

Proclamation

WHEREAS, digital equity ensures that 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, such as telemedicine, distance learning, and the workplace; and

WHEREAS, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and natural disasters have heightened the demand for universal, reliable, affordable internet connectivity as work, education, healthcare, and access to essential services have shifted toward being provided effectively and economically online; and

WHEREAS, the State is committed to promoting digital inclusion to ensure that all individuals and communities, including the most remote and disadvantaged, have access to and the use of information and communication technologies, including affordable, reliable, robust broadband internet service; internet-enabled devices that meet the needs of the user; access to digital literacy training; quality technical support; and applications and online content designed to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation, and collaboration. According to the Census Bureau, American Community Survey about 20,000 Hawai'i households did not have computers in 2022; 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;

WHEREAS, Digital Inclusion Week is spearheaded by the National Digital Inclusion Alliance, which represents affiliated organizations 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.

THEREFORE I, JOSH GREEN. M.D., Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim the week of October 7-11, 2024 as


"DIGITAL INCLUSION WEEK"

And October 9, 2024 as

"DIGITAL EQUITY INNOVATION AWARDS DAY"

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, on the 1st day of October 2024


Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i