

MAR 09 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 2 THROUGH OCTOBER 6, 2023, AND OCTOBER 7
THROUGH OCTOBER 11, 2024, AS DIGITAL INCLUSION WEEK IN THE
STATE OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, broadband services are essential infrastructure
2 for the twenty-first century and play an important role in
3 providing access to knowledge and opportunities from around the
4 world; and

5
6 WHEREAS, digital equity ensures that all individuals and
7 communities have the information technology capacity needed for
8 full participation in our society, democracy, and economy and is
9 necessary for civic and cultural participation, lifelong
10 learning, and access to essential services, such as
11 telemedicine, distance learning, and the workplace; and

12
13 WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic heightened
14 the demand for reliable, affordable internet connectivity as
15 work, education, and access to essential services have shifted
16 toward being provided online; and

17
18 WHEREAS, broadband access, where available, has helped to
19 deliver public health information to vulnerable Hawaii residents
20 who experience socioeconomic disparities and those who live in
21 underserved and unserved communities; and

22
23 WHEREAS, many rural, agricultural, and lower-income
24 communities throughout the State lack access to reliable and
25 affordable broadband due to the lack of infrastructure;
26 discrimination in investment in delivering technology and
27 technology-related services to specific areas or populations; or
28 barriers derived from socioeconomic status, education, literacy,
29 language, or disabilities; and

30
31 WHEREAS, the State is committed to promoting digital
32 inclusion to ensure that all individuals and communities,
33 including the most remote and disadvantaged, have access to
34 information and communication technologies, including
35 affordable, robust broadband internet service; internet-enabled



1 devices that meet the needs of the user; access to digital
 2 literacy training; quality technical support; and applications
 3 and online content designed to enable and encourage self-
 4 sufficiency, participation, and collaboration; and
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6 WHEREAS, to raise awareness of the need for digital equity
 7 and to promote digital inclusion, Senate Concurrent Resolution
 8 No. 25, S.D. 1, Regular Session of 2022, further recognized
 9 October 3 through October 7, 2022, as Digital Inclusion Week in
 10 the State; and
 11

12 WHEREAS, Digital Inclusion Week is spearheaded by the
 13 National Digital Inclusion Alliance, which represents affiliated
 14 organizations working toward digital equity by crafting,
 15 identifying, and disseminating financial and operational
 16 resources for digital inclusion programs to raise awareness of
 17 solutions addressing home internet access, personal devices, and
 18 local technology training and support programs; now, therefore,
 19

20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
 21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
 22 that October 2 through October 6, 2023, and October 7 through
 23 October 11, 2024, are recognized as Digital Inclusion Week in
 24 the State to raise awareness of the need for digital equity and
 25 to promote digital inclusion; and
 26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 28 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of Business,
 29 Economic Development, and Tourism; Strategic Broadband
 30 Coordinator of the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office;
 31 Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu; Mayor of the County of
 32 Maui; Mayor of the County of Kauai; and Mayor of the County of
 33 Hawaii.
 34
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OFFERED BY:


