

HB 1342

RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS

HAWAIIAN TELCOM

February 8, 2011

Chair McKelvey and members of the House Economic Revitalization and Business Committee:

Hawaiian Telcom supports HB 1342 - "RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS."

Hawaiian Telcom appreciates the work of the Legislature and the Permits Work Group for spearheading efforts to advance the deployment of our state's broadband infrastructure by streamlining the governmental permit process. Our company wholeheartedly supports exempting broadband infrastructure improvements from state or county permit requirements for five years and encourages the committee to consider making such a change permanent.

Advanced broadband services are essential infrastructure for an innovation economy and a knowledge society in the 21st century. As we are all aware, broadband deployment drives opportunities for business, education, and healthcare. One national study estimated the positive economic impact of advanced broadband in Hawaii at \$578 million per year. Passage of this aggressive and forward-looking measure will be a positive step in aligning Hawaii's policy objectives with governmental regulations that encourage rather than discourage greater investment in broadband infrastructure.

For all of the reasons set forth above, Hawaiian Telcom supports HB
1342.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.