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Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2024

FEB 0 6

RE: H.B. No. 2359 H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-Second State Legislature Regular Session of 2024 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Higher Education & Technology, to which was referred H.B. No. 2359 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY OFFICE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Identify and address any remaining obstacles to digital equity in all areas of Hawaii; and
- (2) Establish the Digital Equity Grant Program to award grants and create an environment in which all individuals and communities in the State have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in society, democracy, and the economy.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Executive Office on Aging; Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Department of Research and Development of the County of Hawai'i; a member of the Kaua'i County Council; Hawai'i Primary Care Association; Chamber of Commerce Hawaii; Broadband Hui; Maui Chamber of Commerce; Kapolei Chamber of Commerce; Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center; and KHopeacetic Digital

Communications & Marketing. Your Committee received comments on this measure from Charter Communications.

Your Committee finds that digital equity in every community across the State is essential to the well-being and economic reality of the people of Hawaii. Your Committee further finds that this measure will enhance digital equity in the State, which will strengthen Hawaii's overall economic development and education, health care, and emergency services.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education & Technology that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2359, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2359, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Higher Education & Technology,

AMY A. PERFUSO, Chair

## State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-second Legislature

## HSCR 84-24

## Record of Votes of the Committee on Higher Education & Technology

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 2359	Committee Referral: HET, CPC, FIN	Date: 2/7	.124	
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to:  Pass, unamended (as is)  Pass, with amendments (HD)  Hold  Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HET Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. PERRUSO, Amy A. (C)	<b>✓</b>			
2. KAPELA, Jeanne (VC)				
3. LA CHICA, Trish			120	
J. LACINCA, IIISII				<b>71. 16.</b> 24.60
4. MARTEN, Lisa		1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		
5. MARTINEZ, Rose		·	***	millionide.
6. MATAYOSHI, Scot Z.				
7. MIZUNO, May Besario				
7. WILLOW, Wally Desails				
8. QUINLAN, Sean			4 <b>4 - 3</b> 1,23	
9. TODD, Chris				
10 HOODSON A MAN				
10. WOODSON, Justin H.				
11. GARCIA, Diamond				
			_	
TOTAL (11)	8			3
The recommendation is:  Adopted  If joint referral, did not support recommendation.  committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				