

MAR 10 2022

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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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  
5

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  
31 goals that promote digital equity throughout the State of  
32 Hawai'i; now, therefore,  
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,  
3 that the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office is requested  
4 to conduct a data mapping study to identify geographically  
5 underserved and unserved areas in the State that lack quality  
6 broadband connectivity; and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as a part of the study, the  
9 Office is requested to collect data concerning infrastructure  
10 deployment and broadband service in the State from communication  
11 service providers to develop mapping information; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office is requested to  
14 consider the data it collects to determine the criteria for what  
15 constitutes an "unserved" area, as well as the percentage of  
16 households with access to broadband service within a county or  
17 other appropriate geographic area and other data sources that  
18 the Office deems credible and appropriate to help make this  
19 determination; and  
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as a part of the study, the  
22 Office is requested to create a map that identifies geographic  
23 areas based on the most recent infrastructure deployment and  
24 broadband service data collected or other credible sources used  
25 by the Office; and  
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in designating an "unserved"  
28 area, the Office is requested to consider areas that are not  
29 larger than a United States census block as determined by 2020  
30 United States Census data, identified on the broadband  
31 infrastructure and service map developed, and located where  
32 broadband internet access service with download speeds of at  
33 least twenty-five megabits per second and upload speeds of at  
34 least three megabits per second is not available from at least  
35 one broadband Internet service provider; and  
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office is requested to  
38 consider the data it collects to determine an "underserved"  
39 area, as well as the percentage of households with access of  
40 broadband service within a county or other appropriate  
41 geographic area and other data sources that the Office deems  
42 credible and appropriate to help make this determination; and



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

