
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY OFFICE TO
INCREASE ACCESS TO WI-FI IN PUBLIC PARKS THROUGHOUT THE
STATE.

1 WHEREAS, access to the Internet is essential for life in
2 the twenty-first century, which is increasingly reliant on
3 digital technology; and

4
5 WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic highlighted
6 the importance of digital connectivity, as people were forced to
7 depend on the Internet to connect with basic educational,
8 occupational, and health care services; and

9
10 WHEREAS, as the State exits the pandemic, many businesses
11 and government organizations are continuing to expand options
12 for accessing services remotely to increase efficiency and
13 improve public health; and

14
15 WHEREAS, rural and neighbor island communities often lack
16 the same basic infrastructure that urban residents enjoy, making
17 the development of systems for remotely accessing public
18 services an urgent matter of social and economic equity; and

19
20 WHEREAS, while federal programs have been offered to assist
21 low-income families in paying for broadband technology, many
22 working families remain unable to afford the increasing monthly
23 cost of internet service because of Hawaii's high cost of
24 living; and

25
26 WHEREAS, numerous cities have begun installing Wi-Fi in
27 public parks to support internet access for underserved
28 communities, including the cities of Los Angeles, California,
29 and Indianapolis, Indiana; and
30



1 WHEREAS, in 2016, the Department of Commerce and Consumer
2 Affairs designated the location of one hundred new Spectrum Wi-
3 Fi hotspots at public parks, civic and community centers, and
4 other gathering places as part of a court order approving the
5 transfer of Oceanic Time Warner Cable to Charter Communications;
6 and

7
8 WHEREAS, the State has identified strengthening digital
9 equity as a strategic imperative in the development of a modern
10 economy for local residents and future generations; now,
11 therefore,

12
13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
14 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
15 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii
16 Broadband and Digital Equity Office is requested to increase
17 access to Wi-Fi in public parks throughout the State; and

18
19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Broadband and
20 Digital Equity Office is requested to work with the Department
21 of Land and Natural Resources and the counties to assess the
22 current level of internet access in public parks; and

23
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant
26 Governor, State Broadband Coordinator, Mayor of the City and
27 County of Honolulu, and Mayors of the Counties of Hawaii, Maui,
28 and Kauai.

