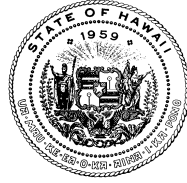


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, MD  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2076 SD1  
RELATING TO BROADBAND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE.**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: February 24, 2022

Room Number: Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports the appropriation
- 3 of resources to the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office. A robust broadband
- 4 infrastructure is vital to promote telehealth as a means to support healthcare access.
- 5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY  
DIRECTOR

CHUNG I. CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804  
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Telephone: (808) 586-2355  
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of  
**MIKE MCCARTNEY**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEAN**

Thursday, February 24, 2022  
9:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of

**SB2076, SD1  
RELATING TO BROADBAND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE.**

Chairs Baker and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Chang and Keith-Agaran and members of the Committees. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports SB2076, SD1** that defines broadband equity and clarifies the Hawai'i Broadband and Digital Equity Office's duties to promote and support digital equity and broadband deployment.

Over the course of the last two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has spotlighted the need for broadband infrastructure and digital equity for all of Hawai'i's residents and community stakeholders. The Broadband Hui (comprised of various community stakeholders) continues to work to close the digital divide in Hawai'i. In addition, the federal government identified the need to fund broadband infrastructure and digital equity programs across the country.

With this once in a generation opportunity, it is important that we address broadband access, affordability, adoption and literacy, and build robust and resilient broadband infrastructure for Hawai'i to achieve digital equity and thrive in the digital economy. The Broadband & Digital Equity Office will continue to provide the focus, coordination and facilitation of programs that enable all Hawai'i residents to seamlessly connect to the digital tools needed to be successful in our modern society.

We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
February 24, 2022

The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
and  
The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
The Thirty-First Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Baker, Senator Dela Cruz, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2076 SD1 Relating to Broadband Service Infrastructure

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **strongly SUPPORTS SB2076 SD1** which defines broadband equity. Clarifies the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office's duties to promote and support digital equity and broadband deployment. Appropriates funds to the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office for five FTE positions.

For the past two years, COVID-19 pandemic has taught us that there is a digital divide which separates those who can readily access computers and the internet from those who cannot. This gap exists for many different reasons—from socioeconomics to broadband availability—yet even when infrastructure and connectivity issues are resolved, individuals with Intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) will still face obstacles when it comes to utilizing the web due to a digital accessibility chasm between the abled and disabled.

The Council has been a member of the Broadband Hui who have been very supportive of addressing the needs of individuals with Intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to get connected. We will need to continue a coordinated effort in order to assure individuals with disabilities are able to stay connected by receiving the digital tools they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of SB2076 SD1**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**

TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
AND WAYS AND MEANS  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2076, S.D. 1

**LATE**

**February 24, 2022**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**Room 211 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO BROADBAND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill, which adds a new definition of “broadband equity” to Section 206S-1, HRS; amends the definition of “digital equity” to include achieving broadband equity; clarifies that the Hawai‘i Broadband and Digital Equity Office (HBDEO) duties include coordination of federal and State broadband and digital equity grant programs; authorizes the HBDEO to contract for consulting services for professional and technical assistance services; appropriates \$867,500 in general funds; and establishes 5.00 full-time equivalent positions in the HBDEO.

B&F respectfully suggests that the amendments proposed in this bill are premature. The federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment and State Digital Equity Planning and Capacity Grant programs are still being developed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration at the U.S. Department of Commerce, which has not yet issued firm guidance to states.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments.

Statement Before The  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**  
**AND**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
Thursday, February 24, 2022  
9:30 AM  
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

in consideration of  
**SB 2076, SD1**  
**RELATING TO BROADBAND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE.**

Chairs BAKER and DELA CRUZ, Vice Chair CHANG and KEITH-AGARAN, and Members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection and Ways and Means Committees

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 2076, SD1, which (1) defines broadband equity, (2) clarifies the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office's duties to promote and support digital equity and broadband deployment, and (3) appropriates funds to the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office for five FTE positions.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy - one that works for everyone and not just the special interests.

As technology advances, many of our basic democracy values depend on robust connectivity. Broadband enhances civic engagement, participation in the democratic process, and a responsive government. Yet too many in Hawaii lack access to affordable, high-speed broadband and continue to face significant barriers to get online.

Affordability remains the most significant barrier to broadband adoption while those on the wrong side of the digital divide are disproportionately low-income, people of color, seniors, people with disabilities, and other marginalized communities. Without broadband, these communities live in a democracy where their voices go unheard, and their needs are unmet.

Therefore, Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 2076, SD1, which makes clear that the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office's focus is on broadband equity and "affordable, high-speed, and reliable broadband" (at page 1, lines 5-7) for all residents. Broadband equity is necessary for the good of our representative democracy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2076, SD1. If you have any questions of me, please contact me at [sma@commoncause.org](mailto:sma@commoncause.org).

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma  
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 24, 2022, 9:30 a.m. Via Videoconference

SB 2076 SD1 RELATING TO BROADBAND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE

TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chairs Baker and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Chang and Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

This measure now provides a clear, concise statement of Hawaii's policy goal of broadband equity. For all the reasons contained in the bill, **we strongly support this effort.**

Just in time, the bill clarifies the duties of the Hawaii Digital and Broadband Access Office and appropriates funds for this Office. Coupled with forthcoming Federal funding we expect an historic leap in improved adequacy of our broadband infrastructure, particularly for Hawaii's rural areas.

As mentioned in our previous testimony on this bill, we remain concerned about the last feet of broadband "infrastructure" required for access by our lower income citizens, that is a smart phone, tablet, or computer to access the public infrastructure. We can only hope that the market responds to lower the cost of such privately-owned but critical hardware; I call attention to students in our public schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



**Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

Date: February 24, 2022  
Time: 9:30 a.m.  
Where: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

**RE: Supporting SB2076 SD1** Relating to Broadband Service Infrastructure

Aloha mai e Chairs Baker and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Chang and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees,

As members of the Broadband Hui, the listed organizations and individuals SUPPORT SB 2076 SD1, that defines broadband equity and clarifies the Hawai'i Broadband and Digital Equity Office's duties to promote and support digital equity and broadband deployment.

Over the past 18 months, our organizations have collaborated, each within their own ability, to increase Hawai'i's digital capacity, thereby supporting the continuity of social connections, education, employment, and access to other essential services throughout the pandemic. Through the work of the Broadband Hui, we have supported broadband infrastructure development in rural communities, provided digital devices and internet connectivity for students and families, supported the accessibility of telehealth, provided information on low-cost internet options, and adopted a Digital Equity Declaration to set a vision and goals for a more equitable digital future.

As we stated at the outset of the pandemic, addressing digital inequity through broadband access, digital literacy, and digitally-enabled societal systems is one of our greatest opportunities for economic and social recovery, diversification, and resilience. The truth of this statement has been proven throughout the past two years and is even more urgent as we look toward future recovery -- now with a once-in-a-generation opportunity with robust federal funding inbound.

The Broadband & Digital Equity Office will continue to provide the focus, coordination and facilitation of programs that enable all Hawai'i residents to seamlessly connect to the digital tools needed to be successful in our modern society. Given the important work that needs to be done to achieve both broadband equity and digital equity throughout Hawaii, the Hawai'i Broadband & Digital Equity Office should be appropriately funded, as provided in the bill.

For these reasons, we kindly request you PASS SB2076 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.  
(Please see names on the following page.)



	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	<b>Zip</b>
1	Barbara Tom	Waipahu Safe Haven Immigrant/Migrant Resource Center	barbara.yukie@gmail.com	96701
2	Brian Dote	Tapiki LLC	brian@tapiki.com	96797
3	Brian I Hauser	Aloha Independent Living Hawaii	BrianH@AlohaLHawaii.org	96793
4	Cary S Miyashiro	Quad D Solutins	csmiyashiro@gmail.com	96816
5	Christine Matsuda	Pa'akai Communications	christine@paakaicomunications.com	96817
6	Christine Sakuda	Transform Hawaii Government	csakuda@transformhawaii.gov.org	96806
7	Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez		keani.rawlins@mauicounty.us	96748
8	Crystal Yamasaki	Crystal Clear Communications	crystalclearcomms@gmail.com	96817
9	Daniel C. Smith, Ph.D.	(Individual Support)	smithdan@hawaii.edu	96782
10	David Miyashiro	HawaiiKidsCAN	david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org	96814
11	Deborah Bond-Upson	LearningBond	deborah@learningbond.org	96734
12	Douglass ADAMS	Dept of Research & Development, COH	douglass.adams@hawaiicounty.gov	96720- 4245
13	Herb Lee, Jr.	Pacific American Foundation	herblee@thepaf.org	96734
14	Jacqui Hoover	Hawaii Island Economic Development Board	jhoover@hiedb.org	96743
15	Jacqui Hoover	Hawaii Leeward Planning Conference and Hawaii Island Economic Development Board	jacqui_hlpc@yahoo.com	96743
16	Jeanne Unemori Skog	Skog Rasmussen LLC	jskog@skograsmussen.com	96793
17	Jenifer Sunrise Winter		jwinter@hawaii.edu	96821
18	John L. Reppun	(Windward O`ahu Resident)	jreppun@gmail.com	
19	Jules Ung	Banyan Networks	jung@banyannetworks.com	96817
20	Kaikea Blakemore		KaikeaKBlakemore@gmail.com	96721
21	Kaleo Bennett	Auamo Collaborative	kokua@auamocollaborative.org	96720
22	Katie Hendrickson		katie@code.org	45701
23	Kealii Lopez	AARP Hawaii	klopez@aarp.org	96813
24	Kristilyn Oda		kristioda@gmail.com	96707
25	Krystal Hope		hopeka06@gmail.com	96826
26	Kuualohapauole Lau	Crystal Clear Communications	aloha.crystalclearhi@gmail.com	96813
27	Laura Arcibal	Hawaii State Department of Health	laura.arcibal@doh.hawaii.gov	96813
28	Laura Arcibal		lkmarcibal@gmail.com	96795
29	Lynn Otaguro	O'ahu County Democrats Digital Equity Committee	lmotaguro@yahoo.com	96821
30	N/A	Papa Ola Lōkahi	skamakawiwoole@papaolalokahi.org	96813
31	Nicole A. Velasco		nicole@nicolevelasco.com	96819
32	Peggy Mierzwa	AlohaCare	pmierzwa@alohacare.org	96814
33	Rich Matsuda	W. M. Keck Observatory	rmatsuda@keck.hawaii.edu	96743
34	Riley Saito	Succeed Hawaii, LLC	rileydad80@gmail.com	96740
35	Riley Saito	Succeed Hawaii, LLC	rsaito@succeedhawaii.com	96740
36	Scott Uehara	County of Hawaii	scott.uehara@hawaiicounty.gov	96720
37	Sean Taketa McLaughlin		seantaketa@gmail.com	96814
38	Stacey Aldrich	Hawaii State Public Library System	stacey.aldrich@librarieshawaii.org	96825

39	Summer Keliipio	`A`ali`i Alliance	kernel_overdub_0f@icloud.com	96744
40	Sunyeen Pai		cozhawaii@hawaiiantel.net	96816
41	Susan Tai	Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii, Inc.	susantaikaneko@gmail.com	96814
42	Tharon LeBlanc	Michaels Management	tleblanc@tmo.com	96819
43	Wayne Buente		wbuente@hawaii.edu	96815
44	Wayne Buente		wayne.buente@gmail.com	96822
45	Yuki Lei Sugimura		yukilei.sugimura@mauicounty.us	96790

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	<b>Zip</b>
1	Barbara Tom	Waipahu Safe Haven Immigrant/Migrant Resource Center	barbara.yukie@gmail.com	96701
2	Brian Dote	Tapiki LLC	brian@tapiki.com	96797
3	Brian I Hauser	Aloha Independent Living Hawaii	BrianH@AlohaLHawaii.org	96793
4	Cary S Miyashiro	Quad D Solutins	csmiyashiro@gmail.com	96816
5	Christine Sakuda	Transform Hawaii Government	csakuda@transformhawaii.gov	96806
6	Crystal Yamasaki	Crystal Clear Communications	crystalclearcomms@gmail.com	96817
7	David Miyashiro	HawaiiKidsCAN	david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org	96814
8	Jeanne Unemori Skog	Skog Rasmussen LLC	jskog@skograsmussen.com	96793
9	Jenifer Sunrise Winter		jwinter@hawaii.edu	96821
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11	Kaikea Blakemore		KaikeaKBlakemore@gmail.com	96721
12	Kealii Lopez	AARP Hawaii	klopez@aarp.org	96813
13	Krystal Hope		hopeka06@gmail.com	96826
14	Kuualohapauole Lau	Crystal Clear Communications	aloha.crystalclearhi@gmail.com	96813
15	Lynn Otaguro	O'ahu County Democrats Digital Equity Committee	lmotaguro@yahoo.com	96821
16	N/A	Papa Ola LÅkahi	skamakawiwoole@papaolalokahi.org	96813
17	Nicole A. Velasco		nicole@nicolevelasco.com	96819
18	Peggy Mierzwa	AlohaCare	pmierzwa@alohacare.org	96814
19	Rich Matsuda	W. M. Keck Observatory	rmatsuda@keck.hawaii.edu	96743
20	Rachel Solemsaas	Hawaii Community College	mailto:rsolems@hawaii.edu	96720
21	Riley Saito	Succeed Hawaii, LLC	rileydad80@gmail.com	96740
22	Sean Taketa McLaughlin		seantaketa@gmail.com	96814
23	Stacey Aldrich	Hawaii State Public Library	stacey.aldrich@librarieshawaii.org	96825
24	Summer Keliipio	Ê»AÊ»aliÊ»i Alliance	kernel_overdub_0f@icloud.com	96744
25	Sunyeen Pai		cozhawaii@hawaiiantel.net	96816
26	Susan Tai	Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii, Inc.	susantaikaneko@gmail.com	96814
27	Tharon LeBlanc	Michaels Management	tleblanc@tmo.com	96819
28	Wayne Buente		wbuente@hawaii.edu	96815
29	Yuki Lei Sugimura		yukilei.sugimura@mauicounty.us	96790



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and  
Ways and Means  
Thursday, February 24, 2022; 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2076, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO BROADBAND SERVICE  
INFRASTRUCTURE.**

Chair Baker, Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 2076, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO BROADBAND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would clarify the statutory responsibilities of the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office (Office). More specifically, this bill would:

- (1) Define "Broadband equity"; and
- (2) Provide that the Office coordinate federal and state grant programs, including those pertaining to digital equity;
- (3) Allow the Office to procure professional services; and
- (4) Appropriate \$867,500 in general funds for fiscal year 2022-2023 for five full-time equivalent administrative positions.

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2076, Senate Draft 1**  
**Thursday, February 24, 2022; 9:30 a.m.**  
**Page 2**

Hawaii has long been at the forefront of integrating newer technologies into daily life. One example of this is Hawaii's Telehealth Law which has served as a model across the United States. Yet, it was only after COVID struck our islands that this law became fully integrated into daily life.

Today, it is common practice to ZOOM or SKYPE with your health practitioner instead of physically going to the provider's office for a visit. When COVID first hit our islands, many health providers had to limit the number of patients that could be serviced in-person because of a scarcity of Personal Protective Equipment, restrictions in the gatherings of groups, and the need for changes to the physical arrangement of examination rooms and other diagnostic facilities.

For people with adequate broadband access, telehealth was a lifeline for the provision of essential primary health care services. Yet, health care facilities in rural areas experienced the same problems when COVID hit. They too had to limit the number of patients they could see. But because these communities lacked adequate broadband access, they were effectively cut off from primary care. Many were forced to bear their maladies until it became necessary to go to the emergency room.

Because of this, the HPCA views the lack of broadband access in rural areas as an issue of social equity. In this day and age, everyone should have equal access to health care. Telehealth was envisioned as the means of leveling the field between urban and rural areas. The lack of broadband ensures that urban and rural communities remain unequal.

To this end, we note that the Administration did not include as part of its supplemental budget request the positions and resources needed for this Office to effectively carry out the duties established under Chapter 206S, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

We also note that Hawaii's Congressional Delegation worked diligently to make billions of dollars available for the State of Hawaii to develop broadband infrastructure. It is our understanding that the Governor has assigned the responsibility of expending these funds to the University of Hawaii. Are the statutory responsibilities of the University of Hawaii too narrow to ensure that these federal funds will be expended to address the needs of rural communities?

This Legislature established the public policy that the strategic decisions on the development of broadband should be assigned to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT). Yet, to carry out this function, only a single person is assigned to administer this very important responsibility?

Furthermore, it is our understanding that the availability of the federal funds is brief. Each year that is spent trying to figure out the agency that will manage these funds, the less time these funds can be used. A "once in a lifetime opportunity" will be lost.

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2076, Senate Draft 1**  
**Thursday, February 24, 2022; 9:30 a.m.**  
**Page 3**

For this reason, the HPCA wholeheartedly supports this bill and urges this Committee to include the resources the Office needs to perform these vital duties.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or [eabe@hawaiiipca.net](mailto:eabe@hawaiiipca.net).



**MAUI**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**LATE**

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION and  
WAYS AND MEANS  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 211  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022 AT 9:30 A.M.**

To The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
To The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Members of the committee on Ways and Means

**SUPPORT SB2076 SD1 RELATING TO BROADBAND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Maui Chamber of Commerce is writing in **support of SB2076 SD1** relating to broadband service infrastructure. Broadband has been a longstanding issue in Hawaii and was exacerbated during this pandemic where students are doing distance learning and more people are working remotely. Broadband is a critical need in unserved areas and is important to state and county economic development. We are pleased to participate with the Broadband Hui and support many initiatives for digital equity. Many exciting projects are emerging from this broad alliance that fosters ideas and collaboration on creating programs that benefit the statewide community, with an emphasis on assisting groups that need it the most. This funding is essential at this time as we look at improving the statewide connectivity and roll out 5G infrastructure. We missed the opportunity to sign on to the Broadband Hui letter, but with this testimony, please include us among the many who strongly support this office and funding.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and we ask that you pass SB2076 SD1.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap  
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

# RYAN KAWAILANI OZAWA

P.O. Box 892727

Mililani, HI 96789-8332

Main: (808) 707-3027

Fax: (808) 427-9227



@hawaii A row of social media icons including Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, Facebook, and others.

Email: hawaii@hey.com

February 22, 2022

Aloha, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair; Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair; members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection; and Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair; members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

I am writing to share **comments** on SB2076 related to broadband.

I agree that equitable and robust access to broadband should remain a priority for our State. Further, I am glad that the Federal government is making significant investments in broadband across the country.

While this bill attempts to clarify concepts like "broadband equity," "digital equity," and invokes the term "sustainability," I believe it amounts to mission creep for an office that simply and effectively promotes practical broadband deployment using federal funds without additional personnel.

The term "digital equity" encompasses much more than this bill and the existing office directly addresses, and in my view represents policy priorities that belong at a higher level of government. I would recommend:

1. Renaming the existing office to the Hawaii State Broadband Office (similar to the Energy Office).
2. Assign equity-related work to an existing or new statewide office that focuses on broader diversity, equity, and sustainability issues, perhaps in the Judiciary or another department.

Mahalo for your consideration.



Ryan Kawailani Ozawa



**SB-2076-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 1:41:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Rosie F Davis	Individual	Support	No

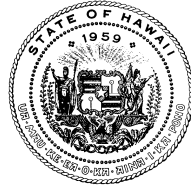
Comments:

Aloha,

Please support the bill 2076 relating to broadband service infrastructure

Mahalo nui

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378, Room 256  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378



**STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH**  
**Testimony to the Senate Committee(s) on Commerce and**  
**Consumer Protection and Ways and Means**  
**in SUPPORT of S.B. 2076 S.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO BROADBAND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.**

**CHAIRPERSON**

Richard I. Ries Psy.D., M.S.Ed.

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Deputy Director, Behavioral  
Health Administration

Chairs Baker and Dela Cruz, Vice-Chairs Chang and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees:

In alignment with §334-10, HRS, the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH) is a 21-member Council responsible for advising, reviewing and monitoring the provision of mental health services statewide. SCMH members from diverse backgrounds serve as volunteers, collectively representing mental health service recipients, students and youth, parents and family members, providers, and state agencies including the Hawaii Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and the Judiciary.

The majority of SCMH members **SUPPORT** S.B. 2076 S.D. 1 which is intended to help increase digital equity across the State.

Solid broadband infrastructure and digital equity will help increase access to mental health services to a variety of individuals with mental health and co-occurring substance abuse needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In alignment with §334-10, HRS, the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH) is a 21-member Council responsible for advising, reviewing and monitoring the provision of mental health services statewide. SCMH members from diverse backgrounds serve as volunteers, representing mental health service recipients, students and youth, parents and family members, providers, and state agencies including the Hawaii Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and the Judiciary.

The mission of the SCMH is to advocate for a Hawaii where all persons affected by mental illness can access treatment and support necessary to live a full life in the community of their choice. Should you want to contact us in the future, please e-mail [DOH.SCMHChairperson@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:DOH.SCMHChairperson@doh.hawaii.gov)

For more information about the State Council on Mental Health, please visit: [www.scmh.hawaii.gov](http://www.scmh.hawaii.gov)