



1 (b) The governor shall appoint, exempt from chapter 76, a  
2 state broadband strategy coordinator to head the office. The  
3 governor's office shall employ any staff as may be necessary for  
4 the purposes of this chapter; provided that any staff employed  
5 pursuant to this section shall be exempt from chapter 76.

6 § -3 Hawaii broadband and digital equity office; duties.

7 In furtherance of the State's objectives and policies for the  
8 economy pursuant to section 226-10.5, the office shall:

- 9 (1) Develop and implement specific strategies and plans to  
10 aggressively increase broadband affordability,  
11 penetration, and competitive availability in the  
12 State;
- 13 (2) Support the efforts of both public and private  
14 entities in the State to enhance or facilitate the  
15 deployment of and access to competitively priced,  
16 advanced electronic communications services, including  
17 broadband and its products and services and internet  
18 access services of general application throughout the  
19 State;
- 20 (3) Promote the landing of trans-Pacific submarine cable,  
21 including the development of a shared access cable



- 1 station and associated terrestrial connectivity to  
2 reduce barriers to fiber landing in Hawaii;
- 3 (4) Promote, advocate, and facilitate the implementation  
4 of the findings and recommendations of the Hawaii  
5 broadband task force established by Act 2, First  
6 Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2007;
- 7 (5) Support the findings of the community-based Broadband  
8 Hui as reflected in its digital equity declaration;
- 9 (6) Administer grant programs in support of broadband  
10 infrastructure, innovation, and the digital economy;
- 11 (7) Actively seek out funding from private and public  
12 sources in furtherance of the office's duties pursuant  
13 to this section; and
- 14 (8) Provide a repository, aggregation point and governance  
15 framework for broadband mapping and digital equity  
16 data from various sources, including but not limited  
17 to digital literacy, telehealth, distance education,  
18 remote work, internet accessibility, and service  
19 coverage to support mapping, reporting, infrastructure  
20 deployment, and data-driven policy.



- 1           §   -4 Broadband planning and coordination; cooperation.
- 2   (a) The office shall:
- 3           (1) Seek input and the widest possible cooperation from
- 4                   public and private agencies and individuals to achieve
- 5                   the purposes of this chapter;
- 6           (2) Work closely with and assist the counties in the
- 7                   promotion of coordinated state and county broadband
- 8                   planning;
- 9           (3) Encourage every state department, county agency, and
- 10                   other public or private agencies and individuals
- 11                   involved in broadband programs to participate in the
- 12                   activities of the office and incorporate, to the
- 13                   extent feasible, the ideas and suggestions of the
- 14                   participants in the office's comprehensive planning
- 15                   goals;
- 16           (4) Monitor the broadband-based development efforts of
- 17                   other states and nations in areas such as business,
- 18                   education, and health;
- 19           (5) Advise the department on other states' best practices
- 20                   involving remote work promotion and policies and
- 21                   strategies related to making affordable broadband



1 services available to every home and business in the  
2 State;

3 (6) Monitor broadband-related activities at the federal  
4 level;

5 (7) Encourage public-private partnerships to increase the  
6 deployment and adoption of broadband services and  
7 applications;

8 (8) Monitor regulatory and policy changes for potential  
9 impact on broadband deployment and sustainability in  
10 the State, and

11 (9) Advise the director of business, economic development,  
12 and tourism on broadband deployment.

13 (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to delegate  
14 or detract in any way from the functions, powers, and duties  
15 conferred by law or rule on any department or agency of the  
16 State or county."

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 and  
20 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
21 year 2022-2023 for the creation and staffing of the Hawaii



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1 broadband and digital equity office, including the establishment  
2 of three full-time equivalent (3.00 FTE) positions that are  
3 exempt from chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

4 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of  
5 the governor for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

7

INTRODUCED BY: George Takeyama

JAN 27 2021



# H.B. NO. 1251

**Report Title:**

The Office of the Governor; Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii broadband and digital equity office within the Governor's office. Appropriates funds for the establishment and staffing for the Hawaii broadband and digital equity office.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

