



**SENATOR GLENN WAKAI**  
HAWAII STATE SENATE

April 23, 2021

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

Dear Congressman Case,


I am an ardent supporter of the Workforce Development Council's Workforce Resiliency Initiative. I have personally witnessed them providing much needed digital literacy training to our constituents.

This digital divide, unchecked, will only grow larger. The Workforce Development Council offered basic computer training at the Salt Lake Library in March 2021. Keiki to kupuna participated side-by-side in this learning endeavor. It was the beginning of much more learning to come. In partnership with the public library system, our community colleges, literacy groups, employers, unions, Native Hawaiian organizations, and adult education organizations throughout the state, the Workforce Development Council underscores the collaborative efforts required to achieve the vision of a digitally literate Hawaii.

COVID-19 has fundamentally recast how we live and how we pursue our livelihood by accelerating the digital revolution in our world. Our Hawaii workforce needs to immediately reskill to succeed in the digital age. A better Hawaii starts with building a robust economy, caring for the disadvantaged, and ensuring that all residents have access to quality healthcare. Our kūpuna are now having to visit their health care providers online, many of them without the hardware, access, or skills necessary to do so. The challenges seen in the online scheduling of the vaccine highlights the need for digital equity.

Hawaii needs to elevate our goals and quick action in this crisis to reshape our state. I hope you and your colleagues will continue to support the Workforce Development Council. Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,



Glenn Wakai  
Hawaii State Senator  
Chairman Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism