

JAN 25 2006

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# 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 the public access room, the legislative broadcast  
8 project, and the legislative website that encourage education  
9 and support for citizen involvement in the legislative process.

10           Televised coverage of state legislative sessions and  
11 hearings is an important source of information for citizen  
12 participation in public proceedings. At present, some  
13 legislative sessions are available through the public broadcast  
14 project, but those are only available to people who have access  
15 to cable television and are only available at certain broadcast  
16 times. One method of broadcasting legislative hearings to as  
17 many people as possible is the broadcast of legislative events  
18 through video and audio on the Internet.



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

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

21           The purpose of this Act is to further enhance public access  
22 by funding legislative media streaming to allow legislative



1 sessions and hearings to be broadcast in streaming media format  
2 on the Internet, including from the house and senate chambers,  
3 house and senate conference rooms, and the capitol auditorium.

4 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ , or so  
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for  
7 legislative media streaming to provide audio and video streaming  
8 of legislative proceedings over the Internet, including house  
9 and senate proceedings in the house and senate chambers and  
10 conference rooms and the capitol auditorium.

11 SECTION 3. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the  
12 clerks of the senate and the house of representatives for the  
13 purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.  
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**Report Title:**

Legislative Proceedings; Webcast; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for legislative media streaming to provide audio and video streaming of legislative proceedings over the Internet.

