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## **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY**

Assistive technology is any item, piece of equipment, software or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of persons with disabilities. Different disabilities require different assistive technologies. Assistive technology includes products and services to help people who have difficulty speaking, typing, writing, remembering, pointing, seeing, hearing, learning, and walking. (Definition downloaded from Assistive Technology Industry Association: <http://www.atia.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3859>).

### **State Department of Human Services**

#### **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)**

Oahu - 808.586.5167 (Voice/TDD) or 808.586.5167 (Non-Blind)

Hilo – 808.974.6444 (Voice/TDD)

Kona – 808.323.0025(Voice/TDD)

Wailuku – 808.984.8350 (Voice/TDD)

Molokai/Lanai – 808.553.3651 (Voice/TDD)

Kauai – 808.274.3333 (Voice/TDD)

Website: <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/vocationalrehab/>

Vocational Rehabilitation is a state-federal program for persons with disabilities who require assistance to prepare for, secure, retain or regain employment. VR provides a rehabilitation worker who specializes in job training and job placement. VR may provide assistive technology and training depending on the skills needed for employment. (*Government Agency*)

## **State Department of Human Services Ho'opono Services for the Blind**

Phone: 808.586.9744

Website: <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/vr/hoopono/about/>

Ho'opono Services for the Blind is a branch of the Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) that provides comprehensive and specialized services that meet the varied needs of persons who are blind, both deaf and blind, or visually impaired. The Ho'opono Computer and Assistive Technology Class is a classroom laboratory where blind and visually impaired students learn how to use computers to do word processing, email, browse the internet, scan, and read paper documents using specialized software. Students learn about how to use recorders, cell phones, note takers and other devices that help with personal organization, communication and taking notes.

*(Government Agency)*

## **Assistive Technology Resource Centers of Hawaii (ATRC)**

Phone: 808.532.7110

Toll-free: 1.800.645.3007

Website: [www.atrc.org](http://www.atrc.org)

**Assistive Technology Resource Centers of Hawaii (ATRC)** provides information on assistive technology and where to purchase assistive devices. ATRC has a loan library of devices for persons with disabilities to try specific items on a short-term basis. Also ATRC offers training related to assistive devices for consumers and their families, service providers, and members of the community.

*(Non-Profit Organization)*

## **Island Skill Gathering (ISG)**

Phone: 808.732.4622

Website: [www.isghawaii.com](http://www.isghawaii.com)

Island Skill Gathering offers for sale, an array of assistive technology for people with disabilities such as computer hardware and software, assistive listening and alerting devices, and blind and low vision aids. ISG has hardware and software

trainers who are able to train persons with disabilities how to use the assistive technology. Training may be performed at work or in the home.  
*(For Profit Organization)*

### **Easter Seals Hawaii – Assistive Technology Program**

Phone: 808.536.1015

Website:

<http://www.easterseals.com/hawaii/our-programs/community-support/assistive-technology.html>

Assistive Technology is a resource program for the Easter Seals organization. Touch screens, augmentative communication devices, foot mice, and alternative keyboards are just some of the technical hardware tools available. Computer access is offered to participants, where they work on developing a variety of special skills. *(Non-Profit Organization)*

### **Helen Keller National Center**

Phone: 858.578.1600 (V/TTY)

Phone: 858.397.5522 (VP)

Website: <http://hknc.org/>

Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) provides free technology to individuals with combined hearing and vision loss who qualify for the program through the ICanConnect program. *(Non-Profit Organization)*