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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
RICHARD C. LIM
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, February 23, 2012

9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of

SB 2235 SD1 RELATING TO COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SB 2235 SD1 which adds broadband to the list of top priorities to achieve the State's economic objectives and requires DBEDT to report to the Governor and the Legislature on broadband activities.

Further, this Senate draft requires DBEDT to report annually to the Governor and the Legislature on the status of efforts to promote and deploy broadband services. DBEDT recognizes the subject matter of the report to be exactly in alignment with the Governor's Hawaii Broadband Initiative. The report is also in alignment with DBEDT's core mission to collect and analyze economic data, given that broadband is considered one of the key elements of innovation economy infrastructure.

As this reporting requirement appears to be an unfunded mandate, we respectfully request the legislature to consider these new reports critical to making sound policy decisions, when reviewing DBEDT's core budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 23, 2012 at 9:00 am

By

David Lassner

Vice President for Information Technology/CIO, University of Hawai'i

SB2235, SD 1 – RELATING TO COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2235, SD1. I offer this testimony both in my capacity as Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer of the University of Hawai'i System, and as the former Chair of the Hawai'i Broadband Task Force.

The importance of broadband to our educational, economic, social, cultural and medical well-being in the 21st century is now well-understood and incontrovertible. While there are many differences of opinion about the level of services necessary and the means to achieve them, this measure would establish a visionary objective that everyone should be able to agree on.

As noted in the Final Report of the Hawai'i Broadband Task Force, establishing this shared vision in statute can only help as we all work together to identify and execute specific next steps to bring the vision to fruition.