

MAR 05 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 4 THROUGH OCTOBER 8, 2021, AS DIGITAL
INCLUSION WEEK IN THE STATE OF HAWAII.

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, digital equity ensures all individuals and
7 communities have the information technology capacity needed for
8 full participation in our society, democracy, and economy and is
9 necessary for civic and cultural participation, lifelong
10 learning, and access to essential services, such as
11 telemedicine, distance learning, and the workplace; and

12
13 WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic
14 has heightened the demand for reliable, affordable internet
15 connectivity as work, education, as access to essential services
16 have shifted toward being provided online; and

17
18 WHEREAS, broadband access protects public health during the
19 COVID-19 pandemic, while addressing socioeconomic disparities
20 for the most vulnerable Hawaii residents who live in
21 underrepresented communities; and

22
23 WHEREAS, many rural, agricultural, and lower-income
24 communities throughout the State lack access to reliable and
25 affordable broadband due to the lack of infrastructure;
26 discrimination in investment in delivering technology and
27 technology-related services to specific areas or populations; or
28 barriers derived from socioeconomic status, education, literacy,
29 language, or disabilities; and

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31 WHEREAS, the State is committed to promoting digital
32 inclusion to ensure that all individuals and communities,
33 including the most disadvantaged, have access to and the use of
34 information and communication technologies, including
35 affordable, robust broadband internet service; internet-enabled
36 devices that meet the needs of the user; access to digital



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1 literacy training; quality technical support; and applications
2 and online content designed to enable and encourage self-
3 sufficiency, participation, and collaboration; and
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5 WHEREAS, in his State of the State address on January 25,
6 2021, Governor David Ige called for the State to expand its
7 investments in digital technology of Hawaii 2.0, thereby
8 dedicating the State to being a leader in broadband access; and
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10 WHEREAS, Digital Inclusion Week 2021 is put on by the
11 National Digital Inclusion Alliance, who represents affiliated
12 organizations working toward digital equity by crafting,
13 identifying, and disseminating financial and operational
14 resources for digital inclusion programs to raise awareness of
15 solutions addressing home internet access, personal devices, and
16 local technology training and support programs; now, therefore,
17

18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
20 that October 4 through October 8, 2021, is recognized as Digital
21 Inclusion Week in the State to raise awareness of digital equity
22 and promote digital inclusion; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Director of
26 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.
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OFFERED BY:

