

SB740

Measure Title: RELATING TO BROADBAND ACCESS AVAILABILITY IN RESORT AREAS.

Report Title: Task Force; Broadband Availability

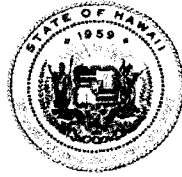
Description: Establishes a task force to create a master plan for the availability of universal high speed broadband access in Waikiki and other resort areas.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: EDT/TSI, WAM

Introducer(s): BAKER, CHUN OAKLAND



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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
AND
TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2015

Date: Friday, February 6, 2015
Time: 2:45 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON S.B. NO. 740 – RELATING TO BROADBAND ACCESS
AVAILABILITY IN RESORT AREAS.

TO THE HONORABLE GLENN WAKAI AND GILBERT KAHELE, CHAIRS, AND
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:

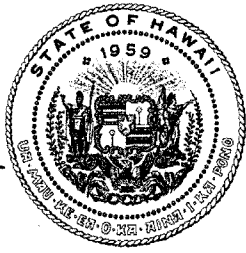
My name is Ji Sook “Lisa” Kim, and I am the Acting Cable Television Administrator at the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (the “Department”). The Department appreciates the opportunity to express **support for the intent** of S.B. No. 740, which convenes a working group to create a master plan to provide universal high speed broadband access throughout Waikiki and other resort areas in the State.

The Department recognizes the significant interest the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (“DBEDT”) has in supporting broadband access in resort areas, including the Waikiki area. However, the Department respectfully requests the Committees to consider whether the existing Broadband Assistance Advisory Council (“BAAC”) can instead be used to provide assistance on this issue.

Given the BAAC’s experience in this area and the diverse range of interests of both government and private organizations that are represented by its membership, the Department believes that the BAAC has the requisite breadth to provide insight and guidance on the availability of high speed broadband access in the resort areas of the

State, and on the planning needed for identified gaps in service. Also, the Department requests the Committees consider whether a resolution requesting the BAAC to take up planning considerations for Waikiki and other resort areas in the State would be an effective alternative means of providing the BAAC with legislative guidance on this matter. The Department would appreciate the opportunity to continue to work with the Committees in developing such legislation, should the Committees determine that a resolution is a preferred alternative to this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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

DAVID Y. IGE
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Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY AND
TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**
Friday, February 6, 2015
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

In consideration of
SB740
RELATING TO BROADBAND ACCESS AVAILABILITY IN RESORT AREAS.

Chairs Wakai and Kahele, Vice Chairs Slom and English, and Members of the Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the purpose of SB 740. This bill would establish a working group to create a master plan to provide universal high-speed broadband access in Waikiki and other resort areas throughout Hawaii.

DBEDT agrees that broadband access will help Hawaii's resort areas become more competitive globally. However, DBEDT currently lacks the staff capacity to convene an eighteen member working group and assist in drafting the master plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Written Statement of
ROBBIE MELTON
Executive Director & CEO
High Technology Development Corporation
before the
SENATE COMMITTEES ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY
AND
TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Friday, February 6, 2015
2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016
In consideration of

SB740 RELATING TO BROADBAND ACCESS AVAILABILITY IN RESORT AREAS.

Chairs Wakai and Kahele, Vice Chairs Slom and English, and Members of the Committees on Economic Development & Technology and Tourism and International Affairs.

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **offers comments** on SB740 relating to establishing a task force to create a master plan for the availability of universal high speed broadband access in Waikiki and other resort areas.

HTDC supports initiatives aimed at improving the infrastructure for ubiquitous high speed broadband throughout the state. Affordable access to broadband is a key component in improving Hawaii's reputation as a place for innovation and a place to do business. HTDC comments that a sustainable plan should be driven by the private sector and the communities with collaboration from the public sector.

HTDC defers to the appropriate Departments regarding the cost, administration, and efficiency of the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.