

JAN 21 2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DIGITAL EQUITY.

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

1 SECTION 1. (a) There is established the digital divide
2 task force within the department of business, economic
3 development, and tourism for administrative purposes. The
4 digital divide task force shall:

5 (1) Determine the percentage of:

6 (A) Households with computers; and

7 (B) Households with broadband subscriptions;

8 (2) Evaluate subscriptions rates and regional
9 discrepancies;

10 (3) Identify the regions in the State:

11 (A) That are most impacted by the digital divide, by
12 geographical location and population;

13 (B) Without broadband infrastructure; and

14 (C) With insufficient broadband infrastructure; and

15 (4) Report on the infrastructure needs for broadband
16 support in the State, including the priority of needs
17 for regions with underserved areas.



1 The digital divide task force shall consult with broadband
2 service providers and regional community groups in the
3 performance of its duties.

4 (b) The digital divide task force shall consist of the
5 following members:

6 (1) The strategic broadband coordinator of the Hawaii
7 broadband and digital equity office, who shall serve
8 as the chairperson; and

9 (2) One representative each as designated by the mayor of
10 each respective county.

11 The task force may enlist additional members with
12 appropriate specialized expertise on the digital divide task
13 force as necessary. As determined by the chairperson,
14 additional members may include representatives from:

15 (1) Associations and community-based organizations with a
16 digital equity and access to broadband-focused
17 mission;

18 (2) Regional community groups;

19 (3) The technology industry; and

20 (4) Various business sectors.



S.B. NO. 2961

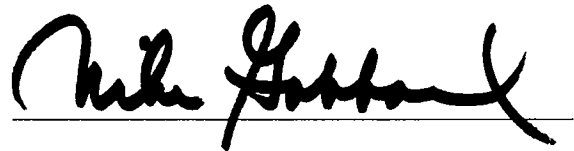
1 (c) Members of the digital divide task force shall serve
2 without compensation.

3 (d) The digital divide task force shall submit a final
4 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
5 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty
6 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2023 and
7 shall be dissolved upon the submittal of its report.

8 (e) For the purposes of this Act, "digital divide" means
9 the gap between the members of society who do not have access to
10 computers or the Internet, and the members of society who have
11 such access.

12 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

13 INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Gabbard", is written over a horizontal line.

S.B. NO.2961

Report Title:

Digital Divide Task Force; Report

Description:

Creates a digital divide task force. Requires a report the Legislature.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

