
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BROADBAND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Section 206S-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended as follows:

3 1. By adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
4 and to read:

5 "Broadband equity" means a condition in which all
6 residents are able to access, adopt, and use affordable, high-
7 speed, and reliable broadband that meets their needs."

8 2. By amending the definition of "digital equity" to read:

9 "Digital equity" means a condition in which broadband
10 equity is achieved and all individuals and communities have the
11 information technology capacity needed for full participation in
12 society, democracy, and the economy."

13 SECTION 2. Section 206S-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "**§206S-3 Hawaii broadband and digital equity office;**
16 **duties.** In furtherance of the State's objectives and policies
17 for the economy pursuant to section 226-10.5, the office shall:



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- 1 (1) Develop and implement specific strategies and plans to
2 aggressively increase broadband affordability,
3 penetration, and competitive availability in the
4 State;
- 5 (2) Support the efforts of both public and private
6 entities in the State to enhance or facilitate the
7 deployment of and access to competitively priced,
8 advanced electronic communications services, including
9 broadband and its products and services and internet
10 access services of general application throughout the
11 State;
- 12 (3) Promote the landing of trans-Pacific submarine cable,
13 including the development of a shared access cable
14 station and associated terrestrial connectivity to
15 reduce barriers to fiber landing in Hawaii;
- 16 (4) Promote, advocate, and facilitate the implementation
17 of the findings and recommendations of the Hawaii
18 broadband task force established by Act 2, First
19 Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, and the 2020
20 Hawaii Broadband Strategic Plan;



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- 1 (5) Support the findings of the community-based Broadband
2 Hui as reflected in its digital equity declaration;
- 3 (6) Administer and coordinate federal and state grant
4 programs in support of broadband infrastructure,
5 innovation, digital equity, and the digital economy;
- 6 (7) Actively seek out funding from public and private
7 sources in furtherance of the office's duties pursuant
8 to this section; and
- 9 (8) Provide a repository, aggregation point, and
10 governance framework for broadband mapping and digital
11 equity data from various sources, including digital
12 literacy, telehealth, distance education, remote work,
13 internet accessibility, and service coverage to
14 support mapping, reporting, infrastructure deployment,
15 and data-driven policy."

16 SECTION 3. Section 206S-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

18 "(a) The office shall:

- 19 (1) Seek input and the widest possible cooperation from
20 public and private agencies and individuals to achieve
21 the purposes of this chapter;



- 1 (2) Work closely with and assist the counties in the
2 promotion of coordinated state and county broadband
3 digital equity planning;
- 4 (3) Encourage every state department, county agency, and
5 other public or private agencies and individuals
6 involved in broadband programs to participate in the
7 activities of the office and incorporate, to the
8 extent feasible, the ideas and suggestions of the
9 participants in the office's comprehensive planning
10 goals;
- 11 (4) Monitor the broadband-based development efforts of
12 other states and nations in areas such as business,
13 education, and health;
- 14 (5) Advise the department on other states' best practices
15 involving [~~remote-work-promotion-and~~] policies and
16 strategies related to making digital equity and
17 affordable broadband services available to every home
18 and business in the State;
- 19 (6) Monitor broadband-related activities at the federal
20 level;




- 1 (7) Encourage public-private partnerships to increase the
- 2 deployment and adoption of broadband services and
- 3 applications;
- 4 (8) Monitor regulatory and policy changes for potential
- 5 impact on digital equity and broadband deployment and
- 6 sustainability in the State; and
- 7 (9) Advise the director of business, economic development,
- 8 and tourism on digital equity and broadband
- 9 deployment."

10 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

13

INTRODUCED BY: 
JAN 14 2022



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Report Title:

Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office; Digital Equity;
Broadband Equity

Description:

Defines broadband equity. Clarifies the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office's duties to promote and support digital equity and broadband deployment.

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