

REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF HAWAII
REVISED STATUTES SECTION 348-8(c) THE ANNUAL
REPORT OF THE STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,
DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
December 2017**

STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

2017 Annual Report to the Governor

Welcome to the State Rehabilitation Council 2017 Annual Report to the Governor. Section 348-8(c), Hawaii Revised Statute (HRS), requires the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) to submit an Annual Report to the Governor on the status of Vocational Rehabilitation Programs within the State and make the report available to the public. The Annual Report highlights the Council's past State Fiscal Year's activities and accomplishments.

The SRC was created and mandated by the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended in 1998; implemented by the Hawaii State Legislature in HRS section 348-8, to support individuals with disabilities. The SRC plays an integral role with the Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) in administering the public vocational rehabilitation program and evaluating DVR's effectiveness in providing vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities. DVR is the state agency with a sole purpose of assisting individuals with disabilities to obtain, maintain, and advance in employment.

The SRC meets in partnership with DVR to discuss and make recommendations to support the effectiveness of services administered by DVR. The SRC meets quarterly (4 or more meetings in a State Fiscal Year) and all meetings are publicly announced and accessible to the general public. The SRC performs several functions to execute their duties, as outlined in the Rehabilitation Act; mainly to monitor the performance of DVR.

SRC FUNCTIONS:

The SRC must perform the following functions, after consulting with the State Workforce Investment Board. This requirement can be met, at a minimum, through the exchange of ideas between the SRC representative of the State Workforce Investment Board and other members of the SRC.

1. Review, analyze, and advise the VR unit regarding VR's performance related to:
 - Eligibility, including order of selection;
 - extent, scope and effectiveness of VR services;
 - Functions performed by State agencies that affect the ability of individuals with disabilities to achieve an employment outcome.
2. In partnership with the VR unit:
 - a. Develop, agree to and review State goals and priorities.
 - b. Evaluate the effectiveness of the VR program and submit annual progress reports to the RSA Commissioner.

- c. Conduct a statewide needs assessment of individuals with disabilities living in the State every three years.
3. Advise the VR agency/unit regarding VR activities.
4. Assist in the preparation of the State plan, amendments to the plan, applications, reports, needs assessments, and evaluations, including those necessary for the VR agency to satisfy the requirements of developing a "comprehensive system of personnel development" and establishing an "order of selection."
5. Review and analyze the effectiveness of and the consumer satisfaction with:
 - VR agency functions;
 - VR services provided by the VR agency and other entities; and
 - Employment outcomes achieved by eligible individuals served by VR.
6. Prepare and submit an annual report to the Governor and RSA on the status of VR services. Report should be made available to the public.
7. Coordinate the activities of the SRC with the activities of other councils, such as the: SILC;
 - Advisory panel established under IDEA;
 - State Developmental Disabilities Council;
 - State mental health planning council; and
 - State Workforce Investment Board.
8. Provide for the coordination and the establishment of working relationships between the VR agency and the SILC and the centers for independent living.
9. Perform other functions that it determines appropriate and comparable to its other functions, provided they are consistent with the purpose of title I of the Act and its implementing regulations.

The Act requires the designated State VR agency/unit to:

1. Jointly develop, agree to and review annually State goals and priorities and jointly submit annual reports of progress with the SRC;
2. Consult with the SRC regularly regarding the development, implementation and revision of State policies and procedures of general applicability pertaining to the provision of VR services;

3. Include in the State plan and any revisions to the State plan, a summary of input provided by the SRC;
4. Conduct a statewide needs assessment of individuals with disabilities living in the State every three years; and
5. Transmit copies of the following to the SRC:
 - a. All plans, reports and other information required to be submitted to RSA;
 - b. All policies and information on practices and procedures of general applicability provided to or used by rehabilitation personnel in carrying out the VR program; and
 - c. Due process hearing decisions which are to be transmitted to the SRC in such a manner as to protect the confidentiality of the individuals involved.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SRC:

- Governor appoints SRC members, unless State law grants appointing authority to another entity.
- Select members of the Council after soliciting recommendations from representatives of organizations representing a broad range of individuals with disabilities and organizations interested in individuals with disabilities who meet the requirements of § 361.5(b)(29).
- In making appointments to the SRC, the appointing authority should consider the extent to which minority populations are represented on the SRC.
- SRC members serve for three-year terms.
- Members cannot serve more than two consecutive terms.
- The two-term limit does not apply to the Client Assistance Program (CAP) or the American Indian VR program representatives.

The SRC consists of diverse memberships who are advocates for individuals with disabilities.

SRC MEMBERS' COMPOSITION SHALL INCLUDE:

1. At least one representative of the Client Assistance Program (§348-8(a)(2));
2. At least one representative of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Hawaii;
3. At least one representative of a Parent Training and Information Center (§348-8(a)(1));

4. At least one representative of the State Educational Agency Department of Education responsible for the public education of students with disabilities (§348-8(a)(8));
5. At least one representative of Community Rehabilitation Program Service Providers;
6. At least one qualified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor from a private agency with knowledge of and experience with vocational rehabilitation programs (§348-8(a)(3));
7. At least one representative of the State Workforce Development Council (§348-8(a)(9));
8. Four representatives of Business, Industry, and Labor (§348-8(a)(5));
9. Representatives of Disability Advocacy Groups representing a cross section of individuals with physical, cognitive, sensory, and mental disabilities, and parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives of individuals with disabilities who have difficulty in representing themselves or are unable due to their disabilities to represent themselves (§348-8(a)(6));
10. Current or Former Applicants for or Recipients of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (§348-8(a)(7));
11. The Administrator of the DVR, who shall be an Ex-Officio, nonvoting member (§348-8(a)(10));

The majority of SRC members must be:

- Individuals with disabilities;
- Not employed by the designated State VR unit; and
- At least one member from each county.

For purposes of SRC membership, an "individual with a disability" is anyone who:

- Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
- Has a record of having such an impairment; Or
- Is regarded as having such impairment.

Council members shall serve without compensation (voluntary) but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses, including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

The SRC must have at least 21 members but may have more members, provided the above minimum composition is met.

HAWAII STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. Asato, Jodi	Business, Industry, & Labor	Secretary/Treasurer	Oahu
2. Berthiaume, Rene	Business. Industry & Labor		Oahu
3. Cabanilla, Arthur	Disability Advocacy Group	Holdover	Oahu
4. Doi, Eleanor	Disability Advocacy Group	Interim	Kauai
5. Keliioomaluu, Gwen	Business. Industry & Labor		Big Island
6. Kobayakawa, Deborah	Disability Advocacy Group		Oahu
7. Ku, Michele	Community Rehabilitation Provider	Chair	Big Island
8. Lemke, Ann	Statewide Independent Living Center		Oahu
9. Lesser, Howard	Client Assistance Program	Vice Chair	Oahu
10. Massengale, George	Disability Advocacy Group		Oahu
11. Moses, Terry-Ann	Disability Advocacy Group		Oahu
12. Murakami, Scott	Workforce Development Council		Oahu
13. Nishimoto, Scott	Disability Advocacy Group		Oahu
14. Pasqua, Christina	Disability Advocacy Group		Oahu
15. Perez, Albert	DVR Administrator	Ex-officio	Oahu
16. Syper, Shirley	Disability Advocacy Group		Oahu
17. Terada, Diane	Disability Advocacy Group	Interim	Kauai
18. Travalino, Mark	Business, Industry, & Labor		Oahu
19. Tydeman, Christina	Department of Education		Oahu
20. Yamane, Lanelle	Private Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor		Big Island
21. Vacant			





SRC COMMITTEES

Executive Committee:

Chair – preside at all meetings of the Council and Executive Committee. The Chair shall, with the advice and counsel of the Council, determine all committees and select all committee chairpersons, subject to the approval of the Council. The Chair shall be an ex-officio member of such committees. The Chair shall communicate matters and suggestions as may tend to promote the effectiveness and usefulness of the Council in order to carry out its powers and duties.

Vice Chair – assisting the chair in carrying out important tasks, standing in place of the chair when absent and acting as a go-between for the chair and the council members.

Secretary/Treasurer – communicate to the Council any information that may be required at any time, and at least once every quarter shall cause to be submitted to the Council a financial statement to report adherence to the budget. The Secretary/Treasurer is responsible for assisting in preparing the budget for the year with the Chair and the Executive Committee. The Secretary/Treasurer will also review the meeting minutes prepared by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Standing Committee:

Legislative – charged with educating and informing the SRC membership and advocating for new legislation, and changes to existing laws and regulations for the benefit of the VR community.

Membership – continuously monitor of current membership classification of membership and advise SRC members on deficient what member classifications are lacking. Search for recruitment of Recruit new members to ensure proper quorum is obtained.

Needs Assessment – 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. Review all applicable state numbers.

Policy and Procedures – 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 that potentially affects 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. Review all applicable state numbers.

State Plan – develop, agree to, 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.

SRC ACCOMPLISHMENTS Fiscal Year 2017 (October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017)

- The SRC advised DVR on many issues regarding how best to serve individuals with disabilities.
- The SRC members provided DVR with quarterly partnering council reports from Client Assistance Program (CAP), Community Rehabilitation Providers (CRP), Department of Education (DOE), State Independent Living Center (SILC), and Workforce Development Council (WDC).

October, 2016

- 10/28 SRC invited to the Inclusion Works event sponsored by WIOA's Partners in Employment (Department of Human Services Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Division, the Developmental Disabilities Council, the Department of Labor Workforce Development Division, Hawaii Department of Adult Education, City and County of Honolulu) to recognize the contributions of Hawaii's workforce from individuals with disabilities, employers, provider agencies, and employment training programs at the State Capitol Auditorium. Keynote speaker was Pat Morrissey, Ph.D. from UHCDS University of Hawaii Center for Disabilities Studies and the Governor's Proclamation was read by Director of Human Services Pankaj Bhanot. An announcement

was made of the largest statewide agreement signed between State Agencies in the history of Hawaii for Employment for Individuals with Disabilities. There were video testimonies and slideshow of Employers, Agency Programs, Employees, and Training Participants. Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland was recognized as a Champion for inclusive workplaces and employment for individuals with disabilities.

November, 2016

- 11/05-11/09 Two (2) SRC members Jodi Asato and Rene Berthiaume were selected to attend the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Council (NCSRC) and Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) Fall Conferences in San Diego, California and provided a report to the SRC.
- 11/18 First quarterly meeting - Canceled

December, 2016

- 12/06-12/07 DVR staff training on updated VR process and the amendments in the Rehabilitation Act
- 12/16 Submitted 2016 SRC Annual Report to Governor
- 12/31 Parent Training & Information Center representative Michael Moore has resigned from his position from the Learning Disability Association of Hawaii and the State Rehabilitation Council effective immediately

January, 2017

- 01/10 Kapolei High School teacher Christina Pascua applied the State Rehabilitation Council to represent Disability Advocacy Group to be appointed and confirmed
- 01/18 Former Recipient of VR Service representative John Kuwaye submitted his resignation to be effective immediately
- 01/18 Department of Education representative Dr. Kristine Takekawa submitted her resignation to be effective June 30, 2017
- 01/27 SRC Meeting First Quarter
 - Special guest the Honorable Senator Joshua Green, Chair of the Human Services and Housing Committee
 - Partner Council Reports
 - Client Assistance Program (CAP)
 - Community Rehabilitation Providers (CRP)
 - Department of Education (DOE)
 - Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
 - Workforce Development Council (WDC)
 - Standing Committees Reports
 - Legislative Committee
 - Membership Committee
 - DVR Report
 - Announced movement towards Order of Selection – cannot adequately serve all eligible applicants
 - Fiscal funding issues related to the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act

- (WIOA)
 - DVR needs SRC's input on the revised/amended State Plan regarding the agency's decision to implement the Order of Selection
 - DVR needs SRC to conduct a Public Hearing to obtain comments from the public regarding Order of Selection
 - Changes need to be made in Policies & Procedures due to implementation of Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- SRC to create list of specific items for DVR to report at each quarterly meeting
- SRC Member Howard Lesser report on Rehabilitation Services Administration Region IX WIOA Meeting in Sacramento
- SRC Members Jodi Asato and Rene Berthiaume report on National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils and Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation Fall Conference in San Diego
- Candidates selected for National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils and Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation Spring Conference April 1-5, 2017. Chair-elect Michele Ku was selected.
- Action items
 - Motion put forth to change the HRS 348.8, and Hawaii SRC Bylaws SRC membership requirement of 21 members to match the Federal 34 CFR 361.17 SRC membership requirement of 15; motion passed.
 - Motion brought forth to have the Executive Committee election immediately preceding the March 31 meeting of that year whose terms are effective July 1; or the meeting immediately after that in which quorum is obtained; motion passed.

February, 2017

- Jennifer Chan - applied 02/00/17 for Parent Training & Information Center representative to be appointed and confirmed
- Mary Brogan - applied 02/00/17 for Disability Advocacy Group representative to be appointed and confirmed
- Diane Tereda - applied 02/00/17 for Disability Advocacy Group representative to be appointed and confirmed
- Robert Atkinson - applied 02/00/17 for Disability Advocacy Group representative to be appointed and confirmed

March, 2017

- 04/13-04/15 DVR Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Training for DVR Counselors and Case Managers
- 04/16 Job Accommodation Network (JAN) Disability Inclusion Event for Employers

April, 2017

- 04/01- 04/05 National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils and Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation Spring Conference April 1-5, 2017
 - The conference provides the opportunity to network with SRC members from other

- states, learn of best practices occurring in other states, and share our best practices with them to become a stronger voice for individuals with disabilities
- This conference provides the opportunity to visit our Hawaii Congressional delegates on Capitol Hill.
 - Chair-elect Michele Ku attended and presented leis to our Senators and Congresswomen that were handmade by consumers and gift bags full of items made by some of our more artistic and/or entrepreneurial past, present, and potential future consumers. Our consumers were well represented and their voices were heard.
 - 04/18 Public Hearing regarding Order of Selection and changes in VR policy
 - 04/21 SRC Meeting Second Quarter
 - Partner Council Reports
 - Client Assistance Program (CAP)
 - Community Rehabilitation Providers (CRP) - Oral
 - Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
 - Workforce Development Council (WDC) - Oral
 - Standing Committees Reports
 - Legislative Committee - Oral
 - Membership Committee
 - DVR Report
 - Result of April 18 Public Hearing
 - Minimal written and oral testimonies against Order of Selection
 - Complaints - Public not provided forewarning of what exactly Order of Selection and confused about deferment of proposed changes in VR Policy
 - Department of Human Services Director Pankej Bhanot recommended another Public Hearing focusing solely on Order of Selection scheduled May 30 and a separate Public Hearing on the proposed changes in Hawaii Administrative Rules in the Fall
 - 50% or more Designated State Units are in Order of Selection throughout U.S.
 - Order of Selection changes under Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) - individuals with disabilities that are employed who need DVR services to maintain employment can advance to top of the priority list
 - Expecting fiscal issues due to WIOA requirement to reserve 15% of total Federal allotment for Pre-employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) and tremendous increase in costs of providing services to clients (especially contracts)
 - San Diego State Workforce Innovative Technical Assistance Center (WINTAC) provided Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) training to VR staff
 - SRC Member Michele Ku report on National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils and Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation Spring Conference in Bethesda, MD
 - Presentation on Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment by San Diego University Chip Kenny and Debbie Green

May, 2017

- 05/30 Public Hearing regarding Order of Selection

June, 2017

- 06/02 SRC Meeting (Extra)
 - DVR Report
 - Executive Branch lifted hiring freeze (instituted because Department of Health had a reduction of force)
 - Changes in staff - Waianae DVR Counselor accepted the Kapolei Supervisor position so there is a vacancy in Waianae, Kapolei DVR Counselor transferred to Ho'opono (Blind Branch Division) so there is a vacancy in Kapolei, Staff Services Offices Clerk accepted the Deaf Section Secretary position
 - Public Hearing scheduled for September to inform the public regarding policy changes as a result of the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)
 - Result of May 30 Public Hearing
 - General consensus opposed Order of Selection
 - Three issues arose - 1) timely payment to contractors which created cash flow issues; 2) equity issues between counties staying within budget; 3) leadership and credibility issues regarding the need for Order of Selection.
 - Solution is not as simple as requesting more funds
 - SRC presented Budget Proposal to DVR
 - Action Items
 - Motion put forth to that Council could support DVR's proposal to enter into Order of Selection but with reservations; motion passed
 - Specified what should be included in the 42 (c) SRC Input to the State Plan
 - SRC reached agreement with DVR regarding Live or Videoconferencing future SRC Meetings
- 06/30 End of State Fiscal Year 2016
 - SRC Council Memberships
 - Cabanilla, Arthur: Disability Advocacy Group representative term ended - Holdover
 - Kuwaye, John: Former Recipient of VR Service representative resigned
 - Landrum, Vivian: Business, Industry & Labor representative term ended
 - Moore, Michael: Parent Training & Information Center representative resigned
 - Takekawa, Dr. Kristine: Department of Education representative term ended

July, 2017

- Beginning of State Fiscal Year 2018
 - SRC new memberships
 - Massengale, George: Disability Advocacy Group representative was on interim status
 - Travalino, Mark: Disability Advocacy Group representative was on interim status
 - Yamane, Lanelle: Private Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor representative was on interim status

- Keliihoomalu, Gwen: Business, Industry & Labor representative was appointed for second term on 03-31-17 and confirmed to 06-30-2020
 - Tydeman, Christina: Department of Education representative Director of Hawaii Department of Education's (HIDOE) Monitoring and Compliance Office
 - Kobayakawa, Deborah: Parent Training & Information Center representative Owner of Heart to Heart Parent Consulting
 - Pascua, Christina: Disability Advocacy Group representative Transition Counselor at Kapolei High School
 - Nishimoto, Scott: Disability Advocacy Group representative Vice President, Workforce Development & Community Relations at Abilities Unlimited
 - Terada, Diane: Disability Advocacy Group representative Division Administrator at Catholic Charities Hawai'i
 - Moses, Terry-Ann: Disability Advocacy Group representative Clubhouse Director at Friendship House (interim status)
 - Doi, Eleanor: Disability Advocacy Group representative Program Specialist at Kauai Agency on Elderly Affairs (interim status)
- 07/21 SRC Meeting Third Quarter
 - First meeting for new SRC Members
 - Partner Council Reports
 - Client Assistance Program (CAP)
 - Community Rehabilitation Providers (CRP)
 - Department of Education (DOE)
 - Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
 - Workforce Development Council (WDC)
 - Standing Committees Reports
 - Legislative Committee
 - State Plan Committee
 - DVR Report
 - Need to institute Order of Selection as the result of limited budget
 - Eligible to request \$900,000 in re-allotment funds but not guaranteed
 - Cost Allocation Plan for each program revealed
 - Eliminating or cutting some contracts to balance budget
 - SFY 17 Fair Hearings & Mediations Results
 - SRC submitted 42 (c) SRC Input to the State Plan to DVR
 - Consumer Satisfaction Survey presentation by University of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine, Pacific Disabilities Center (PDC) President Violet Horvath along with Rehabilitation Research Project Specialist Yoko Toyama
 - Action Items
 - Newly elected Executive Committee started their term: Chair Michele Ku, Vice Chair Howard Lesser, and Secretary/Treasurer Jodi Asato
 - Motion for the Council to prioritize the list in the Priorities for the 2018 Hawaii State Legislature and Congressional Delegation before the meeting with the DHS Director; motion passed.
 - Motion to amend SRC Bylaws; motion passed
 - Re-structured Standing Committees and chose Members
- 07/31 DOE representative Christina Tydeman assisted with obtaining DOE Letter of Support

for DEI Grant for Summer Youth

August, 2017

- 08/16 SRC Executive and Legislative Committees met with Department of Human Services Director Pankej Bhanot regarding SRC Legislative Priorities
- 08/24 DVR administration and Staff Services Offices moved into Princess Victoria Kamamalu Building at 1010 Richards Street, Room 217, Honolulu, HI. 96813

September, 2017

- 09/15 Public Hearing regarding changes in VR Policy due to the passage of WIOA
- 09/22 SRC Meeting Fourth Quarter
 - Partner Council Reports: Client Assistance Program (CAP), Community Rehabilitation Providers (CRP), Department of Education (DOE), Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), Workforce Development Council (WDC)
 - Standing Committees Reports: Legislative Committee, Membership
 - DVR Report
 - Number of active cases broken down by Branches revealed
 - Number of active cases broken down by priority categories revealed
 - DVR's Administrative Office and Staff Services Office moved in to the Princess Victoria Kamamalu Building
 - Requested \$1.4 million in re-allotment funds; awaiting response from RSA
 - Average cost per case has gone up considerably
 - Contemplating cutting or eliminating some contracts to assist with balancing the budget
 - Awaiting RSA approval for Order of Section October 1 start date
 - State Education Agreement (SEA) or Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is still being reviewed by Department of Education (DOE)
 - DVR Administrator Albert Perez is retiring effective October 1, 2017. Assistant Administrator Susan Foard will be Acting Vocational Rehabilitation Administrator and Alison Lee will be Acting Vocational Rehabilitation Assistant Administrator until a replacement is hired
 - Action Items
 - Trend Analysis Task Force formed with Deborah Kobayakawa, Howard Lesser, Scott Murakami, Scott Nishimoto, Christina Tydeman to investigate specific service categories to see where costs have escalated
 - Results of September 15 Public Hearing on VR Policy Change
 - 5 major items that changed in the 17-404.1 Vocational Rehabilitation Services Policy & Procedures due to the passage of Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)
 - Only 1 oral testimony, no written testimony
 - Result of SRC visit with Department of Human Services Director Pankej Bhanot
 - Hawaii Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Services for the Blind Presentation by Blind Branch Administrator Lea Dias
 - American Job Center Oahu Presentation by City & County Department of Community Services Administrator Rolanse Crisafulli

Conclusion

- The SRC satisfied Federal Mandate 34 CFR 361.17 and HRS 348-8 minimum requirement to convene a minimum of four quarterly meetings within State FY 2017 (October 10, 2016 – September 30, 2017)
 - First Quarterly Meeting – Friday, January 27, 2017
 - Second Quarterly Meeting – Friday, April 21, 2017
 - Extra Quarterly Meeting – Friday, June 2, 2017
 - Third Quarterly Meeting – Friday, July 21, 2017
 - Fourth Quarterly Meeting – Friday, September 22, 2017
- SRC continued to advocate for persons with disabilities
- SRC presented three (3) Public Hearings inform the public on DVR activities
- SRC formed committees and task force to accomplish specific goals
- Devised strategies to assist DVR with financial limitations
- SRC met with Department of Human Services Director Pankej Bhanot regarding SRC Legislative Priorities
- SRC provided 42(c) Input to the amended State Plan
- SRC met with State Senators and Legislators
- SRC participated in National training to keep up-to-date
- SRC developed a good understanding of the causes of the Order of Selection as well as the financial implications of the situation.
- SRC requested information and have begun our own research and analysis on both the revenue and expenditures of DVR in an attempt to work with the DVR and DHS administrations to better serve Hawaii's disabled population.
- SRC solicited public input through public hearings about the Order of Selection to improve the SRC's guidance in advising the DVR through this challenging time.
- SRC attempted to mitigate the impact of the Order of Selection by meeting and working with the DHS Director which contributed to the DVR financial situation becoming a priority in the DHS 2018 legislative package. (More will be reported on this matter at the next SRC meeting)
- SRC sought public input through a public hearing on the policy changes that the DVR will have to operate under, given the new requirements of the Opportunity Act and the onset of the Order of Selection
- Given the DVR financial situation, the SRC has been leading by example in fiscal prudence, reducing the cost of administering council meetings through the use of teleconferencing and fiscal prudence, while simultaneously increasing the number of meetings from 4 to 6 per year to ensure the representation of the public interest during the Order of Selection. SRC reduced their budget by just under 30% from \$100,950 which was approved by the DVR administration in June 2017, to \$71,430 and we're still working to bring this number down.
- SRC has accomplished a lot as a council by putting the needs of individuals with disabilities first and will continue to move forward during these challenging times. These situations come and go. SRC is confident that they will do a great job working together in continuing to minimize the impact and disruption of services of any kind to Hawaii's residents with disabilities.

SRC FUTURE PLANS FOR STATE FY2017

- Continue to support on behalf of persons with disabilities;
- Continue to review, analyze and advise the VR agency regarding its performance of responsibilities that affect the ability of consumers to achieve employment outcomes;
- Continue to develop, agree to and review State goals and priorities of the VR program;
- Continue to assist VR in the preparation of the VR State Plan, amendments to the plan and needs assessment;
- Continue to review and analyze the effectiveness of the VR Program and consumer satisfaction;
- Continue to collaborate and coordinate its activities with the activities of other disability-related councils within the State; and
- Continue to meet with Department of Human Services Director, Punkej Bhanot regarding SRC's legislative priorities
- Continue to prepare and submit a SRC Annual Report to the Governor and Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration

SRC MEETING DATES 2018 FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (October 1, 2017-September 30, 2018)

- First Quarter December 11, 2017
- Second Quarter February 16, 2018
- Third Quarter May 4, 2018
- Fourth Quarter September 14, 2018

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM (VR)

VR MISSION – The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) exists to serve its participants. Staff works as a team so participants can achieve their hopes and aspirations for meaningful employment through timely and individualized vocational rehabilitation services.

VR VISION – To Move Forward to Work

VR provides vocational rehabilitation services to assist individuals with disabilities to prepare for, obtain, and maintain/regain employment. The economic benefits of VR are significant. They include increased earnings and purchasing power, increased taxes paid, and a decreased dependency on public assistance.

DVR Services Program funding consists of 78.8% Federal money and 21.3% State money whereas the State has to match the Federal portion in the Federal Fiscal year

DVR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2016

- DVR received 2,058 new referrals.
- DVR served 5,394 individuals with disabilities.

The vocational rehabilitation program's primary measure of the success is the number of job seekers with disabilities who have successfully achieved their employment goals.

- 232 consumers achieved Employment

VR is a cost effective program that pays for itself. Within the first two years of employment, the average rehabilitated individual will have repaid the full cost for their vocational rehabilitation services. This means going forward, the rehabilitated individual will contribute to the State's economy.

- Total expenditures for services was \$9,273,385.00
- Average case service per consumer was \$9,701.00

DVR PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS (as it relates to the SRC)

- DVR provided testimonies to the Hawaii State Legislature on behalf of new members for the SRC
- DVR included the SRC for the Employer/Employee Recognition Awards Luncheon rewarding exceptional businesses who supported recipients of DVR services
- DVR provided Budget Presentation to inform SRC how federal/state monies are allocated for services and administration
- DVR met with Client Assistance Program (CAP) representative for quarterly meetings
- DVR attended Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) quarterly meetings.
- DVR sponsored two (2) SRC members to attend the Fall 2016 National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Council (NCSRC) and Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) trainings in San Diego, CA and one (1) SRC members to attend the Spring 2017 National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Council (NCSRC) and Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) trainings in Bethesda, MD