



BARACK OBAMA

January 30, 2020

I am delighted to extend my warmest wishes to the outstanding educators, from all across Hawaii, who are gathered in Honolulu for what is sure to be a terrific Conference hosted by the Hawai'i Association for Career and Technical Education.

As you know, the economy has changed since some of us were mailing our resumes to the people we hoped to work for after graduation. Innovation made it possible for businesses to do more with less, and the Internet gave them a newfound mobility. The stakes are higher, and the problems to be solved more complex, calling on educators to be evermore innovative and agile in vesting their students with the knowledge and skills they will need to reach for their highest aspirations. It's a substantial challenge, and you have stepped up to meet it. Your efforts are helping students to graduate not just with a great education, but also with the skills that will let them start their careers, and the skills that will make America stronger. It's an example of just how much is possible when we recognize the limitless potential in every student and help them get the keys to a brighter future in their hands.

I hope this Conference gives you the chance to reflect on your lasting impact. It's making a difference—not only in the lives of your students, but also on the future of the world they will inherit.

Please know Michelle and I are grateful for all you do, and we wish each of you our best for a productive and rewarding gathering.

With our warm Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'B' followed by a smaller 'O' and a long horizontal line extending to the right.