
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Currently, public access programming is
2 available to the residents of each county of the State through
3 public, educational, and governmental (PEG) access
4 organizations, including Na Leo O Hawaii, Olelo, Hoike, and
5 Akaku. These organizations operate as independent and separate
6 entities with their own programming, and there is no entity that
7 distributes public access programming statewide. The
8 legislature finds that the establishment of a statewide entity
9 would maximize the benefits of public programming by providing
10 for statewide distribution of programming on public affairs
11 events and proceedings.

12 In January 2004, the department of commerce and consumer
13 affairs issued the Plan for Public, Education, and Government
14 Access or PEG Plan. This report was the result of public
15 meetings held throughout the State to solicit public comments on
16 the department's proposed plan for the future development of PEG
17 access television in Hawaii. The report referred to public
18 comments expressing the need for more civic affairs programming,



1 including state and county legislative, executive, and judicial
2 proceedings, as well as community-based activities such as
3 neighborhood board meetings, to encourage public interest and
4 participation in the democratic process. One option discussed
5 in the PEG Plan is the development of a system of statewide
6 distribution of civic or public affairs television programming.

7 Under this system, known as the Hawaii Statewide Civic
8 Affairs Network or HI-SCAN, an independent nonprofit entity
9 would produce and distribute public affairs programming
10 throughout the State, similar to what C-SPAN does on a national
11 level. The PEG Plan found that the idea of a C-SPAN-like entity
12 for Hawaii has potential, but requires the consideration of
13 issues such as funding, channel capacity, and duplication of
14 services provided by PEG access organizations. The report
15 concluded that before the HI-SCAN concept can move forward, a
16 dialogue on these issues is required between stakeholders,
17 including the concept's proponents, the cable operator,
18 government agencies, and PEG entities.

19 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
20 commerce and consumer affairs to develop a plan for a statewide
21 public affairs programming system.



1 SECTION 2. The department of commerce and consumer affairs
2 shall develop a plan for a statewide system for the production
3 and distribution of governmental and public affairs programming,
4 which shall include a statewide PEG affiliated cable channel.

5 The department shall submit the statewide public official
6 programming plan to the legislature no later than twenty days
7 before the convening of the regular session of 2007.

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

9

INTRODUCED BY:



SB. NO. 2565

Report Title:

Cable Television; HI-SCAN

Description:

Authorizes the department of commerce and consumer affairs to develop a statewide public affairs programming system.

