

MAR 10 2022

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY OFFICE TO  
CONDUCT A DATA MAPPING STUDY TO IDENTIFY GEOGRAPHICALLY  
UNDERSERVED AND UNSERVED AREAS IN THE STATE THAT LACK  
QUALITY BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY.

1 WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)  
2 provides publicly available web-based maps from service  
3 providers such as AT&T, T-Mobile, U.S. Cellular, and Verizon to  
4 demonstrate 4G LTE coverage throughout the country; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, many service providers have shared these data maps  
7 that boasted coverage with the Legislature to demonstrate the  
8 inexistence of "underserved" and "unserved" areas in the State;  
9 and

10  
11 WHEREAS, residents on Hawai'i Island, Moloka'i, and Hana,  
12 Maui have historically experienced disruption in service,  
13 dropped calls, and dead areas in rural communities; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, the experiences of Hawai'i residents in rural areas  
16 clearly demonstrate that the FCC data maps lack information,  
17 data, and geographical knowledge regarding "underserved" and  
18 "unserved" communities; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, the State has the responsibility to provide  
21 equitable access to broadband internet and service for residents  
22 as opportunities continue to arise in the areas of teleworking,  
23 distance learning, and telehealth; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, the Department of Business, Economic Development,  
26 and Tourism's Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office  
27 (Office) compiles the collective priorities articulated by the  
28 Broadband Hui, in alignment with the 2020 Hawai'i Broadband  
29 Strategic Plan, to set a foundation for collective action among  
30 private- and public-sector partners by providing a vision and



1 goals that promote digital equity throughout the State of  
2 Hawai'i; now, therefore,

3  
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the  
6 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii Broadband  
7 and Digital Equity Office is requested to conduct a data mapping  
8 study to identify geographically underserved and unserved areas  
9 in the State that lack quality broadband connectivity; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as a part of the study, the  
12 Office is requested to collect data concerning infrastructure  
13 deployment and broadband service in the State from communication  
14 service providers to develop mapping information; and

15  
16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office is requested to  
17 consider the data it collects to determine the criteria for what  
18 constitutes an "unserved" area, as well as the percentage of  
19 households with access to broadband service within a county or  
20 other appropriate geographic area and other data sources that  
21 the Office deems credible and appropriate to help make this  
22 determination; and

23  
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as a part of the study, the  
25 Office is requested to create a map that identifies geographic  
26 areas based on the most recent infrastructure deployment and  
27 broadband service data collected or other credible sources used  
28 by the Office; and

29  
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in designating an "unserved"  
31 area, the Office is requested to consider areas that are not  
32 larger than a United States census block as determined by 2020  
33 United States Census data, identified on the broadband  
34 infrastructure and service map developed, and located where  
35 broadband internet access service with download speeds of at  
36 least twenty-five megabits per second and upload speeds of at  
37 least three megabits per second is not available from at least  
38 one broadband Internet service provider; and

39  
40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office is requested to  
41 consider the data it collects to determine an "underserved"  
42 area, as well as the percentage of households with access of



1 broadband service within a county or other appropriate  
2 geographic area and other data sources that the Office deems  
3 credible and appropriate to help make this determination; and  
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in designating an "underserved"  
6 area, the Office is requested to consider areas that have  
7 broadband service with download speeds greater than fifty  
8 megabits per second and upload speeds greater than ten megabits  
9 per second, but download speeds of less than one hundred  
10 megabits per second and upload speeds less than one hundred  
11 megabits per second; and  
12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,  
14 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to expend the sum  
15 of \$150,000 from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's budget to the  
16 Office for contracting services to complete the request for data  
17 mapping and further telecommunications research; and  
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office is requested to  
20 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
21 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
22 December 21, 2023; and  
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
26 Federal Communications Commission; Governor; Broadband Strategy  
27 Officer of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and  
28 Tourism; Mayor of the County of Hawai'i; Mayor of the County of  
29 Maui; Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu; Mayor of the  
30 County of Kaua'i; Chairperson and CEO of AT&T; Chairperson and  
31 CEO of Verizon; Director of T-Mobile; and Chairperson of United  
32 States Cellular Corporation.  
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OFFERED BY: 

