

Citizen Advisory Committee

for the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

707 Richards Street, Suite 200
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

PHONE: (808) 587-2015
FAX: (808) 587-2018

CAC Chair: Chace Shigemasa
CAC Vice-Chair: Ken Farm

Community Planner: Samantha Lara
Email: OahuMPO@OahuMPO.org

URGING THE OAHU METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY BOARD TO EXPLORE AND INITIATE CONVERSATIONS WITH HAWAII CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ON THE REVISION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING POLICY IN UNITED STATES CODE (U.S.C.) TITLE 23, UNITED STATES CODE (U.S.C.) TITLE 49 AND CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS TITLE 23.

WHEREAS, according to 2019 American Community Survey data 44,198 households (roughly 9.5%) have no internet access at all including 19.2% of households with an annual income less than \$75k have no internet subscription; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration proposed a new rule in 2020 to improve coordination in the use of highways rights-of-way to support the installation of broadband technologies; and

WHEREAS, in a statement by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration on Thursday, August 13, 2020, Federal Highway Administrator Nicole R. Nason said "broadband is also necessary to support a highway system of the future calling for the safe and effective integration of automated vehicles"; and

WHEREAS, the United States Code Title 49 Chapter §5303 (h) (1) states: 'In general.—The metropolitan planning process for a metropolitan planning area under this section shall provide for consideration of projects and strategies that will— (e) protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns'; and

WHEREAS, this this body of members identifies the lack of digital equity in our communities and finds that the Metropolitan Planning Organization may have a direct future impact to address this need; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization urges the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board to explore and initiate conversation with Hawaii Congressional delegation on the revision and implementation of broadband infrastructure funding policy in United States Code Title 23 United States Code (U.S.C.) Title 49 and Code Of Federal Regulations Title 23; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Hawaii Congressional delegation, State of Hawaii Director of Transportation, State of Hawaii Deputy Director of Transportation-Highways, State of Hawaii Director of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, City and County of Honolulu Director of Transportation Services, Executive Director of the Office of Economic Revitalization, Chair of each Neighborhood Board, and Hawaii Broadband Hui.