

**Testimony before the House Committee On  
Economic Revitalization & Business**

**By Paul A. Nakagawa  
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Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.**

**Tuesday, February 7, 2012  
8:30 am, Conference Room 312**

**HB 2654 - Relating to the Regulation of Telecommunications  
and Cable Television Services**

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Paul Nakagawa and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) and its subsidiaries, Hawaii Electric Light Company (HELCO) and Maui Electric Company (MECO).

We support the deployment of high-speed broadband infrastructure in Hawaii and the efforts of the Legislature and the Broadband Assistance Advisory Council (BAAC) to streamline the permitting process applicable to the development and implementation of broadband services. However, we ask that the "consolidating" and "streamlining" of the State's regulatory processes for the telecommunications sector in support of the broadband initiative does not abate or exempt an entity from compliance to any and all of applicable safety and engineering requirements relating to the installation, improvement, or construction of overhead and/or underground electrical facilities that HECO and its subsidiaries currently comply with. By discounting or eliminating the issue of compliance to engineering and safety standards, public safety and electrical reliability would be at risk when installing new or modifying existing broadband facilities.

We would like to work with the Committees as well as the BAAC to develop appropriate language as it relates to insuring public safety and code compliance with respect to the addition of broadband technology onto existing utility poles.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.