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**MINUTES**

**STATE BOARD FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MEETING**

**JANUARY 16, 2025**

A video recording of this meeting may be viewed at the Board of Regents website as follows:

[Meeting Video](#)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at the University of Hawai'i (UH) at West Oahu, Campus Center, Room C208, 91-1001 Farrington Highway, Kapolei, Hawai'i, 96707, with regents participating from various locations.

Quorum (11): Chair Gabriel Lee; Vice-Chairs Laurie Tochiki and Laurel Loo; and Regents Neil Abercrombie, Lauren Akitake, Joshua Faumuina, William Haning, Wayne Higaki, Michael Miyahira, Diane Paloma, and Ernest Wilson.

Others in attendance: President Wendy Hensel; Vice President (VP) for Academic Strategy Debora Halbert; VP for Legal Affairs/UH General Counsel Carrie Okinaga; VP for Research and Innovation Vassilis Syrmos; VP for Information Technology/Chief Information Officer Garret Yoshimi; VP for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Kalbert Young; Interim VP for Community Colleges Della Teraoka; UH-Mānoa (UHM) Provost Michael Bruno; UH-West O'ahu Chancellor Maenette Benham; Hawai'i Community College Chancellor Susan Kazama; Kapi'olani Community College Chancellor Misaki Takabayashi; Leeward Community College Chancellor Carlos Peñaloza; Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents (Board Secretary) Yvonne Lau; and others as noted.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2024, MEETING**

Chair Lee inquired if there were any corrections to the minutes of the May 16, 2024, meeting which had been distributed. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Board Secretary Lau announced that the Board Office did not receive written testimony and no individuals signed up to provide oral testimony.

**IV. AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. Update on Hawai'i State Career and Technical Education (CTE) Plan**

Stephen Schatz, Executive Director of Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education (Hawai'i P-20) and State Director for CTE, provided an update on the Hawai'i State CTE Plan, which is more commonly referred to as Hawai'i's Perkins V State Plan (Hawai'i Perkins Plan). He explained that, while Hawai'i's receipt of CTE grant monies via the federal Perkins V Act requires the development of a State level plan, there is no obligation for the plan to be revised by a certain timeline. However, leadership within the Hawai'i P-20/State CTE Office, Hawai'i State Department of Education (HiDOE), and University of Hawai'i (UH) determined it was time for the Hawai'i Perkins Plan to be revised and improved and recently embarked on a collaborative journey, along with other parties within the ecosystem of workforce development and education in Hawai'i, to do so. Executive Director Schatz then proceeded to share information on the membership of the team leading these efforts; offered some details on the new approach being considered for the Hawai'i Perkins Plan, such as improving alignment between the UH System Strategic Plan, the HiDOE Strategic and Implementation Plan, and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Unified State Plan in terms of workforce development objectives, strategies, and metrics; summarized some of the changes to the Hawai'i Perkins Plan being envisioned by the project lead team; and went over the goals of, and timeline for, this work, along with strategies to achieve the noted objectives. He also reviewed the mandatory 2025 – 2029 State-Determined Performance Levels for both HiDOE and UH's Community College System (UHCC), stressing they were tentative and, in his opinion, should be more aspirational; discussed the implementation of a requirement for each HiDOE high school and UHCC campus to submit a completed school or college-level Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment as well as the usefulness of this action; and touched upon the statewide distribution of Perkins V funds.

Referencing the table of proposed 2025-2029 State Determined Performance Levels in the materials packet, Regent Miyahira asked about the four-year graduation rates currently being experienced by Hawai'i's public high schools. Executive Director Schatz replied the four-year graduation rate for Hawai'i's public high school students presently sits at around 86 percent in general and 97 percent for CTE concentrators.

Regent Abercrombie questioned whether the Hawai'i Perkins Plan explored the establishment of apprenticeships in workforce need areas such as the building trades. Executive Director Schatz stated the Hawai'i Perkins Plan is more of a CTE direction setting document for HiDOE and UHCC and includes information about things like the use and management of nearly \$7 million in Perkins V funds received from the United States Department of Education (USDOE). While the document does not delve into the level of detail with respect to issues such as apprenticeships, the Hawai'i P-20/State CTE Office is supportive of these activities, especially when there is a labor market need.

A brief conversation took place between Regent Abercrombie and Executive Director Schatz on the value of apprenticeships and CTE programs, as well as the importance and benefits of coordinated efforts between Hawai'i P-20, educational institutions, and industry partners on these matters.

Regent Akitake sought further information about the Hawai'i P-20/State CTE Office's plans to utilize and alternatively distribute 15 percent of State-level reserve funds with a focus on particular areas of workforce interest. Executive Director Schatz stated the Hawai'i P-20/State CTE Office has been examining ways to strategically incentivize and encourage the development of workforce programs for areas where there is an emerging or known statewide employment need, in addition to the fields of healthcare, information technology, skilled trades, and education, and then using up to 15 percent of its reserve monies to finance these programs, possibly through a mini-grant process. Given this response, Regent Akitake asked what would be considered an emerging sector in Hawai'i. Executive Director Schatz replied that the Hawai'i P-20/State CTE Office has been in conversations with entities such as the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism to identify emerging workforce sectors in Hawai'i. Some of the emerging sectors where the State is currently making investments include areas related to value-added product development, information technology, and media culture and the arts. However, Executive Director Schatz stressed the need to take a cautious approach when it comes to developing workforce programs associated with emerging sectors due to the uncertainty of future employment needs for these areas and the amount of time, effort, and resources needed to pivot CTE programming.

Regent Paloma inquired as to whether the Hawai'i P-20/State CTE Office foresaw any threats to federal CTE funding over the next four years in view of the change in presidential administrations. Although he could not hazard a guess about future threats to federal CTE funding under the current presidential administration, Executive Director Schatz stated the Hawai'i P-20/State CTE Office was taking a wait and see approach to the situation but noted the level of federal CTE funding did not diminish and the USDOE was committed to training for the skilled trades during the previous administration of President Trump.

Regent Abercrombie shared his thoughts on, and stressed the importance of, the skilled trades. Additionally, he voiced his concerns about the conditions of facilities used by the Hawai'i P-20/State CTE Office which, in his opinion, were unhealthy and unsuitable for habitation, let alone daily work. As such, he proposed future discussions be held on this matter and suggested the pursuit of funding to address this issue.

Regent Wilson asked about if there was a connection between the work being done by Hawai'i P-20 and the efforts of the State of Hawai'i Workforce Development Council (WDC). Executive Director Schatz stated Hawai'i P-20 has a close working relationship with the WDC. He also mentioned witnessing an increase in collaboration between educational entities and the WDC over the past few years.

## **B. Attainment of Industry-Recognized Credentials in Hawai'i's Education System Report**

Executive Director Schatz spoke about the statutory requirements for the provision of an Annual Report on the Attainment of Industry-Recognized Credentials in Hawai'i by State Educational Systems and Agencies to the Legislature; briefly touched upon the methodology used to construct, as well as data contained within, the inaugural report; and spoke about some of the challenges faced in collecting data for the report.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yvonne Lau  
Executive Administrator and Secretary  
of the Board of Regents