

MAR 11 2021

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING AND ADOPTING THE GOALS SET FORTH IN THE DIGITAL  
EQUITY DECLARATION FOR HAWAII ADOPTED BY THE BROADBAND HUI.

1           WHEREAS, "digital equity" is the condition in which all  
2 Hawaii residents, keiki to kupuna, have the information  
3 technology capacity to participate fully in our society,  
4 democracy, and economy, including civics, social and cultural  
5 activities, employment, lifelong learning, and access to  
6 essential services; and  
7

8           WHEREAS, digital equity requires ubiquitous and affordable  
9 access to broadband and the internet, digital tools, and the  
10 knowledge to thrive in an increasingly digital world; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, the "digital divide," also known as "digital  
13 inequity," has been a pressing community issue for many years  
14 now, separating those in rural communities and those from  
15 socioeconomically disadvantaged circumstances from the rest of  
16 modern society; and  
17

18           WHEREAS, a lack of adequate broadband infrastructure,  
19 internet-capable devices, affordable high-quality broadband  
20 service, and technological know-how creates inequitable digital  
21 access; and  
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23           WHEREAS, digital infrastructure investments have faced  
24 challenges with misinformation within our communities about the  
25 effects of those technologies; and  
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27           WHEREAS, digital inequity is rapidly emerging through  
28 racial, economic, and geographical boundaries and is amplified  
29 among Hawaii's most vulnerable and underserved populations; and  
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31           WHEREAS, stay-at-home and work-from-home orders related to  
32 the SARS-CoV-2 virus have made digital connectivity a necessity  
33 across all economic sectors and demographics; and  
34



1 WHEREAS, the need for social distancing related to the  
2 SARS-CoV-2 virus has forced many social functions to occur  
3 online; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, those without digital connectivity may become  
6 socially isolated, lonely, and suffer from mental health issues;  
7 and

8  
9 WHEREAS, Hawaii's high unemployment rate during the SARS-  
10 CoV-2 pandemic has led to families cutting home internet  
11 subscriptions in order to prioritize food and rent expenses; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, the lack of internet access disproportionately  
14 affects native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander communities,  
15 with the percentage of those households without internet access  
16 being almost double that of the state population as whole; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, in 1824 King Kamehameha III, Kauikeaouli,  
19 proclaimed "He aupuni palapala ko'u (mine is a kingdom of  
20 literacy)." The King's appreciation for the written language  
21 and education resulted in extremely high literacy rates among  
22 native Hawaiians. Today, Hawaii finds itself in a similar  
23 situation where society must adopt a new form of digital  
24 literacy to succeed in a digital age; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, a pivot towards this new form of digital literacy  
27 will empower Hawaii's residents to realize their full potential;  
28 and

29  
30 WHEREAS, the Broadband Hui is a multi-sector conglomerate  
31 of public and private organizations and individuals whose months  
32 of thoughtful conversations led to the compilation of well-  
33 articulated visions and goals known as the Digital Equity  
34 Declaration for Hawaii; and

35  
36 WHEREAS, the Digital Equity Declaration is published on the  
37 Broadband Hui's website: [www.broadbandhui.org](http://www.broadbandhui.org); now, therefore,

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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
40 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,  
41 that this body supports and adopts the goals set forth in the



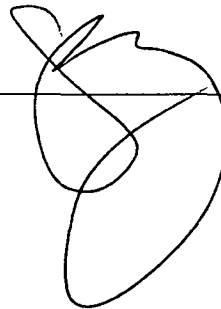
1 Digital Equity Declaration that was adopted by the Broadband  
2 Hui; and

3  
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the goals of the Digital Equity  
5 Declaration support the Aloha+ Challenge, Hawaii's statewide  
6 sustainability framework, and will be reflected in the Aloha+  
7 Dashboard and updated regularly to track progress; and

8  
9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
10 Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional delegation;  
11 Governor of the State of Hawaii; Mayor of the City and County of  
12 Honolulu; Mayor of Maui County; Mayor of Hawaii County; Mayor of  
13 Kauai County; Director of the Department of Business, Economic  
14 Development, and Tourism; Director of the Department of Labor  
15 and Industrial Relations; Director of the Department of Commerce  
16 and Consumer Affairs; Superintendent of the Department of  
17 Education; Chairpersons of each county council; President of the  
18 University of Hawaii; Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha  
19 Schools; Executive Director of Hawaii Green Growth; and  
20 Chairperson of the Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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