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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 citizen 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 programs  
7 such as:

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

11 that encourage education and support for citizen involvement in  
12 the legislative process.

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



1 at certain broadcast times. Another method of reaching a  
2 broader audience is broadcasting legislative events through  
3 video and audio on the Internet.

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

17 In addition, the indexed video and audio streams of  
18 legislative sessions and hearings will assist citizens on Oahu  
19 who wish to testify before the legislature but whose time is  
20 limited. Instead of spending an entire morning at the  
21 legislature waiting for their bill to be heard, citizens can



1 follow the progress of the hearing on the Internet while at home  
2 or work and can decide when to go and testify.

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

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

- 18 (1) Senate \$
- 19 (2) House of Representatives \$

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



**1** 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.

