Attendee Questions to Presenters

- Are the new jobs replacing previous jobs, or based on the creation of new parts of our economy? It depends on the job. Hopefully, people would just transition to a new job. Paul Brewbaker, an economist here in Hawaii, told us that generally we don’t really lose jobs, people just go to new jobs. This assumes there exists a transferable skillset. If there is a 1 to 1 job exchange it's not that bad if all things remain equal. The problem occurs if new jobs actually eliminate jobs because a skillset is NOT transferrable. If the self-driving trucks replace truckers (x% of 1.8million jobs) and they have no place to go, i.e. they have no transferable skills and those old jobs are eliminated, what will happen to the truckers? Hopefully, retraining is possible and they can engage a new and different career path.

- I'm wondering if we've tried to map out what "the digital economy" (new areas created by our digital industrial revolution) actually looks like so we can have a better understanding of the future we are creating. My buy-in for all of this is our multilingual communities and the importance of multilingual proficiency for Hawai'i's future economic development. Google translate won't cut it, even if it goes to AI on steroids. The organization I'm working with is the Hawai'i Language Roadmap. I'm always open to conversations on how we can bring a multilingual perspective into the conversation as a normal and often overlooked aspect of educational, economic and human service endeavors. The Workforce Development Council is already talking about how we translate the assessment and training to multiple languages but trying to figure out how to make that happen. You can contact Ka‘ala Souza, kaala@kaala.com, for more information.

- Contact info for Broadband Hui? You can contact Burt Lum, burt.q.lum@hawaii.gov, for more information.