



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
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By

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SB 1061 – RELATING TO DIGITAL EQUITY

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i, representing the interests of the State in the implementation of federally funded broadband investments, supports the intent of SB 1061 to establish and fund a digital navigator pilot program to offer technical assistance with computers and electronic devices to residents. Support to grow the digital literacy and readiness for all of Hawai'i's residents is key to the Connect Kakou statewide initiative.

The current plan for the state's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program, includes funding to initiate and deploy, a statewide Community Digital Navigator program, in partnership with the Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS). The program is in its startup phase now, and we anticipate initial services being available from an initial set of HSPLS branches before the end of the calendar year.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 1061.