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

21 The purpose of this Act is to further enhance public access
22 by funding legislative archived and indexed video and audio



1 streaming for legislative sessions and hearings to be broadcast
2 in streaming media format on the Internet, which include
3 broadcasts from the house and senate chambers, house and senate
4 conference rooms, and the capitol auditorium.

5 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the following sums, or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for a
8 video archived and indexed stream and two archived and indexed
9 audio streams of legislative proceedings over the Internet,
10 which include broadcasts from the house and senate chambers,
11 house and senate conference rooms, and the capitol auditorium.

| | | |
|----|------------------------------|----|
| 12 | (1) Senate | \$ |
| 13 | (2) House of Representatives | \$ |

14 SECTION 3. The sums appropriated shall be expended by the
15 senate and the house of representatives for the purposes of this
16 Act.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.



SB2806, SD2

Report Title:

Legislative Proceedings; Webcast; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for video archived and indexed audio streams of legislative proceedings over the Internet. (SD2)

