

Workforce Development Council Workforce Resiliency Initiative Digital Ready Hawaii

Hawaii's Workforce Development Council (WDC), under the DLIR, has created a Workforce Resiliency Initiative (WRI) to help lead Hawaii's economy towards recovery and resiliency. One core aspect of the WRI is ensuring that everyone in our workforce is digitally literate, ready, and capable.

The National Skills Coalition estimates that 30% of the U.S. workforce lacks basic, fundamental computer skills. In Hawaii, that's roughly 200,000 people who are struggling with day-to-day computer tasks.

The World Economic Forum estimates that 70% of new value created in the economy over the next decade will be based on digitally enabled platform business models, and further projects that 42% of jobs are expected to have completely different core skill sets by 2022, in particular, digital skills.

Digital Literacy is a critical skill for Hawaii's workforce.

The WDC is looking for partners to help elevate awareness of the need for and to evaluate Hawaii's current level of digital literacy.

We are asking employers to partner with us in providing both an assessment and access to online curriculum of basic computers skills to their employees. Not only does this help to quantify Hawaii's level of digital readiness, it also benefits both the employee and employer.

Employees get a chance to identify any gaps in their basic computer knowledge and learn the skills that are so vital to advance in our tele-everything world. Employers receive, in return for prioritizing this learning, a more productive and efficient workforce with the skills necessary to be resilient in the workplace.

There are two steps to participation:

Step 1: Assessment

Employees take the Northstar Assessment in these three categories:

- Basic Computer Skills
- Internet Basics
- Using Email

If the all three assessments are not successfully passed employees receive access to Northstar's online learning curriculum to fill-in the gaps in Step 2.

Step 2: Training

Employees can target specific gaps through questions missed on the assessment that tie into specific sections in the curriculum. This saves time and energy.

After successfully completing and passing all three of the basic computer topics, participants can move to other applications (Word, Google Docs, etc) through Northstar's online portal.