A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY OFFICE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1	SECTION 1. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
2	adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
3	as follows:
4	"CHAPTER
5	HAWAII BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY OFFICE
6	§ -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter:
7	"Broadband" means high-speed internet access that is always
8	on, including mobile and fixed technologies.
9	"Digital equity" means a condition in which all individuals
10	and communities have the information technology capacity needed
11	for full participation in society, democracy, and the economy.
12	"Office" means the Hawaii broadband and digital equity
13	office.
14	§ -2 Hawaii broadband and digital equity office;
15	establishment; state broadband strategy coordinator; staff. (a)
16	There is established within the office of the governor the
17	Hawaii broadband and digital equity office.



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1	(b)	The governor shall appoint, exempt from chapter 76, a
2	state bro	adband strategy coordinator to head the office. The
3	governor'	s office shall employ any staff as may be necessary for
4	the purpo	ses of this chapter; provided that any staff employed
5	pursuant	to this section shall be exempt from chapter 76.
6	§	-3 Hawaii broadband and digital equity office; duties.
7	In furthe	rance of the State's objectives and policies for the
8	economy p	ursuant to section 226-10.5, the office shall:
9	(1)	Develop and implement specific strategies and plans to
10		aggressively increase broadband affordability,
11		penetration, and competitive availability in the
12		State;
13	(2)	Support the efforts of both public and private
14		entities in the State to enhance or facilitate the
15		deployment of and access to competitively priced,
16		advanced electronic communications services, including
17		broadband and its products and services and internet
18		access services of general application throughout the
19		State;
20	(3)	Promote the landing of trans-Pacific submarine cable,

including the development of a shared access cable

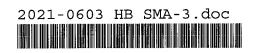
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1		station and associated terrestrial connectivity to
2		reduce barriers to fiber landing in Hawaii;
3	(4)	Promote, advocate, and facilitate the implementation
4		of the findings and recommendations of the Hawaii
5		broadband task force established by Act 2, First
6		Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2007;
7	(5)	Support the findings of the community-based Broadband
8		Hui as reflected in its digital equity declaration;
9	(6)	Administer grant programs in support of broadband
10		infrastructure, innovation, and the digital economy;
11	(7)	Actively seek out funding from private and public
12		sources in furtherance of the office's duties pursuant
13		to this section; and
14	(8)	Provide a repository, aggregation point and governance
15		framework for broadband mapping and digital equity
16		data from various sources, including but not limited
17		to digital literacy, telehealth, distance education,
18		remote work, internet accessibility, and service
19		coverage to support mapping, reporting, infrastructure
20		deployment, and data-driven policy.



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1		§	-4 Broadband planning and coordination; cooperation.
2	(a)	The	office shall:
3		(1)	Seek input and the widest possible cooperation from
4			public and private agencies and individuals to achieve
5			the purposes of this chapter;
6		(2)	Work closely with and assist the counties in the
7			promotion of coordinated state and county broadband
8			planning;
9		(3)	Encourage every state department, county agency, and
10			other public or private agencies and individuals
11			involved in broadband programs to participate in the
12			activities of the office and incorporate, to the
13			extent feasible, the ideas and suggestions of the
14			participants in the office's comprehensive planning
15			goals;
16		(4)	Monitor the broadband-based development efforts of
17			other states and nations in areas such as business,
18			education, and health;
19		(5)	Advise the department on other states' best practices
20			involving remote work promotion and policies and
21			strategies related to making affordable broadband



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1		services available to every home and business in the	
2		State;	
3	(6)	Monitor broadband-related activities at the federal	
4		level;	
5	(7)	Encourage public-private partnerships to increase the	
6		deployment and adoption of broadband services and	
7		applications;	
8	(8)	Monitor regulatory and policy changes for potential	
9		impact on broadband deployment and sustainability in	
10		the State, and	
11	(9)	Advise the director of business, economic development,	
12		and tourism on broadband deployment.	
13	(b)	Nothing in this section shall be construed to delegate	
14	or detrac	t in any way from the functions, powers, and duties	
15	conferred	by law or rule on any department or agency of the	
16	State or county."		
17	SECI	'ION 2. There is appropriated out of the general	
18	revenues	of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so	
19	much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 and		
20	the same	sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal	
21	year 2022	2-2023 for the creation and staffing of the Hawaii	



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broadband and digital equity office, including the establishment of three full-time equivalent (3.00 FTE) positions that are exempt from chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of the governor for the purposes of this Act. SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

INTRODUCED BY:

JAN 2 7 2021



Report Title:

The Office of the Governor; Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii broadband and digital equity office within the Governor's office. Appropriates funds for the establishment and staffing for the Hawaii broadband and digital equity office.

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