



Testimony of Michael Bagley
Director of Public Policy for Verizon
Before the
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
On S.B. 2235 S.D.2 H.D.1 with Amendments
March 15th, 2012

The Honorable Angus McKelvey
Chair, Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Hawaii State House of Representatives

Re: *Testimony SUPPORTING, WITH AMENDMENTS Proposed SB 2235 SD2 HD1*

Dear Chairman McKelvey and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Verizon, I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of proposed S.B. 2235 SD.2 HD.1 amendments that will extend the 45 day streamline permit approval process to the deployment of wireless broadband facilities. The passage of this legislation will encourage private investment for the more rapid deployment of wireless broadband infrastructure and will help to expedite the availability of advanced services to the people of Hawai'i.

Currently, the local permitting processes that wireless broadband service providers must follow to upgrade or construct new facilities, reflects a fractionalized and inconsistent mix of ordinances and regulatory requirements across counties. The lack of continuity in the application process between counties hinders statewide deployment of advanced broadband services to the communities that we serve. Additionally, the absence of a reasonable timeline that is applicable to all state and county government agencies involved in the permitting process, leads to extensive delays. Such delays discourage private investment and further exacerbate the development and expansion of the broadband communications infrastructure throughout Hawai'i.

Verizon seeks support for S.B. 2235 SD.2 HD.1 amendments to clarify that "wireless" broadband facilities are explicitly included in the streamline permit process and therefore treat wireless broadband deployment with the same deference and priority as cable service broadband deployments. This can be achieved by simply adding "*wireless telecommunications facilities*" to Section 1, Chapter 27 (g) and to Section 2, Chapter 46 (g) under the types of services that qualify for "broadband related permits."

(g) For the purposes of this section, "broadband-related permits" means all county permits required to commence actions with respect to the installation, improvement, construction, or development of infrastructure relating to broadband service or broadband technology, including wireless telecommunications facilities, the interconnection of telecommunications cables, cable installation, tower construction, and undersea boring, or the landing of an undersea cable....

The above amendments will help to streamline the permitting process and to avoid the excessive delays that wireless service providers experience today. In addition to strict adherence to a 45 day

approval timeline for all state permit approvals, the 10 day window for state to confirm if an application is complete or notify applicant of what is missing, is also a critical component to ensure the expeditious deployment of wireless broadband infrastructure.

Verizon also wants to be a strong partner with the State of Hawaii with regard to broadband deployment however Hawai'i has earned the reputation for long delays in the deployment of wireless facilities. It is not unusual to take four or five years for wireless carriers to erect a new structuring Hawai'i, a process that may require only 18 months in other states. The current permitting process needs to be fixed. Antiquated policies and processes do not adequately serve the wireless users across counties and are also inconsistent with the Governor and the State's commitment to foster innovation and economic development. Considering the challenging topography of the state that geographically isolates many communities, "wireless" high-speed broadband is a key component to a comprehensive and robust statewide deployment of advanced services to the people of Hawai'i.

Verizon commends the Governor, the Legislature, and other key stakeholders in the State for showing leadership with regard to the goal of advancing broadband deployment. As a leading technology company, Verizon is proud of its investments nationwide to deliver high quality broadband services on a 4th Generation platform known as Long-term Evolution (4G LTE). 4G LTE represents the most efficient and highest speed wireless broadband available. In the rapid evolution of wireless broadband, 2G allowed consumers the opportunity to experience digital voice and text messaging. 3G took wireless broadband to the next level, providing a platform for smart phones, web browsing, and numerous apps. 4G LTE establishes a new global standard: ultra-fast speeds that download songs in seconds and movies in minutes; video conferencing; machine-to-machine applications; and more. Our 4G network is not 1G above 3G, but is a broadband network that is ten times faster than current 3G networks.

Verizon doesn't just develop advanced cutting edge broadband technology, we also invest heavily in our network deployment, and are pleased that we have spent over \$300 million in the State of Hawaii since 2000, to ensure that our customers in this State have the best network, an investment that we do not pass the cost on to the customer because we want to earn their trust and loyalty.

The dynamic and exponential growth of the wireless industry is testimony to the value consumers and businesses place on their communications services. The wireless industry consistently drives unparalleled innovation of high technology products and accelerates public adoption of advanced broadband services. S.B. 2235 SD.2 HD.1 takes the appropriate steps to address this problem by streamlining the permitting process for the deployment of advanced cable and wireless broadband services, fostering innovation, economic development and encouraging private investment in the state to build a robust and sophisticated, telecommunications infrastructure.

In closing, Verizon Wireless respectfully asks Chairman McKelvey and Members of this Committee, to **SUPPORT, with AMENDMENTS, Senate Bill 2235 SD.2 HD 1.**

Thank you.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:49 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: carolphilips1@gmail.com
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for SB2235 on 3/15/2012 9:45:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/15/2012 9:45:00 AM SB2235

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carol Philips
Organization: Individual
E-mail: carolphilips1@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/14/2012

Comments:

Dear Honorable Legislatures,

I'm writing to ask you to vote no on SB2235 because exempting any project from environmental review and the county Special Management Area Permit process as well as the public involvement components in both review processes lacks common sense. Is there something wrong with these process? Is it wrong to protect the environment? Is it wrong for the public to be involved in protecting the environment? I hope you find that the answer is no to these questions and vote no on this legislation.

Respectfully,

Carol Philips

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 5:28 AM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: friendsoflanai@gmail.com
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for SB2235 on 3/15/2012 9:45:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/15/2012 9:45:00 AM SB2235

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Friends of Lana'i
Organization: Friends of Lana'i
E-mail: friendsoflanai@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/15/2012

Comments:

Environmental regulations were created by the legislature to protect the land and its people. There is NO need to exempt or disembowel those regulations for broadband. Vote no on SB2235

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:13 AM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: annmarie@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: LATE LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for SB2235 on 3/15/2012 9:45:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/15/2012 9:45:00 AM SB2235

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ann Marie Kirk
Organization: Individual
E-mail: annmarie@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/15/2012

Comments: