

MAR 10 2022

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY OFFICE TO
CONDUCT A DATA MAPPING STUDY TO IDENTIFY GEOGRAPHICALLY
UNDERSERVED AND UNSERVED AREAS IN THE STATE THAT LACK
QUALITY BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY.

1 WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
2 provides publicly available web-based maps from service
3 providers such as AT&T, T-Mobile, U.S. Cellular, and Verizon to
4 demonstrate 4G LTE coverage throughout the country; and
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6 WHEREAS, many service providers have shared these data maps
7 that boasted coverage with the Legislature to demonstrate the
8 inexistence of "underserved" and "unserved" areas in the State;
9 and
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11 WHEREAS, residents on Hawai'i Island, Moloka'i, and Hana,
12 Maui have historically experienced disruption in service,
13 dropped calls, and dead areas in rural communities; and
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15 WHEREAS, the experiences of Hawai'i residents in rural areas
16 clearly demonstrate that the FCC data maps lack information,
17 data, and geographical knowledge regarding "underserved" and
18 "unserved" communities; and
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20 WHEREAS, the State has the responsibility to provide
21 equitable access to broadband internet and service for residents
22 as opportunities continue to arise in the areas of teleworking,
23 distance learning, and telehealth; and
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25 WHEREAS, the Department of Business, Economic Development,
26 and Tourism's Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office
27 (Office) compiles the collective priorities articulated by the
28 Broadband Hui, in alignment with the 2020 Hawai'i Broadband
29 Strategic Plan, to set a foundation for collective action among
30 private- and public-sector partners by providing a vision and



1 goals that promote digital equity throughout the State of
2 Hawai'i; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
6 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii Broadband
7 and Digital Equity Office is requested to conduct a data mapping
8 study to identify geographically underserved and unserved areas
9 in the State that lack quality broadband connectivity; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as a part of the study, the
12 Office is requested to collect data concerning infrastructure
13 deployment and broadband service in the State from communication
14 service providers to develop mapping information; and

15
16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office is requested to
17 consider the data it collects to determine the criteria for what
18 constitutes an "unserved" area, as well as the percentage of
19 households with access to broadband service within a county or
20 other appropriate geographic area and other data sources that
21 the Office deems credible and appropriate to help make this
22 determination; and

23
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as a part of the study, the
25 Office is requested to create a map that identifies geographic
26 areas based on the most recent infrastructure deployment and
27 broadband service data collected or other credible sources used
28 by the Office; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in designating an "unserved"
31 area, the Office is requested to consider areas that are not
32 larger than a United States census block as determined by 2020
33 United States Census data, identified on the broadband
34 infrastructure and service map developed, and located where
35 broadband internet access service with download speeds of at
36 least twenty-five megabits per second and upload speeds of at
37 least three megabits per second is not available from at least
38 one broadband Internet service provider; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office is requested to
41 consider the data it collects to determine an "underserved"
42 area, as well as the percentage of households with access of



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1 broadband service within a county or other appropriate
2 geographic area and other data sources that the Office deems
3 credible and appropriate to help make this determination; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in designating an "underserved"
6 area, the Office is requested to consider areas that have
7 broadband service with download speeds greater than fifty
8 megabits per second and upload speeds greater than ten megabits
9 per second, but download speeds of less than one hundred
10 megabits per second and upload speeds less than one hundred
11 megabits per second; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
14 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to expend the sum
15 of \$150,000 from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's budget to the
16 Office for contracting services to complete the request for data
17 mapping and further telecommunications research; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office is requested to
20 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
21 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
22 December 21, 2023; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
26 Federal Communications Commission; Governor; Broadband Strategy
27 Officer of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and
28 Tourism; Mayor of the County of Hawai'i; Mayor of the County of
29 Maui; Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu; Mayor of the
30 County of Kaua'i; Chairperson and CEO of AT&T; Chairperson and
31 CEO of Verizon; Director of T-Mobile; and Chairperson of United
32 States Cellular Corporation.
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OFFERED BY:

