

MAR 10 2023

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY OFFICE TO
INCREASE ACCESS TO WI-FI IN PUBLIC PARKS THROUGHOUT THE
STATE.

1 WHEREAS, access to the Internet is essential for life in
2 the twenty-first century, which is increasingly reliant on
3 digital technology; and

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5 WHEREAS, the coronavirus pandemic 2019 highlighted the
6 importance of digital connectivity, as people were forced to
7 depend on the Internet to connect with basic educational,
8 occupational, and health care services; and

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10 WHEREAS, as the State exits the pandemic, many businesses
11 and government organizations are continuing to expand options
12 for accessing services remotely to increase efficiency and
13 improve public health; and

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15 WHEREAS, rural and neighbor island communities often lack
16 the same basic infrastructure that urban residents enjoy, making
17 the development of systems for remotely accessing public
18 services an urgent matter of social and economic equity; and

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20 WHEREAS, while federal programs have been offered to assist
21 low-income families in paying for broadband technology, many
22 working families remain unable to afford the increasing monthly
23 cost of internet service because of Hawaii's high cost of
24 living; and

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26 WHEREAS, numerous cities have begun installing Wi-Fi in
27 public parks to support internet access for underserved
28 communities, including the cities of Los Angeles, California and
29 Indianapolis, Indiana; and



S.C.R. NO. 74

1 WHEREAS, in 2016, the Department of Commerce and Consumer
2 Affairs designated the location of one hundred new Spectrum Wi-
3 Fi hotspots at public parks, civic and community centers, and
4 other gathering places as part of a court order approving the
5 transfer of Oceanic Time Warner Cable to Charter Communications;
6 and

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8 WHEREAS, the State has identified strengthening digital
9 equity as a strategic imperative in the development of a modern
10 economy for local residents and future generations; now,
11 therefore,

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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
15 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii Broadband
16 and Digital Equity Office is requested to increase access to Wi-
17 Fi in public parks throughout the State; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant
21 Governor, State Broadband Coordinator, and Mayor of the City and
22 County of Honolulu, and Mayors of the Counties of Hawaii, Maui,
23 and Kauai.

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26 OFFERED BY:

