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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Wednesday, April 21, 2022

2:00 PM

Video Conference

In consideration of

SCR41, SD1

**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.**

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports SCR41,SD1** that requests 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..

Over the course of the last two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has spotlighted the need for broadband infrastructure and digital equity for all of Hawai'i's residents and the federal government has seen fit to build robust broadband infrastructure and to fund broadband equity and digital equity programs across the country.

In order to achieve the goals set forth by Federal programs like the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment, high resolution location data are required to determine unserved and underserved areas throughout Hawai'i. The Broadband & Digital Equity Office can provide these services but will require resources and funding to deliver these data products.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.