2025: Visions for the Broadband Hui

The Broadband Hui is dedicated to addressing Hawai‘i’s challenges to internet access, affordability, and literacy through a **community-driven approach rooted in collaboration, education, advocacy, and innovation**. Its work prioritizes the voices and needs of the communities it serves, building a foundation for equitable digital access, transparency, and long-term sustainability.

Recognizing the transformative power of connectivity, the Hui empowers individuals, supports local economies, and strengthens public systems. It brings **together policymakers, educators, innovators, and community members to co-create solutions tailored to Hawai‘i’s unique needs and aspirations.**

Through advocacy, education, and resource-sharing, the Hui promotes equitable policies, fosters collaboration, and drives broadband innovation. With measurable outcomes and replicable frameworks, the **Hui strives to ensure every community in Hawai‘i has access to affordable, reliable internet and the digital resources they need to thrive.**

The following summarizes key themes and actionable goals discussed during the Broadband Hui’s brainstorming session on January 8, 2025. It reflects the collective insights and priorities shared by participants to guide the Hui’s efforts in addressing Hawai‘i’s digital challenges and opportunities. Please visit this link if you would like to see the original discussion/ brainstorm document. Visit this link for the recording.

Broadband Hui's Purpose

I. Advocacy and Policy Monitoring

- Monitor and support policies that benefit communities.
- Advocate for broadband consumers and represent public interest.
- Promote a healthy public ecosystem through equitable broadband policies.

II. Collaboration and Community Engagement

- Foster open dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders.
- Bring together creative thinkers to share strategies and brainstorm solutions.
- Create connections within the hui to expand networks and address broadband issues.

III. Transparency and Information Sharing

- Establish systems to ensure transparency in hui activities and decisions.
- Share information on funding opportunities and deployment timelines for all Federal funding sources.

V. Education and Workforce Development

- Promote local training programs in areas like coding and cybersecurity.
- Support initiatives to enhance digital literacy and workforce readiness.

VI. Strategy and Innovation

- Develop innovative approaches to support Digital Equity opportunities.
- Facilitate the exchange of ideas and best practices among members.

Topics the Community Would Like to Learn on the Broadband Hui

I. Funding Opportunities

- Comprehensive overview of funding opportunities, including:
    - Federal grants, state appropriations, and philanthropic funding sources.
    - Eligibility criteria for various funding programs.
- Assistance with grant writing and application processes.
- Examples of successful funding applications and program implementation.

II. Case Studies and Success Stories.

- Lessons learned and strategies from communities with similar challenges.
- Examples of digital equity initiatives and their outcomes nationally and internationally.

III. Connectivity Solutions for Unique Communities

- Tailored options for internet connectivity to meet the diverse needs of Hawai‘i’s communities.
- Innovative technologies and deployment methods suitable for rural, remote, and underserved areas.

IV. Digital Equity Best Practices

- How other communities have addressed barriers to access, affordability, and digital literacy.

V. Roles of Regulatory and Government Agencies

- Understanding the role of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in advancing broadband goals.
- The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) and its support for Hui objectives.
- Collaboration opportunities with government agencies to drive community-focused solutions.

Development Goals for Members of the Broadband Hui

I. Community Engagement Tools

- Create a suggestion box to gather input on:
    - Potential speakers (e.g., experts, vendors, government officials).
    - Topics and resources of interest to members.
- Launch an education campaign to raise awareness about digital readiness and solutions.

II. Organizational Structure and Accessibility

- Develop a structured outline or database for the hui to:
    - Provide clarity on meeting topics and agendas.
    - Help members identify and attend meetings most relevant to their interests and needs.
- Establish subcommittees to focus on specific areas, such as:
    - Framework development for community broadband projects.
    - Policy recommendations and advocacy strategies.

III. Policy Development and Advocacy

- Work on State and County policies to:
    - Protect and preserve an open internet.
    - Promote equitable and inclusive broadband access.
- Draft and present policy recommendations to support the hui's goals.

IV. Program Development and Sustainability

- Develop frameworks and programs that are:
    - Easy to replicate in different communities across Hawai‘i.
    - Focused on long-term sustainability for broadband initiatives.
- Create strategies to ensure consistent funding and resource allocation for hui activities.

End-of-Year Outcomes for the Broadband Hui

I. Enhanced Online Presence

- Establish and maintain a robust online platform, including:
    - A website to share updates, resources, and meeting schedules.
    - Social media channels (e.g., Instagram) to engage with the community.
    - A centralized calendar for hui activities and events.

II. Replicable Community Model

- Develop a replicable model for broadband initiatives that other communities can adopt.

- Include frameworks for community-driven broadband projects and policy advocacy.

III. Community Engagement and Recognition

- Create hui badges or other forms of recognition to build community identity and pride.
- Compile and share community resources that provide valuable information for broadband efforts.

IV. Measurable Goals and Outcomes

- Set and achieve measurable goals for community connectivity, such as:
    - Increased broadband access and adoption rates.
    - Enhanced affordability and digital literacy programs.

V. Annual Report

- Publish an end-of-year report detailing the hui's accomplishments, including:
    - Topics discussed during meetings.
    - Number and types of participants (e.g., individuals, organizations).
    - Key achievements and progress toward goals.
    - Data and metrics that demonstrate the hui's impact.