
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State lacks a
2 plan to capitalize on fast-evolving broadband technology that
3 will improve the State's outcomes in information access,
4 economic development, education, and communications.

5 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the establishment
6 within the department of business, economic development, and
7 tourism of one full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent
8 broadband coordinator position to create a state broadband plan.

9 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
10 of business, economic development, and tourism one full-time
11 equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent broadband coordinator position,
12 which shall be exempt from chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
13 and shall report directly to the director of business, economic
14 development, and tourism.

15 The broadband coordinator, with the assistance of the
16 department of business, economic development, and tourism, shall
17 create a state broadband plan, which shall be submitted along



1 with a report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
2 to the convening of the regular session of 2018. The state
3 broadband plan shall include, at a minimum, a statewide
4 broadband infrastructure gap analysis, identification of
5 opportunities to encourage private sector deployment of
6 ubiquitous high speed broadband, and an analysis of how
7 government stakeholders can better coordinate efforts.

8 Further, the broadband coordinator shall consider for
9 inclusion in the state broadband plan:

- 10 (1) An analysis of current broadband infrastructure and
11 geographic broadband gaps;
- 12 (2) An inventory of current community broadband resources;
- 13 (3) Recommendations on improving digital literacy,
14 including the development and use of school-based
15 programs;
- 16 (4) Initiatives to obtain public input on identifying
17 current and future broadband resources and needs;
- 18 (5) Solutions for microwave, wireless, and fiber broadband
19 communication requirements, including the obtaining of
20 rights of way for broadband installation and use, and



1 navigating the state and county permitting processes;
2 and

3 (6) A list of necessary capital improvement projects to
4 implement the broadband plan.

5 (b) The broadband coordinator shall also develop and
6 include in a report to the legislature, proposed legislation to
7 establish a broadband review panel to serve as a broadband
8 regulatory authority.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
12 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
13 2018-2019 for one full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent
14 broadband coordinator position to create the state broadband
15 plan, as provided in this Act.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
17 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes
18 of this Act.

19 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2038.



Report Title:

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism;
Broadband Coordinator

Description:

Establishes within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism a broadband coordinator to create the state broadband plan. Requires report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. (HB597 HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

