



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
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Statement of
CHRIS J. SADAYASU
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Wednesday, March 22, 2023
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309
In consideration of
HCR 136 / HR 137
**RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 2 THROUGH OCTOBER 6, 2023 AND OCTOBER 7
THROUGH OCTOBER 11, 2024, AS DIGITAL INCLUSION WEEK IN THE STATE OF
HAWAII.**

Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports HCR 136 / HR 137** that recognizes October 2 through October 6, 2023 and October 7 through October 11, 2024 as Digital Inclusion Week in the State of Hawaii.

The last three years of the COVID-19 pandemic has spotlighted the need for broadband infrastructure and digital equity to help close the digital divide for all of Hawaii's residents especially those in rural unserved and underserved communities.

It is important that we continue to recognize the digital inclusion work that is being done by the Broadband Hui and other digital equity practitioners as we strive to meet the goals set forth in the Digital Equity Declaration.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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March 22, 2023

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

House Resolution 137 and House Concurrent Resolution 136 – Recognizing October 2 through October 6, 2023, and October 7 through October 11, 2024, as Digital Inclusion Week in the State of Hawaii

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports and offers comment on House Resolution 137 and House Concurrent Resolution 136 – Recognizing October 2 through October 6, 2023, and October 7 through October 11, 2024, as Digital Inclusion Week in the State of Hawaii.

Digital inclusion provides persons with disabilities access to digital technology, including broadband internet service. Broadband internet service for all should be affordable, especially for underserved communities to foster their economic development, increase job opportunities, enhance health care, and broaden educational opportunities. Digital inclusion will not only ensure that people with disabilities have access to broadband, but it will promote a better quality of life for them as well.

Digital Inclusion Week (DIW) is an annual online event designed to highlight individual communities' work on digital inclusion. DIW aims to raise awareness of solutions addressing home internet access, personal devices, and local technology training and support programs. According to the National Digital Inclusion Alliance, DIW takes place in the first week of October. DCAB respectfully offers comment to annually recognize the first week in October as Digital Inclusion Week.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director