



April 26th, 2021

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

Aloha e Congressman Case:

Hawaii Literacy is pleased to provide this letter of support for federal funding in recognition of the important work being done by Workforce Development Council (WDC) in the arena of digital literacy.

Currently, 1 in 6 adults in Hawaii do not have basic functional literacy skills and the current pandemic only widened the existing barrier that many of our low to very low-income adults face when they were furloughed, laid off, or had to utilize telehealth, and helping their children with distance learning. With the workforce growing increasingly digital, it is vital to help adults and children who do not have basic literacy or digital literacy skills or who face issues to accessing the internet.

The Workforce Development Council utilizes hands-on and web-based training to elevate those with some technical skillset and to provide the technology basics for those with no prior experience. They are creating a network with the public libraries, UH Community Colleges, Adult Education and other agencies like Hawaii Literacy to meet the need to provide access to this type of training. The population we serve overlaps with people who will benefit with access to this WDC training, whether WIOA eligible, digitally unprepared or vulnerable due to COVID so we understand the importance of this initiative.

We plan to collaborate with the WDC as they move forward on the initiative by providing training to those working with adults with low literacy skills and doing a demonstration model with Ka'ala Souza in one of the communities we serve.

We support WDC's efforts in their Workforce Resiliency Initiative to seek federal funding and applaud them for their hard work and leadership during this pandemic.

With warmest aloha,

Jill Takasaki Canfield
Executive Director

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Hawaii Literacy • Kukui Center, 245 N. Kukui Street, Suite 202 • Honolulu, HI 96817
phone: (808) 537-6706 • web: hawaii-literacy.org • social: @HawaiiLiteracy