
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STATEWIDE WIRELESS ACCESS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Technology is the key to success in today's
2 economy. Schools, businesses, and state and local governments
3 are constantly looking into ways to offer quicker and more
4 efficient services to students, residents and visitors through
5 the Internet to the extent that Internet services have rapidly
6 become a part of everyday life. However, with all the
7 technological advances being made, not everyone has the same
8 advantages and access to such technology and services.

9 The legislature finds that a statewide wireless network
10 will be a strategic investment in the people of the state. A
11 state-operated system will provide the necessary infrastructure
12 that will bridge the digital divide that prevents many
13 individuals and families from obtaining opportunities generated
14 by the Internet because they cannot afford the cost of wireless
15 Internet access. This lack of access to the Internet limits
16 educational and job opportunities and participation in many
17 dimensions of modern society and eventually will lead to
18 segments of the population forever lagging behind their



1 technologically advanced peers. Offering affordable wireless
2 Internet services statewide is an essential element of a long-
3 term strategy to invest in the state's workers, residents, and
4 most importantly, the future of Hawaii's children.

5 The purpose of this Act is to establish a task force to
6 study the feasibility of creating a statewide wireless access
7 program.

8 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the Hawaii statewide
9 wireless access task force in the office of the auditor for
10 administrative purposes only. The task force shall be comprised
11 of the following:

- 12 (1) Four members of the senate appointed by the president
13 of the senate;
- 14 (2) Four members of the house of representatives appointed
15 by the speaker of the house of representatives;
- 16 (3) A representative of the governor appointed by the
17 governor;
- 18 (4) The director of the department of business, economic
19 development, and tourism or the director's designee;
- 20 (5) Two members from the University of Hawaii's school of
21 information and computer sciences to be appointed by
22 the president of the University of Hawaii;



- 1 (6) The superintendent of education or the
- 2 superintendent's designee;
- 3 (7) The president of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii;
- 4 (8) A member of the public utilities commission appointed
- 5 by the chair of the commission;
- 6 (9) Four members who shall represent the city and county
- 7 of Honolulu, and the counties of Kauai, Maui, and
- 8 Hawaii, appointed by each respective county mayor; and
- 9 (10) Six members representing the technology and
- 10 communications industries, and community development
- 11 and human and social services organizations, of which
- 12 three members shall be appointed by the president of
- 13 the senate, and three the members by the speaker of
- 14 the house of representatives.

15 (b) The members of the task force shall select the

16 chairperson of the task force and shall be reimbursed for

17 expenses, including travel expenses, necessary for the

18 performance of their duties.

19 (c) The task force shall:

- 20 (1) Review other state or municipal governments that
- 21 have installed high speed wireless Internet systems,
- 22 the types of services offered over such systems, the



1 methods of financing such systems, and the number and
2 types of subscribers of the services offered;

3 (2) Evaluate the feasibility of the state developing,
4 implementing, and operating a network to provide high-
5 speed wireless Internet access statewide, as well as
6 leasing facilities to independent service providers;

7 (3) Determine the viability of providing low-cost, high-
8 speed wireless Internet access to households,
9 businesses, and outdoor areas statewide; and

10 (4) Research the most current and future wireless
11 technologies such as, but not limited to, Wi-MAX.

12 (d) The task force shall submit a report on its findings
13 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
14 legislature and to the auditor no later than twenty days prior
15 to the convening of the regular session of 2008.

16 (e) After reviewing the task force's report, the auditor
17 shall prepare a Hawaii statewide access plan for the development
18 of a state-owned high-speed wireless Internet broadband system.

19 The plan shall include:

20 (1) Recommendations for the types of facilities and the
21 amount of bandwidth the state should install, and the
22 timing and placement of such facilities;



1 (2) Estimates of the potential cost of installing and
2 maintaining a state-owned high-speed wireless Internet
3 broadband system, and potential financing mechanisms;
4 and

5 (3) The feasibility of partnering with private sector
6 Internet service providers to provide wireless
7 Internet access statewide.

8 The auditor shall solicit public comments when preparing the
9 plan and shall incorporate all or a portion of the
10 recommendations reported by the Hawaii statewide wireless access
11 task force. The auditor shall submit the Hawaii statewide
12 wireless access plan to the legislature no later than twenty
13 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2009.

14 (f) The Hawaii statewide access task force shall cease to
15 operate after June 30, 2009.

16 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 for the
19 purposes of supporting the work of the Hawaii statewide wireless
20 access task force established in section 2.

21 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of the
22 auditor for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for
 4 creating the Hawaii statewide wireless access plan.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of the
 6 auditor for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.
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INTRODUCED BY:

[Signature]

Marilyn B. Lee

[Signature]

Cindy Evans

Rida T-R Aboulla

[Signature]

Calvin K. Jay

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

Karl Nirosh

Jyle B. Berg

[Signature]

Tom Brown

Mikhail Y. Nazary

[Signature]
[Signature]



Report Title:

Statewide Wireless Access Task Force

Description:

Establishes a statewide wireless access task force that shall study the feasibility of creating a state owned and operated wireless network.

