

JAN 23 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS TO PROVIDE FREE INTERNET
SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

1 WHEREAS, individuals with disabilities have much to gain
2 from being able to access the Internet: social networking sites
3 and e-mail can provide relief from social isolation; the latest
4 news and research information are instantly available; internet
5 entrepreneurship can provide opportunities to work from home;
6 the motor-disabled can use speech-recognition technology to
7 write e-mail, pay bills, or perform work-related tasks; blind
8 individuals, for whom it used to take months or even years for
9 information to be made available in braille or on audio tape,
10 can now access news stories, government reports, and consumer
11 information at the same time that it becomes available to the
12 sighted population; and

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14 WHEREAS, the British newspaper, The Register, reported in
15 2000 that "the true promise of the Internet is precisely that of
16 service to the disabled"; and

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18 WHEREAS, the Center for an Accessible Society has noted
19 that new computer technologies hold tremendous promise for
20 individuals with disabilities, but that the so-called "digital
21 revolution" has left the vast majority of people with
22 disabilities behind; and

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24 WHEREAS, a survey carried out in 2000 for the United States
25 National Organization on Disability found that forty-eight per
26 cent of individuals with disabilities stated that going online
27 significantly increased their quality of life, compared with
28 twenty-seven per cent of non-disabled people; and

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30 WHEREAS, in 2000, former President Bill Clinton sponsored
31 various initiatives for disabled individuals in partnership with
32 corporate leaders, stating that, "If we want to keep the rest of
33 the economy growing, we have to make information technology more



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1 accessible [which means that] people with disabilities have to
2 be able to enter the 21st Century work force -- not only for
3 your own benefit, but for the rest of America."; and

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5 WHEREAS, there are new, untapped markets among individuals
6 with disabilities in Hawaii for internet services to be used as
7 social and vocationally rehabilitative tools that could provide
8 new entrepreneurial opportunities for the State and enhance the
9 overall quality of life for residents with disabilities; now,
10 therefore,

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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
14 House of Representatives concurring, that internet service
15 providers in Hawaii are requested to offer free internet
16 services to individuals with disabilities; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of
20 Hawaiian Telcom; Senior Vice President of Customer Contact
21 Centers and Wholesale Markets, the President of Oceanic Time
22 Warner Cable, the Executive Vice President of EarthLink, and the
23 President of LavaNet.

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OFFERED BY: *Shiranne Chun Oshiro*

