



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

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Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
**Director**  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

Tuesday, March 19, 2024  
9:30AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room #430

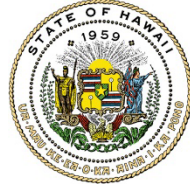
In consideration of  
**HCR29**  
**URGING THE UNITED STATE CONGRESS TO SUPPORT CONTINUED FUNDING  
OF THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM.**

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports** HCR29 that urges the United State Congress to support continued funding of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

For eligible households, the ACP provides broadband service discounts of up to \$30 per month and up to \$75 per month for Hawaiian Home Land residents. Discounts mean the difference between having access to broadband or not having one. Together with sufficient device and digital training, broadband access enables our most vulnerable residents to be full digital participants in the state for digital activities such as remote work, distance learning, telehealth, banking, and access to public services.

DBEDT appreciates the continued support from the legislature of the state broadband infrastructure and digital equity programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
*Ke Ke'ena O Ka Hope Kia'āina*

32<sup>nd</sup> Legislature, State of Hawaii  
House Committee on Water and Land  
March 19, 2024

Testimony on  
**H.C.R. 29 – URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT  
CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM**

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of H.C.R. 29** which urges the United States Congress to support continued funding of the Affordable Connectivity Program.

Fast, reliable, and affordable access to the internet is no longer a luxury but essential to everyday life. To ensure increased access to the internet, the Federal Communications Commission launched the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) in December 2021 to provide a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households, up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands, including Hawaiian homesteads, and up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer. Currently, over 60,000 Hawai'i households benefit from the ACP, leveraging affordable internet for remote work, tele-health, e-commerce, and distance learning. Despite this success, the ACP faces a shutdown due to insufficient Congressional funding, risking these households' internet access. Although our Congressional delegation supports the continuation of funding, we strongly urge Congress to act quickly to sustain this vital program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of H.C.R. 29.



March 18, 2024

The Honorable Linda Ichiyama  
Chair, House Committee on Water and Land  
Hawai'i House of Representatives  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 426  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Ichiyama:

On behalf of CTIA®, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I write in support of House Concurrent Resolution 29, which urges the United States Congress to support continued funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act established the ACP. More than 23 million U.S. households – including over 60,000 households in Hawai'i – currently use the ACP for internet service. The program enables subscribers to use the internet for online activities like telehealth visits, online learning, and remote work. The ACP remains a successful program for connecting people to the internet for school, work, and life. Allowing the ACP to end would be a great disservice to Hawai'i citizens who rely on the program to access important online services and resources.

We fully support the Hawai'i legislature's efforts encouraging Congress to continue to fund the ACP. With historic investments being made to deploy broadband services, the ACP will help more Americans stay connected. Accordingly, we urge you to pass HCR29. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Annissa Reed*

Annissa Reed  
Director  
State and Local Affairs



**Testimony of Michael Bagley**  
**Executive Director of Public Policy**  
**March 19, 2024**

To: Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Water & Land

Re: Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HCR 29 – URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

Hearing Date: March 19, 2024 9:30 AM

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

On behalf of Verizon, I am providing testimony in support of HCR 29, a House Concurrent Resolution urging the United States Congress to support continued funding of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

The Resolution recognizes that this valuable program which was initiated by the Biden Administration and supported by Congress on a Bi-Partisan basis, has been critical for Hawaii citizens and participants across the country to get assistance with the delivery of broadband to themselves and their families.

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) helps ensure needy Americans afford internet access. The ACP provides qualifying consumers a discount of up to \$30 a month toward the internet service of their choice and up to \$75 a month for qualifying households on tribal lands. In addition to a service discount, enrolled households will receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 toward a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet. The ACP puts consumers in the driver's seat. Participants can use their ACP discount to purchase whatever type of internet service best meets their needs.

The ACP has been extremely successful in getting Americans connected without the need for a heavy-handed approach by regulators that stifles innovation and increases government overreach. That is why conservative leaders across the country have embraced the program. Presently more than 16.8 million U.S. households subscribe, and this number continues to rise. Given the important role the ACP plays in ensuring millions of low-income households can continue to access the internet for work, school, telemedicine, and more, Congress must act to reauthorize funding and preserve this incredibly impactful program. **Hawaii residents have collectively**

**received more than \$28 million from the program to date** – and would continue to receive substantial funding if the program is continued.

The ACP recognizes that all Americans need broadband. It's critical that all Americans have affordable access to get online, pursue jobs or education, connect with a health care provider, obtain job training, and connect with loved ones. Access to broadband equips low-income families to compete for better paying jobs, take advantage of remote work, get an online education, obtain valuable digital skills and more. All of these benefits facilitate social mobility and financial success for communities who need it most.

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is an investment in the American consumer. The benefit provides low-income families with access to necessary technology -- internet service -- which allows the persons in those households, including children, the tools to rise out of poverty and become financially independent.

The structure of the ACP puts broadband choice in the hands of consumers and enables them to find jobs, do homework, see a doctor, pay bills, check bus schedules, connect with friends and family, remain active with their faith community, and participate in the digital economy. Democratic and Republican members of Congress, as well as Governors in both Parties, feel that it is important that the ACP be extended, which presently set to expire in May 2024, and have taken efforts to fund the program.

HCR 29 would encourage Congress to continue funding the ACP and continue to provide benefits to Hawaii residents. We urge the Committee to pass HCR 29.

Thank You,

Michael Bagley



Charter Communications  
Testimony of Rebecca Lieberman, Director of Government Affairs

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND**

Hawaii State Capitol  
Tuesday, March 19, 2024

**SUPPORT FOR H.C.R. 29 - URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM.**

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of H.C.R. 29, a resolution that urges Congress to extend the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

As the largest broadband provider in the state, Charter supports efforts to promote digital equity and broadband access and we strongly support this resolution. Broadband internet access is more important than ever and the ACP offers a tremendous opportunity to help low-income families stay connected, providing eligible households a discount of up to \$30 per month toward broadband service and up to \$75 per month for households on the Hawaiian Home Lands. Currently, more than 60,000 families in Hawaii rely on the ACP. We join the legislature in urging Congress to provide additional funding for consumers participating in the program, which will empower thousands of families in rural and urban communities in our state to maintain the connectivity helping to improve their lives.

Charter believes that every Hawaii resident should have reliable access to the Internet. Hawaii is slated to receive over \$200 million in federal grants for broadband infrastructure in the immediate

future (via the Coronavirus Capital Project Fund and Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment Program), in addition to private investments already being made by the industry. The continuation of the ACP will help ensure that the benefits of these broadband infrastructure deployment programs are felt by everyone in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity testify in support of H.C.R 29.

## House Committee on Water & Land Hearing

Date: March 19, 2024  
Time: 9:30 a.m.  
Where: State Capitol, Conference Room 430 & Videoconference  
RE: **SUPPORT of HCR29 - Relating to the Affordable Connectivity Program**

Aloha mai e Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

As members of the Broadband Hui, the listed organizations and individuals **strongly support HCR29** which urges the Congress to renew and extend the **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)**.

Without congressional extension, over 60,700 Hawaii households will lose their ACP benefit at the of April this year. For many, that will mean they will no longer have Internet service.

Over the past four years during and since COVID, 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, healthcare and access to other essential services facilitated by the Affordable Connectivity Program.

Through the work of the Broadband Hui members, we have supported both broadband infrastructure and Digital Equity development in rural and socio-economically disadvantaged communities, provided digital devices for students and families and digital literacy programs for kūpuna, 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.

For these reasons, we kindly request you support **HCR29** urging Congress to extend the Affordable Connectivity Program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

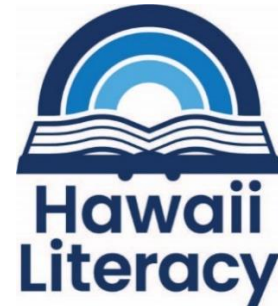
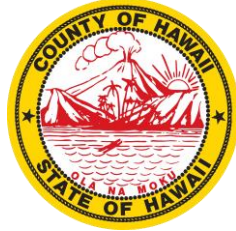
*(Please see the organizations and names of individuals on the following pages.)*



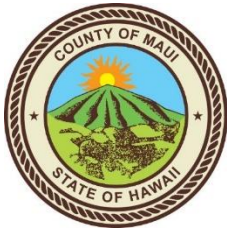


# Hawaii Broadband Hui Members & Organizations Supporting HCR29

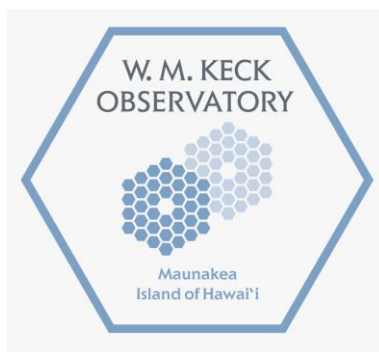
## Logos of Supporting Organizations



Hawaii Broadband Hui Members & Organizations Supporting HCR29



Hawaii Broadband Hui Members & Organizations Supporting HCR29



Hawaii Broadband Hui Members & Organizations Supporting HCR29



Name	Organization	Email	Zip code
Lynn Otaguro	O'ahu County Democrats Digital Equity Committee	lmotaguro@yahoo.com	96821
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Alexis Ching	Ewalu Industries	alexis@ewaluindustries.org	96740
Deborah Bond-Upson	LearningBond	deborah@learningbond.org	96734
Ka'ala Souza	Digital Ready Hawaii	kaala@digitalreadyhawaii.org	96734
Jeanne Skog	Skog Rasmussen LLC	jskog@skograsmussen.com	96793

## Hawaii Broadband Hui Members & Organizations Supporting HCR29

Name	Organization	Email	Zip code
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Lori Okuda		wcpgirl@gmail.com	96782
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Jenifer Sunrise Winter		jwinter@hawaii.edu	96821

## Hawaii Broadband Hui Members & Organizations Supporting HCR29

Name	Organization	Email	Zip code
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Rich Matsuda	W. M. Keck Observatory	rmatsuda@keck.hawaii.edu	96743
Michele Mitsumori,	IT Reuse HI	itreusehi@gmail.com	96720
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Tony Velasco	City and County of Honolulu IT	tvelasco@honolulu.gov	96813
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Leslie Wilkins	Maui Economic Development Board, Inc.	leslie@medb.org	96753
Nam Vu	Hub Coworking Hawaii	nam@hubcoworkinghi.com	96814
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Lisa Rantz	Hilo Medical Center Foundation	lrantz@hhsc.org	96720
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Kendrick Farm	Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of Democratic Party of Hawaii	Farmk@hawaii.edu	96817

## Hawaii Broadband Hui Members & Organizations Supporting HCR29

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Zip code</b>
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Rufino Magliba	Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement	rufino@hawaiiancouncil.org	96707