



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

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GOVERNOR

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Statement of
CHRIS J. SADAYASU
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

Wednesday, April 12, 2023
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of

SCR 185, SD1

URGING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING TO DEVELOP A STANDARD TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR KUPUNA AND CAREGIVERS ON HOW TO SELECT AND PURCHASE APPROPRIATE BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY EQUIPMENT, AUDIO VISUAL EQUIPMENT SUCH AS TABLETS, AND HOW TO OPERATE EQUIPMENT TO ACCESS TELEHEALTH SERVICES.

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports SCR 185, SD1** that recognizes urging the Executive Office on Aging to develop a standard training workshop for kūpuna and caregivers on how to select and purchase appropriate broadband connectivity equipment, audio visual equipment such as tablets, and how to operate equipment to access telehealth services.

The last three years of the COVID-19 pandemic has spotlighted the need for broadband infrastructure and digital equity programs to help close the digital divide for all of Hawaii's residents especially kūpuna and other marginalized communities.

It is our intent to collaborate with agencies like the Executive Office on Aging as well as organizations like AARP, Hawai'i Public Health Institute, the Kūpuna Collective and others, to help develop a standard training workshop to share with our frontline digital literacy trainers and digital navigators.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

April 12, 2023

The Honorable Amy A. Perruso
House Committee on Higher Education and Technology
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Perruso and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SCR185 SD1

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities **supports SCR185 SD1**, urging the executive office on aging to work in concert with the Hawaii broadband and digital equity office, Hawaii broadband hui, and AARP Hawai'i, to develop a standard training workshop for kupuna and caregivers on how to select and purchase appropriate broadband connectivity equipment and audio-visual equipment such as tablets, and how to operate equipment to access telehealth services.

Technology has become vital for our Intellectual/Developmental Disability (I/DD) population to live independently. However, broadband access is key for most new technologies relying on Wi-Fi. Individuals with I/DD who are dependent on others to assist them with their mobility can reach a greater level of independence if they have reliable access to internet services. Internet access allows individuals from their homes to independently access telehealth services, virtual meetings, legislative hearings, and other state programs that require computer access. This is especially so for our aging disability population. More than ever, our kupuna with intellectual and developmental disabilities are in need of internet access to benefit from telehealth and other internet-based services.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support of SCR185 SD1**.

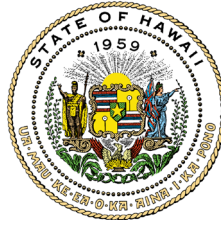
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

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Testimony COMMENTING on SCR185, SD1
URGING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING TO WORK IN CONCERT WITH THE
HAWAII BROADBAND AND DIGITAL OFFICE, HAWAII BROADBAND HUI, AND AARP
HAWAII, TO DEVELOP A STANDARD TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR KUPUNA AND
CAREGIVERS ON HOW TO SELECT AND PURCHASE APPROPRIATE BROADBAND
CONNECTIVITY EQUIPMENT, AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT SUCH AS TABLETS, AND
HOW TO OPERATE EQUIPMENT TO ACCESS TELEHEALTH

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY
REPRESENTATIVE AMY A. PERRUSO, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE JEANNE KAPELA, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: April 12, 2023
2:00 PM.

Room Number: 309
Via videoconference

EOA's Position: The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of Health, provides comments for SCR185, SD1, urging the Executive Office on Aging to work in concert with the Hawaii'i Broadband and Digital Equity Office, Hawaii'i Broadband Hui, and AARP Hawaii'i, to develop a standard training workshop for kūpuna and caregivers to select and purchase appropriate broadband connectivity equipment, audio-visual equipment such as tablets, and how to operate equipment to access telehealth services.

Purpose and Justification: The purpose of this resolution is to urge the Executive Office on Aging to work with several organizations and groups to develop a standard training workshop for kūpuna and caregivers on usage and purchase of broadband equipment and connectivity and usage of digital and audio-visual equipment.

EOA appreciates the intent of this measure and proposes an amendment. With support from the DBEDT State Broadband Coordinator, EOA supports the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office leading this effort with support of the Executive Office on Aging. In collaboration, EOA could assist with educating the community about the workshop and steering older adults and caregivers to these appropriate resources.

Our ever-increasing reliance on internet connectivity and digital technology and literacy was exacerbated during the COVID pandemic. EOA recognizes the unique barriers that vulnerable groups, like older adults, face in accessing broadband access and virtual services and information. In 2021, in collaboration with Aging Network Providers and Hawaii Public Health Institute, AARP created the *Kūpuna Digital Literacy Resource Directory*. The directory was distributed statewide and is an easy to use reference in finding nearby computer classes, inexpensive tablets and smartphones, deciphering “tech” terminology, and identifying tech support to assist first time internet and computer users. As a follow up to the Digital Literacy Resource Directory the Train-the-Trainer Framework was developed to provide recommendations for programmatic design elements and best practices to consider when conceptualizing a digital literacy program for older adults. Other programs, such as EOA’s Senior Medicare Patrol also created a guide on computer basics along with providing information and counseling on fraud and scams.

Recommendation: EOA thanks legislators for continuing to advocate that older adults have access to broadband connectivity and digital literacy. We look forward to working with DBEDT-Broadband and Digital Equity Office, Hawai‘i Broadband Hui, and AARP Hawai‘i to expand efforts and further breakdown the digital divide facing vulnerable groups.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.