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# SENATE RESOLUTION

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URGING THE HAWAII BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY OFFICE TO  
PRIORITIZE ACCESS TO BROADBAND SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS  
THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the ongoing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)  
2 pandemic highlights the significant need for access to broadband  
3 services in rural areas throughout the State; and  
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5 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 206S-1, Hawaii Revised  
6 Statutes, digital equity means "a condition in which all  
7 individuals and communities have the information technology  
8 capacity needed for full participation in society, democracy,  
9 and the economy"; and  
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11 WHEREAS, access to broadband services has meant the  
12 difference between an employee's ability to work remotely or  
13 potentially face unemployment; and  
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15 WHEREAS, access to broadband services is necessary for  
16 health care professionals to provide telehealth services to  
17 those in rural areas who would otherwise be unable to receive  
18 proper medical care; and  
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20 WHEREAS, the lack of access to broadband services hampers  
21 the ability of the State to deliver consistent and meaningful  
22 distance learning for all students; and  
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24 WHEREAS, reliable broadband access is also necessary for  
25 residents seeking to access social services such as unemployment  
26 claims, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits,  
27 vital records, and other critical government services; and  
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29 WHEREAS, reliable broadband access affects such simple but  
30 important services as registering for COVID-19 vaccinations and  
31 testing; and  
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1 WHEREAS, reliable access to high-speed broadband services  
2 is essential for all individuals and communities in Hawaii to  
3 fully participate in society, democracy, and the economy; and  
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5 WHEREAS, additional investment must be made to ensure  
6 digital equity in the State by increasing access to broadband  
7 services especially for those in rural communities that lack  
8 adequate broadband infrastructure; now, therefore,  
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,  
12 that the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office is urged to  
13 prioritize access to broadband services in rural areas  
14 throughout the State; and  
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Department of  
18 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and State Broadband  
19 Coordinator.

