

MAR 08 2024

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT CONTINUED FUNDING
OF THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii continues to support efforts to extend the
2 Affordable Connectivity Program, the successor program to the
3 Emergency Broadband Benefit, to continue providing Hawaii
4 residents with access to affordable broadband services; and
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6 WHEREAS, the United States Congress assigned the Federal
7 Communications Commission to administer the Affordable
8 Connectivity Program, which helped almost nine million
9 households to afford internet access during the coronavirus 2019
10 pandemic; and
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12 WHEREAS, under the Affordable Connectivity Program,
13 eligible households on qualifying tribal lands receive a
14 discount of up to \$75 per month for broadband services while
15 other eligible households may receive a discount of up to \$30
16 per month on broadband services; and
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18 WHEREAS, eligible households may also receive a one-time
19 discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer,
20 or tablet from participating providers; and
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22 WHEREAS, in areas of the State in which broadband is
23 available, the Affordable Connectivity Program allows
24 subscribers to afford internet speeds and devices sufficient for
25 key online activities, such as at-home learning, health care,
26 banking, and public services; and
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28 WHEREAS, in areas of the State in which broadband is not
29 available, the Affordable Connectivity Program incentivizes the
30 deployment of new broadband infrastructure; and
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1 WHEREAS, the State also receives funding through the
2 Affordable Connectivity Program to develop, implement, and
3 improve broadband infrastructure, provide devices to certain
4 residents, and promote the adoption of technology in areas of
5 the State that have fewer broadband service opportunities; and
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7 WHEREAS, the Affordable Connectivity Program catalyzes
8 economic growth, workforce development, and innovation in the
9 State; and
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11 WHEREAS, thousands of Hawaii residents benefit from the
12 Affordable Connectivity Program, but they are at risk of losing
13 broadband service in 2024 if the United States Congress does not
14 fund an extension of the program; and
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16 WHEREAS, allowing the Affordable Connectivity Program to
17 end will be a great disservice to those who rely on the program
18 to access vital online services and resources; now, therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
22 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States
23 Congress is urged to support continued funding of the Affordable
24 Connectivity Program to ensure that low-income households in the
25 State may continue to access vital online services and
26 resources; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
30 United States, Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
31 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and
32 members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.
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OFFERED BY:

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