



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
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Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Thursday, March 18, 2021

3:10 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

In consideration of

SCR31 / SR20

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
AND TOURISM TO CONDUCT A NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF RURAL AREAS IN THE
THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT THAT IDENTIFIES INFRASTRUCTURE
IMPROVEMENTS NECESSARY TO ENSURE BROADBAND ACCESS FOR
RESIDENTS.**

Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) provides comments on SCR31 / SR20, which requests DBEDT to conduct a needs assessment of rural areas in the third senatorial district that identifies infrastructure improvements necessary to ensure broadband access for residents.

- DBEDT recognizes the critical need for the Broadband and Digital Equity Office, articulated in SB947, SD2, where much of this assessment work will take place.
- DBEDT also recognizes SB850, SD2 which proposes to create a task force relating to broadband infrastructure for rural communities where assessment work will also take place.
- The function of these resolutions will be duplicative.
- DBEDT appreciates the intent of these resolutions and bills with the caveat that sufficient funding is provided to support the proposed activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.