

LATE TESTIMONY

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TESTIMONY
OF
BRUCE A. COPPA, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEES
ON
PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
ON
March 17, 2011
H.B. 1342, H.D. 1

RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

Chair Espero. Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 1342, H.D. 1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports the overall intent of H.B. 1342, H.D. 1, DAGS would like to suggest some clarifying language to avoid abuses.

There are many unused rights-of-way. To avoid any incremental and cumulative impact of no oversight we suggest the following revised language. Changes are in brackets.

(1) Take place within existing rights-of-way or utility easements [that are currently in use] or use existing telecommunications infrastructure; and (2) Make no significant [additions or] changes to the existing rights-of-way, utility easements, or telecommunications infrastructure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony **IN SUPPORT** of HB1342 RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS

My name is Jay April, I am President and CEO of Akaku: Maui Community Television. As a community anchor institution that has been providing state of the art communications and media training to Maui residents for nearly twenty years and as a recent recipient of \$132,000 in federal stimulus funds to bring broadband adoption skills to Hawaii's youth in rural areas of Maui Nui, Akaku: Maui Community Television, strongly endorses HB1342,HD1

Availability of ubiquitous and affordable broadband has become essential to the nation's economic prosperity, national security, and the personal success of its residents. In addition to private sector commercial providers, more than 400 communities across this nation have begun to develop community based broadband options allowing municipal broadband networks to blossom around the country. HB1342 will help streamline delivery of broadband services for everyone and will provide the added benefit of removing barriers to healthy broadband competition with incumbent telephone and cable companies.

HB1342 combined with complimentary state broadband planning and a recently announced federal reform and re-direct of Universal Service Funds to broadband development in rural areas could foster a rural broadband strategy that could:

1. Include implementation of equitable wireless and wire line broadband media access for isolated communities.
2. Engage Akaku as a community anchor training institution and high speed information utility in remote locations as a partner with libraries and schools.
3. Provide broadband infrastructure, priority support and community technology training where service is substandard or unavailable; and,
4. Provide media literacy and access to media tools to existing non-profit organizations serving indigenous populations in remote rural areas.

While we have much more to do before we can accomplish all the worthy goals of this broadband initiative, HB1342 is an important first step in making sure the infrastructure can be put in place to bring all Hawaii residents into a digitally inclusive future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.