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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE BROADBAND HUI TO INCLUDE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING AS A MEMBER OF THE HUI TO REPRESENT THE NEEDS OF KUPUNA WITH REGARD TO DIGITAL LITERACY, BROADBAND ACCESS, AND COMPUTER EQUIPMENT.

1           WHEREAS, access to broadband connectivity is a foundation  
2 for improved economic growth, job creation, global  
3 competitiveness, and a better way of life; and  
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5           WHEREAS, in March 2020, the coronavirus disease 2019  
6 (COVID-19) was detected in the State, upending all that  
7 residents knew as normal; and  
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9           WHEREAS, in response, the Governor was joined by the mayors  
10 of all four counties in mandating restrictions and policies on  
11 operations, travel between the islands, and work-from-home  
12 policies; and  
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14           WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and its broad, adverse  
15 economic impact underscored the need to improve access to  
16 broadband services across all communities in Hawaii, to enhance  
17 economic development, education, health care, public safety, and  
18 emergency services in those communities; and  
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20           WHEREAS, broadband connectivity was once considered a  
21 luxury commodity, but the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated  
22 that stable Internet access is a necessity for a productive,  
23 modern life and a lifeline in the event of an emergency; and  
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25           WHEREAS, thousands of residents in the State were forced to  
26 function from their homes and rely on the quality of their  
27 internet connections for access to virtual communications; and



1 WHEREAS, having basic technical capabilities in digital  
2 literacy is a necessity to access the potential of broadband  
3 connectivity and the Internet; and  
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5 WHEREAS, members of the community, such as the State's  
6 kupuna, homeless population, and recently released prisoners,  
7 often lack the digital skills necessary to fully utilize newer,  
8 current technologies to discover career and other social support  
9 opportunities, which may be found online and are especially  
10 critical during the COVID-19 pandemic; and  
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12 WHEREAS, kupuna are eager for opportunities to learn about  
13 technologies that would facilitate their aging independently,  
14 have a desire to understand and control their data (as privacy  
15 is also important to them), and it is estimated that more than  
16 half of people sixty-five years or older are smartphone owners;  
17 and  
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19 WHEREAS, the rapid and constant advancement of technology  
20 often makes older adults unsure of their ability to use it,  
21 which can leave them unmotivated and lacking in the  
22 self-confidence to utilize technology in their everyday life;  
23 and  
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25 WHEREAS, the Executive Office on Aging is the designated  
26 lead agency in the coordination of a statewide system of aging  
27 and caregiver support services in the State; now, therefore,  
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
31 House of Representatives concurring, that the Broadband Hui is  
32 urged to include a representative of the Executive Office on  
33 Aging as a member of the Hui to represent the needs of kupuna  
34 with regard to digital literacy, broadband access, and computer  
35 equipment; and  
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director  
39 of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of the  
40 Executive Office on Aging; and Broadband Strategy Officer for  
41 the Hawaii Broadband Initiative.

