
HOUSE 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
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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
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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
30

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
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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
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5 WHEREAS, those without digital connectivity may become
6 socially isolated, lonely, and suffer from mental health issues;
7 and
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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
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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
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26 WHEREAS, a pivot towards this new form of digital literacy
27 will empower Hawaii's residents to realize their full potential;
28 and
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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
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36 WHEREAS, the Digital Equity Declaration is published on the
37 Broadband Hui's website: www.broadbandhui.org; now, therefore,
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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
40 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
41 of 2021, that this body supports and adopts the goals set forth



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1 in the Digital Equity Declaration that was adopted by the
2 Broadband Hui; and
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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: *Will A. Gault*

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