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 program; 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

- 1 at certain broadcast times. Another method of reaching a
- 2 broader audience is broadcasting legislative events through
- 3 video and audio on the Internet.
- 4 This process, called streaming media, or webcasting, takes
- 5 yideo or audio signals of an event and converts them into a
- 6 digital file. The file is routed through computer servers for
- 7 broadcast on the Internet. With a webcasting player, software
- 8 that is available for free, users can see or listen to the file
- 9 on their computers. This technology allows messages to be
- 10 broadcast on all islands and beyond, and recordings of live
- 11 webcasts can be archived so that users can listen to or view a
- 12 file whenever they wish. These streaming media, or webcasting
- 13 programs can also be accessed wherever computers are available,
- 14 such as public libraries, schools, youth centers, section
- 15 centers, and other public places. This technology would
- 16 increase public access at a low cost to the State.
- 17 In addition, the indexed video and audio streams of
- 18 legislative sessions and hearings will assist citizens on Oahu
- 19 who wish to testify before the legislature but whose time is
- 20 limited. Instead of spending an entire morning at the
- 21 legislature waiting for their bill to be heard, citizens can

- 1 follow the progress of the hearing on the Internet while at home
- 2 or work and can decide when to go and testify.
- 3 The purpose of this Act is to further enhance public access
- 4 by funding archived and indexed video and audio streams of
- 5 legislative proceedings to be broadcast in streaming media
- 6 format on the Internet, including broadcasts from the house and
- 7 senate chambers, house and senate conference rooms, and the
- 8 capitol auditorium.
- 9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
- 10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the following sums or so much
- 11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the
- 12 same sums, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
- 13 year 2008-2009, for two archived and indexed video streams and
- 14 two archived and indexed audio streams of legislative
- 15 proceedings on the Internet, including broadcasts from the house
- 16 and senate chambers, house and senate conference rooms, and the
- 17 capitol auditorium:
- 18 (1) Senate \$
- 19 (2) House of Representatives \$
- 20 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the senate and
- 21 the house of representatives respectively, for the purposes of
- 22 this Act.

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1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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INTRODUCED BY:

JAN 1 9 2007

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Report Title:

Legislative Proceedings; Internet Webcast; Appropriation

Description:

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