
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 Hawaii broadband
6 task force to create a Hawaii statewide Internet access plan for
7 the development of a high-speed, Internet broadband system.

8 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the Hawaii broadband
9 task force. The task force shall be comprised of the following:

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



- 1 (7) The president of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii;
- 2 (8) A member of the public utilities commission appointed
- 3 by the chair of the commission;
- 4 (9) Four members who shall represent the city and county
- 5 of Honolulu, and the counties of Kauai, Maui, and
- 6 Hawaii, each appointed by the respective county mayor;
- 7 (10) Two members who shall represent county police
- 8 departments or other first-responder agencies;
- 9 (11) Six members representing the technology and
- 10 communications industries, and community development
- 11 and human and social services organizations, of whom
- 12 three members shall be appointed by the president of
- 13 the senate, and three members by the speaker of the
- 14 house of representatives; and
- 15 (12) A representative of the incumbent local exchange
- 16 carrier selected by the incumbent local exchange
- 17 carrier.
- 18 (b) The members of the task force shall select the
- 19 chairperson of the task force and shall be allowed expenses,
- 20 including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of
- 21 their duties.



1 (c) The task force shall create a Hawaii statewide
2 Internet access plan for the development of a high-speed,
3 Internet broadband system. In developing this plan, the task
4 force shall:

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

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

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

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

19 (5) Consider any other appropriate technologies that may
20 arise in the course of the work of the task force; and

21 (6) Solicit public comments during preparation of the
22 plan.



1 (d) The task force shall submit a report of its initial
2 findings and recommendations regarding the creation of a Hawaii
3 statewide Internet access plan for the development of a
4 high-speed, Internet broadband system to the legislature no
5 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
6 session of 2008.

7 (e) The task force shall submit a final Hawaii statewide
8 Internet access plan for the development of a high-speed,
9 Internet broadband system, including any proposed legislation,
10 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
11 session of 2009. The plan shall include but not be limited to:

12 (1) Recommendations on the types of facilities and the
13 amount of bandwidth that should be installed, and the
14 timing and placement of such facilities;

15 (2) Estimates of the potential cost of installing and
16 maintaining a high-speed, Internet broadband system
17 and potential financing mechanisms; and

18 (3) The feasibility of partnerships with private-sector
19 Internet service providers to provide Internet access
20 statewide.

21 (f) The Hawaii broadband task force shall cease to exist
22 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
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and
4 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
5 year 2008-2009 for the purposes of supporting the work of the
6 Hawaii broadband task force established in section 2.

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

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2034.



Report Title:

Hawaii Broadband Task Force; Plan

Description:

Establishes a Hawaii broadband task force to create a Hawaii statewide Internet access plan for the development of a high-speed, Internet broadband system. (SD1)

