

HCR 297

EDT



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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

Friday, April 16, 2010
1:30 p.m.

WRITTEN COMMENTS ON

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 297
URGING GOOGLE INC. TO SELECT HAWAII AS A TEST SITE TO CONDUCT
THE GOOGLE GIGABIT BROADBAND INITIATIVE**

TO THE HONORABLE CAROL FUKUNAGA, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

My name is Ron Boyer, Acting Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this resolution.

Google's "Fiber for Communities" experiment proposes to bring 1-gigabit-per-second internet speed to one or more U.S. locations on a trial basis. House Concurrent Resolution 297 urges Google to select Hawai'i as a test site for conducting its gigabit broadband initiative.

The Department concurs that Hawai'i would make an optimal location for Google to demonstrate the revolutionary benefits of high speed broadband, given the strong

community interest, government support, near universal penetration of cable television, and the higher than average subscription rates for broadband usage.

In fact, representing the State, the Department worked collaboratively with the four counties to submit a joint application on March 25 to Google. Under this partnership, the State and county governments are prepared to provide regulatory relief where possible to facilitate the deployment of an ultra-high speed broadband network. In addition, the application also calls for comprehensive partnerships with both the public and private sectors of Hawai'i's community, as well as accelerated development of applications to benefit the state.

Our application touts Hawai'i's unique and diverse choices where a Google network might be deployed citing Hawai'i's broad spectrum of urban and rural communities with a diversity of social-economic populations residing within a variety of terrains, climates and topographies.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this resolution.

Written Statement of
YUKA NAGASHIMA
Executive Director & CEO
High Technology Development Corporation
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
Friday, April 16, 2010
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

In consideration of
**HCR 297 URGING GOOGLE INC. TO SELECT HAWAII AS A TEST SITE TO
CONDUCT THE GOOGLE GIGABIT BROADBAND INITIATIVE.**

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology.

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) supports House Concurrent Resolution 297, which urges Google Inc. to select Hawaii as a test site to conduct the Google Gigabit Broadband Initiative.

Various stakeholders of both the State and the County government departments coordinated and supported each other to submit a successful application in response to Google's Request for Information. Further, each county submitted an application which supported each other with the philosophy that "all of Hawaii" welcomes Google for its Gigabit Broadband Initiative. The initiative has the support of the Administration as well.

The public showed their support via various grassroots initiatives, including:

- Become a Fan of "Gigabit HI" on Facebook
- <http://www.techhui.com/page/gigabit-hi>
- <http://HI-Google.org>

This resolution can be an effective vehicle in showing the Legislature's support, which can be included in the counties' applications to Google.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I would also like to take this opportunity to urge all the legislators to let their constituents know about this great opportunity for Hawaii to bring fiber-to-the-home, ultra-fast broadband access, which can better connect our neighborhoods, increase the capacity for online education, and invigorate the State's economy in general.