
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. The legislature finds that removing barriers against
3 broadband deployment by using a technology-neutral approach will
4 encourage lower prices for broadband services and create more
5 consumer choices. In addition, deploying broadband networks and
6 advanced communication services throughout Hawaii are essential
7 for the State to keep pace with global changes in economic
8 diversification, energy and environmental technology,
9 healthcare, public safety, and education.

10 The legislature further finds that Hawaii's enterprises do
11 not have access to the types of low-cost, high-capacity digital
12 transport services, such as dark fiber or wavelength services,
13 which are increasingly available in communities concerned about
14 advanced affordable services. As a result, state action is
15 needed to support investment in, stimulate the adoption of, and
16 remove potential barriers to the development and availability of
17 world-class and universally accessible broadband networks in
18 Hawaii.



1 Offering affordable internet access services statewide is
2 an 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:

- 7 (1) Remove barriers to broadband access, including gaining
8 wider access to public rights-of-way;
- 9 (2) Identify opportunities for increased broadband
10 deployment and adoption, including very high speed
11 broadband services; and
- 12 (3) Enable the creation and deployment of new advanced
13 communication technologies in Hawaii.

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

- 16 (1) members of the senate economic development and
17 taxation committee, appointed by the president of the
18 senate;
- 19 (2) members of the house of representatives economic
20 development and business concerns committee, appointed
21 by the speaker of the house of representatives;



1 (3) Representatives from federal, state, and county
2 government entities having a role in infrastructure
3 deployment; management of public rights-of-way,
4 regulation, and franchising; information technology;
5 and economic development;

6 (4) Representatives from Hawaii's private sector
7 technology, telecommunication, and investment
8 industries; and

9 (5) Representatives of nonprofit organizations.

10 (b) The members of the task force shall select the
11 chairperson of the task force and shall be reimbursed for
12 reasonable expenses, including travel expenses, necessary for
13 the performance of their duties.

14 (c) The task force shall:

15 (1) Identify actions that will produce increased
16 investment in and the availability of advanced
17 broadband capabilities at more affordable costs by
18 using new approaches to broadband deployment,
19 including through increased access to public rights-
20 of-way and shared fiber infrastructure;

21 (2) Identify administrative actions that will promote
22 broadband access and usage within the State;



- 1 (3) Make specific recommendations on how Hawaii can
2 leverage federal, state, and international
3 opportunities for and eliminate any related barriers
4 to broadband access and adoption;
- 5 (4) Focus special attention on how broadband can be used
6 to substantially benefit educational institutions,
7 healthcare institutions, community-based
8 organizations, and governmental institutions;
- 9 (5) Consult with public and private stakeholders to
10 coordinate statewide efforts to obtain and maximize
11 loan funding available for broadband deployment and
12 development projects in the State;
- 13 (6) Consult with private sector stakeholders to leverage
14 opportunities to increase investments in state-of-the-
15 art technologies, and new approaches to advancing
16 capabilities at reduced costs;
- 17 (7) Identify best practices to establish a database that
18 identifies current and prospective projects for
19 deploying broadband;
- 20 (8) Encourage all state and county agencies to lead by
21 example by obtaining the necessary equipment for



1 broadband usage and have full access to broadband
2 service; and
3 (9) Encourage all state and county agencies to study the
4 feasibility of and utilize various services that
5 broadband provides such as streaming video
6 technologies to broadcast public meetings over the
7 Internet, videoconferencing, wireless internet access
8 in state and county facilities that are most used by
9 the public, and the deployment of voice over internet
10 protocol (VoIP).

11 (d) The task force shall submit a report of its initial
12 findings and recommendations regarding the creation of a Hawaii
13 statewide internet access plan for the development of a
14 high-speed, Internet broadband system to the legislature no
15 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
16 session of 2008.

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



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

4 (2) Estimates of the potential cost of installing and
5 maintaining a high-speed, internet broadband system
6 and potential financing mechanisms; and

7 (3) The feasibility of partnerships with private-sector
8 internet service providers to provide internet access
9 statewide.

10 (f) The Hawaii broadband task force shall cease to exist
11 after June 30, 2009.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and
15 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
16 year 2008-2009 for the purposes of supporting the work of the
17 Hawaii broadband task force established in section 2.

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

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



Report Title:

Hawaii Broadband Task Force

Description:

Establishes a Hawaii broadband task force to remove barriers to broadband access, including gaining wider access to public rights-of-way; identify opportunities for increased broadband deployment and adoption, including very high speed broadband services; and enable the creation and deployment of new advanced communication technologies in Hawaii. (SD2)

