

MAR 07 2025

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COMPTROLLER TO COOPERATE WITH THE HAWAII STATE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM TO IDENTIFY RURAL AND UNDERSERVED  
COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE WITH A NEED FOR BETTER  
TELECOMMUNICATION ACCESS FOR RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN  
THE STATE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

1           WHEREAS, providing access for residents to participate in  
2 the state legislative process is a basic right of citizenship in  
3 the State and should continue to be a priority; and  
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5           WHEREAS, ensuring equitable access to the legislative  
6 process for nearly four hundred fifty thousand residents on the  
7 neighbor islands, as well as those in rural O'ahu, is essential  
8 to strengthening civic engagement, enhancing the effectiveness  
9 of the legislative process, and ensuring fair and accurate  
10 representation on issues impacting the entire State; and  
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12           WHEREAS, with the rising costs of airfare, gas, and  
13 lodging, providing designated locations or state offices on  
14 neighbor islands and in rural O'ahu where citizens can  
15 participate remotely in the legislative process will help reduce  
16 the financial burden of participation and further boost civic  
17 engagement; and  
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19           WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Public Library System has long  
20 provided the public with internet access, including the  
21 deployment of sixteen Chromebooks and charging stations to each  
22 of its libraries statewide in response to the COVID-19 pandemic  
23 in 2020--at a time when most businesses and government offices  
24 remained closed--to enhance existing technology and ensure  
25 continued public connectivity; and  
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27           WHEREAS, with a network of fifty-one libraries across the  
28 State, the Hawaii State Public Library System has the  
29 infrastructure and resources to support public access to the  
30 Internet and videoconferencing, making it uniquely positioned to



1 assist individuals in participating in the legislative process;  
2 now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the  
6 House of Representatives concurring, that the Comptroller is  
7 requested to cooperate with the Hawaii State Public Library  
8 System to identify rural and underserved communities with a need  
9 for better telecommunication access for residents, including  
10 those with developmental disabilities, to participate in the  
11 state legislative process; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Comptroller and State  
14 Librarian are requested to submit to the Legislature a report of  
15 their findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
16 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
17 the Regular Session of 2026; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller, State  
21 Librarian, and Executive Director of the Disability and  
22 Communication Access Board.

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OFFERED BY:



