

## County of Maui

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, digital equity ensures fair and affordable access to technology, creating opportunities in education, work, healthcare, and civic life by bridging the digital divide through improved access, affordability, and digital skills; and

WHEREAS, internet access is crucial for hazard mitigation, enabling timely communication, real-time updates, and coordination during emergencies, helping individuals receive warnings and seek assistance while supporting effective response and recovery; and

WHEREAS, community collaboration is vital for achieving digital equity, uniting local governments, businesses, schools, and residents to tackle access challenges. This teamwork ensures underserved populations have access to affordable internet, devices, and digital skills, promoting economic growth and enhancing opportunities in education, health, and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, to promote digital equity and inclusion, various organizations—including the Hawai'i Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism and the Hawai'i Broadband and Digital Equity Office—are launching the inaugural Digital Equity Innovation Awards on October 9, 2024, to recognize key stakeholders and leaders.

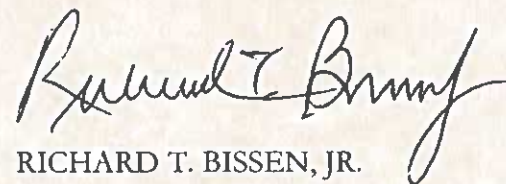
NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR., Mayor of the County of Maui, do hereby proclaim the week of October 7 to 11, 2024, as

## DIGITAL INCLUSION WEEK

throughout Maui County and encourage all residents to engage in activities that promote digital equity, access, and literacy for a stronger, more connected community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the County of Maui to be affixed hereto.

DONE at Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i,  
on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024.



RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.  
Mayor, County of Maui

