
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COMPTROLLER TO COOPERATE WITH THE HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM, OFFICE OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AND HAWAII BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY OFFICE 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 state 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 state legislative process will help
16 reduce the financial burden of participation and further boost
17 civic engagement; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Public Library System has long
20 provided free public access to broadband internet and computer
21 equipment and is therefore well-prepared to serve as a conduit
22 for facilitating remote legislative participation; and
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24 WHEREAS, with a network of fifty-one libraries across the
25 State, all of which have broadband capabilities and various
26 electronic devices, including Chromebooks, the Hawaii State
27 Public Library System has the infrastructure and resources to



1 support public access to the Internet and videoconferencing,
2 making it uniquely well-suited to assist individuals in
3 participating in the state legislative process; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
7 House of Representatives concurring, that the Comptroller is
8 requested to cooperate with the Hawaii State Public Library
9 System, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, and
10 Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office to identify rural and
11 underserved communities with a need for better telecommunication
12 access for residents, including those with developmental
13 disabilities, to participate in the state legislative process;
14 and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Comptroller is requested to
17 submit to the Legislature a report of its findings and
18 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, no later
19 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
20 of 2026; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller, State
24 Librarian, Director of the Office of Planning and Sustainable
25 Development, Strategic Broadband Coordinator of the Hawaii
26 Broadband and Digital Equity Office, and Executive Director of
27 the Disability and Communication Access Board.

