

JAN 26 2022

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO THE HAWAII BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY OFFICE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. Section 206S-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"[~~§~~206S-3~~]~~ **Hawaii broadband and digital equity office; duties.** In furtherance of the State's objectives and policies for the economy pursuant to section 226-10.5, the office shall:

(1) Develop and implement specific strategies and plans to aggressively increase broadband affordability, penetration, and competitive availability in the State;

(2) Support the efforts of both public and private entities in the State to enhance or facilitate the deployment of and access to competitively priced, advanced electronic communications services, including broadband and its products and services and internet access services of general application throughout the State;



1       ~~[(3) Promote the landing of trans-Pacific submarine cable,~~  
2       ~~including the development of a shared access cable~~  
3       ~~station and associated terrestrial connectivity to~~  
4       ~~reduce barriers to fiber landing in Hawaii;~~

5       ~~+(4) Promote, advocate, and facilitate the implementation~~  
6       ~~of the findings and recommendations of the Hawaii~~  
7       ~~broadband task force established by Act 2, First~~  
8       ~~Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, and the 2020~~  
9       ~~Hawaii Broadband Strategic Plan;~~

10       ~~+(5)]~~ (3) Support the findings of the community-based  
11       Broadband Hui as reflected in its digital equity  
12       declaration;

13       ~~[(6)]~~ (4) Administer grant programs in support of broadband  
14       infrastructure, innovation, and the digital economy;

15       ~~[(7)]~~ (5) Actively seek out funding from public and private  
16       sources in furtherance of the office's duties pursuant  
17       to this section; ~~[and~~

18       ~~+(8)]~~ (6) Provide a repository, aggregation point, and  
19       governance framework for broadband mapping and digital  
20       equity data from various sources, including digital  
21       literacy, telehealth, distance education, remote work,



1 internet accessibility, and service coverage to  
2 support mapping, reporting, infrastructure deployment,  
3 and data-driven policy~~[-]~~; and

4 (7) Prioritize the access to broadband in rural areas  
5 throughout the State."

6 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Lynn D. Crote



**Report Title:**

Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office; Broadband Access;  
Rural Areas; Priority

**Description:**

Amends the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office's duties,  
including requiring the office to prioritize the access to  
broadband in rural areas of the State.

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