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# SENATE RESOLUTION

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RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 3 THROUGH OCTOBER 7, 2022, AS DIGITAL  
INCLUSION WEEK IN THE STATE OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, broadband services are essential infrastructure  
2 for the twenty-first century and play an important role in  
3 providing access to knowledge and opportunities from around the  
4 world; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, digital equity ensures that all individuals and  
7 communities have the information technology capacity needed for  
8 full participation in our society, democracy, and economy and is  
9 necessary for civic and cultural participation, lifelong  
10 learning, and access to essential services, such as  
11 telemedicine, distance learning, and the workplace; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic  
14 has heightened the demand for reliable, affordable internet  
15 connectivity as work, education, and access to essential  
16 services have shifted toward being provided online; and

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18 WHEREAS, broadband access has been protecting public health  
19 during the COVID-19 pandemic, while addressing socioeconomic  
20 disparities for the most vulnerable Hawaii residents who live in  
21 underrepresented communities; and

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23 WHEREAS, many rural, agricultural, and lower-income  
24 communities throughout the State lack access to reliable and  
25 affordable broadband due to the lack of infrastructure;  
26 discrimination in investment in delivering technology and  
27 technology-related services to specific areas or populations; or  
28 barriers derived from socioeconomic status, education, literacy,  
29 language, or disabilities; and

30  
31 WHEREAS, the State is committed to promoting digital  
32 inclusion to ensure that all individuals and communities,  
33 including the most remote and disadvantaged, have access to and  
34 the use of information and communication technologies, including



1 affordable, robust broadband internet service; internet-enabled  
2 devices that meet the needs of the user; access to digital  
3 literacy training; quality technical support; and applications  
4 and online content designed to enable and encourage self-  
5 sufficiency, participation, and collaboration; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, in his State of the State address on January 25,  
8 2021, Governor David Ige called for the State to expand its  
9 investments in digital technology of Hawaii 2.0, thereby  
10 dedicating the State to being a leader in broadband access; and  
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12 WHEREAS, Act 225, Regular Session of 2021, established the  
13 Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office and the Broadband  
14 Infrastructure Grant Program to facilitate the deployment of the  
15 infrastructure necessary to provide broadband service to  
16 unserved and underserved areas of the State; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, to raise awareness of the need for digital equity  
19 and to promote digital inclusion, Senate Resolution No. 49,  
20 S.D. 1, Regular Session of 2021, further recognized October 4  
21 through October 8, 2021, as Digital Inclusion Week in the State;  
22 and  
23

24 WHEREAS, Digital Inclusion Week is spearheaded by the  
25 National Digital Inclusion Alliance, which represents affiliated  
26 organizations working toward digital equity by crafting,  
27 identifying, and disseminating financial and operational  
28 resources for digital inclusion programs to raise awareness of  
29 solutions addressing home internet access, personal devices, and  
30 local technology training and support programs; now, therefore,  
31

32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,  
34 that October 3 through October 7, 2022, is recognized as Digital  
35 Inclusion Week in the State to raise awareness of the need for  
36 digital equity and to promote digital inclusion; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
39 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of Business,  
40 Economic Development, and Tourism; and Strategic Broadband  
41 Coordinator of the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office.

