

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COMPTROLLER TO COOPERATE WITH THE HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM TO IDENTIFY RURAL AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE WITH A NEED FOR BETTER TELECOMMUNICATION ACCESS FOR RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

1 WHEREAS, providing access for residents to participate in
2 the state legislative process is a basic right of citizenship in
3 the State and should continue to be a priority; and
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5 WHEREAS, ensuring equitable access to the legislative
6 process for nearly four hundred fifty thousand residents on the
7 neighbor islands, as well as those in rural O'ahu, is essential
8 to strengthening civic engagement, enhancing the effectiveness
9 of the legislative process, and ensuring fair and accurate
10 representation on issues impacting the entire State; and
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12 WHEREAS, with the rising costs of airfare, gas, and
13 lodging, providing designated locations or state offices on
14 neighbor islands and in rural O'ahu where citizens can
15 participate remotely in the legislative process will help reduce
16 the financial burden of participation and further boost civic
17 engagement; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Public Library System has long
20 provided the public with internet access, including the
21 deployment of sixteen Chromebooks and charging stations to each
22 of its libraries statewide in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
23 in 2020--at a time when most businesses and government offices
24 remained closed--to enhance existing technology and ensure
25 continued public connectivity; and
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27 WHEREAS, with a network of fifty-one libraries across the
28 State, the Hawaii State Public Library System has the
29 infrastructure and resources to support public access to the
30 Internet and videoconferencing, making it uniquely positioned to
31 assist individuals in participating in the legislative process;
32 now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
3 that the Comptroller is requested to cooperate with the Hawaii
4 State Public Library System to identify rural and underserved
5 communities with a need for better telecommunication access for
6 residents, including those with developmental disabilities, to
7 participate in the state legislative process; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Comptroller and State
10 Librarian are requested to submit to the Legislature a report of
11 their findings and recommendations, including any proposed
12 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
13 the Regular Session of 2026; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller, State Librarian,
17 and Executive Director of the Disability and Communication
18 Access Board.
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OFFERED BY:



