

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII

HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Thursday, February 3, 2022
1:00 PM – Videoconference – Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

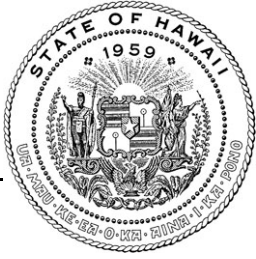
In consideration of
SB 2479
RELATING TO BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

Honorable Chair Moriwaki, Honorable Chair Chang, and Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations, and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 2479, relating to broadband infrastructure.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports enactment of SB 2479, which requires each public housing project, dwelling unit, and state low-income housing project that is built, renovated, or reconstructed after 1/1/2023, to include all necessary broadband infrastructure necessary for tenants to have access to broadband service.

The HPHA has been working and continues to work with Federal and State Departments and Agencies, broadband internet service providers, and non-profit groups to plan and provide free or low-cost broadband opportunities for Federal and State public housing tenants. With the Legislature's assistance through Capital Improvement Project (CIP) appropriations, the HPHA will ensure to include all necessary broadband infrastructure into all future public housing unit modernization projects.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committees with the HPHA's testimony. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.



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
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

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 HOUSING AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

Thursday, February 3, 2022

1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of

SB2479

RELATING TO BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE.

Chairs Chang and Moriwaki, Vice Chairs Kanuha and Dela Cruz and members of the Committees. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **SUPPORTS** SB2479 that requires each public housing project, dwelling unit, and state low-income housing project that is built, renovated, or reconstructed after 1/1/2023, to include all necessary broadband infrastructure necessary for tenants to have access to broadband service.

Over the course of the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has spotlighted the need for broadband access for all of Hawai'i's residents. This is especially true in the case of residents in Hawai'i's public housing units where there are limited broadband options. SB2479 provides the options for multiple broadband providers to offer low-cost options.

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 3, 2022

The Honorable Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing
The Honorable Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations
The Thirty-First Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Chang, Senator Moriwaki and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2479 Relating to Broadband Infrastructure

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS SB2479**, which requires each public housing project, dwelling unit, and state low-income housing project that is built, renovated, or reconstructed after 1/1/2023, to include all necessary broadband infrastructure necessary for tenants to have access to broadband service.

COVID has shown that our communities, especially our most vulnerable, must turn more and more to internet-based support. Some of these supports come in the form of telehealth appointments and Zoom-based communication. COVID proved that many individuals within our intellectual and developmental disability community are part of a high-risk group that needs to rely on staying at home and using internet services more than the average citizen. If these individuals found themselves without internet, they would lose critical access to services during the pandemic.

As we continue to make strides in technology, more and more technology is invented that helps individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) live more independently. However, we find that having broadband access is key for most new technologies that rely on wi-fi to function. Any efforts to increase broadband access like in new renovations or reconstructions of public housing will aid in our communities' access to broadband services.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB2479**.

SB2479 Relating to Broadband Infrastructure
February 3, 2022
Page 2 of 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

Written Statement of
Jeannine Souki
Sr. Manager – Government & Regulatory Affairs

SENATE COMMITTEES ON HOUSING & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

February 3, 2022 1:00PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225, Videoconference

SUPPORT FOR:

S.B. NO. 2479 RELATING TO BROADBAND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE

To: Chairs Chang and Moriwaki, Vice-Chairs Kanuha and Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees
Re: Testimony providing support for SB 2479

Aloha Honorable Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments on Senate Bill 2479. The primary intent of this bill is require each public housing project, dwelling unit, and state low-income housing project that is built, renovated, or reconstructed after January 1, 2023, to include all broadband infrastructure necessary for tenants to have access to broadband service.

Over the last two years, this world-wide pandemic has affected every one of us in countless ways. And, it has solidified the importance of staying connected with ‘ohana, our customers, and our communities.

Hawaiian Telcom is committed to enabling Hawaii’s unserved and underserved communities with integrated communications, including high-speed broadband, data, video, as well as local and long distance voice services that keep us connected to the world. With the support of the Federal Communications Commission’s Connect America Fund, we have provided connectivity to more than 12,000 rural and neighbor island communities throughout Hawai‘i with fiber broadband since 2011.

Hawaiian Telcom supports fair market competition, increased choices for broadband consumers, and meeting digital equity needs for all in our state. We also support policies that promote the expansion of broadband infrastructure and services in unserved and underserved areas. That is why we stand in support of this legislation which helps to move the needle forward to accomplish the state’s broadband infrastructure goals while addressing needs in our unserved and underserved communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 2479.

Statement Before The
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
And
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
Thursday, February 3, 2022
1:00 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

in consideration of
SB 2479
RELATING TO BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE.

Chairs CHANG and MORIWAKI, Vice Chairs KANUHA and DELA CRUZA, and Members of the Senate Housing and Government Operations Committees

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 2479, which requires each public housing project, dwelling unit, and state low-income housing project that is built, renovated, or reconstructed after 1/1/2023, to include all necessary broadband infrastructure necessary for tenants to have access to broadband services.

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 monied few.

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, it is clear that access to affordable broadband is a necessity in today's society for a functioning democracy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2479. If you have any questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii