



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 Ways and Means
Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

By

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

HB 963 HD1 – RELATING TO BROADBAND

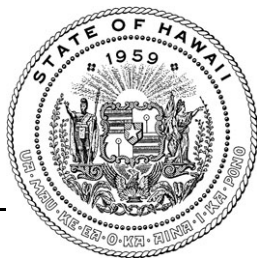
Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

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.



**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

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
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Statement of
CHRIS J. SADAYASU
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, April 4, 2023
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
HB 963, HD1
RELATING TO BROADBAND.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran 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.

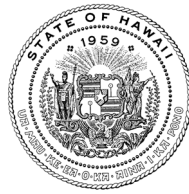
Over the course of the last three years, the COVID-19 pandemic has spotlighted the need for broadband infrastructure and digital equity for all of Hawai'i's residents and community stakeholders. Consequently, the federal government identified the need to fund broadband infrastructure and digital equity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

WRITTEN ONLY

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

**April 4, 2023
10:30 a.m.**

Room 211 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.



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

April 4, 2023

The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Dela Cruz 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.

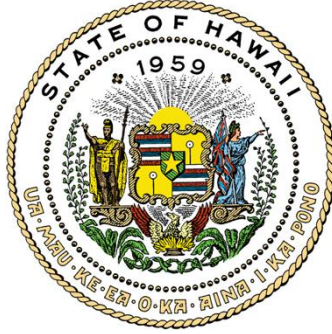
Technology has become vital for our Intellectual/Developmental Disability (I/DD) population to live independently. However, broadband access is key for most new technologies relying on Wi-Fi. Individuals with I/DD who are dependent on others to assist them with their mobility can reach a greater level 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



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

TO: Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Sylvia Luke, Lieutenant Governor

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

DATE: April 4, 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.

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

KEKUHAUPIO R. AKANA
Managing Director



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

April 3, 2023

TO: Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor

DATE: April 3, 2023

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF HB 963, HD1, RELATING TO BROADBAND

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this Act is to appropriate state general funds to match federal funds for state broadband initiatives.

I **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. This measure appropriates funds to address digital equity through broadband access and digital literacy, and is vital to modernizing Hawai'i's economy.
2. This measure supports broadband infrastructure development in rural communities, enhancing internet connectivity for education and economic growth, accessibility of telehealth, and opportunities for low-cost internet options.
3. 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.

For the foregoing reasons, I **SUPPORT** this measure.



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facebook.com/AARPHawaii

**The State Legislature
Senate Committee On Ways and Means
Tuesday, April 4, 2023
Conference Room 211, 10:30 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
RE: Support for H.B. 963, HD 1 Relating to Broadband

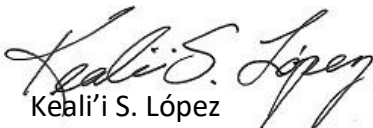
Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

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



To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

Hearing: Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 10:30 AM, Conference Room 211

RE: **HB963, HD1 Relating to Broadband**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB963, HD1**. This measure appropriates general funds that are required to match federal funds 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.

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 safety net health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dually-eligible 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 high-speed 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 ensure 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 HB963, HD1**.

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

April 4, 2023, 10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211, Videoconference

**SUPPORT FOR:
H.B. 963, H.D.1 – RELATING TO BROADBAND – WITH A REQUESTED TECHNICAL
AMENDMENT**

To: Senator Donavan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Testimony providing support for HB 963, HD1, with a requested technical amendment

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

Thank you for this opportunity to submit Hawaiian Telcom’s support with a requested technical amendment for HB 963, HD1, which appropriates general funds required to match the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Programs.

For consistency with federal language regarding IIJA and BEAD programs, we urge your Committee to consider a technical amendment to Section 1, to make the following clarifying change to HB 963, HD1, as referenced from the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) – Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program¹:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that equitable access to high-speed broadband internet is a pressing challenge for the State. The legislature also finds that there is a significant amount of federal funding available to support state broadband initiatives and that some of these programs require matching funds from the State or other non-federal partners entities.

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 the last mile 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 respectfully request your Committee's consideration of the suggested technical amendment and passage of this legislation.

ⁱ NTIA NOFO – BEAD PROGRAM – published on May 13, 2022, see references to “non-federal entities” on pp. 84, 87, and 93. Last referenced on March 31, 2023: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/BEAD%20NOFO.pdf>



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, April 4, 2023; 10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Via Videoconference**

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

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Keith-Agaran, 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.

(insert letterhead)

Testimony Presented before the
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 10:30am

HB963 HD1 – Relating to Broadband

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Vibrant Hawai'i supports HB963 HD1, which would appropriate general funding required to match federal moneys for broadband programs and would also appropriate moneys received by the State from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program.

Vibrant Hawai'i is committed to advancing digital equity and is a proud member of the Hawai'i Island Digital Equity Collaborative (HIDEC), led by the County of Hawai'i. At Vibrant Hawai'i, one part of our mission is to shift deficit narratives, systems, and policy that perpetuate poverty and inequity. We value flexibility and learning that lead to transformation, and we demonstrate this by practicing makawalu and acknowledging that we each hold one piece that is part of something bigger. That is the basis of our support for this bill.

In January 2022, Vibrant Hawai'i engaged community-based instructors to distribute refurbished laptops, facilitate computer skills workshops in rural communities, and connect residents with the Emergency Broadband Benefit. We were able to reach 300 participants in a 90-day project period where upon completion of the program, 91% of participants either strongly agreed or agreed to being more confident using email, 78% were willing to use a computer for online health appointments, 55% shared they would use a computer to seek employment and submit an employment application online, and 84% were willing to participate in future online learning opportunities.

The outcomes of this project are an example of how Vibrant Hawai'i and other organizations can work in collaboration with the State to leverage government resources by deploying digital equity projects to covered populations across all islands. Proposed appropriation of funds in this bill would allow the State of Hawai'i to deploy even more necessary digital equity projects across the state, and Vibrant Hawai'i stands prepared to partner with State and County agencies to reach even more communities on Hawai'i Island.

Vibrant Hawai'i supports HB963 HD1 for the reasons above and we kindly request that you pass this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 211
TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2023 AT 10:30 A.M.

To The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the committee on Ways and Means

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.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 10:30 A.M.
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference**

RE: HB 503 HD2 SD1 Relating to Broadband

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 963 HD2 SD1, 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.

HB-963-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2023 11:55:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dan Gardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Dela Cruz and Ways and Means Committee members. I am asking for your support for HB 963 HD1 relating to broadband. Most of Hawaii's citizens enjoy good access to the internet. However, rural areas still lag in delivery of high-speed internet service. Hawaii must take every opportunity to improve access in our rural and under privileged areas. This added capability will enhance telehealth services saving both lives and medical cost. It will also help increase social communication reducing the harmful effect of isolation, especially for our seniors. Please support this very beneficial legislation. Thank you

April 2, 2023

TO: Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

RE: HB963 HD1 – Relating to Broadband

Hearing scheduled: April 4, 2023 – 10:30AM
Conference Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz; Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran; and Members of the
Committee on Ways and Means:

I support HB963 HD1 – legislation presented to you to appropriate funds
required to match federal funds to support the expansion of broadband
programs in the State of Hawaii.

The State of Hawaii needs to be as digitally advanced as possible. Federal
funds are available to maintain and expand the broadband capabilities of our
current systems, and we must take advantage of every way possible to insure
modern and reliable connectivity to all citizens in Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration of this needed legislation **HB963 HD1** and
thank you for providing an opportunity to testify for this bill.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Olah
Resident, State of Hawaii

LATE

HB-963-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 10:33:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaili swan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i stand in support of this bill please pass hb 963 HD1 thank you.