

STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL (SRC)

4th Quarterly Meeting
Friday, August 22, 2025
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

M I N U T E S

Attendees:

SRC Members Present:

Dr. Judy Daniels (Disability Advocate Group)
Patrick Gartside (State Independent Living Council)
Sandi Jakob (Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor-Private)
Tira Kamaka (Community Rehabilitation Program)
Cynthia Mew (Department of Education)
Evan Nakatsuka (Business Industry and Labor)
Dr. Christine Park (Disability Advocate Group)
Ramon Ruiz (Business Industry and Labor, American Job Center)
Emily Wilkinson (Client Assistance Program)

SRC Members Absentees:

Sean Knox (Workforce Development Council)
Monty Montgomery (Business Industry and Labor)
Meriah Nichols (Former VR Recipient)

DVR Attendees:

Gavin Awe-Branch Administrator at Ho'opono Services for the Blind
Allegra Chapman-Lead Staff Trainer, Statewide Representative for Deaf Services
Lea Dias-Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Administrator
Cheryl Matthews-Program Specialist
Gregg Van Camp-SRC Liaison
Grant Wilson-Staff Specialist

General Public:

Julia Altoff - Program Specialist on Hawai'i Island for Developmental Disabilities Council
Jodi Asato - Executive Director for Extensive Technology Resource Centers of Hawai'i
Alexandria Doggett - Director of Program Services at The Arc of Kona
Judy Guardo - Volunteer Coordinator with Naho Aloha, Treasurer on the board of Hawai'i SILC
Annette Tashiro
Nani Watanabe
Sierra Whiteside - Chairperson Hawai'i State council on Developmental Disabilities
Stan Young - Vice Chair of Hawai'i State Committee of Blind Vendors
CART – Sami Silvia

- I. Call to Order at 11:07am Chair Evan Nakatsuka
1. Housekeeping remarks; Individuals online, please mute yourselves when not talking. Introduce yourself before speaking for the record. Requested SRC members to make themselves visible on camera during the meeting.
- 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 – May 9, 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.

P. Gartside commented on the APSE 2025 Summer Summit and stated that attendees got training from subject matter experts from the continent but also folks from here in Hawai'i. Focus was to reach community resource partners doing the work on the ground. T. Kamaka commented on APSE 2025 Summer Summit stating it was great to see a range of attendees from DDD case managers, to agency provider supervisors and employment specialists that would collaborate with, and expand capacity building within all the islands.

C. Mew stated in regards to the DOE report that the next transition meeting is on September 19, 2025.

P. Gartside in regards to the SILC reported stated primary goals are to strengthen and expand independent living networks, expand our council, collect and evaluate community data to inform and evaluate independent living services in our state. Discussed trying to coordinate with Hawai'i Disability Rights Center and Center on Disability Studies, and DD Council to address some of the statewide concerns regarding some of the Federal appropriations. Statewide rally for the 35th Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act. The last goal is disaster preparedness and response.

Chair E. Nakatsuka commented on the Workforce Development Council report that he was able to attend the synergy summit that the Workforce Development Council held. Some of the takeaways from the summit include that by 2045 all people of Hawai'i will have a path to a career that enables them to learn, work, and drive in Hawai'i and contribute to a vibrant local economy grounded in community values.

3. State Rehabilitation Council Standing Committee Reports

- Membership Committee Report

Chair E. Nakatsuka asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. S. Jakob moved the motion. R. Ruiz second the motion. Motion carried unanimously to approve Consent Agenda.

IV. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Data Report VRA Lea Dias
PY24 (July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025)

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

PY24 (July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025)

1. Status of Total DVR Consumers Served

Quarter 1: 4201

Quarter 2: 4569

Quarter 3: 4739

Quarter 4: 4756

2. Status of DVR Consumers Data by County Q4 and PY 2024 Total (July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025)

Q4 (April 1, 2025-June 30, 2025)

- Total Applications Received - 329

Honolulu: 252

Hawai'i: 30

Maui: 41

Kauai: 6

- Total Determined Eligible – 273

Honolulu: 215

Hawai'i: 14

Maui: 41

Kauai: 3

- Total Individualized Plan for Em.(IPE) - 264

Honolulu: 203

Hawai'i: 18

Maui: 39

Kauai: 4

- Total Cases Closed Other than Rehab. - 132

Honolulu: 115

Hawai'i: 5

Maui: 12

Kauai: 0

- Total Cases Closed Successfully- 46

PY 2024 (July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025)

Total Applications Received - 990

Honolulu: 669

Hawai'i: 131

Maui: 162

Kauai: 28

Total Determined Eligible - 861

Honolulu: 564

Hawai'i: 121

Maui: 151

Kauai: 25

Total Individualized Plan for Em.(IPE) - 799

Honolulu: 516

Hawai'i: 114

Maui: 144

Kauai: 25

Total Cases Closed Other than Rehab. - 379

Honolulu: 280

Hawai'i: 37

Maui: 49

Kauai: 13

Total Cases Closed Successfully - 107

3. Status of Competitive Integrative Employment (CIE) Detail

In Quarter 4 some jobs included registered nurses, project management specialist, executive secretaries, teachers, computer systems analysts, real estate sales agents, construction managers, food service managers, veterinary technologists, office clerks, baggage porters, janitors, roofers, food preparation, security guards, cashiers, shuttle drivers, retail salespersons, stock clerks, and office support workers. Wages ranged from \$141.00-\$65.77/hour and 20 - 40 hours/week. Average Earnings for Quarter 4: \$25.35/hour and 35.37 hours/week.

4. Status of Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to Student with Disabilities (SWD)
In **Q4 (April 1, 2025-June 30, 2025)** Total: 615

Job Exploration Counseling: 83

Worked base learning experiences: 206

Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or post-secondary education programs at institutions of higher education: 33

Work place readiness: 262

Self-advocacy skills: 31

In **PY 2024 (July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025)** Total: 1881

Job Exploration Counseling: 241

Worked base learning experiences: 382

Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or post-secondary education programs at institutions of higher education: 181

Work place readiness: 982

Self-advocacy skills: 95

5. Status of FFY25 (October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025) Impartial Hearings

L. Dias stated there were no requests for review to pursue impartial fair hearings for quarter 4 and the program year.

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

L. Dias stated that Hawai'i is one of 10 states that is going to be participating in the Rise-Up Grant. The Rise-Up Grant is funded by Rehab Services Administration, and through San Diego State University's research foundation they will be helping us examine our data and find out who our most unserved or underserved populations are by ethnicity. Once we find that out, we're going to receive training including cultural humility, learning about various underserved cultures, unserved cultures and ethnicities from experts from within those communities. Not sure what our focus will be but our top two most served are Asians and Whites/Caucasians. L. Dias spoke about the rehab counseling program at UH and Dr. J. Daniels stated they have the largest cohort started this fall 2025.

Chair E. Nakatsuka announced a break at 1:00pm. The meeting resumed at 1:10pm.

VI. Old Business

Chair Evan Nakatsuka

1. SRC Committee Priorities

- Membership Committee

Chair E. Nakatsuka stated new members need to turn in their applications before the end of the calendar year. We still have one vacancy with one representative of a parent training and information center, business industry and labor, and disability advocacy groups. Please connect potential new members with Gregg regarding the SRC application process, and with me for general information about the SRC.

- Unified State Plan Committee

Chair E. Nakatsuka stated the Unified State Plan is completed every three years. G. Van Camp stated the current Unified State Plan is from 2024 to 2027, typically at the midpoint is a time to review what has been happening, and make amendments if needed. Any amendments we receive would have to be approved by the SRC before the end of the year, submitted to RSA, they make their recommendation, then submit it to the State.

Chair E. Nakatsuka invited a motion for the Unified State Plan Committee to meet in the next quarter to present their findings and recommendations at the next quarterly meeting. P. Gartside moved the motion, C. Mew seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

2. Confirmation of Federal Fiscal Year 2026 (FFY26: October 1, 2025-September 30, 2026) SRC Quarterly Meeting Schedule Dates and Location

- 1st Quarter, Friday November 14, 2025 - 10:00am-2:00pm
- 2nd Quarter, Friday, February 13, 2026 - 10:00am-2:00pm
- 3rd Quarter, Friday, May 15, 2026 - 10:00am-2:00pm
- 4th Quarter, Friday, August 14, 2026 - 10:00am-2:00pm

VII. New Business

Chair Evan Nakatsuka

1. Nominations and confirmation of Executive Officers

P. Gartside nominated E. Nakatsuka as the Chair, E. Nakatsuka accepted the nomination and asked if there were any other nominations, seeing none, all members voted and passed unanimously. E. Nakatsuka will remain as Chair. E. Nakatsuka asked for any nominations for the Vice Chair position, seeing none, we will vote on this at the next meeting. E. Nakatsuka invited any nominations for the Secretary position, and nominated T. Kamaka to remain as Secretary/Treasurer. P. Gartside seconded, E. Nakatsuka asked for any other nominations, seeing none, all members voted and passed unanimously.

2. Nominations and Confirmation of Standing Committee Chairs

E. Nakatsuka asked for any nominations for the Membership Committee Chair. E. Nakatsuka asked in terms of the Unified State Plan Committee, to nominate P. Gartside as Chair and E. Nakatsuka and S. Jakob also on committee. All member voted and passed unanimously.

3. Selection of Standing Committee Members

4. Review and Approval of Draft FFY26 SRC Budget

Chair E. Nakatsuka asked for any discussion or recommendation in regards to the SRC budget. Seeing none, Chair E. Nakatsuka recommended to carry over the same budget for the next fiscal year. S. Jakob made a motion to accept the budget from last year to this year. P. Gartside seconded, motion carried.

5. Nominees to attend the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils, Inc. (NCSRC) and Councils of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) Fall Conference November 1-5, 2025 in San Diego, CA

Chair E. Nakatsuka asked if any SRC members were interested in attending the conferences. E. Wilkinson, T. Kamaka and C. Mew expressed their interest in attending the fall conferences.

VIII. Upcoming SRC Events

Chair Evan Nakatsuka

1. August 29, 2025: Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Meeting
2. September 19, 2025: 1st Quarterly Transition Meeting
3. November 1-2, 2025: National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils, Inc. (NCSRC) Fall Conference in San Diego, CA
4. November 3-5, 2025: Councils of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) Fall Conference in San Diego, CA
5. November 14, 2025: Tentative SRC 1st Quarterly Meeting

IX. Comments from the Public

Chair Evan Nakatsuka

Chair E. Nakatsuka asked for any comments from the public, seeing none, made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

X. Adjourn

Chair Evan Nakatsuka

Chair E. Nakatsuka moved to adjourn the meeting. P. Gartside seconded the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:01pm

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