DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804 Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov Telephone: (808) 586-2355 Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of MIKE MCCARTNEY Director Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism before the HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY Wednesday, April 7, 2021 2:00 PM State Capitol, Conference Room 309 In consideration of SCR67, SD1 RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 4 THROUGH OCTOBER 8, 2021, AS DIGITAL INCLUSION WEEK IN THE STATE OF HAWAII.

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports SCR67, SD1** that recognizes October 4 through October 8, 2021, as Digital Inclusion Week in the State of Hawaii.

The COVID-19 pandemic has spotlighted the need for broadband infrastructure and digital equity across all of Hawaii's residents especially those in rural unserved and underserved communities

It is important that we recognize the digital inclusion work that is being done by the Broadband Hui as we strive to meet the goals set forth in the Digital Equity Declaration.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



MIKE MCCARTNEY DIRECTOR

CHUNG I. CHANG DEPUTY DIRECTOR