

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 0 7 , 2022

H.B. No. 1782 RE: H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-First State Legislature Regular Session of 2022 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Economic Development, to which was referred H.B. No. 1782 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to allow an electric utility to own, operate, lease, plan, construct, install, maintain, or replace broadband facilities, including middle mile infrastructure, to help facilitate the development of and investment in broadband facilities and services in the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawai'i System; Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative; Hawaiian Electric Company; and Ocean Networks, Inc. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from Charter Communications. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Public Utilities Commission, Common Cause Hawaii, and Hawaiian Telcom.

Your Committee finds that it is critical to improve access to broadband services for residents, consumers, and businesses across the State. Although broadband coverage in the State is widespread, the lack of accessibility to reliable high-speed



broadband has had a negative effect in many areas, but particularly to rural, unserved, and underserved communities. Allowing an electric utility to own, operate, lease, plan, construct, install, maintain, or replace broadband facilities will help facilitate the development of and investment in broadband facilities and services across the State.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying the definition of "person"; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Economic Development that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1782, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1782, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Economic Development,

SEAN OUINLAN, Chair

State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-first Legislature

HSLR38-22

Record of Votes of the Committee on Economic Development

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1782	Committee Referral:	Referral: Date: 2/2/22		
☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
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ECD Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. QUINLAN, Sean (C)				
2. HOLT, Daniel (VC)	J			
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3. BELATTI, Della Au			1001101440100011410141	<i>y</i>
4. KOBAYASHI, Dale T.	ASSESSAULTA REMAKELON PENIKON	C Recorded to the second		Derrot ki sheshkati
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6. SAYAMA, Jackson D.			D SECRETARY OF THE PARTY OF THE	AND AND AND
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7. TAKAYAMA, Gregg				
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TOTAL (8)	5	0	2	
The recommendation is: Adopted Not Adopted				
If joint referral, did not support recommendation.				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				