

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 2024

RE: S.B. No. 3048  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2024  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism,  
to which was referred S.B. No. 3048 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII BROADBAND AND  
DIGITAL EQUITY OFFICE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish the  
Digital Equity Grant Program to award grants to applicants to  
deploy digital equity projects to covered populations in the  
State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and  
Tourism; Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; State  
Council on Developmental Disabilities; Kapolei Chamber of  
Commerce; Broadband Hui; Vibrant Hawai'i; Chamber of Commerce  
Hawaii; IT Reuse Hawai'i; Hawaiian Telcom; and six individuals.

Your Committee finds that digital equity in every community  
across the State is essential to the well-being and economic  
realities of the State's residents. Your Committee further finds  
that the lack of digital equity has had a tremendously negative  
effect in many areas, but particularly rural and socio-  
economically disadvantaged communities. This measure will enable  
the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office to work with rural  
and underserved communities to identify and address barriers to



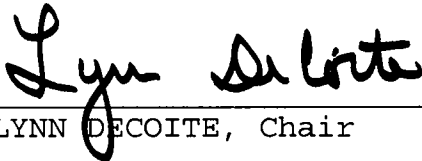
digital equity and to establish a Digital Equity Grant Program so that individuals and communities in the State have the access and the ability to be full participants in the digital economy.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of January 1, 2060, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

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 is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 3048, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 3048, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary.

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

  
LYNN DECOITE, Chair



