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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii needs to  
2 better address critical broadband infrastructure in the State by  
3 establishing an open access, carrier neutral cable landing  
4 station to attract transpacific fiber optic cables and expand  
5 Hawaii's connectivity around the world, which will establish  
6 Hawaii as a key player in the global broadband market and  
7 address the need for better broadband connection. Attracting  
8 partners with the necessary technical expertise and resources  
9 has the potential to develop Hawaii into a strategic  
10 communications and knowledge hub in the Pacific. This hub would  
11 integrate a robust global communications network and edge  
12 computing for the development of next generation applications,  
13 such as artificial intelligence and smart communities.

14           In 2008, the Hawaii broadband task force submitted a final  
15 report to the legislature that made several key recommendations.  
16 The task force recommended, among other things, that Hawaii  
17 should "aggressively promote the landing of new trans-Pacific



1 submarine fiber in Hawaii, including a shared access cable  
2 station that reduces barriers to fiber landing in Hawaii" to  
3 maximize Hawaii's connectivity to the world. In 2018,  
4 TeleGeography, a telecommunications market research and  
5 consulting firm, released an update on the status of six new  
6 transpacific fiber optic projects linking Asia and North  
7 America. However, none of these six will land in Hawaii.

8 The legislature further finds that the timing for an open  
9 access, carrier neutral cable landing is critical due to various  
10 federal and private contracts that are available to Hawaii, such  
11 as the South American Pacific Link, which would connect Hawaii  
12 to South America, Central America, and the east coast of the  
13 United States continent. An open access, carrier neutral cable  
14 landing would also benefit the State by creating a level playing  
15 field for telecommunications carriers, improving access to  
16 broadband, and creating new means of economic development in the  
17 State.

18 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

19 (1) Establish a public-private partnership with the Hawaii  
20 technology development corporation to build and manage



1 key strategic broadband infrastructure and attract  
2 cloud based companies to Hawaii; and  
3 (2) Appropriate funds to the Hawaii technology development  
4 corporation to establish an open access, carrier  
5 neutral cable landing station to support the Hawaii  
6 broadband initiative.

7 SECTION 2. The Hawaii technology development corporation  
8 shall seek to establish a public-private partnership with a  
9 private organization to plan, build, and manage key strategic  
10 broadband infrastructure that benefits the State and attract  
11 cloud based companies to utilize this key strategic broadband  
12 infrastructure.

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and  
16 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
17 year 2020-2021 for the Hawaii broadband initiative and the  
18 establishment of an open access, carrier neutral cable landing  
19 station.

20 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii  
21 technology development corporation for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112.



**Report Title:**

Hawaii Technology Development Corporation; Public-private Partnership; Open Access; Hawaii Broadband Initiative; Carrier Neutral Cable Landing Station; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Hawaii technology development corporation to seek to establish a public-private partnership to plan, build, and manage key strategic broadband infrastructure and attract cloud based companies to Hawaii. Makes an appropriation for the Hawaii broadband initiative and to establish an open access, carrier neutral cable landing station. Takes effect 7/1/2112.  
(SD1)

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