



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129

March 30, 2022

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Senate Concurrent Resolution 12 / Senate Resolution 6 –
Urging the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office to Prioritize
Access to Broadband Services in Rural Areas Throughout the State

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 12 and Senate Resolution 6.

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 of 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



Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

Date: Mar. 30, 2022
 Time: 3:20 p.m.
 Where: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

RE: SUPPORTING SCR 12 / SR 6 URGING THE HAWAII BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY OFFICE TO PRIORITIZE ACCESS TO BROADBAND SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

Aloha mai e Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and Members of the Committee,

As members of the Broadband Hui, the listed organizations and individuals **SUPPORT SCR 12 / SR 6**, urging the Hawai‘i Broadband and Digital Equity Office to prioritize access to broadband services in rural areas throughout the state.

For more than 20 months, our organizations have collaborated, each within their own ability, to increase Hawai‘i’s digital capacity, thereby supporting the continuity of social connections, education, employment, and access to other essential services throughout the pandemic. Through the work of the Broadband Hui, we have supported broadband infrastructure development in rural communities, provided digital devices for students and families, supported the accessibility of telehealth, provided information on low-cost internet options, and adopted a Digital Equity Declaration to set a vision and goals for a more equitable digital future.

As we stated at the outset of the pandemic, addressing digital inequity through broadband access, digital literacy, and digitally-enabled societal systems is one of our greatest opportunities for economic and social recovery, diversification, and resilience. The truth of this statement has been proven throughout the past two years, and is even more urgent as we look toward future recovery -- now with a once-in-a-generation opportunity with robust funding inbound with the American Recovery Act.

Supporting implementation of broadband services for rural areas statewide is a natural - and critically-important - focus for the Hawai‘i Broadband and Digital Equity Office. Our community members residing in rural parts of the state deserve equitable access to not only the technology but the multitude of

opportunities that the technology enables for education, for workforce development, for creativity and for communication.

For these reasons, we kindly request you **PASS SCR 12 / SR 6**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

(Please see names on the following page.)

	Name	Organization	Email	Zip
1	Brad Kaleo Bennett	`Auamo Collaborative	kokua@auamocollaborative.org	96720
2	Daniel C. Smith, Ph.D.		smithdan@hawaii.edu	96782
3	David Sun-Miyashiro	HawaiiKidsCAN	david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org	96734
4	Deborah Bond-Upson	LearningBond	dbondupson@gmail.com	96734
5	DOUGLASS S ADAMS	Dept of Research & Development, COH	douglass.adams@hawaiiicounty.gov	96720
	Eugene Chang		Gene96817@gmail.com	
6	Jenifer Sunrise Winter		jwinter@hawaii.edu	96821
7	Jules Ung	Banyan Networks	jung@banyannetworks.com	96817
8	Katie Hendrickson	Code.org	katie@code.org	45701
	Kendrick Farm		farmk@hawaii.edu	
	Lynelle Marble	Hawaii Executive Collaborative	lynelle@hec.org	96813
9	Stacey Aldrich	Hawaii State Public Library System	stacey.aldrich@librarieshawaii.org	96813
10	Susan Tai	Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii, Inc.	susantaikaneko@gmail.com	96813
11	Tangent Systems	Tangent Inc.	mark@tangent-inc.com	96813
12	Todd Robertson	Hyperspective Studios, Inc.	todd@hyperspective.com	96789
13	Todd Robertson	Hyperspective	todd@hyperspective.com	96813