



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'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
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Tuesday, March 14, 2023
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
HB 963, HD1
RELATING TO BROADBAND.

Chair Decoite, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports HB963, HD1** that appropriates general fund moneys that are required to match federal moneys for broadband programs.

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.

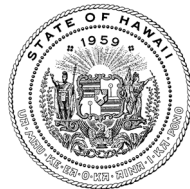
Over the course of the last three years, the COVID-19 pandemic has spotlighted the need for broadband infrastructure and digital equity for all of Hawai'i's residents and community stakeholders. Consequently, the federal government identified the need to fund broadband infrastructure and digital equity programs across the country.

With this once in a generation opportunity, it is important that we meet this requirement to maximize the federal government's investment in Hawai'i.

We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

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

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
AND TOURISM
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 963, H.D. 1

March 14, 2023
1:30 p.m.
Room 229 and Videoconference

RELATING TO BROADBAND

The Department of Budget and Finance supports this bill.

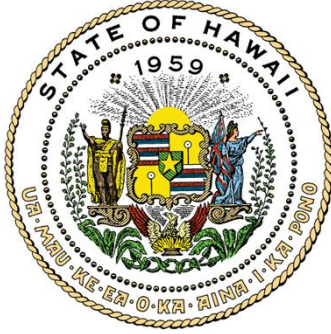
House Bill No. 963, H.D. 1: 1) appropriates general funds needed to provide non-federal matching funds for various federal broadband grant programs, including \$33,000,000 in matching funds for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program; 2) appropriates \$95,000,000 in FY 24 out of funds the State of Hawai'i receives from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act; and 3) makes unspecified general fund appropriations 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 State is likely to be awarded additional BEAD funding and will need to demonstrate that additional

matching funds are available. The amount of the additional matching funds is not known at this time. This bill includes the known required State match amount (\$33,000,000), \$95,000,000 in federal funds, as well as blank appropriations for FY 24 and FY 25 for additional match requirements that may be required.

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.



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

TO: Chair Lynn DeCoite
Vice Chair Glenn Wakai
Members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development,
and Tourism

FROM: Sylvia Luke, Lieutenant Governor

RE: Testimony for H.B. 963 – Relating to Broadband

DATE: March 14, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of H.B. 963** which appropriates general funds that are required to match federal funds for broadband programs.

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. 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. 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of H.B. 963.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
March 14, 2023

The Honorable Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator DeCoite and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB963 HD1 Relating to Broadband

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB963 HD1**, which appropriates general fund moneys that are required to match federal moneys for broadband programs. Appropriates moneys received by the State from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for the broadband equity, access, and deployment program. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

Technology has become vital for our Intellectual/Developmental Disability (I/DD) population to live independently. However, broadband access is key for most new technologies relying on Wi-Fi. Individuals with I/DD who are dependent on others to assist them with their mobility can reach a greater level of independence if they have reliable access to internet services. Internet access allows individuals from their homes to independently access telehealth services, virtual meetings, legislative hearings, and other state programs that require computer access.

Although Hawaii's broadband infrastructure has improved, individuals still face obstacles when utilizing the web due to the digital divide which continues to exist. According to recent studies, people living in urban areas globally have roughly twice the level of internet access in their homes compared with those who live in rural areas. For our I/DD population, this divide is getting wider. We are hopeful that digital equity will come with the passing of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB963 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

By

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

HB 963 HD1 – RELATING TO BROADBAND

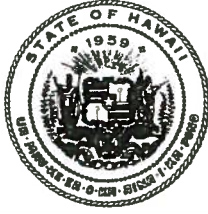
Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i, representing the State's broadband interests, supports HB 963 HD1.

The appropriation of \$33,000,000 will ensure that Hawai'i can fully utilize the initial \$100,000,000 in 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 HB 963 HD1.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • TTY (808) 586-8162 • Fax (808) 586-8129

March 14, 2023

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

House Bill 963 HD1 – Relating to Broadband

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 963 HD1 – Relating to Broadband. This bill would appropriate general fund moneys that are required to match federal moneys for broadband programs. Appropriates moneys received by the State from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for the broadband equity, access, and deployment program.

Digital equity provides persons with disabilities equal access to digital technology, including broadband. Broadband access for all should be affordable, especially for underserved communities to foster their economic development, increase job opportunities, enhance health care, and broaden educational opportunities. Digital equity will not only ensure that people with disabilities have access to broadband, but it will promote a better quality of life for them as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

**Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 1:30 P.M.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference**

RE: HB 963 HD1 Relating to Broadband

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 963 HD1, which appropriates general fund moneys that are required to match federal moneys for broadband programs. Appropriates moneys received by the State from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for the broadband equity, access, and deployment program.

As members of the Broadband Hui, the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii supports broadband infrastructure development in rural communities, provided digital devices and internet connectivity 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.

Addressing digital equity through broadband access and digital literacy is one of the most important steps to modernizing Hawaii's economy and bringing all our industries into the 21st century. By having digital equity throughout the state, this will allow Hawaii to attract new industries and continue to diversify the economy. Given the importance of achieving both broadband equity and digital equity to our economy and to educating our future workforce to throughout Hawaii, the Chamber supports this bill.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

March 14, 2023, 1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229, Videoconference

**SUPPORT FOR:
H.B. 963, H.D.1 – RELATING TO BROADBAND**

To: Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair
Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development & Tourism

Re: Testimony providing support for HB 963, HD1

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

Thank you for this opportunity to submit support for House Bill 963, HD1, appropriating general funds required to match the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Programs.

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 public and 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, up to \$75 per month for ACP-eligible beneficiaries in Hawaiian Homelands.

We appreciate the opportunity to support HB 963, HD1, and urge your Committee's passage of this legislation.

Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

Date: March 14, 2023
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Where: State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
RE: Supporting HB963 HD1 Relating to IIJA and BEAD funds

Aloha mai e Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee,

As members of the Broadband Hui, the listed organizations and individuals SUPPORT HB 963 HD1, 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 SB1317 SD3, now in the House, covers much of the same actions as HB963. 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.

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 HB963. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. (Please see names on the following page.)

Hawaii Broadband Hui Members & Organizations Supporting HB963, HD1

Logos of Supporting Organizations



Hawaii Broadband Hui Members & Organizations Supporting HB963, HD1

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 HB963, HD1

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



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Tuesday, March 14, 2023; 1:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0963, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO BROADBAND

Chair DeCoite, Vice Wakai, 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** House Bill No. 0963, House Draft 1, RELATING TO BROADBAND.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live 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.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Appropriate \$33,000,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2023-2024, to provide matching funds for the broadband equity, access, and deployment program (Program), and stipulate that these funds not lapse at the end of the fiscal year, and that all moneys not encumbered as of June 30, 2026 lapse to the general fund;
- (2) Appropriate \$95,000,000 in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Funds for fiscal year 2023-2024, to provide for the Program;
- (3) Appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 to provide additional matching funds required to access federal funds for programs related to broadband, and stipulate that these funds not lapse at the end of the fiscal year, and that all moneys not encumbered as of June 30, 2026 lapse to the general fund; and

(4) Take effect on June 30, 3000.

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.

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.

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.

For these reasons, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this measure.

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.



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facebook.com/AARPHawaii

**The State Legislature
Committee On Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Tuesday, March 14, 2023
Conference Room 229, 1:30 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Chair
RE: Support for H.B. 963, HD 1 Relating to Broadband

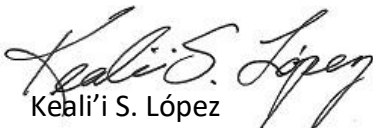
Aloha Chair DeCoite and Members of the Committee:

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 H.B.963 HD1** which appropriates general fund moneys that are required to match federal moneys for broadband programs.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) 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 H.B 963, HD1.

Sincerely,


Keali'i S. López
State Director



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

LATE

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 229
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023 AT 1:30 P.M.**

To The Honorable Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

SUPPORTING HB963 HD1 RELATING TO BROADBAND

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **strongly supports HB963 HD1** which appropriates general fund moneys that are required to match federal moneys for broadband programs; and appropriates moneys received by the State from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for the broadband equity, access, and deployment program.

The Chamber notes that the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic revealed that reliable high-speed internet access is not only important for remote learning and remote work, but also critical for telehealth services and commerce. Several federal programs provide significant amounts of funding to states to improve broadband access. Some of these programs, including the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program, require matching funds.

The Chamber is a member of the broadband hui, who has come together to maximize equitable broadband access and opportunities and notes that this measure is necessary to get matching federal funding.

For these reasons, we **support HB963 HD1**.

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.

HB-963-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 7:23:41 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaili Swan	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

i am in strong support in HB 963 beacuse people with disabltly need to get their fast affordable wifi if they cannot afford to get one due to their teight budjet please pass this HB963 thank you.

HB-963-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 2:37:42 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support as a means to level boadband access to urban and rural areas, especially critical as broadband access has enabled neighbor islands to get better access to health care and education.

LATE

HB-963-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 6:30:23 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HD1. Thank you.