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TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
INTRASTATE COMMERCE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2018

Wednesday, January 31, 2018  
11:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON H.B. NO. 2449, RELATING TO BROADBAND ACCESS FOR SENIORS.**

TO THE HONORABLE TAKASHI OHNO, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”) appreciates the opportunity to testify on H.B. 2449, Relating to Broadband Access for Seniors. My name is Ji Sook “Lisa” Kim, and I am the Administrator of the Department’s Cable Television Division. The Department appreciates the intent of this bill and provides the following comments.

H.B. 2449 requires the Department to conduct a feasibility study on deploying broadband technology at county- and state-run senior centers.

The Department is currently working on a pilot project to extend public access to Internet services across the State through the provision of wireless Internet Access Points (“WiFi hotspots”) at county or state agency locations and facilities (the “Pilot

Project”). Potential locations for the WiFi hotspots include senior centers, community centers, park facilities, and other agency locations. The Pilot Project will leverage state and county institutional network (“INET”) benefits by using INET connections to provide Internet access at certain locations in unserved and underserved rural communities. In certain instances and dependent upon cost, the Pilot Project may fund broadband service connections if none currently exist, thereby extending broadband infrastructure to these areas and supporting broadband service extension to residents in the surrounding community.

The Pilot Project will be on Hawaii Island, leveraging a previous County of Hawaii WiFi program and relationship with the County’s Broadband Assistance Advisory Council representatives. The Pilot Project relies upon a partnership with the County of Hawaii’s Department of Information Technology because they, and participating county agencies, must be willing and able to manage the operation and oversight of the WiFi hotspots. The Department has already been in communication with the County of Hawaii and hopes to begin the Pilot Project within the next few months.

The Pilot Project will provide information that may be used to duplicate the project in other counties, such as:

- Costs to purchase equipment;
- Costs to install equipment;
- Costs to operate and maintain equipment;
- Usage data;

- Identification of county facilities where Internet services are desired for public access, and the current state of existing broadband capacity at those facilities; and
- Range of costs to provide Internet access to county facilities that are unserved or underserved.

Because this measure seeks similar information with respect to providing Internet access at county- and state-run senior centers, the Department believes a study for such purpose may not be necessary at this time. With respect to the development of digital literacy programs for seniors, the Department notes other entities have already developed a number of existing programs, including those offered through the Hawaii State Public Library System. However, as an adjunct to its Pilot Program, the Department is willing to work through the County to determine the programs offered at its senior and community centers and the availability and ability of staff to provide these programs. The Department will provide this information and information from the Pilot Project to the Committee prior to the next legislative session.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill.

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2449**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:19:39 AM

Testimony for IAC on 1/31/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments: