



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
THEODORE E. LIU
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS &
MILITARY AFFAIRS**
Tuesday, April 7, 2009
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

**HCR 131 HD 1 PROPOSED
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER
AFFAIRS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM TO CONDUCT A
TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY STUDY**

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs:

DBEDT offers comments on HCR 131 HD 1 Proposed; which asks the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) and the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) to conduct an assessment of Hawaii's broadband infrastructure.

High speed broadband service has become essential infrastructure for an idea-based innovation economy and a key source of competitive economic advantage. We believe that improved broadband service will help Hawaii's economy and improve services from the public sector.

However, DBEDT is not sufficiently staffed and does not have the expertise to assess this particular infrastructure need. Moreover, we believe it would be difficult to obtain the necessary data for such an assessment. We agree with DCCA that such an assessment would be an appropriate task for the Hawaii Communications Commission, as contained in legislation currently moving through the legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

LATE TESTIMONY



LINDA LINGLE
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TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS & MILITARY AFFAIRS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2009

Tuesday, April 7, 2009
Time: 10:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON H.C.R. 131/H.R. 108 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY.

TO THE HONORABLE ANGUS MCKELVEY, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Lawrence Reifurth, and I am the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“DCCA” or “Department”). The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on the proposed H.D. 1 of this resolution which calls for DCCA and the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (“DBEDT”) to conduct a study of existing telecommunications and broadband infrastructure inventory throughout the State.

At the present time, the Legislature is considering proposed legislation that would consolidate regulation of communications services under one entity, a new Hawaii Communications Commission (“HCC”). The study in H.C.R. 131/H.R. 108, proposed H.D. 1 incorporating telecommunications operation and broadband access, is just the type of review and assessment that the HCC is intended and proposed to undertake. If, however, the HCC is not approved and authorized by the Legislature, then the Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”), not the Department, retains regulatory oversight over telecommunications, and neither the PUC, DBEDT nor DCCA or, for that matter any other entity, would have any authority over broadband.

Consequently, the Department requests that proposed H.D. 1 be amended to delete references to DCCA and instead insert the HCC to conduct a telecommunications infrastructure inventory study.¹ In the event the HCC is not

¹ HCR 131 Proposed HD1 calls for a joint report to be submitted to the Legislature not later than 120 days prior to the convening of the 2010 Legislative Session. This would mean that the joint report is due sometime in early

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established by the Legislature, then the study should not be undertaken as there is no agency with the authority to cause industry members to comply.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposed draft resolution.

September, and thus, the study would have to take place within approximately 4 months, from May to August 2009. This abbreviated time frame is wholly inadequate for any entity to conduct a meaningful study of telecommunications infrastructure.