

FEB 22 2021

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND  
TOURISM TO CONDUCT A NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF RURAL AREAS IN THE  
THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT THAT IDENTIFIES INFRASTRUCTURE  
IMPROVEMENTS NECESSARY TO ENSURE BROADBAND ACCESS FOR  
RESIDENTS.

1 WHEREAS, broadband services are essential infrastructure  
2 for the twenty-first century and play an important role in  
3 providing access to knowledge and opportunities from around the  
4 world; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, broadband services allow for the advancement in  
7 various sectors, including education, health, public safety,  
8 research and innovation, civic participation, and more; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, universal access to broadband services has been  
11 touted as a vital economic engine for the nation and a critical  
12 element for advancing economic opportunities and an important  
13 vehicle for the news and entertainment industries; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, rural communities in the State are currently  
16 underserved with respect to access to broadband access compared  
17 to their urban counterparts; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, providing access to broadband communication  
20 services will enable residents in rural communities to gain  
21 critically needed access to online services such as medical  
22 care, education, emergency services, and various economic  
23 opportunities; now, therefore,

24  
25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
27 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
28 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to  
29 conduct a needs assessment of rural areas in the third



# S.C.R. NO. 31

1 senatorial district that identifies infrastructure improvements  
2 necessary to ensure broadband access for residents; and  
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,  
5 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to submit a  
6 report of its findings and recommendations, including any  
7 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
8 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and  
9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of  
12 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and Mayor of the  
13 County of Hawaii.  
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OFFERED BY: 

