

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

Digital Inclusion Week

WHEREAS, digital equity refers to the fair and equal access to technology and the internet, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their location, income, or background have the tools and skills necessary to participate fully in the digital world; and

WHEREAS, internet access is critical for island-wide resiliency and hazard mitigation by enabling real-time communication and updates during emergencies. Internet access is essential to early warning systems and supports information sharing and collaboration, ensuring effective response and recovery efforts; and


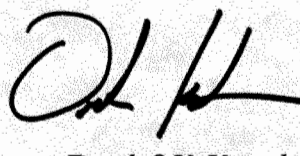
WHEREAS, access to the internet is no longer a luxury but a necessity in our modern world, playing an essential role in education, healthcare, communication, and economic opportunity, and the county recognizes the importance of ensuring equitable access to digital resources for all residents to participate fully in society and take advantage of the opportunities the internet provides; and

WHEREAS, the county prioritizes the advancement of digital equity through assisting in the development of affordable and reliable internet, facilitating digital literacy trainings, and working to provide devices to residents in need, ensuring community connectivity, resilience, and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, to raise awareness of the need for digital equity and to promote digital inclusion, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, the Hawai'i Broadband and Digital Equity Office, County of Hawai'i, County of Maui, County of Kaua'i, the City and County of Honolulu, the Broadband Hui, the University of Hawai'i Pacific International Center for High Technology Research, and the four community access channels— Hō'ike, 'Ōlelo, Akaku, and Na Leo are launching the inaugural Digital Equity Innovation Awards to recognize digital equity stakeholders and leaders on October 9, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Digital Inclusion Week is spearheaded by the National Digital Inclusion Alliance, which represents affiliated organization working toward digital equity by crafting, identifying, and disseminating financial and operational resources for digital inclusion programs to raise awareness of solutions addressing home internet access, personal devices, and local technology training and support programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR, COUNTY OF KAUA'I, do hereby proclaim the week of October 7–11, 2024, as **Digital Inclusion Week** and encourage all residents to join in raising awareness and supporting the efforts of digital inclusion for all.



Derek S.K. Kawakami
Mayor, County of Kaua'i
State of Hawai'i

