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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BROADBAND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. Section 206S-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended as follows:

3           1. By adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted  
4 and to read:

5           "Broadband equity" means a condition in which all  
6 residents are able to access, adopt, and use affordable, high-  
7 speed, and reliable broadband that meets their needs."

8           2. By amending the definition of "digital equity" to read:

9           "Digital equity" means a condition in which broadband  
10 equity is achieved and all individuals and communities have the  
11 information technology capacity needed for full participation in  
12 society, democracy, and the economy."

13           SECTION 2. Section 206S-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15           "**§206S-3 Hawaii broadband and digital equity office;**  
16 **duties.** (a) In furtherance of the State's objectives and



1 policies for the economy pursuant to section 226-10.5, the  
2 office shall:

3 (1) Develop and implement specific strategies and plans to  
4 aggressively increase broadband affordability,  
5 penetration, and competitive availability in the  
6 State;

7 (2) Support the efforts of both public and private  
8 entities in the State to enhance or facilitate the  
9 deployment of and access to competitively priced,  
10 advanced electronic communications services, including  
11 broadband and its products and services and internet  
12 access services of general application throughout the  
13 State;

14 (3) Promote the landing of trans-Pacific submarine cable,  
15 including the development of a shared access cable  
16 station and associated terrestrial connectivity to  
17 reduce barriers to fiber landing in Hawaii;

18 (4) Promote, advocate, and facilitate the implementation  
19 of the findings and recommendations of the Hawaii  
20 broadband task force established by Act 2, First



- 1 Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, and the 2020  
 2 Hawaii Broadband Strategic Plan;
- 3 (5) Support the findings of the community-based Broadband  
 4 Hui as reflected in its digital equity declaration;
- 5 (6) Administer and coordinate federal and state grant  
 6 programs [in] that support [of] broadband  
 7 infrastructure, innovation, digital equity, and the  
 8 digital economy;
- 9 (7) Actively seek out funding from public and private  
 10 sources [~~in furtherance of~~] to further the office's  
 11 duties pursuant to this section; and
- 12 (8) Provide a repository, aggregation point, and  
 13 governance framework for broadband mapping and digital  
 14 equity data from various sources, including digital  
 15 literacy, telehealth, distance education, remote work,  
 16 internet accessibility, and service coverage to  
 17 support mapping, reporting, infrastructure deployment,  
 18 and data-driven policy.
- 19 (b) The office may enter into contracts, in accordance  
 20 with chapter 103D, for consulting services to render  
 21 professional and technical assistance and advice, and any other



1 contracts for consulting services that are necessary and proper  
2 for the implementation of its duties under subsection (a)."

3 SECTION 3. Section 206S-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

5 "(a) The office shall:

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

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

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

19 (4) Monitor the broadband-based development efforts of  
20 other states and nations in areas such as business,  
21 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 digital equity and  
4 affordable broadband services available to every home  
5 and business in the 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 digital equity and broadband deployment and  
13 sustainability in the State; and
- 14 (9) Advise the director of business, economic development,  
15 and tourism on digital equity and broadband  
16 deployment."

17 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$867,500 or so much  
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for five  
20 full-time equivalent (5.00 FTE) administrative positions, exempt  
21 from chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the operation and



1 administration of the Hawaii broadband and digital equity  
2 office.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii  
4 broadband and digital equity office for the purposes of this  
5 Act.

6 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office; Digital Equity;  
Broadband Equity; Appropriation

**Description:**

Defines broadband equity. Clarifies the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office's duties to promote and support digital equity and broadband deployment. Appropriates funds to the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office for five FTE positions. (SD1)

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