



C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor

Rossella Guardascione
Chair

Tricia Buskirk
Vice-Chair

Dawn Hao-DeMotta
Vice-Chair

County of Hawai'i
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1301
Hilo, HI 96720
V/TT (808) 961-8366 • FAX (808) 935-1205

2026 SEP -3 PM 1:06
COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF HAWAII

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING & AGENDA
Hawai'i County Workforce Development Board (HCWDB) Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, September 9, 2026

TIME: 09:00 AM – 11:00 PM HST

IN-PERSON: County of Hawai'i – American Job Center Hawai'i
88 Kanoelehua Avenue, Suite A-204
American Job Center Conference Room
Hilo, HI 96720

ONLINE VIA ZOOM:
<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1651863359>

Meeting ID: 165 186 3359

PHONE:
+16699006833, +17193594580 (to join the meeting, enter the meeting ID, see above)

HAWAII SUNSHINE LAW (HRS CHAPTER 92) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapters 91 and 92, the following matters will be considered by Hawai'i County's Workforce Development Board (HCWDB).

MEETING FORMAT (HRS § 92-3.7): This meeting is being held in person and remotely via Interactive Conference Technology (Zoom). Board members, staff, and members of the public may participate either in person or virtually.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY (HRS § 92-3): Public testimony will be accepted on each agenda item. The public may provide oral testimony in person, online via Zoom, or by telephone. Pursuant to HRS § 92-3, testimony may be given during the general public testimony period at the beginning of the meeting or at the time the specific agenda item is called prior to any Board discussion or action.

- **Oral Testimony Pre-Registration:** To facilitate an orderly queue, advance registration is encouraged by contacting Addy Atalig at aatalig@hawaiiicounty.gov or (808) 961-8366 by **9:00 AM on Monday, September 7, 2026**. Advance registration is encouraged but not required.
- **Written Testimony:** Written testimony should be submitted via email to aatalig@hawaiiicounty.gov or mailed to the address above by **9:00 AM on Tuesday, September 8, 2026**, to ensure distribution to Board members prior to the meeting. Late written testimony received before the meeting will be distributed at the meeting.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS: If you require an auxiliary aid, service, or other accommodation due to a disability (e.g., large print, Braille, interpreter), please contact Addy Atalig at aatalig@hawaiiicounty.gov or (808) 961-8366 as soon as possible, preferably no later than **9:00 AM on Tuesday, September 8, 2026** (at least two business days prior to the meeting).

MEETING MATERIALS: Agenda packets and supporting board materials may be inspected at 25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1301, Hilo, HI 96720 during regular business hours or requested via email at aatalig@hawaiiicounty.gov.

NOTE on ICT: A meeting held by Interactive Conference Technology shall be automatically recessed for up to 30 minutes to restore communication when audiovisual communication cannot be maintained with all members participating in the meeting or with the “in person” location identified in this agenda. The meeting may reconvene when either audiovisual communication is restored, or audio-only communication is established after an unsuccessful attempt to restore audiovisual communication. If it is not possible to reconvene the meeting as provided in this subsection within 30 minutes after an interruption to communication, then the meeting shall be automatically terminated.

Notice to Lobbyists: If you are a lobbyist, you must register with the Hawaii County Clerk within five days of becoming a lobbyist [Article 15, Section 2-91.3(b), Hawaii County Code]. A lobbyist means, “any individual engaged for pay or other consideration who spends more than five hours in any month or \$25 in any six-month period for the purpose of attempting to influence legislative or administrative action by communicating or urging others to communicate with public officials.” [Article 15, Section 2-91.3(a) (6), Hawaii County Code] Registration forms and expenditure report documents are available at the Office of the County Clerk, 25 Aupuni Street, Room 1402, Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720.

Board Packet: Pursuant to HRS §92-7.5, the board packet provided to members of this board for this meeting is available for public inspection forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting date, during regular business hours at 25 Aupuni Street, Room 1301, Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720.

Hawai'i County Workforce Development Board

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

09:00 AM – 11:00 AM

In-Person and Virtual Public Meeting via Zoom

AGENDA

1. **Call to order** *Chair Rossella Guardascione*
2. **Welcome and introductions**
3. **Call for public testimony or comments on agenda items**
4. **Approval of minutes for board meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2026**
5. **County of Hawai'i Department of Research and Development (R&D) Update**
 - Director Benson Medina
 - Departmental priorities, economic development initiatives, and county workforce alignment
6. **Executive Director's Report & Program Updates**
 - Employment Initiatives & Workforce Needs:
 - County of Hawaii Internship program for Department of Education (DOE) students
 - DOE Legislative Funding for Internships – County and emerging industries
 - Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Year-Round Community Work Experience (Ages 14–24) – Goodwill Hawaii
 - Hele Imua Summer Youth Internship Program
 - County of Hawaii Workforce Events & Community Engagement Recap
7. **Industry, Business & Sector Board Member Updates**
 - Private Sector & Employer Partner Reports
8. **American Job Center Hawaii - Partner Updates**
 - American Job Center Hawai'i (AJCH) - ChangeMakers Hawaii
 - WIOA Title I - Goodwill Industries of Hawaii
 - AJCH Partners
9. **Board Member Industry Updates**
 - Employer and Industry Sector Trends, Hiring Demands, and Workforce Challenges
 - Maunakea Observatories
 - Hawai'i Community Federal Credit Union
 - KTA Super Stores
 - Big Island Toyota
 - Marriott King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel
 - Hawaii Health Systems Corporation
 - Pro Service Hawaii
 - SSFM International

- Chun Construction, LLC
- Hawaiian Electric
- HGEA
- ILWU
- Hawai'i Rural Water Association
- Going Home Hawai'i
- Hawaii State Community School for Adults
- Hawaii Community College
- County of Hawai'i - Office of Housing and Community Development
- Workforce Development Division
- Department of Vocational Rehabilitation

10. Announcements

- Board Member Attendance & Term Limits

11. Adjournment