

MAR 12 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE TO CONVENE A HAWAII
BROADBAND TASK FORCE TO EXPAND BROADBAND ACCESS AND USAGE
IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress
2 directed the Federal Communications Commission and state
3 regulatory commissions to "encourage the deployment on a
4 reasonable and timely basis of advanced telecommunications
5 capability to all Americans"; and

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7 WHEREAS, universal access to broadband Internet services
8 has been touted as a vital economic engine for the nation, an
9 essential vehicle for enhanced learning and medicine, and a
10 critical element of the news and entertainment industries; and

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12 WHEREAS, removing barriers against broadband deployment by
13 using a technology-neutral approach will encourage lower prices
14 for broadband services and create more consumer choices; and

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16 WHEREAS, deploying broadband networks and advanced
17 communication services throughout Hawaii are essential for the
18 State to keep pace with global changes in economic
19 diversification, energy and environmental technology,
20 healthcare, public safety, and education; and

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22 WHEREAS, Hawaii's enterprises do not have access to the
23 types of low-cost, high-capacity digital transport services,
24 such as dark fiber or wavelength services, which are
25 increasingly available in communities concerned about advanced
26 affordable services; and

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28 WHEREAS, state action is needed to support investment in,
29 stimulate the adoption of, and remove potential barriers to the
30 development and availability of world-class and universally
31 accessible broadband networks in Hawaii; and
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1 WHEREAS, state action is also needed to expand access to
2 state-of-the-art technologies for Hawaii residents living in
3 rural or low-income areas or with a disability; and
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5 WHEREAS, increasing Hawaii's access to and use of broadband
6 networks and advanced communication services can enhance
7 government operations, telemedicine for healthcare, and distance
8 learning for education while increasing business opportunities
9 and economic diversification; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Senate Committee
14 on Economic Development and Taxation and the House Committee on
15 Economic Development and Business Concerns convene a Hawaii
16 Broadband Task Force to remove barriers to broadband access,
17 including gaining wider access to public rights-of-way; identify
18 opportunities for increased broadband deployment and adoption,
19 including very high speed broadband services; and enable the
20 creation and deployment of new advanced communication
21 technologies in Hawaii; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall consult
24 with the Department of Accounting and General Services, the
25 Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Business,
26 Economic Development, and Tourism to carry out the objectives of
27 the task force; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force
30 include, but are not limited to:
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32 (1) Representatives from federal, state, and county
33 government entities having a role in infrastructure
34 deployment; management of public rights-of-way,
35 regulation, and franchising; information technology;
36 and economic development;
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38 (2) Representatives from Hawaii's private sector
39 technology, telecommunication, and investment
40 industries; and
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42 (3) Representatives of nonprofit organizations; and
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44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:



- (1) Identify actions that will produce increased investment in and the availability of advanced broadband capabilities at more affordable costs by using new approaches to broadband deployment, including through increased access to public rights-of-way and shared fiber infrastructure;
- (2) Identify administrative actions that will promote broadband access and usage within the State;
- (3) Make specific recommendations on how Hawaii can leverage federal, state, and international opportunities for and eliminate any related barriers to broadband access and adoption;
- (4) Focus special attention on how broadband can be used to substantially benefit educational institutions, healthcare institutions, community-based organizations, and governmental institutions;
- (5) Consult with public and private stakeholders to coordinate statewide efforts to obtain and maximize loan funding available for broadband deployment and development projects in the State;
- (6) Consult with private sector stakeholders to leverage opportunities to increase investments in state-of-the-art technologies, and new approaches to advancing capabilities at reduced costs;
- (7) Identify best practices to establish a database that identifies current and prospective projects for deploying broadband;
- (8) Encourage all state and county agencies to lead by example by obtaining the necessary equipment for broadband usage and have full access to broadband service; and
- (9) Encourage all state and county agencies to study the feasibility of and utilize various services that broadband provides such as streaming video technologies to broadcast public meetings over the



1 Internet, videoconferencing, wireless Internet access
2 in state and county facilities that are most used by
3 the public, and the deployment of Voice over Internet
4 Protocol (VoIP);
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
7 report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
8 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
9 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
13 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
14 Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and
15 Taxation; the Chairperson of the House Committee on Economic
16 Development and Business Concerns; each member of Hawaii's
17 Congressional delegation; Comptroller; the Division Head of the
18 Information and Communication Services Division; Department of
19 Accounting and General Services; the Chairperson of the Public
20 Utilities Commission; and the Director of Business, Economic
21 Development, and Tourism.
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OFFERED BY:

David I. Iwamoto
Will Egan
J. Alan Eguchi
Ami Y. Ito
Amulya A. ...

