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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
1010 Richards Street, Room 217
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Ed Case, Congressman
U.S. Congress
House of Representatives

Dear Congressman Case:

This Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is providing this letter of support on behalf of the Workforce Resiliency Initiative being implemented by the Workforce Development Council (WDC) to strengthen skills among Hawaii's residents for employment. The current pandemic has revealed the alarming digital literacy gap Hawaii's residents face when forced to work from home or utilize telehealth as a primary means of communication to address their wellbeing. Hawaii's high unemployment rates, and an increased reliance on digital literacy for job seekers reflects the need for this WDC initiative at this time.

Mr. Ka`ala Souza is leading the WDC Workforce Resiliency Initiative and collaborating with DVR to augment the training programs with digital literacy navigators to work one-to-one with DVR clients whose disabilities may require additional training supports to access the online training platforms independently and strengthen their skills to engage in Hawaii's workforce using DVR funding.

DVR appreciates and supports the WDC efforts to ensure Hawaii's workforce will be digitally literate, including the federal funding they are seeking to reinforce this initiative as we all work together towards economic recovery from the impacts of this pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maureen Bates". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Maureen Bates
DVR Administrator