



DAVID Y. IGE
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**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Technology
and
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Tuesday, March 19, 2019
2:50 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 414**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 533, H.D. 2, RELATING TO BROADBAND**

Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Ji Sook “Lisa” Kim, and I am the Cable Administrator of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs’ (Department) Cable Television Division. The Department supports this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) establish the Hawaii Broadband Office within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT), including the creation of a state broadband strategy officer position to head the office; (2) rename the Broadband Assistance Advisory Council to the Broadband Advisory Council and amend the council’s membership and duties; and (3) transfer the amended duties of the council to DBEDT.

The Department recognizes the strong relationship between broadband access and economic development, as well as broadband’s importance in fostering education, health, community building, and civic engagement throughout the State. Accordingly,

the Department supports the approach taken by this measure to create a central office solely focused on facilitating the availability of affordable broadband access services through the development of the State strategy and policies, coordination of efforts among public and private broadband stakeholders, and the securing of funding and investment for broadband infrastructure, services, and programs. The Department defers further comment to DBEDT with respect to the overall program scope of the proposed broadband office and its required funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Tuesday, March 19, 2019
2:50 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

In consideration of
HB 533, HD2
RELATING TO BROADBAND.

Chairs Keohokalole and Wakai, Vice Chairs English and Taniguchi and members of the Committees. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **Supports** HB533, HD2, which establishes the Hawaii Broadband Office within DBEDT; establishes the position of State Broadband Strategy Officer; requires the Director of DBEDT to convene and chair the Broadband Advisory Council; and amends the Council's purpose and membership.

DBEDT recognizes that broadband is important to business and is essential to maintain Hawaii's global competitiveness. Therefore, DBEDT supports the creation of the broadband office and the restructuring of the Broadband Advisory Council to meet the duties set forth in the measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/19/2019

Time: 02:50 PM

Location: 414

Committee: Senate Technology
Senate Energy, Economic Development, and
Tourism

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0533, HD2 RELATING TO BROADBAND.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes the Hawaii Broadband Office within DBEDT. Establishes the position of State Broadband Strategy Officer. Requires the Director of DBEDT to convene and chair the Broadband Advisory Council and amends Council purpose and membership. Appropriates funds. (HB533 HD2)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB533 HD2.

A strategic focus on improving broadband in the state is vital in today's society which leverages and consumes broadband services in greater numbers. This is especially the case in the education setting, where curriculum, assessment, and learning tools continue to move towards online and digital delivery.

Hawaii's schools and students leverage broadband on a daily basis and use continues to grow annually, especially with the Department's strategic focus on modernization and school design.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

March 17, 2019

Testimony to the
Committee on Technology
and the
Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

Establishes the Hawaii Broadband Office within DBEDT. Establishes the position of State Broadband Strategy Officer. Requires the Director of DBEDT to convene and chair the Broadband Advisory Council and amends Council purpose and membership. Appropriates funds.

Broadband is fundamental to life and business today and to Hawaii's future. It is the retail operation instantly transmitting sales to its bank account. It is a visitor reserving a helicopter tour. It is the orthopedic surgeon accessing a patient's X-ray instantly from the diagnostic lab. It is the telescope operator of a defense contractor capturing images of objects in space. It is the utility precisely identifying trouble spots in its smart grid. It is a student developing a solution to connect a need with a resource.

We cannot live without it today and we can only thrive as island economies in the decades to come by enhancing and expanding it.

The Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii (EDAH) supports this bill. Planning ahead to best position Hawaii statewide for this vital infrastructure is therefore critical. Creating the Broadband Office and the Strategy Officer would convey that a robust broadband is a State priority for its residents and businesses and give this goal the attention and investment it needs.

In 2015, the Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii was tapped by the State of Hawaii to spearhead the most recent Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) process. This process is prescribed by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA). It is a collaborative process engaging numerous stakeholders statewide to articulate an economic roadmap for the stable, long-term economic vitality for all residents of the state. The CEDS process utilized cluster-based strategies which identified actionable initiatives to nurture economic resilience and growth. **The 2015 CEDS report underscored the expansion of broadband as an essential component and major objective in achieving the state's economic development goals in the Research, Innovation, and Technology Sector.**

EDAH is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. It is comprised of the leaders of the state's four Economic Development Boards, Hawaii Business Roundtable, the University of Hawaii, and the business community. EDAH works with the public and private sectors and community-based organizations and individuals to spur economic growth and sustainability throughout the State of Hawaii. We stand ready to work with the Office to realize the mutually sought objectives.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanne Unemori Skog
Chair

Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii

Submitted Via Online
March 18



Testimony of the
OAHU ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD (OEDB)
In Support of HB 533 HD2
RELATING TO BROADBAND

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

2:50 P.M.

Conference Room 414

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Wakai, Vice Chairs English and Taniguchi and Members of the Committees,

The Oahu Economic Development Board (OEDB) supports HB 533 HD2.

In the fall of 2018 OEDB with the Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii convened various individuals with diverse expertise in Media, IT, Education, Security, Energy, and Economics to listen to their input on a Broadband Initiative for Hawaii. The conversation was not a question of support for Broadband Infrastructure but the critical unrecognized hardship or handicap our youth will need to overcome if we don't provide for it.

OEDB supports establishing the Broadband Office within DBEDT and the position of State Broadband Strategy Officer. We strongly encourage your forwarding of this very important resource for our most important resource.

Mahalo,

Pono Shim
President and CEO



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