

KATHY L. KAOHU
County Clerk



JAMES G.M. KRUEGER
Deputy County Clerk

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/county/clerk

July 27, 2020

Honorable Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair
Economic Development and Budget Committee
Council of the County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

RECEIVED
2020 JUL 28 AM 10:48
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Chair Rawlins-Fernandez:

Respectfully transmitted are copies of the following communications that were referred to your Committee by the Council of the County of Maui at its meeting of July 24, 2020:

COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS:

- No. 20-385 - Alice L. Lee, Council Chair
- No. 20-386 - Tasha Kama, Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
- No. 20-387 - Scott K. Teruya, Director of Finance
- No. 20-388 - Sandy Baz, Managing Director

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Kathy L. KaoHu in cursive.

KATHY L. KAOHU
County Clerk

/lks

Enclosures

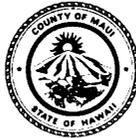
cc: Director of Council Services

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Riki Hokama
Kelly Takaya King
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

July 10, 2020

Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

RECEIVED

2020 JUL 13 AM 10:51

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Ms. Kathy L. Kaohu, County Clerk
Office of the County Clerk
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Ms. Kaohu:

**SUBJECT: SUPPORTING MAUI COUNTY STUDENTS'
DISTANCE LEARNING (PAF 20-193)**

I am placing the attached proposed resolution, entitled "SUPPORTING MAUI COUNTY STUDENTS' DISTANCE LEARNING," on the next Council meeting agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee".

ALICE L. LEE
Council Chair

paf:lma:20-193b

Enclosure

COUNTY COMMUNICATION NO. 20.385

Resolution

No. _____

SUPPORTING MAUI COUNTY STUDENTS' DISTANCE LEARNING

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus 2019, known as COVID-19, has spread globally at a rapid pace; and

WHEREAS, because of the rapid spread of COVID-19, Mayor Michael P. Victorino issued an emergency declaration for Maui County on March 4, 2020, and Governor David Y. Ige issued an emergency proclamation for the State of Hawaii on March 5, 2020, with both the Mayor and Governor issuing supplemental directives as the emergency remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 crisis has forced educational institutions across the globe to adapt and change the delivery of instruction to students; and

WHEREAS, educational institutions are committed to providing safe, accessible, and equitable access to a quality education; and

WHEREAS, according to a message on the Hawai'i Department of Education's website relating to a school reopening plan, Superintendent Christine Kishimoto stated:

The pandemic has presented us with the opportunity to transform equity of access within our public education system by making permanent, innovative improvements to our digital learning approaches to better engage our students, particularly our most vulnerable learners; and

WHEREAS, in the same message, Superintendent Kishimoto shared recent distance-learning survey data from principals, teachers, students and families showing a need for greater investment in student and teacher access to devices, access to reliable Internet connectivity, and support for distance learning; and

Resolution No. _____

WHEREAS, this survey estimates that 23.7 percent, or 3,096, of Maui County students, Kindergarten through 12th grade, do not have access to digital devices; and

WHEREAS, according to a *MauiNow* article dated June 22, 2020, the Maui Bus sent a WiFi-equipped bus for a two-week trial period in East Maui to provide reliable and safe Internet access to the rural community of Hāna; and

WHEREAS, a lack of access to digital devices could negatively impact the education of our youth and hinder their ability to find academic success; and

WHEREAS, according to a *Honolulu Civil Beat* article dated July 2, 2020, the Department of Education estimates \$58 million will be needed for the technology to adjust to virtual learning; and

WHEREAS, Maui County faces the highest unemployment rate in the State—and one of the highest in the nation—as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and many families cannot afford the supplies needed for virtual learning; and

WHEREAS, purchasing and providing the tools necessary for distance learning will ensure that all of Maui County's keiki have equitable access to a quality education; and

WHEREAS, though public education is a State function, "Improve Education," is a theme of the Countywide Policy Plan, which also includes the following policies:

- "Encourage collaborative partnerships to improve conditions of learning environments."
- "Broaden the use of technology and telecommunications to improve educational opportunities throughout the County."; now, therefore

Resolution No. _____

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it supports and recognizes the Hawai'i Department of Education's efforts to promote distance learning for Maui County students;
2. That it urges the Mayor to direct appropriate County agencies to support the Department's efforts by purchasing recycled and new digital devices for students in need, absorbing associated costs, and increase efforts to provide wireless Internet access to students with a portion of the County's COVID-19 relief funding; and
3. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent, Hawai'i Department of Education; the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui; and the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor, State of Hawai'i.