
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

7
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

17
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

26
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

30
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

7
8 WHEREAS, those without digital connectivity may become
9 socially isolated, lonely, and suffer from mental health issues;
10 and

11
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

15
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

20
21 WHEREAS, in 1824 King Kamehameha III, Kauikeaouli,
22 proclaimed "He aupuni palapala ko'u (mine is a kingdom of
23 literacy)"; and

24
25 WHEREAS, the King's appreciation for the written language
26 and education resulted in extremely high literacy rates among
27 native Hawaiians; and

28
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

32
33 WHEREAS, a pivot towards this new form of digital literacy
34 will empower Hawaii's residents to realize their full potential;
35 and

36
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
40 well-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 (broadbandhui.org) and encourages
3 "Broadband for A.L.L. (Access, Literacy, Livelihood)"; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the Digital Equity Declaration, in alignment with
6 the 2020 Broadband Strategic Plan, sets a foundation for
7 collective action among private- and public-sector partners by
8 providing a vision and goals that will move Hawaii toward a more
9 equitable digital future; now, therefore,
10

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
12 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
13 of 2021, that this body supports and adopts the goals set forth
14 in the Digital Equity Declaration for Hawaii adopted by the
15 Broadband Hui; and
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the goals of the Digital Equity
18 Declaration, which support the Aloha+ Challenge, Hawaii's
19 statewide sustainability framework, are requested to be included
20 in the Aloha+ Dashboard and updated regularly to track progress;
21 and
22

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

