
HOUSE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING AND ADOPTING THE GOALS SET FORTH IN THE DIGITAL
EQUITY DECLARATION FOR HAWAII ADOPTED BY THE BROADBAND HUI.

1 WHEREAS, digital equity is the condition in which all
2 Hawaii residents, keiki to kupuna, have the information
3 technology capacity to participate fully in the State's society,
4 democratic process, and economy, including civics, social and
5 cultural activities, employment, lifelong learning, and access
6 to essential services; and
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8 WHEREAS, digital equity requires ubiquitous and affordable
9 access to broadband and the internet, digital tools, and the
10 knowledge to thrive in an increasingly digital world; and
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12 WHEREAS, the digital divide, also known as digital
13 inequity, has been a pressing community issue for many years,
14 separating those in rural communities and those from
15 socioeconomically disadvantaged circumstances from the rest of
16 modern society; and
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18 WHEREAS, a lack of adequate broadband infrastructure,
19 internet-capable devices, affordable high-quality broadband
20 service, and technological know-how creates inequitable digital
21 access; and
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23 WHEREAS, digital infrastructure investments have faced
24 challenges with misinformation within our communities about the
25 effects of those technologies; and
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27 WHEREAS, digital inequity is rapidly emerging through
28 racial, economic, and geographical boundaries and is amplified
29 among Hawaii's most vulnerable and underserved populations; and
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31 WHEREAS, stay-at-home and work-from-home orders related to
32 the SARS-CoV-2 virus (COVID-19 pandemic) have made digital



1 connectivity a necessity across all economic sectors and
2 demographics; and

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4 WHEREAS, the need for social distancing related to the
5 COVID-19 pandemic has forced many social functions to occur
6 online; and

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8 WHEREAS, those without digital connectivity may become
9 socially isolated, lonely, and suffer from mental health issues;
10 and

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12 WHEREAS, Hawaii's high unemployment rate during the
13 COVID-19 pandemic has led to families cutting home internet
14 subscriptions in order to prioritize food and rent expenses; and

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16 WHEREAS, the lack of internet access disproportionately
17 affects native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander communities,
18 with the percentage of those households without internet access
19 being almost double that of the state population as whole; and

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21 WHEREAS, in 1824 King Kamehameha III, Kauikeaouli,
22 proclaimed "He aupuni palapala ko'u (mine is a kingdom of
23 literacy)"; and

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25 WHEREAS, the King's appreciation for the written language
26 and education resulted in extremely high literacy rates among
27 native Hawaiians; and

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29 WHEREAS, today, Hawaii finds itself in a similar situation
30 where society must adopt a new form of digital literacy to
31 succeed in a digital age; and

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33 WHEREAS, a pivot towards this new form of digital literacy
34 will empower Hawaii's residents to realize their full potential;
35 and

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37 WHEREAS, the Broadband Hui is a multi-sector conglomerate
38 of public and private organizations and individuals whose months
39 of thoughtful conversations led to the compilation of well-
40 articulated visions and goals known as the Digital Equity
41 Declaration for Hawaii; and



1 WHEREAS, the Digital Equity Declaration is published on the
2 Broadband Hui's website; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2021, that this body supports and adopts the goals set forth
7 in the Digital Equity Declaration for Hawaii adopted by the
8 Broadband Hui; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the goals of the Digital Equity
11 Declaration, which support the Aloha+ Challenge, Hawaii's
12 statewide sustainability framework, are requested to be
13 reflected in the Aloha+ Dashboard and updated regularly to track
14 progress; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional delegation;
18 Governor; Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu; Mayor of
19 Maui County; Mayor of Hawaii County; Mayor of Kauai County;
20 Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism;
21 Director of Labor and Industrial Relations; Director of Commerce
22 and Consumer Affairs; Superintendent of Education; President of
23 the University of Hawaii; Chairpersons of each county council;
24 Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha Schools; Executive
25 Director of Hawaii Green Growth; and Chairperson of the Economic
26 Development Alliance of Hawaii.

