

1 § -2 **Hawaii broadband and digital equity office;**
2 **establishment; state broadband coordinator.** (a) There is
3 established the Hawaii broadband and digital equity office
4 within the department of business, economic development, and
5 tourism.

6 (b) The director of business, economic development, and
7 tourism shall appoint, exempt from chapter 76, a state broadband
8 coordinator to head the office.

9 § -3 **Hawaii broadband and digital equity office; duties.**

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

12 (1) Develop and implement specific strategies and plans to
13 aggressively increase broadband affordability,
14 penetration, and competitive availability in the
15 State;

16 (2) Support the efforts of both public and private
17 entities in the State to enhance or facilitate the
18 deployment of and access to competitively priced,
19 advanced electronic communications services, including
20 broadband and its products and services and internet



- 1 access services of general application throughout the
2 State;
- 3 (3) Promote the landing of trans-Pacific submarine cable,
4 including the development of a carrier-neutral cable
5 landing station and associated terrestrial
6 connectivity to reduce barriers to fiber landing in
7 Hawaii;
- 8 (4) Promote, advocate, and facilitate implementation of
9 the findings and recommendations of the most current
10 Hawaii broadband strategic plan;
- 11 (5) Support the findings of the community-based Broadband
12 Hui as reflected in its digital equity declaration;
- 13 (6) Administer grant programs in support of broadband
14 infrastructure, innovation, and the digital economy;
- 15 (7) Actively seek out funding from federal, private, and
16 other public sources in furtherance of the office's
17 duties pursuant to this chapter; and
- 18 (8) Provide a repository, aggregation point, and
19 governance framework for broadband mapping and digital
20 equity data from various sources including but not
21 limited to digital literacy, telehealth, distance



1 education, remote work, internet accessibility, and
2 service coverage to support mapping, reporting,
3 infrastructure deployment, and data-driven policy.

4 **§ -4 Broadband planning and coordination; cooperation.**

5 (a) The office shall:

6 (1) Seek input and the widest possible cooperation from
7 public and private agencies and individuals to achieve
8 the purposes of this chapter;

9 (2) Work closely with and assist the counties in the
10 promotion of coordinated state and county broadband
11 planning;

12 (3) Encourage every state department, county agency, and
13 other public or private agencies and individuals
14 involved in broadband programs to participate in the
15 activities of the office and incorporate, to the
16 extent feasible, the ideas and suggestions of the
17 participants in the office's comprehensive planning
18 goals;

19 (4) Monitor the broadband-based development efforts of
20 other states and nations in areas such as business,
21 education, and health;



- 1 (5) Advise the department on other states' best practices
2 involving remote work promotion and policies and
3 strategies related to making affordable broadband
4 services available to every home and business in the
5 State;
- 6 (6) Monitor broadband-related activities at the federal
7 level;
- 8 (7) Encourage public-private partnerships to increase the
9 deployment and adoption of broadband services and
10 applications;
- 11 (8) Monitor regulatory and policy changes for potential
12 impact on broadband deployment and sustainability in
13 the State; and
- 14 (9) Advise the director of business, economic development,
15 and tourism on broadband deployment."

16 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2060.



Report Title:

Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office; Establishment

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii broadband and digital equity office within the department of business, economic development, and tourism. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD1)

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