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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2016

Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016
Time: 9:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON S.B. NO. 2511 – RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

TO THE HONORABLE JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

My name is Ji Sook “Lisa” Kim, and I am the Cable Television Administrator at the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (the “Department”). The Department appreciates the opportunity to express **support** for S.B. No. 2511, which further amends Act 199, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, to: (1) include the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism as a permanent member on the Broadband Assistance Advisory Council (“BAAC”); (2) ensure representation of each county on the BAAC through the legislative appointments of members on the BAAC; and (3) authorize the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (the “Director”), as Chairperson of the BAAC, to designate representatives of other interested public or private sector organizations to serve as members of the BAAC, or as members of the BAAC work groups to address specified issues on an ad hoc basis, and to reimburse these designated members for reasonable expenses necessary for the performance of their duties.

The Department recognizes the significant interest the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (“DBEDT”) has in supporting and expanding broadband access and use in the State. The Department and DBEDT regularly communicate to discuss the broadband development activities of each department and to address how the departments may support the efforts of the other in facilitating

broadband access and use. Thus, the Department strongly supports the inclusion of the Director of DBEDT as a permanent member of the BAAC.

The Department also strongly supports amendment of Act 199 to ensure the inclusion of a representative of each county on the BAAC, and to authorize the Director to designate other interested public and private sector representatives on the BAAC and its work groups and to reimburse their reasonable expenses. The Department has in the past included other public and private stakeholders as unofficial participants, but lacked authority to reimburse travel expenses for non-appointed participants who traveled to Honolulu for the BAAC meetings.

Lastly, the Department supports the proposed amendment to Act 199 to set definite term dates for the BAAC members and to provide for holdover members. This will ease administration of the BAAC membership.

For the reasons set forth above, the Department strongly supports passage of S.B. No. 2511. The proposed amendments will help to ensure that the BAAC membership includes a broad range of interests and experience of both government and private entities to provide insight and guidance on the continued expansion of broadband access and use across the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, February 25, 2016
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
in consideration of
SB 2511
RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SB 2511, which adds the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism as a permanent member on the Broadband Assistance Advisory Council; ensures a member from each county is represented through appointment on the council; and authorizes the chair of the council to designate representatives of other interested public and private sector organizations to serve as members of the council or the work groups of the council on an ad hoc basis as needed.

DBEDT supports this measure and the council's purpose to:

- (1) Monitor the broadband-based development efforts of other states and nations in areas such as business, education, and health;
- (2) Advise the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs on other states' best practices involving telework promotion and policies and strategies related to making affordable broadband services available to every Hawaii home and business;
- (3) Monitor broadband-related activities at the federal level;
- (4) Monitor regulatory and policy changes for potential impact on broadband deployment and sustainability in Hawaii; and
- (5) Encourage public-private partnerships to increase the deployment and adoption of broadband services and applications.

DBEDT defers to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs on the appointments of new and existing council members.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2511.