

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 16 2021

RE: S.B. No. 850
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism,
to which was referred S.B. No. 850 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR
RURAL COMMUNITIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish a
Broadband Equity Task Force to expand digital inclusion and
adoption to achieve digital equity to ensure that all individuals
and communities, especially the most disadvantaged and
geographically isolated, have access to information and modern
communication technologies.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Education, Department of Transportation,
Office of the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Office of
the Mayor of Maui County, Office of the Mayor of Hawaii County,
Office of the Mayor of Kauai County, Hawaii Primary Care
Association, Ka'u Rural Health Community Association, AARP Hawai'i,
and three individuals. Your Committee received comments on this
measure from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and
Tourism; Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; Office of
Community Services; Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs;
and Office of Information Practices.



Your Committee finds that the global pandemic, triggering stay-at-home and social distancing orders, has underscored the critical need for universal broadband access for distance learning, telework and job training, telehealth and social services, and social and civic engagement.

Your Committee heard the testimony from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs recognizing the value of seeking input from and coordinating among the various broadband stakeholders comprising the Broadband Access Equity Task Force, and this measure provides the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs with needed flexibility to help carry out the functions of the task force. Your Committee also finds that the Broadband Access Equity Task Force will consider issues that are of great interest to the public. Accordingly, your Committee believes that the public should have access to the task force's policy discussions and decision-making.

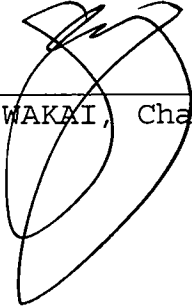
Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Replacing the Administrator of the Cable Television Division with the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs;
- (2) Removing the Broadband Access Equity Task Force from the Sunshine Law exemption under chapter 92 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 850, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 850, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Energy, Economic
Development, and Tourism,




GLENN WAKAI, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-First Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
EET

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 850	Committee Referral: EET, WAM	Date: 2/8/21		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
WAKAI, Glenn (C)	X			
MISALUCHA, Bennette E. (VC)	X			
LEE, Chris	X			
RIVIERE, Gil	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
TOTAL	5	0	0	0
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">  </div>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes