

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 07 , 2020

RE: H.B. No. 2596
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2020
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Economic Development & Business and
Intrastate Commerce, to which was referred H.B. No. 2596 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BROADBAND SERVICE
INFRASTRUCTURE,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish the Broadband
Service Infrastructure Grant Program to award grants to applicants
to extend deployment of facilities used to provide broadband
service to unserved and underserved areas of the State.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure
from Charter Communications. Your Committees received testimony
in opposition to this measure from Keep Your Power; No Kohala
CERT, Teens X2 Social, Temple of Healing & Education; We Are One,
Inc.; We Are One Ministries; ONACMO Inc.; Moku of Keanae, Maui;
Sustainable Action Fund for the Environment Maui; Swami's Healing
Arts; and over one hundred individuals. Your Committees received
comments on this measure from the Department of Business, Economic
Development, and Tourism; Department of Commerce and Consumer
Affairs; Office of Information Practices; and one individual.



Your Committees find that increased demand for broadband internet service has created greater disparities between remote and rural communities and densely populated areas of the State. Your Committees further find that public-private partnerships are proving to be critical to closing the digital divide in unserved low-density areas and for creating incentives for broadband providers to spend capital to build a new network in such areas. This measure establishes a grant program to provide applicants of the program with grants to extend deployment of facilities used to provide broadband service in unserved and underserved areas of Hawaii.

Your Committees note that this measure is not connected to the use of 5G wireless technology and the intent is not to have your Committees use this measure to facilitate 5G wireless technology.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Specifying that projects for next-generation wireless technology must obtain an environmental impact statement under chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in order to be eligible for the Broadband Service Infrastructure Grant Program; and
- (2) Changing its effective date to July 1, 2112, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Economic Development & Business and Intrastate Commerce that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2596, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2596, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Economic
Development & Business and
Intrastate Commerce,



TAKASHI OHNO, Chair



ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, Chair



