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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that advanced broadband  
2 services are essential infrastructure for an innovation economy  
3 and a knowledgeable and competitive society in the twenty-first  
4 century. High-speed broadband services at affordable prices are  
5 essential for the advancement of education, health, public  
6 safety, research and innovation, civic participation,  
7 e-government, economic development and diversification, and  
8 public safety and services. The legislature also recognizes  
9 that the manner in which communications and information services  
10 are delivered to the consumer is evolving, including by  
11 wireline, wireless, cable television, and satellite  
12 infrastructures, and that the voice, video, and data services  
13 provided over these infrastructures are converging.

14           The purpose of this Act is to establish the Hawaii  
15 broadband commission and the Hawaii broadband commissioner to  
16 position Hawaii for global competitiveness in the twenty-first  
17 century by promoting the following goals:



- 1 (1) Access to broadband communications for all households,  
2 businesses, and organizations throughout the state;
- 3 (2) Availability of advanced broadband communications  
4 service on a competitive basis to reduce prices,  
5 increase service penetration, and improve service to  
6 all persons in the state;
- 7 (3) Increased broadband availability at affordable costs  
8 to low-income and other disadvantaged groups,  
9 including by making low-cost, broadband-capable  
10 computers available to eligible recipients;
- 11 (4) Increased sharing of the infrastructure used to deploy  
12 broadband to reduce costs for providers, ease  
13 deployment of broadband, and ease entry into a  
14 competitive broadband marketplace;
- 15 (5) Increased, flexible, timely, and responsible access to  
16 public rights-of-way and public facilities for  
17 broadband service providers; and
- 18 (6) A more streamlined permit approval process that  
19 reduces the time and cost of infrastructure  
20 deployment, to be created jointly by stakeholders.



1 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by  
2 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read  
3 as follows:

4 "CHAPTER

5 HAWAII BROADBAND COMMISSION

6 § -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the  
7 context otherwise requires:

8 "Broadband" means an "always on" data networking service  
9 that enables end users to access the Internet and use a variety  
10 of applications.

11 "Commission" means the Hawaii broadband commission.

12 "Commissioner" means the Hawaii broadband commissioner.

13 § -2 Hawaii broadband commission; established; terms;  
14 qualifications. (a) There is established within the department  
15 of accounting and general services for administrative purposes  
16 the Hawaii broadband commission, to implement this chapter.

17 (b) The Hawaii broadband commission shall consist of five  
18 members who shall be appointed by the governor, with the advice  
19 and consent of the senate, from a list of nominees provided by  
20 the speaker of the house of representatives. The term of each  
21 member shall be four years; provided that, of the members  
22 initially appointed, three members shall serve for three years,



1 and the two remaining members shall serve for two years.  
2 Vacancies shall be filled for the remainder of any unexpired  
3 term in the same manner as original appointments. All meetings  
4 of the commission shall be conducted subject to chapter 92.

5 (c) Members of the commission shall have the following  
6 qualifications:

7 (1) Two members shall have significant experience and  
8 knowledge of the broadband, information technology, or  
9 communications industry; provided that during each  
10 member's term, the member may not be employed or  
11 compensated by a telecommunications or technology  
12 entity that is or may be regulated by the commission  
13 at a future time or that currently has contracts with  
14 the State for the provision of goods or services;

15 (2) Two members shall have significant experience in  
16 public service and possess significant knowledge of  
17 state and federal laws, rules, and regulations related  
18 to permitting, procurement, and administration of  
19 communications services; provided further that during  
20 each member's term, the member may not be employed by  
21 any state or county agency, with the exception of the



1 University of Hawaii or the natural energy laboratory  
2 of Hawaii authority; and

3 (3) One member shall have significant experience and  
4 knowledge of consumer advocacy;

5 provided further that no fewer than two members of the  
6 commission shall each be a resident of a county with less  
7 than five hundred thousand residents.

8 (d) The members of the commission shall serve without  
9 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including  
10 travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

11 § -3 Hawaii broadband commissioner; qualifications;  
12 duties. (a) There is established the Hawaii broadband  
13 commissioner within the department of accounting and general  
14 services for administrative purposes. The commissioner shall be  
15 exempt from chapters 76 and 89, and shall be appointed by the  
16 governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, from a list  
17 of nominees provided by the speaker of the house of  
18 representatives. The term of the commissioner shall be six  
19 years, and vacancies shall be filled for the remainder of any  
20 unexpired term in the same manner as original appointments. The  
21 commissioner shall not serve as a member of the Hawaii broadband  
22 commission.

1 (b) The commissioner shall have significant experience and  
2 knowledge of:

3 (1) The broadband, information technology, and  
4 communications industries; and

5 (2) State and federal laws, rules, and regulations related  
6 to permitting, procurement, and administration of  
7 communications services;

8 provided that the commissioner shall not be employed by any  
9 state or county agency, with the exception of the University of  
10 Hawaii or the natural energy laboratory of Hawaii authority, or  
11 be employed or compensated by a telecommunications or technology  
12 entity that is or may be regulated by the commission at a future  
13 time or that currently has contracts with the State for the  
14 provision of goods or services.

15 (c) The commissioner shall:

16 (1) Execute the recommendations of the Hawaii broadband  
17 commission; provided that:

18 (A) Any programs and initiatives advanced by the  
19 commissioner shall first be approved by a  
20 majority vote of the commission;



- 1 (B) The commissioner may override the vote of the  
2 commission within ten days of its vote by  
3 transmitting a statement of objection; and
- 4 (C) The commission may amend the measure or override  
5 the objection of the commissioner by a vote of at  
6 least two-thirds of the members within ten days  
7 of the receipt of the commissioner's statement of  
8 objection;
- 9 (2) Act as a liaison between the State and other  
10 governmental agencies, private industry, and the  
11 general public on all matters relating to broadband  
12 technology use;
- 13 (3) Coordinate efforts between the State and the counties  
14 to make broadband available to underserved populations  
15 and areas;
- 16 (4) Facilitate partnerships with private industry and non-  
17 profit groups to expand broadband access;
- 18 (5) Encourage business development and investment in a  
19 broadband communications industry in the state;
- 20 (6) Assist, as needed, state, county, and federal agencies  
21 with permitting and regulatory compliance for  
22 broadband communications projects in the state,



- 1 including advocating for regulatory change to
- 2 streamline the permitting processes;
- 3 (7) Assist, as needed, private entities with permitting
- 4 and regulatory compliance for broadband communications
- 5 projects in the state;
- 6 (8) Identify and secure sources of funding for the
- 7 broadband technology projects from the state, county,
- 8 and federal governments, nonprofit organizations, and
- 9 private industry;
- 10 (9) Assist state and county agencies with their
- 11 operational broadband needs; and
- 12 (10) Submit an annual report on the activities of the
- 13 commission and progress in developing expanded
- 14 broadband access in the state, along with
- 15 recommendations for improvements, to the governor and
- 16 the legislature no later than January 31 of each year.

17 § -4 Power and duties of the commission. To carry out  
18 this chapter, the commission shall:

- 19 (1) Recommend policy initiatives and regulatory changes to
- 20 promote expanded broadband access in the state;
- 21 (2) Recommend strategies, including changes to state and
- 22 county permitting procedures, to encourage private



- 1 investment in broadband technology in Hawaii and to  
2 speed deployment of broadband technology throughout  
3 the state;
- 4 (3) Develop strategies to increase moneys available to the  
5 State for providing access to broadband in underserved  
6 populations and rural areas;
- 7 (4) Evaluate the structure and performance of the  
8 commission and the commissioner and make  
9 recommendations to enable them to better perform their  
10 duties;
- 11 (5) Identify sources of federal support and funding,  
12 including military and defense initiatives that may  
13 assist Hawaii in broadband deployment; and
- 14 (6) In cooperation with the public utilities commission:
- 15 (A) Develop strategies for sharing new and existing  
16 utilities infrastructures and conduits to provide  
17 expanded broadband access;
- 18 (B) Develop strategies and recommend funding sources  
19 to purchase or invest in segments of the  
20 telecommunications industry; and
- 21 (C) Perform outreach in the public schools and  
22 University of Hawaii to create educational



1                    programs and initiatives that help develop skills  
2                    in technology.

3            §    -5   Removal.   (a)   The commissioner may be removed from  
4 office prior to the expiration of the commissioner's term by a  
5 two-thirds majority vote of the commission and a two-thirds  
6 majority vote of both the senate and the house of  
7 representatives.

8            (b)   A member of the commission may be removed from office  
9 prior to the expiration of the member's term by a two-thirds  
10 majority vote of the other members of the commission and a two-  
11 thirds majority vote of both the senate and the house of  
12 representatives.

13           (c)   The commissioner may be placed on administrative leave  
14 by a two-thirds majority vote of the commission, pending an  
15 investigation into the activities of the commissioner.   The  
16 commission shall appoint a temporary commissioner in the  
17 interim.

18           §    -6   Employment of assistants.   The commission may  
19 appoint and employ clerks, stenographers, agents, engineers,  
20 accountants, and other assistants, with or without regard to  
21 chapter 76; provided that:



1 (1) The commission may employ utility and cable analysts  
2 exempt from chapter 76; and

3 (2) Each analyst shall possess at least the minimum  
4 qualifications required of comparable experts in the  
5 relevant industry."

6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the  
9 Hawaii broadband commission and the Hawaii broadband  
10 commissioner.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii  
12 broadband commission and the Hawaii broadband commissioner for  
13 the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112.



**Report Title:**

Technology; Broadband

**Description:**

Creates the Hawaii broadband commission and the Hawaii broadband commissioner to promote and maximize the availability of broadband services in the state. Appropriates funds. Effective July 1, 2112. (HB2698 HD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

