



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

House Resolution 58 and House Concurrent Resolution 56 – Requesting the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office to Increase Access to Wi-Fi in Public Parks throughout the State

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Resolution 58 and House Concurrent Resolution 56 – Requesting the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office to Increase Access to Wi-Fi in Public Parks throughout the State.

Broadband access provides persons with disabilities access to programs and services. Please ensure that this bill will protect the public, including people with disabilities, from unreasonable or increased costs. Broadband access for all should be affordable, especially for underserved communities to foster their economic development, increase job opportunities, enhance health care, and broaden educational opportunities. Digital equity will not only ensure that people with disabilities have access to broadband, but it will promote a better quality of life for them as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

HR-58

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 9:30:58 PM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayle K. Turner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Digital equity is an essential aspect of modern life, and it's crucial that everyone has access to the internet and digital technologies. This is particularly important for low-income individuals, who may not have the resources to access these tools otherwise. Just as access to clean water and electricity are basic necessities that are available to everyone, access to the internet and digital technologies should be considered a basic human right available to all. We wouldn't tolerate a situation where only wealthy individuals had access to clean water or electricity, so why should we accept a situation where only they have access to the internet? By ensuring digital equity for all Hawaii residents, particularly those from low-income backgrounds, we can help bridge the digital puka and ensure that everyone has the tools they need to succeed in the modern world. Just as we invest in infrastructure for public services like transportation and education, we need to invest in infrastructure for digital services to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to thrive. Mahalo for allowing me to testify.