National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii

Resolution 2017-01

Regarding Software Accessibility in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii, Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation uses an Aware Enterprise records management software from Alliance Enterprises for case management; the local name for which is Akamai, based on the Hawaiian word for clever; and,

WHEREAS, the Aware webpage advertises its records management software for vocational rehabilitation as having high accessibility standards and being 508 compliant; and,

WHEREAS, each Aware software application contains a variety of application options which are adaptable to best fit the needs of a state vocational rehabilitation agency; and,

WHEREAS, Hawaii is one of the states using the entire Aware software bundle, including records management, online cloud data, and analytics; and,

WHEREAS, if any functions of Akamai were not accessible via screen reader, this would create a barrier to employment for blind persons wishing to work in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; and,

WHEREAS, the PDF files generated by the Akamai system to show the contents of an individualized plan for employment are essentially pictures of text, requiring the use of optical character recognition technology to make them partially accessible to screen access software, thus creating a barrier to the delivery of accessible formats of information to blind consumers and employees; and,

WHEREAS, blind people have the potential to be powerful contributors as employees in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; and,

WHEREAS, no blind people are currently employed in positions in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation which give them access to Akamai; and,

WHEREAS, the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii seeks to support and strengthen the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in order to maximize the quality of services provided to blind people in Hawaii, as well as achieve equal access to career opportunities for all blind job seekers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii in Convention assembled this first day of October, 2017, in the city of Honolulu, Hawaii, that this organization call upon the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to take all necessary steps to ensure that every aspect of its Aware Enterprise software system is accessible to the blind and other persons with disabilities, thus complying with state and federal accessibility laws and regulations; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this organization offer its full support in this quest to ensure full accessibility to the Aware Enterprise package.