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and Statistics, Research, and Planning

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Senator Perez Promotes Workforce Opportunities, Development, and Diversification in GDOL Informational Hearing

Hagåtña, Guam – Senator Perez hosted a GDOL informational hearing today with presentations by Director Dell'Isola and GCC President Mary Okada. “With October 6th being the deadline for applying for new claims for PUA and continued processing of outstanding claims and appeals, GDOL’s pandemic response must pivot to facilitating employment, workforce development and diversification,” stated Senator Perez.

The purpose of the GDOL informational hearing was to highlight the resources available to residents seeking employment and/or training opportunities, as well as, resources available to employers seeking to hire.

“With the latest unemployment rate as of June 2021 reported by the Guam Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics at 11.4%, which translates to 8000 people, and 30,554 of our island residents who received pandemic unemployment assistance, it is urgent now more than ever to bring our people back to work,” said Senator Perez.

During the hearing, Director Dell'Isola testified, based on a recent quarterly report, approximately 10,000 jobs were posted on the hire.guam website. Director Dell'Isola pledged the assistance of GDOL staffers in participating in and facilitating employer job fairs to assist applicants in completing applications, to increase the pool of candidates.

Additionally, opportunities for workforce development include pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeship programs, training bootcamps, and online tutorials.

A large contribution to workforce development is the participation of businesses to partake in these programs. Director Dell'Isola highlighted the benefits for employers who participate in these programs such as tax credits, and the subsidization of participant wages. Dell'Isola urged the business community to call GDOL to inquire about the opportunities available for participation.

“With the disruption of the recovery of tourism, it is essential to pursue the diversification of our workforce. Diversification is key to getting 8000-plus residents back to work,” stated Senator Perez. “It will take the collaboration and cooperation of our private and public sectors, all eligible training providers, and intermediaries to rebuild our workforce and diversify our economy,” added Senator Perez.

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