preparation and Serving Related Workers, All Other | $14.32 | 40 |
| 14 | Kauai | Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners | $14.00 | 15 |
| 15 | Kona | Building Cleaning Workers, All Other | $14.00 | 4 |
| 16 | Kauai | Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers | $14.00 | 4 |
|  |  | Average Total | $22.68 | 28.375 |

1. **Status of** **Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to Student with Disabilities (SWD)**

There are 5 ltypes of Pre-ETS.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Pre-ETS to SWD | Q1  Jul – Sep  2024 | Q2  Oct – Dec  2024 | Q3  Jan – Mar  2025 | Q4  Apr – Jun  2025 | PY 2024  Total  as of 12/31/24 |
| Job Exploration Counseling | **51** | **33** |  |  | **84** |
| Work based learning experiences | **0** | **0** |  |  | **0** |
| Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or post-secondary education programs at institutions of higher education | **65** | **46** |  |  | **111** |
| Workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living | **0** | **0** |  |  | **0** |
| Self-advocacy skills | **7** | **23** |  |  | **30** |
| Total | **123** | **102** |  |  | **225** |

DVR executed new Pre-ETS contracts statewide ensuring SWD are received work based learning experiences and work readiness training. DVR is reviewing the data collection mechanism.

1. **Status of Impartial Hearings**

The Form RSA-722 Report for FFY2025 (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025)is submitted to Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) by December 30 each year.

Results for FFY25 Q1 (October 1 – December 30, 2024):

* There were no Requests for Review to pursue Impartial Fair Hearing during this quarter.
* The following are the totals for FY25 thus far.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| RSA-722 Report | | |
| 1 | Total requests for mediation this fiscal year | 0 |
| 2 | Total disputes resolved during mediation | 0 |
| 3 | Total requests for impartial hearings this fiscal year | 0 |
| 4 | Disputes resolved without IHO decision | 0 |
| 5 | IHO decisions favoring the individual | 0 |
| 6 | IHO decisions favoring the agency | 0 |
| 7 | Total civil actions this fiscal year | 0 |
| 8 | Civil actions resolved in individual favor | 0 |
| 9 | Civil actions resolved in agency favor | 0 |

**Consumer Satisfaction Survey**

**Federal Fiscal Year 2024**

**Annual Report**

October 2023 – September 2024

Prepared for: Hawaii Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Prepared by: Pacific Disabilities Center

University of Hawaii at Manoa, John A. Burns School of Medicine

Available upon request – 79 pages

**The State of Hawaii**

**Department of Human Services**

**Division of Vocational Rehabilitation**

**and**

**The State Rehabilitation Council**

**Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment Report**

**November 30, 2024**

Available upon request – 298 pages