
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
9 is 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, and access to essential
16 services have shifted toward being provided online; and

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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

30
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



1 affordable, robust broadband internet service; internet-enabled
2 devices that meet the needs of the user; access to digital
3 literacy training; quality technical support; and applications
4 and online content designed to enable and encourage self-
5 sufficiency, participation, and collaboration; and
6

7 WHEREAS, in his State of the State address on January 25,
8 2021, Governor David Ige called for the State to expand its
9 investments in digital technology of Hawaii 2.0, thereby
10 dedicating the State to being a leader in broadband access; and
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12 WHEREAS, Digital Inclusion Week 2021 is spearheaded by the
13 National Digital Inclusion Alliance, which represents affiliated
14 organizations working toward digital equity by crafting,
15 identifying, and disseminating financial and operational
16 resources for digital inclusion programs to raise awareness of
17 solutions addressing home internet access, personal devices, and
18 local technology training and support programs; now, therefore,
19

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

