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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that "fiber to the home"  
2 is a relatively new and quickly growing method of providing  
3 vastly higher bandwidth to consumers and businesses that enables  
4 more robust internet, voice, and video services. Connecting  
5 homes directly to fiber optic cable provides significant  
6 improvements in the bandwidth that can be supplied to consumers,  
7 with current fiber optic technology capable of two-way  
8 transmission speeds of up to 100 megabits per second. As cable  
9 modem and digital subscriber line (DSL) providers are challenged  
10 to provide higher bandwidth, improvements in fiber optic  
11 equipment offer constantly increasing available bandwidth  
12 without having to change the fiber.

13       In its final report, the Hawaii broadband task force's  
14 first recommendation was to establish a forward-looking vision  
15 to make Hawaii globally competitive. The task force recommended  
16 legislation that enshrines in statute a forward-looking vision  
17 to guide policy and action in recognizing broadband as critical  
18 infrastructure for the twenty-first century. The task force



1 encouraged the public and private sectors to strive together to  
2 enable every home and business in the State to access 100  
3 megabits per second (mbps) upstream and downstream broadband  
4 service at prices comparable to those in leading economies of  
5 the world by 2012 with expandability to 1000 mbps thereafter,  
6 ensuring that every home and business will be capable of using  
7 this capability for educational, economic, social, cultural, and  
8 medical advancement.

9       The purpose of this Act is to promote enhanced  
10 communication infrastructure for Hawaii residents, by  
11 incorporating this recommendation in the Hawaii state plan.

12       SECTION 2. Section 226-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

14       "(b) To achieve the general economic objectives, it shall  
15 be the policy of this State to:

16       (1) Expand Hawaii's national and international marketing,  
17 communication, and organizational ties, to increase  
18 the State's capacity to adjust to and capitalize upon  
19 economic changes and opportunities occurring outside  
20 the State.



- 1           (2) Promote Hawaii as an attractive market for  
2                   environmentally and socially sound investment  
3                   activities that benefit Hawaii's people.
- 4           (3) Seek broader outlets for new or expanded Hawaii  
5                   business investments.
- 6           (4) Expand existing markets and penetrate new markets for  
7                   Hawaii's products and services.
- 8           (5) Assure that the basic economic needs of Hawaii's  
9                   people are maintained in the event of disruptions in  
10                  overseas transportation.
- 11          (6) Strive to achieve a level of construction activity  
12                  responsive to, and consistent with, state growth  
13                  objectives.
- 14          (7) Encourage the formation of cooperatives and other  
15                  favorable marketing arrangements at the local or  
16                  regional level to assist Hawaii's small scale  
17                  producers, manufacturers, and distributors.
- 18          (8) Encourage labor-intensive activities that are  
19                  economically satisfying and which offer opportunities  
20                  for upward mobility.



- 1           (9) Foster greater cooperation and coordination between  
2           the government and private sectors in developing  
3           Hawaii's employment and economic growth opportunities.
- 4           (10) Stimulate the development and expansion of economic  
5           activities which will benefit areas with substantial  
6           or expected employment problems.
- 7           (11) Maintain acceptable working conditions and standards  
8           for Hawaii's workers.
- 9           (12) Provide equal employment opportunities for all  
10          segments of Hawaii's population through affirmative  
11          action and nondiscrimination measures.
- 12          (13) Stimulate the development and expansion of economic  
13          activities capitalizing on defense, dual-use, and  
14          science and technology assets, particularly on the  
15          neighbor islands where employment opportunities may be  
16          limited.
- 17          (14) Encourage businesses that have favorable financial  
18          multiplier effects within Hawaii's economy,  
19          particularly with respect to emerging industries in  
20          science and technology.



- 1 (15) Promote and protect intangible resources in Hawaii,  
2 such as scenic beauty and the aloha spirit, which are  
3 vital to a healthy economy.
- 4 (16) Increase effective communication between the  
5 educational community and the private sector to  
6 develop relevant curricula and training programs to  
7 meet future employment needs in general, and  
8 requirements of new, potential growth industries in  
9 particular.
- 10 (17) Foster a business climate in Hawaii--including  
11 attitudes, tax and regulatory policies, and financial  
12 and technical assistance programs--that is conducive  
13 to the expansion of existing enterprises and the  
14 creation and attraction of new business and industry.
- 15 (18) Promote broadband services as critical infrastructure  
16 for twenty-first century communications and encourage  
17 the public and private sectors to ensure that every  
18 home and business in the State has access to broadband  
19 service at prices comparable to those in leading  
20 economies of the world, for educational, economic,  
21 social, cultural, and medical advancement by 2018."



1           SECTION 3. The department of business, economic  
2 development, and tourism shall report annually to the governor  
3 and the legislature on the status of efforts to promote  
4 broadband services as critical infrastructure for twenty-first  
5 century communications and encourage the public and private  
6 sectors to ensure that every home and business in the State has  
7 access to broadband service.

8           SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

9           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Communications Technology; Broadband Task Force

**Description:**

Promotes enhanced communication infrastructure for Hawaii residents by incorporating recommendations of the Hawaii broadband task force in the Hawaii state plan; requires the department of business, economic development, and tourism to submit an annual status report to the governor and legislature.  
(SD1)

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