WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 authorized $7,200,000,000 in federal stimulus grants to develop access to broadband telecommunication technology across the country; and

WHEREAS, most states are leaving the infrastructure portion of the grant applications to the telecommunication service providers and are instead focusing on building interest in, and the future sustainability of, broadband telecommunication service; and

WHEREAS, in rural areas of the country, many people do not have equal access to broadband and do not know what information and services are available by computer; and

WHEREAS, distance learning technology can aid students in rural areas in advancing their educational needs, including advanced placement classes; and

WHEREAS, broadband can expand telemedicine and remote monitoring networks to allow consumers access to healthcare regardless of location, including rural areas; and

WHEREAS, an adequate broadband infrastructure is needed in providing telemedicine and making electronic health records usable; and

WHEREAS, broadband promotes economic development and enables telecommuting, telemedicine, telepresence, distance learning, and e-commerce; and
WHEREAS, broadband in rural communities enables the
development of home businesses; and

WHEREAS, rural communities are negatively impacted by the
lack of broadband services that could advance their educational,
health, and economic capabilities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
of 2010, that this body requests and supports congressional and
state funding for broadband infrastructure in rural areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
Resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the United States
House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United
States Senate, the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation,
the Mayor and Council Chair of the County of Hawaii, the Mayor
and Council Chair of the City and County of Honolulu, the Mayor
and Council Chair of the County of Kauai, and the Mayor and
Council Chair of the County of Maui.

OFFERED BY:  NELIA KIHEI

FEB 23 2010