To: Members of the Committee Education and Workforce Development
   Honorable Janelle K. Sarauw, Vice-Chair
   Honorable Donna A. Frett-Gregory
   Honorable Kurt A. Vialet
   Honorable Kenneth L. Gittens
   Honorable Milton E. Potter
   Honorable Carla Joseph

cc: Honorable Marvin A. Blyden
    Honorable Samuel Carrion
    Honorable Dwayne M. DeGraff
    Honorable Novelle E. Francis Jr., Vice-President
    Honorable Alma Francis Heyliger
    Honorable Javan E. James, Sr.
    Honorable Franklin D. Johnson
    Honorable Steven D. Payne, Sr.
    Journal Division

From: Genevieve Whitaker, Legislative Secretary
       Chairwoman, Committee on Education and Workforce Development

Hearing Held (February 12th, 2021) & Future Hearing Date(s):

   A. Inaugural Hearing, February 12th, 2021

   The Committee on Education and Workforce Development held its first hearing on Friday, February 12, 2021, at Frits Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room on St. Croix. During this hearing, Senator Whitaker received testimony from the Virgin Islands Department of Education and various stakeholders in the community. The main objectives of the hearing were as follows:

   • The Status updates on school readiness from the Department of Education
   • CARES Act Fund expenditure report
   • Carl D. Perkins Vocational Grant Fund expenditure report
   • Obtain a plan of instructional support, resources, and intervention for students who are struggling academically.
   • Obtain certification reports related to Title 17 Chapter 3 Section 24 subsection (a)(2)(A) and (B), from VI Department of Health, VI Division of Occupational Safety and Health, and Department of Planning and Natural Resources
   • Obtain testimony on workforce and overall youth development
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Testifiers In Attendance:

- Raquel Berry Benjamin
  *Commissioner*
  Virgin Islands Department of Education
- Austin Callwood, *Director*
  Environmental Enforcement, on behalf of Jean-Pierre L. Oriol
  *Commissioner*
  Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources
- Dean Andrews
  *Director*, Virgin Islands Division of Occupational Safety and Health
- Justa E. Encarnacion
  *Commissioner*
  Virgin Islands Department of Health
- Dr. David Hall
  *President*
  University of the Virgin Islands Boards of Trustees
- Michael Carty
  *Chairman*
  Workforce Development Board
- Dr. Anastasie Jackson, Ph.D.
  Vice-Chair
  Virgin Islands Career & Technical Board
- Rosa Soto -Thomas
  President
  St. Croix American Federation of Teachers
- Carol A. Callwood
  *President*
  St. Thomas-St.John American Federation of Teachers
- Kyzza Callwood
  *Chairman*
  Virgin Islands Board of Education
- Margarita Benjamin, *President-Elect*
  on behalf of Yvette Browne
  *President*
  USVI National Parent, Student and Teacher Association

Following the hearing, Chairwoman Whitaker requested additional reports and information from the Virgin Islands Department of Education and the Virgin Islands State Workforce Development Board. As of today, March 4, 2021, the following information has not been received:

- Carl D. Perkins Fund expenditure report, detailing as Commissioner detailed CARES Act funds the areas in which the funds were expended (Professional Services, Operations Supplies, Salaries, and Other Budget categories)
- VI State Workforce Development Board plan, showing how the board will utilize Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Funds
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**Attendance:**

**Committee Members:**

- Honorable Genevieve R. Whitaker, Legislative Secretary & Chair
- Honorable Janelle K. Sarauw, Vice-Chair
- Honorable Kenneth L. Gittens
- Honorable, Donna A. Frett-Gregory, President
- Honorable Carla J. Joseph
- Honorable Kurt A. Vialet

**Non-Committee Members**

- Honorable Marvin A. Blyden
- Honorable Alma Francis Heyliger
- Honorable Franklin D. Johnson
- Honorable Novelle E. Francis Jr., Vice-President

**B. Future Hearing, March 15th, 2021**

- **Focus Areas:**
  - School Reopening
  - Workforce Development
  - Vocational Rehabilitation
  - Bill No. 34-0009