

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
Ke Ke'ena O Ka Hope Kia'aina

TO: Chair Amy Perruso
Vice Chair Jeanne Kapela
Members of the House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

FROM: Sylvia Luke, Lieutenant Governor

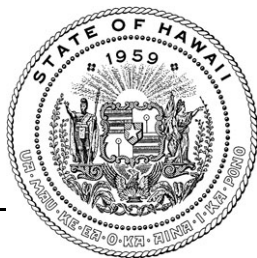
RE: Testimony for S.B. 1317 – Relating to Broadband

DATE: March 17, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of S.B. 1317** which appropriates general funds to provide required matching funds for the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, requires my office to convene and lead the working group established in Act 231, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, and transfers the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor on a temporary 4-year basis.

The COVID-19 worldwide pandemic showed us that reliable, high-speed internet access is not only important for remote-learning and remote-work, but critical for tele-health services, commerce, and for Hawaii to stay connected to the world. Over the next few years, Hawaii is poised to receive millions of dollars in formula and competitive federal grants to support broadband expansion, some of which require matching funds from the state. Since the Governor has entrusted my office to oversee initiatives that will modernize our state's broadband infrastructure and ensure access to high quality connectivity, particularly in rural areas, I would be honored to convene and chair the broadband working group. Transferring the Broadband and Digital Equity Office to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor may require additional discussion related to appropriate funding amounts, physical workspaces, and operational issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 1317.



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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

CHRIS J. SADAYASU
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
CHRIS J. SADAYASU
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGH EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

Friday, March 17, 2023
3:35 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
SB 1317, SD3
RELATING TO BROADBAND.

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports SB1317, SD3** that appropriates general fund moneys that are required to match federal moneys for broadband programs and requires the Office of the Lieutenant Governor to convene and chair the working group established pursuant to Act 231 (SLH 2022).

In the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment issued on May 13, 2022, by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA-BEAD-2022) it states each *Eligible Entity shall provide, require its subgrantee to provide, or provide in concert with its subgrantee, matching funds of not less than 25 percent of project costs.* This moneys will help to meet that requirement.

Over the course of the last three 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. Consequently, the federal government identified the need to fund broadband infrastructure and digital equity programs across the country.

DBEDT also supports the transfer of the Hawai'i Broadband and Digital Equity Office to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor on a temporary, 4-year basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Friday, March 17, 2023 at 3:35 p.m.

By

Garret T. Yoshimi, Vice President for Information Technology/Chief Information Officer
University of Hawai'i System

SB 1317 SD3 – RELATING TO BROADBAND

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

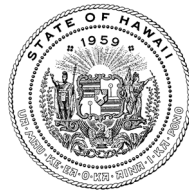
The University of Hawai'i, representing the State's broadband interests, supports SB 1317 SD3.

The appropriation will ensure that Hawai'i can fully utilize the state allocation for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. BEAD is the largest of the federal broadband funding programs supporting states and territories, and requires that states provide matching funds of at least 25% of the total project costs. The program funds a wide range of eligible costs, and places a priority for states to address robust, reliable and affordable broadband access to those residents that are currently unserved by existing telecommunications providers.

Hawai'i is currently in the process of developing the required Five-Year Plan, due to NTIA in July, that will articulate the state's approach to statewide investments to maximize the benefits of federal broadband funds. This effort is funded by BEAD Planning Funds allocated to Hawai'i, and shall include community outreach for the planning effort, and over the course of the project execution funded by state BEAD funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support on SB 1317 SD3.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
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
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
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

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 1317, S.D. 3

March 17, 2023
3:35 p.m.
Room 309 and Videoconference

RELATING TO BROADBAND

The Department of Budget and Finance supports Part III of Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 1317, S.D. 3, and defers to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor on the remainder of the bill.

Part III of S.B. No. 1317, S.D. 3, appropriates: 1) an unspecified amount of general funds needed to provide non-federal matching funds for various federal broadband grant programs in FY 24 as matching funds for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program; 2) an unspecified amount in FY 24 out of funds the State of Hawai'i receives from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for the BEAD Program; and 3) an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 24 and FY 25 to provide additional matching funds for federal broadband-related programs.

Access to high-speed internet is an essential need in the State. There are several federal programs that provide significant amounts of funding to states to improve broadband access. Some of these programs, including the BEAD Program, require matching funds. At this time, the State will need to show a 25% match for the

BEAD Program which amounts to matching funds of \$33,000,000. The intent of the blank appropriations in FY 24 and FY 25 in Section 11 of S.D. 3 is to demonstrate that additional matching funds are available for the additional BEAD funding the State is likely to be awarded. The amount of the additional matching funds is not known at this time. The known required State match amount for the BEAD Program is \$33,000,000 and \$95,000,000 in federal funds will be required for this program.

In addition, given the possibility that supply chain difficulties may delay the construction of the facilities for the BEAD Program, an extended lapse date of June 30, 2026, for the appropriations made in this bill has been provided.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



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The State Legislature
The House Committee on Higher Education and Technology
Friday, March 17, 2023
Conference Room 309
3:35 p.m.

TO: The Honorable Amy Perruso Chair
FROM: Keali'i S. López, State Director
RE: **Support for S.B. 1317 SD 3** Relating to Broadband

Aloha Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social impact organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for the issues that matter most to older adults and their families, including telehealth. **AARP supports S.B.1317 SD3** which appropriates general fund moneys that are required to match federal moneys for broadband programs; and transfers the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office to the Office of the Lt. Governor on a temporary, 4 year basis.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program will help states develop and implement comprehensive plans to ensure equal access to the internet for historically underserved communities and populations, including digital inclusion programs for seniors. It is essential that Hawaii takes full advantage of these federal funds appropriated to the states.

Achieving digital equity requires addressing the rural-urban digital divide, the affordability barrier for people in getting high-speed internet access and digital devices, and the need for digital skills development which is essential to obtaining the benefits of high-speed internet access in the home. The federal funding will help Hawaii address the digital disparities in access and adoption especially among the underserved communities and populations. AARP recognizes the value and significant benefits of digital technology that can improve the lives of kupuna. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B 1317, SD3.

House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

Date: March 17, 2023
Time: 3:35 p.m.
Where: State Capitol, Conference Room 209 & Videoconference
RE: Supporting SB1317 SD3 Relating to IIJA and BEAD funds and Digital Equity Officing moving to Office of Lt. Gov.

Aloha mai e Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela and Members of the Committee,

As members of the Broadband Hui, the listed organizations and individuals SUPPORT SB1317 SD3, which appropriates money received by the State from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) for the broadband equity, access, and deployment (BEAD) program.

We recognize that HB963 that your Committee passed on Feb. 1 and now in the Senate covers much of the same actions as SB1317 SD3 except for the Digital Equity Office move. Experts from the University of Hawai`i and the Hawai`i Broadband and Digital Equity Office will, we are confident, assist you in reconciling the bills. We write in support of the concept of the bill because in addition to knowledge and computer devices, all the residents of Hawai`i should have broadband internet connections. The appropriation of both federal funds and State matching funds will make these new, modern connections possible for the un-served and under-served peoples of the State.

The appropriation of matching funds should be large enough to give the State full flexibility in providing the best options to all residents.

Through the work of the Broadband Hui, we have supported broadband infrastructure development in rural communities, provided digital devices 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.

For these reasons, we kindly request you support SB1317. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. (Please see names on the following page.)

Hawaii Broadband Hui Members & Organizations Supporting SB1317

Logos of Supporting Organizations



Hawaii Broadband Hui Members & Organizations Supporting SB1317

Name	Organization	Email	Zip code
Ken Farm		farmk@hawaii.edu	96817
Lynn Otaguro	O`ahu County Democrats Digital Equity Committee	lmotaguro@yahoo.com	96821
Angelina Mercado	Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence	amercado@hscadv.org	98614
DOUGLASS S ADAMS	County of Hawaii Dept of Research & Development	douglass.adams@hawaiicounty.gov	96720
Jill Takasaki Canfield	Hawaii Literacy	jill.takasaki.canfield@hawaiiliteracy.org	96817
Kaleo Bennett	'Auamo Collaborative	kokua@auamocollaborative.org	96720
Mayson Asano Jr		molokaishaka@yahoo.com	96748
Nicholas Winfrey	Maui United Way	nicholas@mauiunitedway.org	96708
Peter Dames	Servco Pacific Inc	peter.dames@servco.com	96814
WANDA ANAE-ONISHI		wanaeonishi@gmail.com	96797
Riley Saito	Succeed Hawaii, LLC	rsaito@succeedhawaii.com	96740
David Sun-Miyashiro	HawaiiKidsCAN	david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org	96814
Jaclyn Kaina	Kauai Economic Development Board	jkaina@kedb.com	96766
Matt Stevens	Hawai'i Workforce Funders Collaborative	matt@hawaiiwork.org	96755
Herb Lee, Jr.	Pacific American Foundation	herblee@thepaf.org	96734
Alexis Ching		alexis@ewaluindustries.org	96740
Nathan Prescott	County of Kauai - Office of Economic Development	nprescott@kauai.gov	96766
Rachel Solemsaas	Hawai'i Community College	rsolems@hawaii.edu	96720
Mary Oneha	Waimanalo Health Center	moneha@waimanalohealth.org	96795
LORNA STRAND		LORNA.STRAND@GMAIL.COM	96701
David Earles	Junior Achievement of Hawaii	david@jahawaii.org	96815
Deborah Bond-Upson	LearningBond	deborah@learningbond.org	96734
Wayne Buente		wayne.buente@gmail.com	96826
Ka'ala Souza	Digital Ready Hawaii	kaala@digitalreadyhawaii.org	96734
Jeanne Skog	Skog Rasmussen LLC	jskog@skograsmussen.com	96793
Georgette Stevens	'Ōlelo Community Media	gstevens@olelo.org	96819
Joseph Passantino	Ke'elikolani Middle School	Joseph.passantino@k12.hi.us	96813
Jay April, President & CEO	Akaku Maui County Community Media	jay@akaku.org	96732
Jeanne Skog	Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii	jskog2435@gmail.com	96708
Kiran Polk	Kapolei Chamber of Commerce	kiranpolk@gmail.com	96707

Hawaii Broadband Hui Members & Organizations Supporting SB1317

Name	Organization	Email	Zip code
Keilee Simms		keilees@keyproject.org	96744
Judith Mikami	Molokai Rural Health Community Association	jmikami44@gmail.com	96748
Gregory DiBenedetto		gregdib@yahoo.com	96778
Dr. Adrienne Dillard, Ph.D., MSW, LSW	Kula no na Po'e Hawaii o Papakolea, Kewalo, Kalawahine	kula.papakolea@gmail.com	96813
Sean Taketa McLaughlin		seantaketa@gmail.com	96817
Joseph Lapilio	Waianae Economic Development Council	j.lapilio@thewedc.com	96792
Alexandra Slous	Perspective Media	ali@createwithperspective.com	96734
Mahealani Keo	Nurture Cultivate Inc	mahealani.keo@ncihawaii.org	96717
Kuulei Arce	MOLOKAI RURAL HEALTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	22kuulei@gmail.com	96729
Linda Clark		clarkl004@gmail.com	96713
Jenny Miller	EducationSuperHighway	jenny.miller@educationsuperhighway.org	80303
Todd Robertson	Hyperspective Studios, Inc.	todd@hyperspective.com	96813
Brian Dote	Tapiki LLC	brian@tapiki.com	96797
Daniel C. Smith, PhD		dancsmith@rocketmail.com	96782
Ian Kitajima	PICHTR	ian.kitajima@pichtr.org	96814
Crystal Yamasaki	Crystal Clear Communications	crystalclearcomms@gmail.com	96817

Written Statement of
Jeannine Souki
Senior Manager – Government & Regulatory Affairs

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY
March 17, 2023 – 3:35 PM
Conference Room 309, Hawai'i State Capitol

**SUPPORT FOR:
S.B. 1317, S.D. 3 – RELATING TO BROADBAND**

To: Representative Amy Perruso, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Higher Education & Technology

Re: Testimony providing support for SB 1317, SD3

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written support for SB 1317, SD3, temporarily transferring the Hawai'i Broadband and Digital Equity Office from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, appropriating general funds required to match federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program funds, and assigning the Office of the Lieutenant Governor to convene and oversee the working group established under Act 231, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022.

Hawaiian Telcom supports continued improvement and deployment of broadband infrastructure in the State. As these federal dollars provide a temporary infusion of funding for broadband infrastructure and services, we urge the State to further leverage federal IIJA and BEAD funds with private sector investments to address the digital divide, especially in unserved and underserved areas such as the neighbor islands where the cost to build is much higher than in metropolitan areas like Honolulu.

Hawaiian Telcom continues to invest hundreds of millions of dollars annually to expand our fiber broadband infrastructure across the State. In addition to building our broadband network, Hawaiian Telcom provides digital equity support as participating service provider in the federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and Lifeline Program that offer discounted services for qualified residents. ACP-eligible households receive essentially free internet services with a discount of up to \$30 per month, which goes up to \$75 per month for ACP-eligible beneficiaries in Hawaiian Homelands.

We appreciate the opportunity to support SB 1317, SD3, and urge your Committee's passage of this legislation.



To: The Honorable Amy A. Perruso, Chair
The Honorable Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education & Technology

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager

Hearing: Friday, March 17, 2023, 3:35 pm, Conference Room 309

RE: **SB1317 SD3 Relating to Broadband**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB1317 SD3**. This measure would transfer the Hawai'i Broadband and Digital Equity Office from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor on a temporary, 4-year basis; appropriate general funds to provide required matching funds for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program; appropriate from the funds received by the State of Hawai'i from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program; and require the Office of the Lieutenant Governor to convene and lead the working group established pursuant to Act 231, SLH 2022.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 80,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately half of our membership are keiki. We are Hawai'i's only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person health needs.

AlohaCare supports the expansion of reliable broadband statewide as well as ensuring people have the digital literacy to effectively use online access. The COVID pandemic underscored the need for broadband equity to ensuring equal access to health care. In rural settings or other unconnected areas, it is a challenge to ensure people can access the health care they need to either maintain health or address health concerns. Our kupuna also struggle to navigate the online systems to make and access appointments independently. The problems extend beyond telehealth. People were unable to adequately work or learn from home over the course of the pandemic because of either poor connectivity or inability to utilize online systems. Access to these necessities is integral to a person's overall well-being as well as their ability to feel connected in various ways to their community. We applaud the leadership of the Lieutenant Governor, the Legislature, the broadband working group, and the Broadband Hui in advancing broadband and digital equity.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of SB1317 SD3**.



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 309
FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023 AT 3:35PM**

To The Honorable Representative Amy A. Perruso, Chair
The Honorable Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Higher Education & Technology,

SUPPORT SB1317 SD3 RELATED TO BROADBAND

The Maui Chamber of Commerce supports SB1317 SD3, which appropriates money received by the State from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) for the broadband equity, access, and deployment (BEAD) program.

As a member of the Broadband Hui, we echo their testimony in support of this bill. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed that access to broadband internet access is critically important for remote learning and work, as well as telehealth services and commerce. The appropriation of both federal funds and State matching funds will make these broadband connections possible for the un-served and under-served peoples of the State.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our **support of SB1317 SD3**.

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.