
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS ON THE INTERNET.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that it is crucial to the
2 decision-making of the legislature to have citizen involvement
3 and input into the legislative process and that one of the most
4 effective means of promoting this is through public access. The
5 legislature has demonstrated its commitment to the principle of
6 public access to the legislative process by creating programs
7 such as:

- 8 (1) The public access room;
9 (2) The legislative broadcast project; and
10 (3) The legislative website

11 that encourage education and support for citizen involvement in
12 the legislative process.

13 Televised coverage of legislative sessions and hearings is
14 an important source of information for citizen participation in
15 public proceedings. At present, some legislative sessions are
16 available through the legislative broadcast project, but those
17 are limited to cable television viewers and are available only
18 at certain broadcast times. Another method of reaching a



1 broader audience is broadcasting legislative events through
2 video and audio on the Internet.

3 This process, called streaming media or webcasting, takes
4 video or audio signals of an event and converts them into a
5 digital file. The file is routed through computer servers for
6 broadcast on the Internet. With a webcasting player, software
7 that is available for free, users can see or listen to the file
8 on their computers. This technology allows messages to be
9 broadcast on all islands and beyond, and recordings of live
10 webcasts can be archived so that users can listen to or view a
11 file whenever they wish. These streaming media, or webcasting,
12 programs can also be accessed wherever computers are available,
13 such as public libraries, schools, youth centers, section
14 centers, and other public places. This technology would
15 increase public access at a low cost to the State.

16 In addition, the indexed video and audio streams of
17 legislative sessions and hearings will assist citizens on Oahu
18 who wish to testify before the legislature but whose time is
19 limited. Instead of spending an entire morning at the
20 legislature waiting for their bill to be heard, citizens can
21 follow the progress of the hearing on the Internet while at home
22 or work and can decide when to go and testify.



Report Title:

Legislative Proceedings; Webcast; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for archived and indexed video and audio streams of legislative proceedings on the Internet. (SB2806 HD1)

