

MAR 11 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT 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
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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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Digital Equity Declaration is published on the Broadband Hui's website: www.broadbandhui.org; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the House of Representatives concurring, that this body supports and



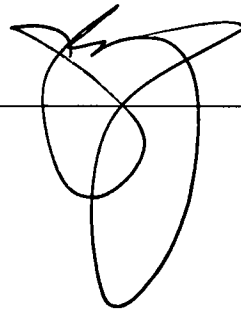
S.C.R. NO. 88

1 adopts the goals set forth in the Digital Equity Declaration
2 that was adopted by the 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
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional
11 delegation; Governor of the State of Hawaii; Mayor of the City
12 and County of Honolulu; Mayor of Maui County; Mayor of Hawaii
13 County; Mayor of Kauai County; Director of the Department of
14 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of the
15 Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; Director of the
16 Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Superintendent of
17 the Department of Education; Chairpersons of each county
18 council; President of the University of Hawaii; Chief Executive
19 Officer of Kamehameha Schools; Executive Director of Hawaii
20 Green Growth; and Chairperson of the Economic Development
21 Alliance of Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY: _____

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