



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

CHUNG I. CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Monday, February 8, 2021
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SB850
RELATING TO BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES.

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) provides comments on SB850, which creates a task force jointly convened by the Department of Transportation and the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to provide equitable broadband access for historically marginalized, unserved, and underserved rural communities.

- DBEDT recognizes the critical need for the Broadband and Digital Equity Office, articulated in SB1067, where much of this coordinating work will take place.
- The function of the task force will be duplicative since the departments receiving grants will oversee the deployment of broadband infrastructure in the unserved and underserved areas.
- The task force would not be an acceptable authority to apply for or receive money from the federal government for grant programs since the granting agencies are directing their programs to specific state departments, counties and/or providers of fixed broadband services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO
DIRECTOR

JOANN A. VIDINHAR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

JOVANIE DOMINGO DELA CRUZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 420
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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IN REPLY, REFER TO:
OCS 21.1025

February 5, 2021

To: The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair,
The Honorable Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development,
And Tourism

Date: Monday, February 8, 2021

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 224, via Videoconference

From: Jovanie Domingo Dela Cruz, Executive Director
Office of Community Services, an attached agency of the
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: S.B. No. 850 RELATING TO BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

This measure would create a task force jointly convened by the Department of Transportation and the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to provide equitable broadband access for historically marginalized, unserved, and underserved rural communities throughout the State. The bill would require the task force to apply for federal grants for broadband access, and to include in its report its findings and an accounting of funds received from the CARES Act, the Emergency Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020, and grants disbursed by the State for broadband infrastructure for rural communities.

II. CURRENT LAW

There is currently no State-level legislation known to OCS that is relevant to promotion of broadband development.

III. COMMENTS ON THE SENATE BILL

The Office of Community Services (OCS) was established in 1985 by the Legislature to serve economically disadvantaged communities, precisely the types of communities that SB 850 seeks to serve. OCS regularly serves such communities through our administration of federal programs such as the

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair,
The Honorable Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development,
And Tourism

February 5, 2021

Page 2

Community Services Block Grants (CSBGs), the Weatherization Assistance Program, and multiple federal food programs, such as The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, and Commodity Supplemental Food Program, as well as other State and Federal programs.

While SB 850 does not propose any role for OCS, OCS stands ready to assist if called upon, and OCS is strongly supportive of this bill and its goals.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/08/2021

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: 224

Committee: Senate Energy, Economic
Development, and Tourism

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0850 RELATING TO BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES.

Purpose of Bill: Creates a task force jointly convened by the department of transportation and department of business, economic development, and tourism to provide equitable broadband access for historically marginalized, unserved, and underserved rural communities. Requires the task force to apply for federal moneys for broadband access. Requires the departments' report to include the findings of the task force and an accounting of amounts received from the CARES Act and Emergency Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020 and grants disbursed by the State for broadband infrastructure for rural communities.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 850, which creates a task force to provide equitable broadband access for historically marginalized, unserved, and underserved rural communities.

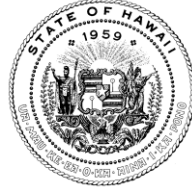
Equitable access to the internet and technology resources has been a long-standing issue. The need for equitable access to internet connectivity became more evident with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which required people of the state of Hawaii to work and learn remotely. Many organizations, including the Department, had to quickly shift to provide services, supports, and information via online means. The Department continues to face challenges providing necessary services and supports in areas of the state that have little or no connectivity due to remoteness or the lack of internet service and broadband infrastructure. A task force to focus on bringing broadband infrastructure to these areas is an important step in providing equitable access and lessening the "digital

divide.”

The Department appreciates the importance of equitable access that this measure addresses and would welcome opportunities to work with the task force to provide an educational perspective, especially in the area of K-12 education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Monday, February 8, 2021
3:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 850, RELATING TO BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ji Sook “Lisa” Kim, and I am the Cable Administrator of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs’ (Department) Cable Television Division. The Department offers comments on this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) create a task force jointly convened by the Department of Transportation and Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to provide equitable broadband access; (2) require the task force to apply for federal moneys for broadband access; and (3) require the departments to report on the findings of the task force and provide an accounting of any amounts received.

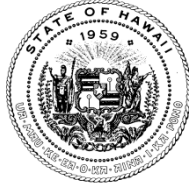
The global pandemic, triggering stay-at-home and social distancing orders, has underscored the critical need for universal broadband access for distance learning, telework and job training, telehealth and social services, and social and civic engagement. In response, the federal government is making more funding available for

broadband infrastructure, equipment, and internet services, and the Administration is focused on creating a healthy statewide broadband network and enhancing digital equity for residents.

The Department recognizes the value of seeking input from and coordination among the various broadband stakeholders comprising the proposed task force, particularly to benefit from current federal funding opportunities, but defers to the agencies more directly impacted regarding the specifics of this measure.

The Department requests, however, amending the bill on page 6, lines 6 and 7, to provide the Department with flexibility to best carry out its functions under this measure: “The [~~administrator of the cable television division~~] director of the department of commerce and consumer affairs.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 8, 2021
3:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Teleconference

S.B. 850
RELATING TO BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports with recommended amendment for S.B. 850.**

The task force could assist with carrying on the implementation initiative when the administration changes. However, the broadband implementation is currently underway, moving very quickly under direct oversight from Governor's office and the Department of Accounting General Services Comptroller.

The DOT is concerned that the formation of this body during this critical time could confuse roles, and complicate and slow the rollout of sorely needed services. The DOT request that the date of the bill be deferred to June 2022.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

STATE OF HAWAII
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250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 107
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: 808-586-1400 FAX: 808-586-1412
EMAIL: oiip@hawaii.gov

To: Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

From: Cheryl Kakazu Park, Director

Date: February 8, 2021, 3:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

Re: Testimony on S.B. No. 850
Relating to Broadband Infrastructure for Rural Communities

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which would create a Broadband Equity Task Force. The Office of Information Practices (OIP) takes no position on the substance of this bill, but offers comments on a provision exempting the Task Force from the Sunshine Law and a suggested amendment.

On bill page 7, lines 5-7, the bill provides that the Task Force “shall be exempt from chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and shall act in an advisory capacity.” Part I of chapter 92 is the Sunshine Law, so the Task Force would be fully exempt from the Sunshine Law as well as the miscellany of other provisions contained in chapter 92. It is not clear why it would be necessary or advisable to completely exempt the Task Force from the Sunshine Law. The Sunshine Law’s purpose is to open up government policy discussions and decision-making to the public, and surely the issue to be considered by the Task Force is one of public interest. The Sunshine Law covers advisory boards as well as those with final decision-making power, so the Task Force’s advisory role does not distinguish it

from Sunshine Law boards generally or provide a justification for it to exclude the public from its discussions and decisions.

OIP recommends that this Committee delete the chapter 92 exemption at bill page 7, lines 5-7. Alternatively, if the reason for the proposed exemption was that the Task Force’s discussions are expected to include sensitive information not already covered by one of the Sunshine Law’s executive session purposes, such as detailed financial information relating to broadband providers, OIP would be happy to assist the Committee in creating a special executive session purpose or other partial Sunshine Law exception narrowly tailored to the Task Force’s needs.

Thank you for ~~considering OIP’s comments and suggestion. the opportunity to testify.~~

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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PHONE: (808) 768-4141 • FAX: (808) 768-4242 • INTERNET: www.honolulu.gov



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

MICHAEL D. FORMBY
MANAGING DIRECTOR DESIGNATE

DANETTE MARUYAMA
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR

February 6, 2021

The Senate Committee on Energy,
Economic Development, and Tourism
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair Bennette E. Misalucha, and Honorable Members of the
Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism:

SUBJECT: SB850, Relating to Broadband Infrastructure for Rural Communities

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB850.

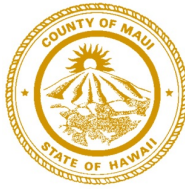
SB850 establishes and convenes a broadband equity task force to expand digital inclusion, promote digital equity and apply for and secure available federal funds. The City and County of Honolulu is committed to work with the State of Hawaii on the provision of digital services through infrastructure deployment, greater connectivity to our remote and underserved communities, application preparation and submission for federal funds and participation on the state broadband equity task force.

The City and County of Honolulu sees a direct nexus between connectivity, improved educational and distance-learning opportunities, jobs and employment prospects and general economic recovery and economic development for families and communities across Oahu.

As such, we strongly urge passage of SB850 and we look forward to participating in this important initiative.

Michael P. Victorino
Mayor

Sananda K. Baz
Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

February 5, 2021

TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
AND TOURISM
Monday, February 5, 2021, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 224

SB850, RELATING TO BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

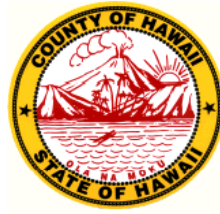
Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
Honorable Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments in **support** of **SB850**.

SB850 creates a task force to provide equitable broadband access for rural communities utilizing federal funding. Broadband access brings opportunities for direct access to education and health care for rural residents who are otherwise forced to travel long distances for college courses and medical treatment. In addition farmers gain real-time access to vital information such as crop prices or weather forecasts, and marketing opportunities through high-speed networks. “Mom and pop” shops, or home-based businesses, can expand their market and reach across the nation to bigger markets.

For those reasons, I urge you to pass **SB850**.

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Lee E. Lord
Managing Director

Robert H. Command
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor#

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February 6, 2021

Chair, Glenn Wakai
Vice-Chair, Bennette E. Misalucha
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Hawai'i State Legislature
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support of Senate Bill 850

Aloha Chairman Wakai,

The County of Hawai'i fully supports Senate Bill 850 which will create a task force to provide equitable broadband access for historically marginalized, underserved rural communities and the accounting of funds received through the CARES Act and Emergency Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020 for broadband infrastructure.

The total land area in Hawai'i county that does not have access to adequate broadband, is nearly as large as all of the neighbor islands combined. The 3rd Senatorial District is especially challenged with large rural tracts spanning from Volcano to south Kona that do not have any broadband access. The Covid crisis has exposed the need for critical infrastructural upgrades that will enable residents in these areas to access government and health services; educate their children through online learning; and have the viable option of working remotely from home.

On behalf of the County of Hawai'i, I am humbly asking for your committee's support of this very important bill.

Mahalo,

Lee E. Lord

Lee E. Lord
Acting Mayor
County of Hawai'i



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Monday, February 8, 2021; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 0850, RELATING TO BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES.

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, 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. 0850, RELATING TO BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would require the Departments of Transportation and Business, Economic Development and Tourism to jointly establish the Broadband Equity Task Force to apply for available federal funding and secure broadband access sites throughout unserved and underserved areas.

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.

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.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 0850
Monday, February 22, 2021; 3:00 p.m.
Page 2

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.

The Governor's suspension of statutes that prohibits the use of standard telephonic service in telehealth has temporarily eased this inequity. For those without adequate broadband, at least for now, they are able to obtain basic primary care services over landline telephones. But that is neither adequate, tenable, nor fair to the thousands of citizens who lack broadband access.

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.

As a member of the Broadband Hui, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

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.

SB-850

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 2:31:00 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/8/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT

Everyone should have equal access.

SB-850

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 2:58:45 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/8/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaimi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha my name is Kaimi Kaupiko, I am from Milolii. We are a rural community and need better access to broadband internet. . We are hoping that the ask force will be able to answer and get help for rural communities throughout Hawaii island

LATE



Mission: "To Do What It Takes To Keep Ka'u Healthy"
P.O.Box 878 Pahala, Hi 96777
Website: KRHCA.COM
Phone: (808) 928-0101

February 6, 2021

To: Senator Glenn Wakai, EET Committee Chair
Senator Bennette E. Misalucha, EET Committee Vice Chair
Re: Testimony in Support of SB850: Relating to broadband infrastructure for Rural Communities
From: Jessanie Marques, Executive Director
Ka'u Rural Health Community Association, Inc.

As a community leader, advocate, kupuna and student, I am in support of SB850: Relating to Broadband Infrastructure for Rural Communities; that seeks to create a task force to provide equitable broadband access to historically marginalized, unserved, and underserved rural communities.

I live on Hawaii Island in the District of Ka'u, a post sugar plantation town, that is a rural underserved, geographically isolated and economically distressed community. Ka'u includes Oceanview, Naalehu and Pahala and spans over 921sq. miles with a population of 6,000+, with limited access, availability and affordability to our keiki, kupuna and families.

Over the past 20years. I've served in the leadership capacity of a community based non profit organization, whose mission is to "Do What It Takes To Keep Ka'u Healthy", focusing on health, education, research and economic sustainability. In 2013 we received a grant from UHM that installed fiber optics, computers, routers, printers and technical assistance at Kau Resource and Distance Learning Center (Pahala. Our CBO did not have access, availability or affordability to internet, without the help of UHM/JABSOM grant funding. Internet connectivity provided our community to receive employment & training opportunities, UHH Community College Certified Nurse Aide training, Practical nurse cohorts and Community Health Workers programs. HMSA and American Well later donated a telehealth kiosk that helped to provide telehealth online care in Pahala. With funding support from the public/private sectors, internet connection was able to benefit access, availability and affordability.

I hope SB850 will not only create a task force to provide equitable broadband access to marginalized, unserved and underserved rural communities, and accounting of the CARES Act and Emergency Corona Virus Relief Act of 2020; but that it will 1) include community leaders from rural neighbor island communities on the task



Community Association

Mission: "To Do What It Takes To Keep Ka'u Healthy"

P.O.Box 878 Pahala, Hi 96777

Website: KRHCA.COM

Phone: (808) 928-0101

force; and 2) ensure funding benefits rural neighbor island communities that have little or no access to internet, are not available or affordable.

Mahalo for providing me this opportunity to share my mana'o.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

MICHAEL A. DAHILIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR



Testimony of

Michael A. Dahilig

Managing Director, County of Kaua'i

Before the

Senate Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

Monday, February 8, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Conference Room 224

In consideration of

SB 850

Relating to Broadband Infrastructure for Rural Communities

Honorable Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and Members of the Committee:

The County of Kaua'i **strongly supports** SB 850 which creates a task force jointly convened by the Department of Transportation and the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to provide equitable broadband access for historically marginalized, unserved, and underserved rural communities. The measure requires the task force to apply for federal moneys, and for the departments' reports to include the findings of the task force and an accounting of amounts received from the CARES Act and Emergency Corona Relief Act of 2020 and grants disbursed by the State for broadband infrastructure for rural communities.

Our communities have struggled this last year from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. While some have been fortunate to be able to pivot and adapt to how we live in an often cyber-based world, many have had little opportunity to make the shift due to a lack of resources. Those hit the hardest are our low income communities and those living in rural areas. Expanding our broadband access is vital for a successful long term recovery.

Students who are distance learning require hotspots and connecting devices. Those who are ill along with those who monitor their wellness need telehealth connectivity. Our workforce must also have reliable and affordable broadband to ensure economic development and security.

Developing a task force to apply for federal funds and grants to improve the broadband infrastructure for rural communities and the underserved lays a foundation for successful growth and opportunity far into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of this measure.



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aarp.org/hi | aarphi@aarp.org | twitter.com/AARPHawaii
facebook.com/AARPHawaii

**The State Legislature
The Senate
Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism
Monday, February 8, 2021
3:00 p.m.**

LATE

TO: The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair

RE: S.B. 850 Relating to Broadband Infrastructure for Rural Communities

Aloha Chair Wakai and Members of the Committees:

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over, with nearly 145,000 members in Hawai'i.

AARP Hawai'i supports S.B. 850 which creates a task force jointly convened by the department of transportation and department of business, economic development, and tourism to provide equitable broadband access for historically marginalized, unserved, and underserved rural communities. It requires the task force to apply for federal moneys for broadband access; and reports the findings of the task force and an accounting of amounts received from the CARES Act and Emergency Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020 and grants disbursed by the State for broadband infrastructure for rural communities.

The recent pandemic has significantly increase the demand and use of broadband for communication across all sectors, and throughout our communities statewide. Students are engaged in distance learning for their school work, businesses for e-commerce transactions and patients have become more reliant on telehealth to connect with their physicians for medical consultation and monitoring. This is especially important for homebound kūpuna at risk of exposure during this health pandemic. The heavy demand for broadband access has amplified the weakness in our broadband infrastructure especially in rural communities, and other underserved or unserved areas in the State. AARP supports efforts that will expand digital equity and access to ensure that all individuals and communities have access to information and modern communication technologies.

We want to point out that SB 850 designates the members of the task force, but it does not specifically require the inclusion of any consumer representatives. While it allows "other

individuals” to be added as determined by either of the two agencies, we recommend that one consumer representative be included.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to support S.B. 850.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keali'i Lopez', written in a cursive style.

Keali'i Lopez, AARP Hawai'i
State Director

LATE

SB-850

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 12:14:43 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/8/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Forest Frizzell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I stand in support of this bill.