

# STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL (SRC)

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Meeting

Friday, May 09, 2025

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

## MINUTES

### Attendees:

#### SRC Members Present:

Sandi Jakob (Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor-Private)  
Tira Kamaka (Community Rehabilitation Program)  
Vickie Kennedy (Disability Advocate Group)  
Sean Knox (Workforce Development Council)  
Howard Lesser (Client Assistance Program)  
Evan Nakatsuka (Business Industry and Labor)  
Annette Tashiro (Disability Advocate Group & SRC Chair)  
Catherine Taylor (Disability Advocate Group)  
Nani Watanabe (Disability Advocate Group)  
Stan Young (Disability Advocate Group)

#### SRC Members Absentees:

Judy Guajardo (State Independent Living Council Chair)  
Meriah Nichols (Former VR Recipient)  
Rosie Rowe (Parent Training and Information Center)  
Ramon Ruiz (Business Industry and Labor, American Job Center)

#### DVR Attendees:

Lea Dias-Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Administrator  
Janet Furukawa - Honolulu Branch Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist  
Elizabeth Kong - TA Deaf Section Supervisor  
Gregg Van Camp-SRC Liaison

#### General Public:

Patrick Gartside – Work Now Hawaii/SILC Chair (future SILC representative)  
Emily Wilkinson – Hawaii Disability Rights Center (future CAP representative)  
CART – Sami Silvia

- I. Call to Order at 10:15am Chair Evan Nakatsuka
  1. Housekeeping remarks; Individuals online, please mute yourselves when not talking.
- II. Members Introduction Vice-Chair Catherine Taylor

Took attendance; asked members and the public to introduce themselves.
- III. Consent Agenda Chair Evan Nakatsuka

1. Approval of Minutes – February 14, 2025

Chair E. Nakatsuka asked if there were any corrections to the minutes.

2. State Rehabilitation Council Partner Council Reports

- Client Assistance Program (CAP)
- Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP)
- Department of Education (DOE)
- Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
- Workforce Development Council (WDC)

Chair E. Nakatsuka asked if there were any comments or questions for any of the provided written partner council reports. H. Lesser asked Cindy from DOE if she is a transition teacher.

3. State Rehabilitation Council Standing Committee Reports

- Membership Committee Report
- Needs Assessment Committee Report

Chair E. Nakatsuka asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. S. Knox moved the motion. N. Watanabe second the motion. Motion carried unanimously to approve Consent Agenda.

IV. State Rehabilitation Council Verbal Reports

Chair Evan Nakatsuka

1. National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils, Inc. (NCSRC) and Councils of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) Spring Conference Attendees' Reports

- Evan Nakatsuka

Chair E. Nakatsuka discussed the conference he attended in April. Changes at Federal level with funding, discussion of DVR waitlist might need to come back if there are budget cuts, collaboration with other workforce development programs, SRC work with DVR on topic of order of selection, importance of VR programs to spend down current fiscal year funding, advocate with legislatures that VR is an important program to keep funded. Chair E. Nakatsuka asked if anyone had any questions. H. Lesser encouraged all council members who are around next spring to go and attend these conferences, visit congressman, congresswoman, they need to hear from the SRC, funding is in jeopardy, advocate with legislatures. Fall conference end of October, early November in California, spring conference in Washington DC.

V. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Data Report

VRA Lea Dias

L. Dias introduced herself and thanked all the members of the SRC.

PY24 Q3 (January 1, 2025 – March 30, 2025)

1. Status of Total DVR Consumers Served

Quarter 1: 4201

Quarter 2: 4569

Quarter 3: 4739

2. Status of DVR Consumers Data by County Q3 (January 1, 2025 – March 30, 2025)

- Total Applications Received - 213  
Honolulu: 143  
Hawai'i: 30  
Maui: 36  
Kauai: 4
  - Total Determined Eligible – 180  
Honolulu: 107  
Hawai'i: 33  
Maui: 35  
Kauai: 5
  - Total Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) - 186  
Honolulu: 114  
Hawai'i: 32  
Maui: 33  
Kauai: 7
  - Total Cases Closed Other than Rehabilitated - 128  
Honolulu: 99  
Hawai'i: 9  
Maui: 17  
Kauai: 3
  - Total Cases Closed Rehabilitated - 18
3. Status of Competitive Integrative Employment (CIE) Detail  
In Quarter 3 some jobs included Computer Hardware Engineers, Managers, Mental Health Counselors, Financial Managers, Waiters and Waitresses, Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics, Stock Clerks, Office and Administrative Support Workers, Environmental Engineering Technicians, Postsecondary Teachers, Chefs and Head Cooks, Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Postsecondary Teachers, and Security Guards. Wages ranged from \$11.00-\$48.08/hour. Average Earnings for Quarter 3: \$25.49/hour and 35.78 hours/week.
  4. Status of Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to Student with Disabilities (SWD)  
In Quarter 3 Total: 381  
Job Exploration Counseling: 46  
Worked base learning experiences: 40  
Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or post-secondary education programs at institutions of higher education: 23  
Work place readiness: 247  
Self-advocacy skills: 25
  5. Status of Impartial Hearings  
There were no requests for review to pursue impartial fair hearings this quarter.

H. Lesser expressed concern around Pre-ETS, and asked L. Dias if all the money is being spent so we don't need to send back any money. L. Dias stated we are hopefully on track to spend the budget, and we're watching it very carefully and reviewing it a couple times a month. I can explain more in my verbal report.

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

L. Dias discussed executive orders which are instructions to the president's administration on areas he wishes to change. The US Dept of Education is the smallest of all the departments and 50% of those have been laid off. Discussion about moving DVR to a different Department: A. Keep DVR in DOE, B. Move DVR to Dept of Labor C. Move DVR to Dept of Human Services.

Chair E. Nakatsuka called for a break at 11:12am. Asked to resume at 11:22am.

The meeting resumed at 11:29am.

L. Dias stated we're on track to meet our 15% spending. Right now we have actual expenditures of \$588,672 and another projected \$1.36 million tied up in purchase orders that haven't been paid out yet but are in the queue. We need to hit \$2,524,000 so we are very close to spending it all. A lot of states are going into order of selection or waitlist. L. Dias stated that we have no plans to go in an order of selection, and if we needed to we'd be coming to the SRC and public hearings before it could happen. L. Dias explained there are two reasons why agencies go into order of selection. Either you don't have enough staff or you don't have enough money to cover all of the vacancies and still continue to provide services to clients.

C. Taylor asked if we have a partnership with the University for certificate programs and collaboration for VR clients. L. Dias stated that we currently don't have any kind of program like that right now, but it sounds like it would be a good idea. Legislative session, DVR wrote testimony for 30 different bills related to individuals with disabilities, testified for braille literacy in DOE.

VII. Old Business

Chair Evan Nakatsuka

1. Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment

Needs Assessment Committee

- Discussion and Recommendations

Chair E. Nakatsuka expanded the ADHOC media committee to be more of a community outreach media. Sandy J. made a motion, H. Lesser seconded. Policies and Procedures committee to explore Areas 1, 3, and 4 and focus on these areas.

Chair E. Nakatsuka announced a break at 12:36pm. The meeting resumed at 12:50pm.

2. Selection of Neighbor Island SRC Quarterly Meeting Location and Date

- FY25 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, Friday, August 22, 2025 on Oahu  
Will schedule the following meetings at August 22 meeting:
- FY26 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, November 2025

- FY26 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, February 2026
- FY26 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, May 2026
- FY26 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, August 2026

#### VIII. New Business

Chair Evan Nakatsuka

##### 1. Discussion of SRC Quarterly Meeting Format

Chair E. Nakatsuka asked for any input or feedback on the length of SRC meetings. N. Watanabe explained having a longer meeting gives us time to get to know each other, what is our role in the SRC. C. Taylor explained it's valuable coming from different islands to increase ability to collaborate with other members, being able to give feedback, provide energy and contribute in the meetings. V. Kennedy agreed the longer meeting time gives us more time to socialize with one another, and build relationships with other members and nonmembers of the SRC. Chair E. Nakatsuka agreed to keep the meeting time from 10:00am-2:00pm.

##### 2. SRC New Member Training and Orientation

Chair E. Nakatsuka discussed and asked for insight on what new member training and orientation could look like. H. Lesser suggested that members who have been with the SRC for many years to share their knowledge, folks whose term has ended, be available for new members to contact the experienced SRC members. S. Knox suggested having the orientation at the beginning of a quarterly meeting. N. Watanabe stated a first point in the orientation would be explaining what is SRC's role with DVR.

#### IX. Upcoming SRC Events

Chair Evan Nakatsuka

1. July 1, 2025 - Newly Appointed SRC Term Begins
2. Board Meeting Training for New SRC Members (Bill SR131) Prior to August 22, 2025
3. August 22, 2025 - SRC 4th Quarterly Meeting in-person on Oahu

#### X. Comments from the Public

Chair Evan Nakatsuka

Chair E. Nakatsuka opened it up for any comments. H. Lesser stated an event "Special Parent Information Network" having an annual conference on May 10, 2025 at Ko'olau Ballroom in Kaneohe.

#### XI. Adjourn

Chair Evan Nakatsuka

H. Lesser moved to adjourn the meeting. V. Kennedy seconded the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 1:24pm

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