

FEB 22 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

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

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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

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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

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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

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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,

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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
27 that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and
28 Tourism is requested to conduct a needs assessment of rural
29 areas in the third senatorial district that identifies
30 infrastructure improvements necessary to ensure broadband access
31 for residents; and
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S.R. NO. 20

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

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic
9 Development, and Tourism and Mayor of the County of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY: _____

