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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS ON THE INTERNET.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that it is crucial to the  
2 decision-making of the legislature to have public involvement  
3 and input into the legislative process and that one of the most  
4 effective means of promoting this is through public access. The  
5 legislature has demonstrated its commitment to the principle of  
6 public access to the legislative process by creating:

- 7 (1) The public access room;  
8 (2) The legislative broadcast program; and  
9 (3) The legislative website,

10 which encourage education and support for public involvement in  
11 the legislative process.

12 Televised coverage of legislative sessions and hearings is  
13 an important source of information for public participation in  
14 legislative proceedings. At present, some legislative sessions  
15 are available through the legislative broadcast program, but  
16 those are limited to cable television viewers and are available  
17 only at certain broadcast times.



1 Another method of reaching a broader audience is  
2 broadcasting legislative events through video and audio on the  
3 Internet. This process, called streaming media, or webcasting,  
4 takes video or audio signals of an event and converts them into  
5 a digital file. The file is routed through computer servers for  
6 broadcast on the Internet. With a webcasting player, software  
7 which is available for free, users can see or listen to the file  
8 on their computers. This technology allows messages to be  
9 broadcast on all islands and beyond, and recordings of live  
10 webcasts can be archived so that users can listen to or view a  
11 file whenever they wish. These streaming media or webcasting  
12 programs can also be accessed wherever computers are available,  
13 such as public libraries, schools, youth centers, section  
14 centers, and other public places. This technology would  
15 increase public access at a low cost to the State.

16 In addition, the indexed video and audio streams of  
17 legislative sessions and hearings will assist individuals on  
18 Oahu who wish to testify before the legislature but whose time  
19 is limited. Instead of spending an entire morning at the  
20 legislature waiting for their bill to be heard, individuals can  
21 follow the progress of the hearing on the Internet while at home  
22 or work and can decide when to go to testify.



1           The purpose of this Act is to further enhance public access  
2 by funding archived and indexed video and audio streams of  
3 legislative proceedings to be broadcast in streaming media  
4 format on the Internet, including broadcasts from the house and  
5 senate chambers, house and senate conference rooms, and the  
6 capitol auditorium.

7           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the following sums or so much  
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the  
10 same sums or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
11 2008-2009 for two archived and indexed video streams and two  
12 archived and indexed audio streams of legislative proceedings on  
13 the Internet, including broadcasts from the house and senate  
14 chambers, house and senate conference rooms, and the capitol  
15 auditorium:

16	(1) Senate	\$25,000
17	(2) House of Representatives	\$25,000

18           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the senate and  
19 the house of representatives, respectively, for the purposes of  
20 this Act.

21           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



**Report Title:**

Legislative Proceedings; Internet Webcast; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for archived and indexed video and audio streams of legislative proceedings on the Internet. (HB897 HD1)

