

PANKAJ BHANOT DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation 1010 Richards Street, Room 217 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

March 27, 2020

Aloha 'Ohana DVR,

The health and safety of our DVR partners, participants, and staff continues to be our highest priority. During this pandemic and mitigation of community spread of the COVID-19 virus, DVR will continue to support essential services for our community's well-being, while implementing social distancing.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) staff are working remotely during regularly scheduled office hours 7:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., with limited office coverage. DVR staff may be reached by calling their office phone numbers provided to customers and available online at https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/vr/.

Kauaʻi Līhuʻe: (808) 274-3333 Administrator: Angeline Kaleiohi
<mark>Oʻahu</mark> Honolulu: (808) 586-4824 Kapolei: (808) 692-8604 Deaf Section: (808) 447-1454 (VP) Administrator: Marian Tsuji (808) 586-4828
Administration Office
PH: (808) 586-9745 VR Administrator: Maureen Bates
VR Assistant Administrator: Iva Cain
(808) 586-9740
rs of Operation: Weekends, State & Federal Holidays

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DVR staff are supporting access to independent living resources for Hawaii's residents with disabilities. DVR's Disability Determination Branch continues to support essential services for the Social Security Administration. In addition, DVR continues to work on resolving the Order of Selection Deferred List for eligible individuals seeking competitive integrated employment.

During this unprecedented time, our staff remain committed to our community partners and participants, while focusing on contacting all our customers to share resources, ensure, payments for services provided, and strengthening strategies and supports for online training and employment and/or advancement opportunities statewide. Attached is the Department of Human Services press release, and shared link for accessing community resources: https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/provider-vendor-covid-19-information/.

Please feel free to reach out to me using my email address <u>mbates@dhs.hawaii.gov</u> or calling my office number 808-586-9741, should you have any suggestions, challenges with connecting with staff, or job leads you want to share with our staff for DVR's participants.

Sincerely,

Mauren Bates

Maureen Bates Vocational Rehabilitation Administrator

Attachment