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December 18, 2024

TRANSMITTED VIA LEGISLATIVE WEBSITE

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

Enclosed is a copy of the 2024 Annual Report on the (1) Development and Expansion of Telework Initiatives and (2) Receipt and Expenditure of Federal Moneys Related to Broadband, as required respectively by sections 440G-11.5(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

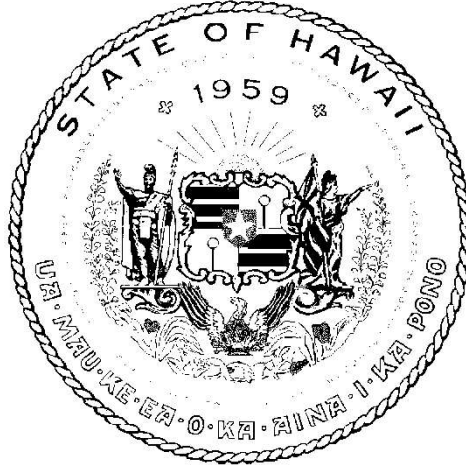
In accordance with section 93-16(a), HRS, a copy of this report will be transmitted to the Legislative Reference Bureau Library and viewable electronically at cca.hawaii.gov/catv/reports/. Copies will also be transmitted to the State Publications Distribution Center and the University of Hawaii pursuant to section 93-3, HRS.

Sincerely,

NADINE Y. ANDO
Director

Enclosure

- c: Legislative Reference Bureau Library (1 hard copy)
State Publications Distribution Center (2 hard copies, 1 electronic copy)
University of Hawaii (1 hard copy)



THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025

**Annual Report on the
(1) Development and Expansion of Telework Initiatives
and
(2) Receipt and Expenditure of Federal Moneys
Related to Broadband**

CABLE TELEVISION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF HAWAII

Submitted December 2024

Annual Report on the Development and Expansion of Telework Initiatives

This report is filed pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) section 440G-11.5(b), which requires the director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to submit an annual report to the Legislature “on the department’s efforts to use broadband and its products and services to develop and expand telework initiatives, including telework participation levels and trends of both private and public sector employees in Hawaii.”

DCCA continues to provide information and links to other state and federal telework “best practices” on its Cable Television Division’s broadband webpage at <https://cca.hawaii.gov/broadband/telework-resources/>, to promote and encourage the use of telework alternatives for public and private employees. The DCCA formed the Broadband Assistance Advisory Council (BAAC) as required under Act 199, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2010, as amended by Act 151, SLH 2011, to advise the director on, among other things, “policy and funding priorities to promote and encourage use of telework alternatives for public and private employees” and other states’ best practices involving telework promotion and policies.

In fiscal year FY 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic drove both public and private employers to offer and use telework alternatives to keep their employees safe, help prevent the spread of the virus, and address workforce retention and hiring issues. Since then, the adoption of telework alternatives in the private and public sector continues to grow. In January 2023, the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) issued new State Telework Program Guidelines to provide participating departments a framework for offering telework for state employees, and also provided accompanying training courses on the Telework Program. By Executive Order No. 23-01, Governor Josh Green advocated employee participation in the Telework Program where offered by departments.

Given the widespread receptiveness to telework, and the technology needs addressed during the pandemic, the other primary hurdles to telework to be addressed are the need for expansion of broadband infrastructure and digital equity. The State and other government and private stakeholders are currently directing federal broadband and digital equity funds towards middle mile and last mile infrastructure developments with priority to unserved and underserved areas, among other areas, in order to overcome these hurdles.

Annual Report on the Receipt and Expenditure of Federal Moneys Related to Broadband

This report is filed pursuant to HRS section 440G-11.5(c), which requires the DCCA to report annually to the Legislature on the receipt and expenditure of federal moneys from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and moneys from other federal appropriation measures or applicable federal acts for broadband facilities, services, equipment, or projects. Final receipt of moneys from ARRA for broadband-related projects occurred in 2015.

Other federal moneys received by the State for broadband facilities, services, equipment, or projects in FY 2024 included the following:

1. Schools and Libraries Universal Support Program (via Federal Communication Commission (FCC))

Under this program (commonly referred to as the “E-rate program”), eligible schools, school districts and libraries may apply for funding under two categories of service: category one services to a school or library (telecommunications, telecommunications services, and Internet access), and category two services that deliver Internet access within schools and libraries (internal connections, basic maintenance of internal connections, and managed internal broadband services). Discounts for support, range from 20 percent to 90 percent of the costs of eligible services, depend on the service area level of poverty and its urban or rural classification. E-rate program funding is based on demand up to an annually Commission-established cap of over \$4 billion.

The E-rate program is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under the direction of the FCC. According to USAC, for funding year 2024 (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024), approved funding commitments totaled \$952,016.94 for various school districts, various state public charter schools, and the Hawaii State Public Library System through the E-rate program.¹

2. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)

The State was awarded \$754,665.72 for program implementation for BEAD, which was created through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), for the deployment and adoption of affordable, equitable, and reliable high-speed Internet service across the State. The grant funds various activities including deploying or upgrading high-speed networks, community outreach, training for employees of broadband programs, and administration of broadband offices.

¹ Amounts are based on USAC’s reporting procedures, and the release schedule of funding waves in each funding year may not always align with the State’s FY.

3. Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund

The State received \$2,079,571.02 under the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CPF) to implement broadband infrastructure programs that aim to provide reliable internet access to households across the state. The funds will be applied for such areas as increasing capacity and reliability of broadband pipelines around the state and to build access in areas where broadband is not currently available, building a new undersea cable system connecting our islands, and improving connectivity and digital literacy at Hawai'i Public Housing Authority locations.

4. Various Funding – Department of Health (DOH)

The DOH received various telehealth-related funds, including the following federal funds listed by DOH program:

Amount	Funding Source	Period of Funding	Program Receiving Funding	Program Activities
\$600,000/year	Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)	6/1/03-11/30/24	Genomics Section	Support purchase of equipment and genetic counseling services by telehealth to the neighbor island families, including the development of family resources to access telehealth for the University of Hawaii Pacific Basin Telehealth Resource Center.
\$5,000,000	ARPA (via CDC)	6/1/21 – 5/31/26	Genomics Section	Support the Library Telehealth Access Project which funds health and digital navigators to work in 16 state libraries across the state in underserved areas to help individuals/families learn how to access on-line health information & telehealth visits; and funds mobile clinic vans and community health workers on each island which allows telehealth to be done in the library

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				<p>parking lot, community sites, or even a patient's home. Received no cost extension until May 31, 2026. Funds have been redirected with approval of CDC to provide emergency telehealth access for Maui.</p>
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