
HOUSE 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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31 WHEREAS, in 2016, the Department of Commerce and Consumer
32 Affairs designated the location of one hundred new Spectrum Wi-



1 Fi hotspots at public parks, civic and community centers, and
2 other gathering places as part of a court order approving the
3 transfer of Oceanic Time Warner Cable to Charter Communications;
4 and

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

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

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

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

