

# DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

[Broadband.hawaii.gov/digitalequityplan](https://Broadband.hawaii.gov/digitalequityplan)



As the State of Hawai'i works on developing a statewide digital equity plan, we are gathering input throughout Hawai'i! Below are some frequently asked questions and additional information to better understand the planning process and how you can get involved.



## **What is the Digital Equity Plan all about?**

The Digital Equity Plan will come up with solutions for individuals and communities across our state who are impacted by the “digital divide,” which means they do not have reliable, affordable access to devices, training, and the Internet.

## **What is Digital Equity?**

Digital equity means that individuals and communities have affordable access to computer devices, high-speed internet, and the knowledge and skills to use them effectively.

## **Why is this Plan being done?**

The isolation we all faced during the COVID pandemic uncovered numerous unmet needs especially among residents due to lack of devices, training, and the Internet. The unmet needs impacted residents access to education, health care, jobs, and other basic services. This plan seeks to understand those needs and identify how our state can best solve them.

## **What is the goal of this Digital Equity Plan?**

The goal of the plan is to eliminate the “digital divide” and ensure that everyone, regardless of where they live, their income, language, age, race, any disability, or veteran status has access to affordable devices, software, training, and reliable high-speed internet service to fully participate in the community.





### **Why is the Digital Equity Plan important to me?**

This plan is important because it will lead to substantial additional federal funding to help achieve digital equity in our state. If you do not have reliable, affordable access to devices, training, and the Internet, the additional funding will support actions to help you obtain access.



### **When is the Digital Equity Plan going to be done?**

The draft Digital Equity Plan is scheduled to be issued for public review and comment in August 2023. The final plan, which will incorporate feedback received from HBDEO and the public, is anticipated to be submitted to NTIA in November 2023.

### **Who is funding this Digital Equity Plan?**

The development of this plan is being funded through the State of Hawai'i Broadband and Digital Equity Office (HBDEO) which received funding from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

### **How is the Digital Equity Plan being developed?**

The Digital Equity Plan is being developed with input from residents gathered through interviews, focus groups, and other conversations statewide. This will help the team understand what the gaps and barriers are, what has helped, what has not worked, and what recommendations they have for potential solutions. We will also evaluate existing digital equity plans and programs to inform development of the Plan.

### **Are there specific groups or people that the plan wants to reach and help?**

NTIA requires this plan to focus on groups and people who were and continue to be most impacted by the digital divide. These are:

- Kupuna
- Low to moderate income households including homeless
- Previously Incarcerated individuals
- Veterans
- Individuals with disabilities
- Individuals with a language barrier, including those who are English learners and have low levels of literacy
- Individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group
- Residents in rural communities

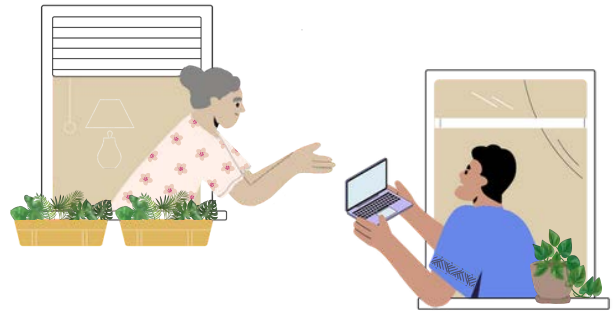
## Who can I contact to provide input or request for more information?

Please feel free to contact our team by:

- calling Burt Lum at 808-587-9001
- sending an email to [Dbedt.internetforall@hawaii.gov](mailto:Dbedt.internetforall@hawaii.gov)

## Where do I find more digital literacy resources?

- [HawaiiUTelehealth.org](http://HawaiiUTelehealth.org): Free Telehealth services for rural Hawaii residents.
- [skillfinder.librarieshawaii.org](http://skillfinder.librarieshawaii.org): Upskilling workforce and computer skills resources from Hawaii State Libraries
- [digitalreadyhawaii.org](http://digitalreadyhawaii.org): Free basic computer classes and list of resources for those just starting out with computers
- <https://broadband.hawaii.gov/acp>: Website with information and registration for the Affordable Connectivity Program
- [invest.hawaii.gov/remote](http://invest.hawaii.gov/remote): Resources from the State's Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) for people interested in remote work
- [Lanakilapacific.org/kupunatech](http://Lanakilapacific.org/kupunatech): Support and classes for kupuna who want to get started and learn more about computers and the digital world.



Scan for more information!

