



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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DIRECTOR

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

11:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of

SCR88

**SUPPORTING AND ADOPTING THE GOALS SET FORTH IN THE DIGITAL EQUITY
DECLARATION FOR HAWAII ADOPTED BY THE BROADBAND HUI.**

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports SCR88** that supports and adopts the goals set forth in the Digital Equity Declaration for Hawaii adopted by the Broadband Hui.

The COVID-19 pandemic has spotlighted the need for broadband infrastructure and digital equity across all of Hawaii's residents especially those in rural unserved and underserved communities.

It is important that we recognize the work that is being done by the community stakeholders in the Broadband Hui as we strive to meet the goals set forth in the Digital Equity Declaration.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/07/2021
Time: 11:00 AM
Location: 312 Via Videoconference
Committee: House Economic
Development

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 0088 SUPPORTING AND ADOPTING THE GOALS SET FORTH IN THE DIGITAL EQUITY DECLARATION FOR HAWAII ADOPTED BY THE BROADBAND HUI.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SCR 88 and respectfully offers the following comments.

While the Department appreciates Government Goal 1, which states, "By 2025, all government services available to the public are made accessible online through a single government portal, unless in-person interaction is otherwise necessary," there are certain services and information that parents/guardians may need to access for their child that requires Department-issued login credentials to information or parent portals due to the sensitive and confidential nature of the information, as well as for compliance with federal privacy laws. Therefore, although it would be possible to inform parents/guardians visiting the government portal of where to go for information, they would be redirected to the appropriate Department information site or portal to access any services or information on their child.

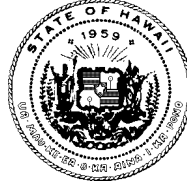
While the Department appreciates Education Goal 1, which states, "By 2030, all students have the opportunity to participate in in-person, online, and hybrid learning," Department strategic goals and planning, as well as additions/amendments to curriculum policy, will need review and approval by the Board of Education. In addition, consistent and sustainable funding would be necessary for the Department to provide a diverse array of pedagogical approaches, including distance learning, blended learning and in-person learning.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in

every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 6, 2021

TO: The Honorable Representative Sean Quinlan, Chair
House Committee on Economic Development

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SCR 88 – SUPPORTING AND ADOPTING THE GOALS SET FORTH IN THE DIGITAL
EQUITY DECLARATION FOR HAWAII ADOPTED BY THE BROADBAND HUI.**

Hearing: April 7, 2021, 11:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this resolution.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to support and adopt the goals set forth in the Digital Equity Declaration for Hawaii¹ adopted by the Broadband Hui.

Over the past year, DHS has collaborated with the Broadband Hui, a group of public and private sector entities, to increase Hawaii's digital capacity that will support the continuity of social connections, education, employment, and access to other essential services throughout the pandemic and beyond.

Through the work of the Broadband Hui, we have supported broadband infrastructure development in rural communities, provided digital devices for students and families, supported the accessibility of telehealth, provided information on low-cost internet options, and adopted a Digital Equity Declaration to set a vision and goals for a more equitable digital future.

Looking to that future, much work remains ahead. It will take an ongoing commitment and collaboration from public and private partners to deliver on the goals set forth to address Hawai'i's digital inequities and to leverage the opportunities enabled by improved digital access. We recognize this resolution supports the aspirational goals of the Broadband Hui Digital Equity Declaration, and we believe that addressing digital inequity through broadband access, digital literacy, and digitally-enabled societal systems is one of our greatest opportunities for economic and social recovery, diversification, and resilience.

The purpose of this resolution aligns with `Ohana Nui, the Department's integrated and multi-generational service delivery approach to reduce the incidence of intergenerational poverty, dependence on public benefits, and improve each individual's and family's social and economic well-being and potential.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

¹ See, <https://www.broadbandhui.org/>

TRANSFORM
HAWAI'I GOVERNMENT
Every Citizen • Every Service • Every Island

April 7, 2021

Representative Sean Quinlan, Chair
Representative Daniel Holt, Vice Chair
House Committee on Economic Development
Via Conference Room 312 and Videoconference
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony supporting SCR 88

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and committee members:

My name is Christine Sakuda and I serve as the executive director of Transform Hawai'i Government (THG), a coalition of organizations and individuals who advocate for an accessible, accountable and responsive state government that leverages technology to help citizens, communities, and businesses throughout Hawai'i to thrive. We provide a consistent and persistent voice to keep modernization a top priority of state government.

THG supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 88 which is supporting and adopting the goals set forth in the Digital Equity Declaration that was adopted by the Broadband Hui.

THG has made long-term investments in promoting efficient and effective digital government in Hawai'i. Adopting the goals set forth in the Digital Equity Declaration is integral to fulfilling the Hawai'i Information Technology Strategic Plan, which we played a role in helping to initiate. We believe that the resolution is an important step toward meeting the objectives of the plan. We have also played a role in helping to convene the members of the Broadband Hui and wish to continue to serve as a resource to it and to the legislature.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it abundantly clear that improvements can be made in the way government serves its citizens and that technology is an important part of improving access to government services. We believe that now is the time to commit to developing long-term vision, goals, and objectives to fast forward the economic and social recovery in a way that creates new opportunities well beyond the challenges we face today. Please favorably consider Senate Concurrent Resolution 88.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting this resolution.

Respectfully submitted,



Christine Sakuda
Executive Director
Transform Hawai'i Government
email: csakuda@TransformHawaiiGov.org | phone: (808) 321-2811
web: www.TransformHawaiiGov.org



**Testimony to the House Committee on Economic Development
Wednesday, April 7, 2021; 11:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 088, SUPPORTING AND ADOPTING THE GOALS SET FORTH IN THE DIGITAL EQUITY DECLARATION FOR HAWAII ADOPTED BY THE BROADBAND HUI.

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 088.

The resolution, as received by your Committee, would support and adopt the goals set forth in the Digital Equity Declaration that was adopted by the Broadband Hui.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

Hawaii has long been at the forefront of integrating newer technologies into daily life. One example of this is Hawaii's Telehealth Law which has served as a model across the United States. Yet, it was only after COVID struck our islands that this law became fully integrated into daily life.

Today, it is common practice to ZOOM or SKYPE with your health practitioner instead of physically going to the provider's office for a visit. When COVID first hit our islands, many health providers had to limit the number of patients that could be serviced in-person because of a scarcity of Personal Protective Equipment, restrictions in the gatherings of groups, and the need for changes to the physical arrangement of examination rooms and other diagnostic facilities.

Testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 088

Wednesday, April 7, 2021; 11:00 a.m.

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For people with adequate broadband access, telehealth was a lifeline for the provision of essential primary health care services. Yet, health care facilities in rural areas experienced the same problems when COVID hit. They too had to limit the number of patients they could see. But because these communities lacked adequate broadband access, they were effectively cut off from primary care. Many were forced to bear their maladies until it became necessary to go to the emergency room.

The Governor's suspension of a statute that prohibits the use of standard telephonic service in telehealth has temporarily eased this inequity. For those without adequate broadband, at least for now, they are able to obtain basic primary care services over landline telephones. But that is neither adequate, tenable, nor fair to the thousands of citizens who lack broadband access.

Because of this, the HPCA views the lack of broadband access in rural areas as an issue of social equity. In this day and age, everyone should have equal access to health care. Telehealth was envisioned as the means of leveling the field between urban and rural areas. The lack of broadband ensures that urban and rural communities remain unequal.

As a member of the Broadband Hui, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



ALOHACARE

To: The Honorable Representative Sean Quinlan, Chair
The Honorable Representative Daniel Holt, Vice-Chair
Committee on Economic Development

Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at

From: Peggy Mierzwa, Sr. Public Policy Analyst, AlohaCare

RE: **SCR88 Supporting and Adopting the Goals Set Forth in the Digital Equity Declaration for Hawaii Adopted by the Broadband Hui-Support**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SCR88**, which would have the legislature support and adopt the goals set forth in the Digital Equity Declaration adopted by the Broadband Hui. These goals include access to affordable and quality broadband for all, ensuring all residents have a baseline digital competency and that our society is able to leverage digital opportunities to improve the lives of all of our residents.

Founded in 1994, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving 73,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. We are the only non-profit Hawai'i health plan exclusively serving Medicaid patients. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating access to quality healthcare for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person care, including access to housing and food security, to build a stronger, healthier Hawaii.

AlohaCare supports the expansion of reliable broadband statewide as well as ensuring people have the digital literacy to effectively use online access. The past year has illustrated the need for us to connect with people in nontraditional ways. In rural settings or other unconnected areas, it is a challenge to ensure people are able to access the healthcare they need in order to either maintain health or address health concerns. Our kupuna also struggle to navigate the online systems in order to make and access appointments independently, including those appointments for Covid vaccinations.

The problems extend beyond telehealth. People were unable to adequately work or learn from home over the course of the past year because of either poor connectivity or lack of the ability to utilize the online systems. Access to these necessities are integral to a person's overall well-being as well as their ability to feel connected in various ways to their community.

The Broadband Hui is made of stakeholders from a variety of sectors. They have come together to ensure that all of our communities are able to access broadband and understand how to utilize online systems. This work is integral for the well-being of individuals, families and our state.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SCR88.



Young Democrats of Hawai'i

Executive Board:

Trish La Chica
President

Danicole Ramos
Vice-President

Keoni Williams
Secretary

Perry Arrasmith
Treasurer

Jacob Aki
**State Central
Committee Male
Representative**

Aria Juliet Castillo
**State Central
Committee Female
Representative**

Saumalu Mataafa
**Young Democrats of
America National
Committeeman**

Radiant Cordero
**Young Democrats of
America National
Committeewoman**

Kathryn Kelly
Membership Director

Scott Grimmer
**Communications and
Digital Director**

Cameron Deptula
Legislative Liaison

Kaleo Chang
**Policy and Research
Director**

April 7, 2021

House Committee on Economic Development

Aloha Chair Quinlan, Vice-Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee:

The Young Democrats of Hawai'i (YDHI) **supports SCR88**, which would support and adopt the goals set forth in the Digital Equity Declaration for Hawai'i adopted by the Broadband Hui.

YDHI is a caucus under the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. Our mission is to increase the political strength of our members by providing opportunities for civic engagement, political advocacy, and participation in the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

In 2020, our membership established our top three legislative priorities, voting to advocate for affordable housing, healthcare, and the economy.

We support SCR88 because the resolutions both directly address our membership's desire for a healthy local economy in the following ways:

- It would support efforts to expand online literacy and technological education opportunities for Hawai'i residents.
- It would highlight the need to address digital inequities around the state due to racial, economic, and geographical factors, which have only been made worse during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It would acknowledge the need to embrace the power of modern digital technology in both government and the local economy.

These steps would recognize and help achieve a vision of a connected and technologically fluent population that will be able to participate in and take advantage of the benefits of a modern, digital economy. This vision, if achieved, would promote local economic growth and expand Hawai'i's global economic reach.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill, and we urge you to pass SCR88 to help create the vibrant, diverse economy our membership desires and deserves.

Sincerely,
The Young Democrats of Hawai'i



House Committee on Economic Development

Date: April 7, 2021
 Time: 11:00 a.m.
 Where: Via Videoconference
 Conference Room 312

RE: SCR88 / SR67, SUPPORTING AND ADOPTING THE GOALS SET FORTH IN THE DIGITAL EQUITY DECLARATION FOR HAWAII ADOPTED BY THE BROADBAND HUI

Aloha mai e Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Committee Members,

The listed organizations and individuals **SUPPORT SCR88 (SSCR1387)**, to support and adopt the goals set forth in the Digital Equity Declaration for Hawaii adopted by the Broadband Hui.

Over the past year, our organizations have collaborated, each within their own ability, to increase Hawai‘i’s digital capacity, thereby supporting the continuity of social connections, education, employment, and access to other essential services throughout the pandemic. Through the work of the Broadband Hui, we have supported broadband infrastructure development in rural communities, provided digital devices for students and families, supported the accessibility of telehealth, provided information on low-cost internet options, and adopted a Digital Equity Declaration to set a vision and goals for a more equitable digital future.

Looking to that future, much work remains ahead. It will take an ongoing commitment and collaboration from public and private partners to deliver on the goals set forth to address Hawai‘i’s digital inequities and to leverage the opportunities enabled by improved digital access.

We recognize this resolution supports the aspirational goals of the Broadband Hui Digital Equity Declaration and we believe that addressing digital inequity through broadband access, digital literacy, and digitally-enabled societal systems is one of our greatest opportunities for economic and social recovery, diversification, and resilience.

For these reasons, we kindly request you **PASS SCR88 (SSCR1387)**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

(Please see names on the following page.)

	Name	Organization	Email Address	Zip
1	Allicyn Tasaka	Hawaii Workforce Development Council	Allicyn.h.tasaka@hawaii.gov	96813
2	Barbara Tom	Waipahu Safe Haven Immigrant/ Migrant Resource Center	barbara.yukie@gmail.com	96701
3	Brad Kaleo Bennett	Auamo Collaborative	kaleobennett@gmail.com	96720
4	Burt Lum	State of HI Department of Business Economic Development Tourism	burt.q.lum@hawaii.gov	96813
5	Crystal Yamasaki	Crystal Clear Communications	crystalclearcomms@gmail.com	96817
6	Daniel C. Smith		smithdan@hawaii.edu	96782
7	David Miyashiro	HawaiiKidsCAN	david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org	96734
8	Debbie A Cabebe	MEO	debbie.cabebe@meoinc.org	96793
9	Deborah Bond-Upson	LearningBond.org	deborah@learningbond.org	96734
10	Dennis Teranishi	PICHTR	dennis.teranishi@pichtr.org	96814
11	Heather Kimball		Heather.Kimball@Hawaiicounty.gov	96781
12	Jacqui Hoover	Hawaii Leeward Planning Conference	jacqui_hlpc@yahoo.com	96743
13	Jacqui L Hoover	Hawaii Island Economic Development Board	jhoover@hiedb.org	96743
14	Jared Grugett	Hawaii Dialogix Telecom	jgrugett@hawaiidt.com	96819
15	Jeanne Skog	Economic Development Alliance of Hawai'i	jskog@skogasmussen.com	96793
16	Jenifer Sunrise Winter		jwinter@hawaii.edu	96821
17	Jill Takasaki Canfield	Hawaii Literacy, Inc	jill.takasaki.canfield@hawaiiliteracy.org	96817
18	John Reppun		jreppun@keyproject.org	96744
19	Katie Hendrickson	Code.org	katie@code.org	45701
20	Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, MD	University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine	lbuencon@hawaii.edu	96813
21	Lihla Noori		Lihla.noori@gmail.com	96730
22	Lindsay Ah Loo	Nakupuna Foundation	lahloo@nakupuna.org	96819
23	Lorna Takehara Strand		lorna.strand@gmail.com	96701
24	Lynn Otaguro	O'ahu County Democrats Digital Equity Committee	lmotaguro@yahoo.com	96821
25	Mark Iha	Tangent Systems	mark@tangent.systems	96813
26	Melissa Unemori Hampe	Skog Rasmussen LLC	mhampe@skogasmussen.com	96793
27	Olu Campbell	Kamehameha Schools	bocampbe@ksbe.edu	96813
28	Philip Bossert	Hawaii Association of Independent Schools	pbossert@hais.us	96817
29	Pono Shim	Oahu Economic Development Board	pshim@oedb.biz	96813
30	Rachel Solemsaas	Hawai'i Community College	rsolems@hawaii.edu	96720
31	Ramona K Mullahey		ramonamullahey@hawaiiantel.net	96813
32	Rina Nagashima		rina.nagashima@gmail.com	96822
33	Robert Uyehara	Hawaiian Electric	robert.uyehara@hawaiianelectric.com	96813
34	Sandy Baz		bazsandy@gmail.com	96732
35	Sarah Milianta-Laffin		s.milianta@gmail.com	96707
36	Sean Taketa McLaughlin	Hawaii Consumers	seantaketa@gmail.com	96817

37	Sheri Daniels	Papa Ola Lōkahi	sdaniels@papaolalokahi.org	96813
38	Stacey Aldrich	Hawaii State Public Library System	stacey.aldrich@librarieshawaii.org	96825
39	Susan Tai		susantaikaneko@gmail.com	96814
40	Tharon LeBlanc	Michaels Management	tleblanc@tmo.com	96819
41	Tony Velasco		tvelasco@honolulu.gov	96782

SCR-88

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 1:54:19 PM

Testimony for ECD on 4/7/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Otaguro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

April 5, 2021

Testimony in support of SCR88, Supporting and Adopting the Goals Set Forth in the Digital Equity Declaration for Hawaii Adopted by the Broadband Hui

Honorable Chair Quinlan and members of the Committee:

In the past year, we have seen the importance of digital access and literacy, as COVID-19 shut down many in person services and it became critical to be able to use the internet. We also have seen the large gaps in access, raising concerns that some in our state are unable to receive essential services and fully participate in our communities.

The Digital Equity Declaration adopted by the Broadband Hui sets forth a vision for addressing that gap and goals for digital access, literacy, and livelihood, to enable our communities to grow and thrive. Please support this vision and goals and vote to adopt this resolution.

Sincerely,

Lynn Otaguro

Oahu, Hawaii

SCR-88

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 6:49:04 AM

Testimony for ECD on 4/7/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharon Sakai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am testifying in support of scr88. The pandemic has reinforced our need for universal digital access. Educators, health care workers, students, businesses are just a few of the population sectors which found it necessary to go remote and there were many in those sectors who found their internet inadequate to meet the need. We must remove the digital divide, to allow everyone to benefit regardless of socio-economic status. This resolution moves Hawaii closer to a comprehensive review, understanding of, and response to mitigating current inequities. Mahalo.