SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 3 THROUGH OCTOBER 7, 2022, 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
5
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, and access to essential
16 services 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
30
31 WHEREAS, the State is committed to promoting digital
32 inclusion to ensure that all individuals and communities,
33 including the most remote and disadvantaged, have access to and

1 the use of information and communication technologies, including
2 affordable, robust broadband internet service; internet-enabled
3 devices that meet the needs of the user; access to digital
4 literacy training; quality technical support; and applications
5 and online content designed to enable and encourage self-
6 sufficiency, participation, and collaboration; and
7
8 WHEREAS, in his State of the State address on January 25,
9 2021, Governor David Ige called for the State to expand its
10 investments in digital technology of Hawaii 2.0, thereby
11 dedicating the State to being a leader in broadband access; and
12
13 WHEREAS, the Thirty-first Hawaii State Legislature
14 established the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office and
15 the Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program to facilitate the
16 deployment of the infrastructure necessary to provide broadband
17 service to unserved and underserved areas of the State through
18 Act 225, Regular Session of 2021; and
19
20 WHEREAS, to raise awareness of the need for digital equity
21 and to promote digital inclusion, the Senate of the Thirty-first
22 Hawaii State Legislature further recognized October 4 through
23 October 8, 2021, as Digital Inclusion Week in the State through
24 Senate Resolution No. 49, S.D. 1, Regular Session of 2021; and
25
26 WHEREAS, Digital Inclusion Week is spearheaded by the
27 National Digital Inclusion Alliance, which represents affiliated
28 organizations working toward digital equity by crafting,
29 identifying, and disseminating financial and operational
30 resources for digital inclusion programs to raise awareness of
31 solutions addressing home internet access, personal devices, and
32 local technology training and support programs; now, therefore,
33
34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
36 House of Representatives concurring, that October 3 through
37 October 7, 2022, is recognized as Digital Inclusion Week in the
38 State to raise awareness of the need for digital equity and to
39 promote digital inclusion; and
40

S.C.R. NO. 25

1   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and
3 Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.
4
5
6   OFFERED BY: _____