

April 23, 2021

The Honorable Ed Case  
United States House of Representatives  
1003 Bishop St., Ste. 1110  
Honolulu, HI 96813



Dear Congressman Case,

The Hawaii Institute of Public Affairs expresses our strong support for federal funding to continue the critical work being done by the State of Hawai'i's Workforce Development Council (WDC) in advancing a vision of statewide digital literacy.

Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs (HIPA) is Hawai'i's first nonprofit, nonpartisan and independent research and educational organization whose mission is to provide research, analysis and recommendations on public policy issues facing Hawai'i. Since January HIPA has been providing technical assistance to the State of Hawaii on "Hawai'i 2.0," convening partner organizations to identify opportunities for economic diversification and revitalization.

It will not come as a surprise that this work has uncovered a clear need for access to digital resources at all ages — from keiki to kupuna. Access to education, job opportunities, training, and health care are all critical to the futures of individual residents and our statewide community. Digital access begins with digital literacy, and WDC has developed the training materials, program, and network to make digital literacy accessible to those stand to benefit from it the most.

We have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Ka'ala Souza of the Workforce Development Council as a thought partner on opportunities for community engagement around Hawai'i 2.0 and Economic Revitalization. We have been inspired by his vision of a Hawai'i that can access an immense library of digital knowledge with confidence and community. We have been impressed by the robustness of WDC's digital literacy program which includes features like in person training as well as deep online content, and its ability to connect with people from all walks of life.

We support WDC's efforts in their Workforce Resiliency Initiative to seek federal funding and are grateful for their timely and much needed hard work.

Mahalo nui loa,

Ben Trevino  
President & CEO  
Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs