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Technology helps disabled get — and hold — jobs

By <u>Karen Blakeman</u> Advertiser Staff Writer

Job seekers with disabilities can find the technology they need to get work at "One-Stop Centers" across the state, thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.

The One-Stop Centers, called O'ahu WorkLinks, Big Island Workplace Connection, WorksourceMaui or Kauai *Work Wise!, help with job searches, career planning services, training opportunities, and office and library resource services.

Through the \$699,000 grant, the Komo Kaulike Project has equipped the centers with assistive technology work stations. Ed Gatz, a wheelchair-using Waikiki res-



Ed Gatz uses specialized computer equipment and software for the disabled while Joy Lacanienta, a coordinator with the Komo Kaulike Project, shows off a telephone for the hearing- or speech-impaired.

ident who recently secured a job as an accountant at a hotel using WorkLinks services, stopped by the Dillingham Center Work Links to try out computer equipment last week. The front section of a desk moved up and down as well as back and forth to place his hands in a comfortable position at the keyboard, and the back section of the desk adjusted to bring the computer's display to eye level.

The adjustments, said Joy Lacanienta, Komo Kaulike project coordinator, will accommodate even the motorized wheelchairs, which tend to be lower. The desk also allowed Gatz to rest his arm while using the keyboard. He had the option of using a regular keyboard or keyboard with extra-large keys and letters. Keys were also embossed in Braille.

New software includes *Dragon Naturally Speaking*, which allows people who have problems with typing or can't see or read Braille to dictate their resumes, and those who can't move their arms to use a



tiny dot applied to glasses or the forehead to direct the computer curser. The largest portion of the grant, Lacanienta said, was used to train employees of the One-Stop Centers across the state. The employees learned how to use the equipment and how best to serve people with disabilities. For information about One-Stop Centers, see www.hawaiiworkforce.org/OneStops.htm. On O'ahu, call O'ahu Worklinks at 592-8620.

Reach Karen Blakeman at 535-2430 or <u>kblake-man@honoluluadvertiser.com</u>.

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Dragon Naturally speaking package along with noise cancellation head set

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Adding speech recognition capabilities to computers enables users to work Virtually hands free when creating documents and emails, accessing data or working on the Web. Dragon speech recognition takes away the mechanical aspects of typing or handwriting.







Dragon NaturallySpeaking

Adding speech recognition capabilities to computers enables users to work virtually hands free when creating documents and emails, accessing data or working on the Web. Dragon speech recognition takes away the mechanical aspects of typing or handwriting, and therefore removes many of the challenges people with physical or learning disabilities may face in the workplace.

- Helps make computers and applications accessible to all users
- Helps workers with RSI return to work faster

Helps reduce the incidence and impact of RSI (Repetitive Stress Injury)

Make computers easier and more comfortable to use - Work virtually hands-free. Individuals with accessibility issues ranging from carpal tunnel and RSI to learning disabilities, face unique challenges when it comes to using a computer.



The keyboard and mouse become barriers to productivity,

not to mention a cause of pain and frustration. Stop typing and put your voice to work to create and edit documents, send email and more.

Prevent repetitive stress injuries

For users who suffer from arthritis or carpal tunnel syndrome, Dragon changes the way they interact with the computer. They can be fully productive without aggravating their condition. For others, using Dragon speech recognition can help prevent repetitive stress injuries in the first place.

Remove the challenges of using a computer

By taking away the mechanical aspects of typing, Dragon provides a more efficient way to control a computer that is less physically and cognitively taxing for those with impairments that may make typing painful or impossible. Dragon turns talk into text, transcribing up to 160 words a minute. Just speak and the words appear on the computer screen, instantly.

Command greater productivity

Get it all done by voice and speed through your to-do list today. Dictate emails, complete reports and spreadsheets in minutes. Search and surf the Web. Capture thoughts on-the-go for later transcription back at your PC.







Let users work virtually hands-free

Dragon speech recognition has become an invaluable tool for people with accessibility issues that can make typing difficult or painful. Create documents, access data, or navigate a computer desktop - simply by speaking.

- Provides accessibility for people with physical disabilities that make typing difficult or impossible
- Helps users with language-based learning disabilities better express themselves in writing
- Prevents repetitive stress injuries by enabling hands-free computer use
- Keeps workers with certain injuries on the job
- Accommodates many users with speech impairments or pronunciation issues
- Works with popular screen readers like JAWS to help vis-

ually impaired users be productive on their computer

 Section 508 certified to help organizations meet disability management needs



Add Dragon Naturally-Speaking to Any Computer Now!!

Adding speech recognition capabilities to computers enables users to work virtually hands free when creating documents and emails, accessing data or working on the Web.

Dragon speech recognition takes away the mechanical aspects of typing or handwriting, and therefore removes many of the challenges people with physical or learning disabilities may face in the workplace. Dragon Naturally Speaking will:

- Help to make computers and applications accessible to all users
- Help people with RSI be able to type with diminished pain
- Help reduce the incidence and impact of RSI



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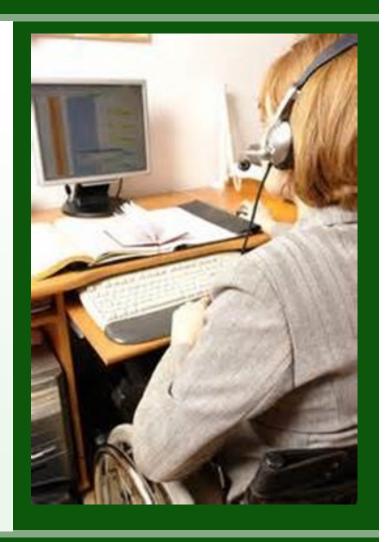
Dragon Naturally Speaking software is best suited for People with the following disabilities:

The installation of Dragon Naturally Speaking software will make any computer easier and more comfortable to use and work virtually hands-free for Individuals with accessibility issues such as:

- Carpal Tunnel
- RSI (Repetitive Stress Injury)
- Learning Disabilities
- Physical loss, or loss of use, of one, or both hands

People with such disabilities face unique challenges when it comes to using a computer. The keyboard and mouse become barriers to productivity, not to mention a cause of pain and frustration. Stop typing and put your voice to work to create and edit documents, send email and more.

Dragon Naturally Speaking Software







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