



36th Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands Committee on Education and Workforce Development

Memorandum

MEMBERS

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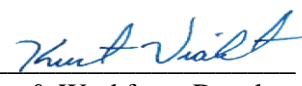
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TO: Mrs. Kurell A. Sheridan, JD
Executive Director
36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

FROM: The Honorable Kurt A. Violet 
Chairman, Committee on Education & Workforce Development

DATE: March 10, 2025

RE: **Committee Report for Friday, March 7, 2025 Meeting**

Please find attached the report for the Committee on Education and Workforce Development (EWD) meeting held on Friday, March 7, 2025, in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room, St. Croix.

cc: All Senators
Chief Legal Counsel
Archive Division
Journal Division

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MARCH 7, 2025 - COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

The Committee on Education and Workforce Development convened its meeting on Friday, March 7, 2025, in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room, St. Croix.

Call to order:

Chairman, Senator Kurt A. Violet called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

Committee Members Present:

Senator Kurt A. Violet
Senator Marise C. James
Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff
Senator Franklin D. Johnson
Senator Kenneth L. Gittens
Senator Carla J. Joseph

Committee Members Absent:

Senator Avery L. Lewis – excused

Non-Committee Members Present:

Senator Hubert L. Fredericks
Senator Clifford A. Joseph, Sr.
Senator Marvin Blyden

Committee Staff:

Gloryvee Christian-Krieger, Chief of Staff
Samanta Prentice, Legislative Researcher

Clerk/Timekeeper:

Janella John, Communications Manager

Protocol officer:

Myrna De-Altier-Pickard

Sergeant-At-Arms:

Walton Jack, Jr./ Dequan Bondieumaitre

Public Affairs/ Media:

Eustace Brown
Alwyn Baptiste, Jr.
Alvin Burke
Bernard Matthew, Sr.
Diana Cruz
Chaunte Herbert
Omari Hicks
Kashief Hamilton

Legal Counsel:

Not Assigned

Legislative Reporters:

Part I - Joanne Samuel
Part II - Nataya Munoz
Part III - Nadine Williams
Part IV - Vashti Gerald-Berry
Part V – Joanne Samuel

The Committee on Education and Workforce Development received testimonies:

BLOCK I

Honorable Gary Molloy, Commissioner of the Department of Labor, provided an update on the status of workforce development programs aligning with key industries such as construction, technology, and healthcare. He detailed the allocation of local and federal funds for workforce development, including the number of individuals served. Additionally, he shared progress on the Youth and Apprenticeship Program, highlighting participating service providers, individuals served, and a financial breakdown of expenditures. Commissioner Molloy also addressed the status of the Summer Youth Work Experience Program and the overall impact of the Youth Team,

including the number of youths served, completed academic and career assessments, and service referrals.

BLOCK II

Testifiers, Chrystie Payne, Program Director/Development Director of My Brother's Workshop; Frandelle Gerard, Executive Director of Crucian Heritage & Nature Tourism; and Dr. Suzanne Darrow-Magras, Director of the University of the Virgin Islands Center for Excellence in Leadership and Learning (UVI CELL), provided an overview of their organizations' missions and programs, highlighting their commitment to workforce development and community empowerment. They discussed key workforce development initiatives, emphasizing the educational and training opportunities offered to equip individuals with essential skills. Collaborations with schools, colleges, and vocational programs were showcased as critical components in strengthening career pathways. Success stories demonstrated the positive community impact of these initiatives, illustrating how individuals have benefited from tailored training and mentorship. Additionally, the testifiers addressed ongoing barriers and challenges to workforce development, including funding constraints, accessibility issues, and industry-specific workforce gaps.

COMMITTEE REQUESTS:

Block 1- Department of Labor

1. A detailed breakdown of individuals served, including relevant demographic data.
2. An overview of skills covered in the Today Program, including participant progress and outcomes.
3. Data on clients served who receive childcare benefits.
4. Updates on program registration, including current enrollment numbers.
5. A current list of training providers eligible for program participation.
6. A breakdown of inmates seeking certification, including program participation and associated industry sectors.
7. A summary of federal funding allocations related to these initiatives.
8. Number of individuals referred by DHS. Of that number, how many received training or gained employment.

Block 2- My Brother's Workshop

1. Total enrollment by district
2. Enrollment breakdown by trade per district

Adjournment:

Chairman, Senator Kurt A. Vialet adjourned the Committee on Education and Workforce Development hearing at 4:08 p.m.