



# 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 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
TOURISM AND TECHNOLOGY**

Wednesday, March 15, 2017  
1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Room 414

in consideration of  
**HB597, HD1**  
**RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports** HB 597, HD1, which establishes a broadband coordinator position within DBEDT to create the state broadband plan and report to the Legislature prior to the start of the 2018 Session, provided that it does not replace budget requests in the Executive Budget.

However, the plan cannot be completed prior to the 2018 Session, especially since most of that time would be required to establish, recruit and hire the coordinator. DBEDT requests that an interim report be submitted 20 days prior to the 2018 Session.

DBEDT supports the Legislature's finding that capitalizing on broadband technology will improve Hawaii's outcomes in economic development. Using funds appropriated in Act 243 (15) DBEDT received Governor's approval to create a Broadband Strategy Officer position to procure a financial advisor to assist the State in structuring and procuring a public private partnership to plan, design, construct and operate a four-bore transpacific fiber-optic cable landing site (CLS). Proposals have been received, and a project partner and site will be selected after careful due diligence. This project will be in fulfillment of a Broadband Task Force recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 11, 2017 1:02 PM  
**To:** ETT Testimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB597 on Mar 15, 2017 13:15PM\*

**HB597**

Submitted on: 3/11/2017

Testimony for ETT on Mar 15, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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