

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 04 2023

RE: S.C.R. No. 74

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism,
to which was referred S.C.R. No. 74 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HAWAII BROADBAND
AND DIGITAL EQUITY OFFICE TO INCREASE ACCESS TO WI-FI IN
PUBLIC PARKS THROUGHOUT THE STATE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the
Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office to increase access to
Wi-Fi service in public parks throughout the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and
Tourism.

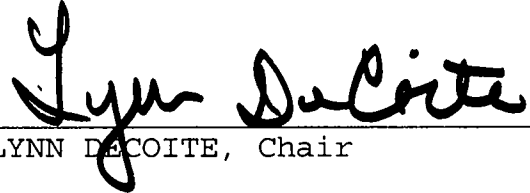
Your Committee finds that access to the Internet is essential
for life in the twenty-first century, which is increasingly
reliant on digital technology. However, rural and neighbor island
communities often lack the same basic infrastructure that urban
residents enjoy. Although federal programs have been offered to
assist low-income families in paying for certain broadband
technology, many working families remain unable to afford the
increasing monthly cost of internet service due to Hawaii's high
cost of living. Your Committee further finds that numerous cities
have begun installing Wi-Fi service in public parks to support
internet access for underserved communities, including the cities
of Los Angeles, California and Indianapolis, Indiana. Your



Committee believes that increasing access to Wi-Fi service in public parks will help to address these disparities in internet access. This measure will therefore help to improve access to basic educational, occupational, and health care services by strengthening digital equity in the State.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 74 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Energy, Economic
Development, and Tourism,


LYNN DECOITE, Chair



Record of Votes
Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
EET

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SCR 74	EET	3-28-23

The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
 If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313
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Members	Aye/	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
DECOITE, Lynn (C)	✓			
WAKAI, Glenn (VC)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	✓			
KIM, Donna Mercado	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	5	0	0	0

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:

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*Only one measure per Record of Votes