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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
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Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Thursday, March 18, 2021

3:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

In consideration of

SCR67 / SR49

**RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 4 THROUGH OCTOBER 8, 2021, AS DIGITAL
INCLUSION WEEK IN THE STATE OF HAWAII.**

Chairs Moriwaki and Taniguchi, Vice Chairs Dela Cruz and Ihara and members of the Committees. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports SCR67 / SR49** that recognizes October 4 through October 8, 2021, as Digital Inclusion Week in the State of Hawaii.

The COVID-19 pandemic has spotlighted the need for broadband infrastructure and digital equity across all of Hawaii's residents especially those in rural unserved and underserved communities

It is important that we recognize the work that is being done by the Broadband Hui as we strive to meet the goals set forth in the Digital Equity Declaration.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

SCR-67

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 3:59:13 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorna Takehara Strand	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

With the emerging understanding of the need for digital equity in Hawai`i and in fact all over the world, it is appropriate to recognize Digital Inclusion Week in Hawai`i with hopes of a wider understanding of the importance of digital access and training in every corner of every island of our state. The Digital Equity Committee of the O`ahu County Democrats has surveyed members of the Democratic Party in every district on O`ahu. The results have been that while app. 80% of the population seems to have solid access to the internet and devices, 20% require some kind training, lack adequate devices, and/or have weak or no internet access. While we realize that the state is working hard to improve the situation, a week dedicated to highlighting the importance of digital equity would help to bring focus around the state to this important need.

SCR-67

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:54:51 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Don't we have more important things to focus on like the rising cost of living vs the lack of humane wages or educational budgets? Stop being silly and handle the important stuff first.