
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY OFFICE TO
PRIORITIZE ACCESS TO BROADBAND SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS
THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the ongoing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)
2 pandemic highlights the significant need for access to broadband
3 services in rural areas throughout the State; and
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5 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 206S-1, Hawaii Revised
6 Statutes, digital equity means "a condition in which all
7 individuals and communities have the information technology
8 capacity needed for full participation in society, democracy,
9 and the economy"; and
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11 WHEREAS, access to broadband services has meant the
12 difference between an employee's ability to work remotely or
13 potentially face unemployment; and
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15 WHEREAS, access to broadband services is necessary for
16 health care professionals to provide telehealth services to
17 those in rural areas who would otherwise be unable to receive
18 proper medical care; and
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20 WHEREAS, the lack of access to broadband services hampers
21 the ability of the State to deliver consistent and meaningful
22 distance learning for all students; and
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24 WHEREAS, reliable broadband access is also necessary for
25 residents seeking to access social services such as unemployment
26 claims, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits,
27 vital records, and other critical government services; and
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29 WHEREAS, reliable broadband access affects such simple but
30 important services as registering for COVID-19 vaccinations and
31 testing; and



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2 WHEREAS, reliable access to high-speed broadband services
3 is essential for all individuals and communities in Hawaii to
4 fully participate in society, democracy, and the economy; and
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6 WHEREAS, additional investment must be made to ensure
7 digital equity in the State by increasing access to broadband
8 services especially for those in rural communities that lack
9 adequate broadband infrastructure; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii Broadband
14 and Digital Equity Office is urged to prioritize access to
15 broadband services in rural areas throughout the State; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
19 Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and
20 State Broadband Coordinator.

