



# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, broadband services are essential infrastructure for the twenty-first century and play an important role in providing access to knowledge and opportunities from communities locally and around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, digital equity ensures all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy, and economy; and is necessary for civic and cultural participation, lifelong learning, and access to essential services; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for broadband infrastructure and digital equity across the State as many rural and disadvantaged communities lack access to reliable and affordable broadband; to help meet this need, the State is committed to promoting digital inclusion to ensure that all individuals and communities, including the most disadvantaged, have access to and the use of information and communication technologies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hawai'i Broadband Strategic Plan outlines the State's strategic goals and actions as a path for strengthening and expanding broadband in Hawai'i, which include: 1) Ensure Robust Broadband Infrastructure to All Hawai'i Residents, 2) Expand Digital Inclusion and Adoption to Achieve Digital Equity, 3) Enable Hawai'i to Thrive through a Digital Economy, and 4) Strengthen Community Resilience through Broadband; and

**WHEREAS**, the Broadband Hui, which is a cross-section of over 350 public, private and non-profit community stakeholders that addresses gaps in broadband access in the near- and long-term, released the Digital Equity Declaration that advances the following three pillars of digital equity: 1) Access, 2) Literacy, and 3) Livelihood; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hawai'i Broadband and Digital Equity Office was established during the 2021 Legislative Session, which will help the State become a leader in broadband access by expanding its investments in digital technology, and support the pivot to a digital economy which is a key priority for the State; and

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i**, do hereby proclaim October 4–8, 2021 as

## **“DIGITAL INCLUSION WEEK”**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join me in raising awareness of digital equity and broadband access issues and doing all we can to close the digital divide.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this fourth day of October 2021.

  
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DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i