
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. (a) The legislature finds that Hawaii must be
2 aggressive in facilitating the creation of key critical
3 broadband infrastructure, including the construction of an open
4 access, carrier neutral cable landing station that could be used
5 to attract transpacific fiber optic cables.

6 Specifically, the legislature must create an environment
7 that is attractive to potential partners with the resources,
8 technical expertise, and ability to develop the State into a
9 strategic communications and knowledge hub for the Pacific
10 region. This hub would integrate a robust global communications
11 network with connectivity to data centers, content repositories,
12 and hedge computing for the development of next-generation
13 applications such as artificial intelligence, machine learning,
14 augmented reality, big data analytics, smart communities,
15 blockchain, and real-time predictive systems.

16 In 2008, the Hawaii broadband task force published its
17 final report, which included several key recommendations to



1 maximize the State's connectivity to the world. Specifically,
2 the task force found that submarine fiber optic cables are
3 Hawaii's lifeline to the rest of the world. Although Hawaii
4 once served as the crossroads of transpacific communications,
5 all of the fiber systems built across the Pacific since 2001
6 have bypassed the State. The task force recommended that Hawaii
7 aggressively promote the landing of new transpacific submarine
8 fiber cables. One key step to do this is the construction of a
9 shared access cable station that would reduce the barriers to
10 landing a fiber cable in Hawaii.

11 Telegeography, a telecommunications market research and
12 consulting firm, released a report in 2018 on the status of new
13 transpacific fiber optic projects linking Asia and North
14 America. Of the six projects listed, none are planned to land
15 in Hawaii. The legislature finds that without a meaningful
16 change in circumstances, the State will exhaust subsea fiber
17 optic cable capacity by 2025.

18 The legislature further finds that the creation of an open
19 access, carrier-neutral cable landing will:

- 20 (1) Better attract transpacific fiber optic cables;
21 (2) Make landing permits easier and less expensive;



- 1 (3) Create a fair environment for all telecommunications
2 carriers;
- 3 (4) Establish Internet price competitiveness;
- 4 (5) Provide easy cross-connection to other networks;
- 5 (6) Provide statewide network resilience and physical
6 security;
- 7 (7) Increase the capacity of the State's future broadband
8 bandwidth;
- 9 (8) Enable increased economic development; and
- 10 (9) Establish the State as a major participant in the
11 global broadband market.
- 12 (b) The legislature finds that it is critical that an open
13 access, carrier-neutral cable landing be established soon to
14 facilitate several upcoming projects:
- 15 (1) The South America Pacific Link transpacific fiber
16 cable could potentially land in Hawaii in 2020 if a
17 cable landing were available. This project would
18 connect Hawaii to South America, Central America, and
19 the continental United States;
- 20 (2) The Hawaii community development authority began the
21 process of permitting and planning for a cable landing



1 station in Kakaako makai, based on a study conducted
2 by Johns Hopkins University. Construction of a cable
3 landing station in this area would directly benefit
4 the Hawaii technology development center's
5 entrepreneur sandbox, which is currently being
6 constructed in Kakaako; and

7 (3) The federal Department of Defense is scheduled to
8 select a vendor for its Joint Enterprise Defense
9 Infrastructure cloud-computing contract to build out
10 the department's enterprise cloud. The selected
11 vendor would likely build a private cloud, including a
12 data center, to support the operations of the United
13 States Indo-Pacific Command in Hawaii.

14 (c) Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

15 (1) Establish a partnership between the State and the
16 private sector that shall:

17 (A) Plan, build, and manage key strategic broadband
18 infrastructure that benefits the State;

19 (B) Encourage cloud-based companies to take advantage
20 of this infrastructure;



1 (C) Develop internal policies and procedures for the
 2 procurement of goods, services, and construction,
 3 consistent with the goals of public
 4 accountability and public procurement; and

5 (D) For the sole purpose of constructing a cable
 6 landing station at a suitable location in
 7 Kakaako, on the island of Oahu, be exempt from
 8 certain state and county approval and permitting
 9 requirements for a period of five years to help
 10 expedite this process; and

11 (2) Make an appropriation for an open access, carrier-
 12 neutral cable landing station to enable key strategic
 13 infrastructure in support of the Hawaii broadband
 14 initiative.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 201, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 16 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
 17 and to read as follows:

18 "§201- Public-private partnership to manage strategic
 19 broadband infrastructure. (a) The department may enter into a
 20 public-private partnership with a partner or partners in the
 21 private sector to:



1 (1) Plan, build, and manage key strategic broadband
2 infrastructure that benefits the State, including a
3 cable landing station; and

4 (2) Encourage cloud-based companies to utilize this
5 infrastructure.

6 (b) The partnership shall develop internal policies and
7 procedures for the procurement of goods, services, and
8 construction that are consistent with the goals of public
9 accountability and public procurement.

10 (c) The partnership shall identify a suitable location for
11 a cable landing station in Kakaako, on the island of Oahu, and
12 shall be responsible for the planning, construction, and
13 management of the cable landing station.

14 (d) The cable landing station constructed pursuant to
15 subsection (c) shall be exempt from:

16 (1) All county permitting requirements, including any
17 ordinances, charter provisions, or rules relating to
18 land use, zoning, infrastructure, and permitting; and

19 (2) State permitting and approval requirements, including
20 the requirements of chapters 171, 205A, and 343;



1 provided that exemptions established by this subsection shall
2 expire on June 30, 2024.

3 (e) As used in this section, "partnership" means the
4 public-private partnership established in subsection (a)."

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 for the
8 establishment of an open access, carrier neutral cable landing
9 station in support of the Hawaii broadband initiative.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
11 business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes of
12 this Act.

13 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112.



Report Title:

DBEDT; Telecommunications; Broadband; Cable Landing Station;
Open Access Carrier Neutral Cable; Infrastructure; Exemptions;
Appropriation

Description:

Authorizes DBEDT to enter into a public-private partnership to plan, build, and manage key strategic broadband infrastructure that benefits the State, including a cable landing station in Kakaako, on the island of Oahu, and to encourage cloud-based companies to take advantage of this infrastructure. Exempts the station from certain state and county permitting and land use laws. Appropriates funds. (HB821 HD2)

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