

KATHY L. KAOHU
County Clerk



JAMES G.M. KRUEGER
Deputy County Clerk

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/county/clerk

February 23, 2021

DEPT. COMM. NO. 360

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Speaker
415 South Beretania Street
Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a certified copy of Resolution No. 21-24,
which was adopted by the Council of the County of Maui, State of Hawaii,
on February 19, 2021.

Respectfully,

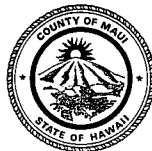
A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathy L. KaoHu".

KATHY L. KAOHU
County Clerk

/djy

Enclosure

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February 23, 2021

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
Hawaii State Senate, President
415 South Beretania Street
Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a certified copy of Resolution No. 21-24,
which was adopted by the Council of the County of Maui, State of Hawaii,
on February 19, 2021.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy L. KaoHu".

KATHY L. KAOHU
County Clerk

/djy

Enclosure

Resolution

No. 21-24

SUPPORTING DIGITAL EQUITY AND URGING DEVELOPMENT OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE TO BOLSTER COVID-19 RECOVERY AND FOSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, unequal access to digital services in Maui County has created a digital divide among vulnerable populations and along racial, economic, and geographical boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Hawai'i Senate Bill 947 (2021) and House Bill 1251 (2021) define broadband as "high-speed internet access that is always on, including mobile and fixed technologies" and digital equity as "a condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in society, democracy, and the economy"; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Maui County identified ten pilot sites to offer free public WiFi at County community centers, but digital inequity, exacerbated by COVID-19, has prevented residents from accessing employment, education, healthcare, civic engagement, emergency preparedness, and other critical services; and

WHEREAS, like electricity and water, internet access should be considered a public utility, as it is essential to equality of opportunity, access to other public goods, and access to education; and

WHEREAS, according to 2019 American Community Survey data:

- 11.8 percent of households in Hawai'i (approximately 55,000) did not have an internet subscription;
- 9.5 percent of households in Hawai'i (approximately 44,000) had no internet access at all; and
- 7 percent of households in Hawai'i (approximately 32,000) had no computer; and

WHEREAS, on October 23, 2020, the *Los Angeles Times* reported "Susan Aaronson, director of the Digital Trade and Data Governance Hub

at George Washington University, went so far as to say affordable high-speed internet access “is a service that government should provide”; and

WHEREAS, since its initial convening in March 2020, a group now known as Broadband Hui, that has grown to more than 200 individuals representing wireline and wireless carriers, Federal, State, and county legislative and administrative leaders, local, national, and international nonprofit organizations, public and private schools, universities, and private businesses has been meeting weekly to address the urgent need to provide digital connectivity to those in need; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai‘i Broadband Strategic Plan, attached as Exhibit “A,” outlines the following goals:

- Ensure Robust Broadband Infrastructure to All Hawai‘i Residents;
- Expand Digital Inclusion and Adoption to Achieve Digital Equity;
- Enable Hawai‘i to Thrive through a Digital Economy; and
- Strengthen Community Resilience through Broadband; and

WHEREAS, the Broadband Hui’s Digital Equity Declaration compiles its priorities, sets a foundation for collective action among private- and public-sector partners, and is a call to advance three pillars of digital equity:

1. Access: Affordable, quality broadband for all;
2. Literacy: A baseline of digital competence for all; and
3. Livelihood: Societal systems effectively leveraging digital opportunities to improve lives; and

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2021, Governor David Y. Ige said in his State of the State address, “a critical part of reprogramming our economy is also the creation of a healthy statewide broadband network” and, during the pandemic, “the importance of broadband to everything that we do was made all too real”;

WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu and the County of Hawai‘i are signatories of the Digital Equity Declaration; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it supports and urges the State of Hawaii and the County of Maui to support the Hawai'i Broadband Strategic Plan;
2. That it recognizes that communities have concerns with 5G technologies and supports factual and important information regarding 5G be available to the community and that education of 5G technology be prioritized in accordance with the policies and regulations by authorities on this subject, which regulates the wireless industry, empowering communities with information to make well-informed decisions;
3. That it encourages the advancement of policies, programs, and initiatives for public and private broadband infrastructure investment, including reducing the costs and delays associated with permitting, regulatory, and acquisition processes, to ensure access to broadband for all residents;
4. That it supports financing connectivity to underserved or unserved areas, including providing financial subsidies for access to internet as a public utility and creating broadband improvement zones with access to broadband services on each island;
5. That it encourages promoting public awareness and outreach, emphasizing broadband as a basic need for community and economic well-being, including in education, healthcare, governance, and communications;
6. That it will work to enable community access to connectivity at public schools and colleges, libraries, fire stations, and other community anchor institutions, ensuring connectivity and devices to all students and teachers to bridge the digital divide;
7. That it will become a signatory to the Digital Equity Declaration crafted by the Broadband Hui convened by the Department of Business, Economic Development, and

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Tourism, the Economic Development Alliance of Hawai'i, and Transform Hawai'i Government;

8. That it supports legislation at the Hawai'i State Legislature that advances digital connectivity and equity; and
9. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Brian E. Schatz, United States Senator; the Honorable Mazie Hirono, United States Senator; the Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, United States Representative; the Honorable Ed Case, United States Representative; the Honorable Scott Saiki, Speaker, Hawaii State House of Representatives; the Honorable Ron Kouchi, President, Hawaii State Senate; Maui County's delegation to the State Legislature; Mike McCartney, Director, Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, State of Hawai'i; the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor, State of Hawaii; and the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

It is HEREBY CERTIFIED that RESOLUTION NO. 21-24 was adopted by the Council of the County of Maui, State of Hawaii, on the 19th day of February 2021, by the following vote:

MEMBERS	Alice L. LEE Chair	Keani N. W. RAWLINS- FERNANDEZ Vice-Chair	Gabe JOHNSON	Natalie A. KAMA	Kelly T. KING	Michael J. MOLINA	Tamara A. N. PALTIN	Shane M. SINENCI	Yuki Lei K. SUGIMURA
ROLL CALL	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	No	Aye	Aye


COUNTY CLERK