
SENATE 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 Hawaii Island, Molokai, 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 Hawaii 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 Hawaii 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 Hawaii; now, therefore,



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 2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
 3 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
 4 that the Office is requested to conduct a data mapping study to
 5 identify geographically underserved and unserved areas in the
 6 State, based on the broadband definitions of "underserved" and
 7 "unserved" in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act 2021,
 8 Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office is requested to make
 11 adjustments, while preserving high granularity, in the mapping
 12 to best align with the Federal Communications Commission's
 13 Broadband Data Collection program that is scheduled to launch
 14 this upcoming summer and is driven by the Broadband Deployment
 15 Accuracy and Technological Availability Act of 2020, which
 16 allows for upload by organizations in addition to the cable and
 17 telecom carriers and includes "broadband Fabric data" to
 18 identify every serviceable location in Hawaii; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as a part of the study, the
 21 Office is requested to collect data concerning infrastructure
 22 deployment and broadband service in the State from internet
 23 service providers to develop mapping information; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office is requested to, if
 26 data are available, give special attention to recording cases
 27 and addresses where services have been desired or requested by
 28 potential customers but not supplied by the carrier; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as a part of the study, the
 31 Office is requested to create a map that identifies geographic
 32 areas based on the most recent infrastructure deployment and
 33 broadband service data collected or other credible sources used
 34 by the Office to identify "unserved" and "underserved" areas
 35 within a county or other appropriate geographic area; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
 38 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to allocate the
 39 sum of \$150,000 for the Office to contract services for data
 40 mapping and further telecommunications research; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office is requested to
2 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
3 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
4 December 21, 2023; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Federal
8 Communications Commission; Governor; Director of the Department
9 of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Broadband
10 Strategy Officer of the Department of Business, Economic
11 Development, and Tourism; Mayor of the County of Hawaii; Mayor
12 of the County of Maui; Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu;
13 Mayor of the County of Kauai; Chairperson and CEO of AT&T;
14 Chairperson and CEO of Verizon; Director of T-Mobile;
15 Chairperson of United States Cellular Corporation; Chairman and
16 Chief Executive Officer of Charter Communications; and President
17 and General Manager of Hawaiian Telcom.

