



LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR
JAMES R. AIONA, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. Box 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 586-2850
Fax Number: 586-2856
www.hawaii.gov/dcca

LAWRENCE M. REIFURTH
DIRECTOR
RONALD BOYER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& BUSINESS CONCERNS

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session 2008

Thursday, January 31, 2008
8:30 a.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON H.B. 2473 – RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY

TO THE HONORABLE KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

My name is Clyde S. Sonobe, and I am the Administrator of the Cable Television Division, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”) as well as a member of the Hawaii broadband task force. The Department supports the intent of this measure so long as it does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget Request.

The broadband task force determined that it could best achieve its mission by establishing different working groups composed of task force members and others from the community with specific expertise. In December 2007, the task force submitted its report to the Legislature outlining its work in 2007 and setting forth a summary work plan for 2008.

Over the course of the next year, the task force will be working to develop a set of recommendations that will be submitted to the Legislature prior to the 2009 Legislative Session. The Department will continue to participate in the work of the task force given that advanced communications services are vital to all of Hawaii’s residents and businesses throughout the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this measure.

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Economic Development and Business Concerns

January 31, 2008

by
David Lassner

HB 2473 Relating to Technology

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting this testimony as a member of the Hawaii Broadband Task Force in support of HB 2473. HB 2473 would provide funding for the Task Force to complete its work in order provide a final report with recommendations to the 2009 Legislature as required.

Through Act 2 of the First Special Session of Hawaii last year, the Legislature created the Hawaii Broadband Task Force with the primary purposes of: 1) removing barriers to broadband access, including gaining wider access to public rights-of-way; 2) identifying opportunities for increased broadband development and adoption, including very high speed broadband services; and 3) enabling the creation and development of new advanced communication technologies in Hawaii. The task force is required to submit an interim report to the 2008 Legislature, which has been done, and its final report to the 2009 Legislature. I was honored to be appointed to the task force by the Senate President and House Speaker, and even more honored to be elected by the task force members as its Chair.

Although the task force has only been convened since October, we have provided an initial interim report to the Legislature as required by Act 2. In that report we have outlined our vision for broadband in Hawaii, as follows:

Hawaii understands that advanced broadband services are an essential infrastructure for an innovation economy and a knowledge society in the twenty-first century. As a result of proactive policy initiatives, Hawaii residents and businesses throughout the State have access to advanced broadband services of the caliber and at the pricing available in the leading developed nations of the world.

Our initial report is available on our web site at www.hbtf.org <<http://www.hbtf.org>>. It reflects the work of the task force as of the very short time it had been in existence in 2007.

It is already clear to the task force that broadband offers immense opportunities for social, economic, and educational advancement. It is also clear that Hawaii has tremendous capability and potential, as demonstrated by the wide range of activities

underway and described in our initial report, including some that may soon outgrow Hawaii's current broadband capabilities. During the course of this legislative session our Task Force Working Groups will be planning a series of informational briefings for the Legislature to demonstrate some of the applications of broadband that are critical to Hawaii's future.

Our initial findings suggest that Hawaii has some significant gaps in availability, which will be identified in greater detail in our final report if we are able to complete our work as planned. Although a number of States are ahead of us in beginning to develop their broadband strategies, Hawaii does not particularly lag them and the Task Force plans to learn from their work as well as our own.

Of greater concern is the fact that the U.S. as a whole is already lagging and falling further behind other advanced nations. Unlike the U.S., much of the world has explicitly identified broadband as a high priority infrastructure and developed national policies that promote deployment and use of advanced capabilities and services to enable their communities to thrive in the 21st century. In addition, the task force has noted that Hawaii's island geography imposes some significant disadvantages relative to other states.

Over the next year the task force would like to be able to collect quantitative data on the availability of broadband services in Hawaii and the actual uptake and use. We believe this will be an important component in developing sound policy recommendations in our Final Report to the 2009 Legislature, in accordance with Act 2.

Thank you for your support of the Hawaii Broadband Task Force, and for this opportunity to testify in favor of supporting our final year of work for you.

Written Statement of
YUKA NAGASHIMA
Executive Director & CEO
High Technology Development Corporation
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS CONCERNS
Thursday January 31, 2008
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HB 2473 RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development & Business Concerns.

The High Technology Development Corporation supports the concept behind HB 2473. There have been many good ideas introduced this legislative session that support the State's economic development goals. We hope the legislature will see it fit to support, pass and fund these ideas, together with the priorities of the Executive's Supplemental Budget as it includes initiatives supportive of our goals and objectives.

Since its inception in 2007 (HB 310, HD2 SD2 CD2, 2007 SLH), the Hawaii Broadband Task Force has brought together various stakeholders and experts from segments of our community to raise awareness of the importance of broadband technologies in areas such as quality of education, delivery of healthcare, and strengthening our economy. Establishing infrastructure for innovation is a role of government, and this Task Force can identify appropriate plans to that end.

Funding the task force during fiscal period 2008-2009 is important to completing their work of this past year and before the task force ceases to exist after June 30, 2009.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2473.