

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1388

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 30 2021

RE: S.R. No. 67

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2021  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism,  
to which was referred S.R. No. 67 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AND ADOPTING THE GOALS SET  
FORTH IN THE DIGITAL EQUITY DECLARATION FOR HAWAII ADOPTED BY  
THE BROADBAND HUI,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to support and  
adopt the goals set forth in the Digital Equity Declaration for  
Hawaii adopted by the Broadband Hui.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and  
Tourism; Hawai'i Primary Care Association; Aloha Care; and  
Transform Hawai'i Government.

Your Committee finds that "digital equity" is a condition in  
which all Hawaii residents have the information technology  
capacity to participate fully in our society, democracy, and  
economy; including civics, social and cultural activities,  
employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services.  
In contrast, "digital inequity", often referred to as the "digital  
divide", is a pressing concern, separating those individuals in  
rural communities and socioeconomically disadvantaged  
circumstances from the rest of modern society. Your Committee  
further finds that the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic has  
exacerbated the "digital divide" and highlighted the need for



broadband infrastructure and "digital equity" across the State, especially in unserved or underserved areas.

Your Committee recognizes that the Broadband Hui is a multi-sector conglomerate of both public and private organizations and individuals, which convened to discuss and adopt a compilation of goals known as the Digital Equity Declaration for Hawaii. Your Committee believes that the goals set forth by the Broadband Hui are timely and important for state government to consider in securing digital equity for Hawaii's citizenry.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 67 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Energy, Economic  
Development, and Tourism,

  
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GLENN WAKAI, Chair



