



April 24, 2021

Congressman Ed Case

1003 Bishop Street,
Suite 1110
(808) 650-6688

Letter in Support of Working Development Council
Funding for the Working Resilience Initiative

Aloha Congressmen Case,

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii requests your attention and support in providing federal funds to the Workforce Development Council (WDC) for the Workforce Resilience Initiative. WDC outreaches and works with leaders from the Native Hawaiian community to provide broadband infrastructure, capacity, and technical support. Currently, the 2010 census estimates 290,000 Native Hawaiians live in Hawaii.

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii prior to the COVID pandemic, recognized the need for comprehensive broadband infrastructure to increase coverage, capacity, and digital literacy.

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii supported Kalihi-Palama Hawaiian Civic Club, and Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs that passed a resolution in 2019 which addressed the need for broadband resources devoted to telehealth medicine for both infrastructure and technical support.

Many Kupuna and other Native Hawaiians suffer due to the lack of digital literacy and technical capacity to enroll in social safety net services – included but not limited to: veteran services, unemployment insurance, social security services, food services for the hungry, housing/rent relief, COVID 19 physical and mental health care, child care and educational opportunities, just to name a few.

For those that use the internet in their daily lives, you may find it hard to conceive how can people not have access or know how to navigate a website. Please believe this population of Native Hawaiians exist and needs your help. Supporting programs like the Workforce Development Council's Workforce Resilience Initiative you would potentially elevate Native Hawaiian communities both in technical skill set and allow them to be a part of the connected world where information and communication will provide new opportunities for commerce and healing.

Mahalo nui loa for your attention to these matters.

Me ka mana'o nui,

Juanita Mahienaena Brown Kawamoto

Luna Hoomalu

Hawaiian Affairs Caucus

Democratic Party of Hawaii

Ken Farm

Committee Chair of Digital Advocacy

Hawaiian Affairs Caucus

Democratic Party of Hawaii