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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY.

**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 for 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, despite all the  
7 technological advances being made, not everyone has the same  
8 access to such technology and services.

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



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

5 The purpose of this Act is to establish a task force to  
6 study the feasibility of providing statewide Internet access and  
7 direct the Auditor to develop a Hawaii statewide Internet access  
8 plan for the development of a high-speed, Internet broadband  
9 system.

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

- 14 (1) Four members of the senate appointed by the president  
15 of the senate;
- 16 (2) Four members of the house of representatives appointed  
17 by the speaker of the house of representatives;
- 18 (3) A representative of the governor appointed by the  
19 governor;
- 20 (4) The director of the department of business, economic  
21 development, and tourism, or the director's designee;



- 1 (5) Two members from the University of Hawaii's school of  
2 information and computer sciences to be appointed by  
3 the president of the University of Hawaii;
- 4 (6) The superintendent of education, or the  
5 superintendent's designee;
- 6 (7) The president of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii;
- 7 (8) A member of the public utilities commission appointed  
8 by the chair of the commission;
- 9 (9) Four members who shall represent the city and county  
10 of Honolulu, and the counties of Kauai, Maui, and  
11 Hawaii, each appointed by the respective county mayor;
- 12 (10) Six members representing the technology and  
13 communications industries, and community development  
14 and human and social services organizations, of whom  
15 three members shall be appointed by the president of  
16 the senate, and three members by the speaker of the  
17 house of representatives; and
- 18 (11) A representative of the incumbent local exchange  
19 carrier selected by the incumbent local exchange  
20 carrier.
- 21 (b) The members of the task force shall select the  
22 chairperson of the task force and shall be allowed expenses,



1 including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of  
2 their duties.

3 (c) The task force shall:

4 (1) Study other state or municipal governments that  
5 have installed high-speed, Internet access systems;  
6 the types of services offered by such systems; the  
7 methods of financing such systems; and the number and  
8 types of subscribers of the services offered;

9 (2) Evaluate the feasibility of the development,  
10 implementation, and operation of a network to provide  
11 high-speed Internet access statewide, as well as  
12 leasing facilities to independent service providers;

13 (3) Determine the viability of providing low-cost, high-  
14 speed Internet access to households, businesses, and  
15 outdoor areas statewide; and

16 (4) Research the most current and future Internet access  
17 technologies, such as, but not limited to, Wi-MAX.

18 (d) The task force shall submit a report of its findings  
19 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
20 legislature and to the auditor no later than twenty days prior  
21 to the convening of the regular session of 2008.



1 (e) After reviewing the task force's report, the auditor  
2 shall prepare a Hawaii statewide Internet access plan for the  
3 development of a high-speed, Internet broadband system. The  
4 plan shall include:

5 (1) Recommendations on the types of facilities and the  
6 amount of bandwidth that should be installed, and the  
7 timing and placement of such facilities;

8 (2) Estimates of the potential cost of installing and  
9 maintaining a high-speed, Internet broadband system  
10 and potential financing mechanisms; and

11 (3) The feasibility of partnerships with private-sector  
12 Internet service providers to provide Internet access  
13 statewide.

14 The auditor shall solicit public comments when preparing the  
15 plan and shall incorporate all or a portion of the  
16 recommendations reported by the Hawaii statewide Internet access  
17 task force. The auditor shall submit the Hawaii statewide  
18 Internet access plan to the legislature no later than twenty  
19 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2009.

20 (f) The Hawaii statewide Internet access task force shall  
21 cease to exist after June 30, 2009.



1 SECTION 3. 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 2007-2008 for the  
4 purposes of supporting the work of the Hawaii statewide Internet  
5 access task force established in section 2.

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

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for  
11 creating the Hawaii statewide Internet access plan.

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

14 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2034.



**Report Title:**

Statewide Internet Access Task Force; Plan

**Description:**

Establishes a statewide Internet access task force to study the feasibility of creating a statewide Internet access network. Requires the Auditor to develop a plan for a high-speed Internet access system. (HB310 HD2)

