

MAR 03 2022

SENATE 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, the lack of access to broadband services prevents
16 health care professionals from providing telehealth services to
17 those who would otherwise be unable to receive proper medical
18 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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33 WHEREAS, reliable access to high-speed broadband services
34 is essential for all individuals and communities in Hawaii to
35 fully participate in society, democracy, and the economy; and



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2 WHEREAS, additional investment must be made to ensure
3 digital equity in the State by increasing access to broadband
4 services especially for those in rural communities that lack
5 adequate broadband infrastructure and; now, therefore,
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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
9 that the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office is urged to
10 prioritize access to broadband services in rural areas
11 throughout the State; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Department of
15 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and State Broadband
16 Coordinator.
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OFFERED BY:



