

COUNTY OF HAWAI‘I

Proclamation

WHEREAS broadband services are essential infrastructure for the 21st century and play an important role in providing access to knowledge and opportunities from around the world; and

WHEREAS many rural, agricultural, and lower-income communities lack access to reliable and affordable broadband due to the lack of infrastructure; discrimination in investment in delivering technology and technology-related services to specific areas or populations; or barriers derived from socioeconomic status, education, literacy, language, or disabilities; and

WHEREAS, in July 2022, Governor Ige signed four bills into law designed to improve broadband internet access and digital equity in Hawai‘i, accessing federal funds, along with state funds, to deliver infrastructure that will be critical for the next generation and the generation to follow; and

WHEREAS the County of Hawai‘i, in coordination with Hawaii Island Broadband Hui, is committed to promoting digital inclusion to ensure that all communities, including the most remote and underserved, have access to information and communication technologies, including affordable, 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; and

WHEREAS Hawai‘i County is currently working to outfit county locations with internet access, starting with fire, police, evacuation locations and Parks and Recreation sites as the foundation to improve emergency services ; and

WHEREAS, Digital Inclusion Week, spearheaded by the National Digital Inclusion Alliance, is an annual week of awareness, recognition, and celebration. This year’s theme is “**Turning our Moment into Movement**,” signaling a turning point and time of action for the digital inclusion movement.

NOW THEREFORE, I, MITCHELL D. ROTH, Mayor of the County of Hawai‘i do hereby proclaim **October 3-7, 2022**, as

DIGITAL INCLUSION WEEK

in the County of Hawai‘i and encourage our citizens to raise awareness of digital equity and broadband access issues, and to take positive steps to close the digital divide.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused The Seal of the County of Hawaii to be affixed. Done this 3rd day of October 2022, in Hilo, Hawai‘i.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitchell D. Roth".

MITCHELL D. ROTH
Mayor