



1 There is established the Hawaii broadband and digital equity  
2 office within the department of business, economic development,  
3 and tourism.

4 (b) The director of business, economic development, and  
5 tourism shall appoint, exempt from chapter 76, a state broadband  
6 coordinator to head the office.

7 § -3 Hawaii broadband and digital equity office; duties.

8 In furtherance of the State's objectives and policies for the  
9 economy pursuant to section 226-10.5, the office shall:

10 (1) Develop and implement specific strategies and plans to  
11 aggressively increase broadband affordability,  
12 penetration, and competitive availability in the  
13 State;

14 (2) Support the efforts of both public and private  
15 entities in the State to enhance or facilitate the  
16 deployment of and access to competitively priced,  
17 advanced electronic communications services, including  
18 broadband and its products and services and internet  
19 access services of general application throughout the  
20 State;



- 1           (3) Promote the landing of trans-Pacific submarine cable,  
2           including the development of a shared access cable  
3           station and associated terrestrial connectivity to  
4           reduce barriers to fiber landing in Hawaii;
- 5           (4) Promote, advocate, and facilitate the implementation  
6           of the findings and recommendations of the Hawaii  
7           broadband task force established by Act 2, First  
8           Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2007;
- 9           (5) Support the findings of the community-based Broadband  
10          Hui as reflected in its digital equity declaration;
- 11          (6) Administer grant programs in support of broadband  
12          infrastructure, innovation, and the digital economy;
- 13          (7) Actively seek out funding from private and public  
14          sources in furtherance of the office's duties pursuant  
15          to this section; and
- 16          (8) Provide a repository, aggregation point, and  
17          governance framework for broadband mapping and digital  
18          equity data from various sources, including but not  
19          limited to digital literacy, telehealth, distance  
20          education, remote work, internet accessibility, and



1 service coverage to support mapping, reporting,  
2 infrastructure deployment, and data-driven policy.

3 **§ -4 Broadband planning and coordination; cooperation.**

4 (a) The office shall:

5 (1) Seek input and the widest possible cooperation from  
6 public and private agencies and individuals to achieve  
7 the purposes of this chapter;

8 (2) Work closely with and assist the counties in the  
9 promotion of coordinated state and county broadband  
10 planning;

11 (3) Encourage every state department, county agency, and  
12 other public or private agencies and individuals  
13 involved in broadband programs to participate in the  
14 activities of the office and incorporate, to the  
15 extent feasible, the ideas and suggestions of the  
16 participants in the office's comprehensive planning  
17 goals;

18 (4) Monitor the broadband-based development efforts of  
19 other states and nations in areas such as business,  
20 education, and health;



- 1 (5) Advise the department on other states' best practices  
2 involving remote work promotion and policies and  
3 strategies related to making affordable broadband  
4 services available to every home and business in the  
5 State;
- 6 (6) Monitor broadband-related activities at the federal  
7 level;
- 8 (7) Encourage public-private partnerships to increase the  
9 deployment and adoption of broadband services and  
10 applications;
- 11 (8) Monitor regulatory and policy changes for potential  
12 impact on broadband deployment and sustainability in  
13 the State, and
- 14 (9) Advise the director of business, economic development,  
15 and tourism on broadband deployment.
- 16 (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to delegate  
17 or detract in any way from the functions, powers, and duties  
18 conferred by law or rule on any department or agency of the  
19 State or county."
- 20 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office; Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. (SD1)

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