

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



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**LATE TESTIMONY**

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 7, 2012

**HB 2653  
RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS**

The Department of Transportation supports the intent of this bill but with concerns.

This bill proposes to extend the streamlined permitting for broadband technology under ACT 151, Session Laws of Hawaii to January 1, 2017. We would recommend adding the requirement that any work within the Highways Division right-of-way still requires the entity to obtain the Highway Permit under Section 264-6, HRS. This would provide the Highways Division to not only track the additional infrastructure in our right-of-way, but to also review the traffic control plans for the installation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.





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President - Washington/Hawaii  
External Affairs

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## LATE LATE TESTIMONY

February 7, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Angus McKelvey  
Chair, Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business

*Re: Testimony Supporting House Bill 2653  
Hearing before the House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business  
2-7-12, 8:30 a.m., Room 312*

Rep. McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

AT&T supports House Bill 2653, which would help facilitate the deployment of wireless broadband services in the State of Hawaii. This legislation is similar to a new law passed last year to provide a more streamlined approach to the local zoning and permitting processes for wireline broadband services. Because wireless broadband services are so highly valued by consumers today – especially the use of smart phones and pads – it only makes sense that streamlined processes are also available to wireless facilities.

Under this bill, broadband improvements to existing wireless facilities would be exempt from local permitting processes. Wireless carriers would still have to report these improvements to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Since these improvements have minimal impact on the community, such as upgrading antennas and cabling, there should be a faster process for making these changes.

The bill also puts timelines on the deployment of new wireless broadband facilities. Local governments would still have zoning and permitting authority, but these timelines would ensure action on these requests in a reasonable amount of time.

We have arrived at a very exciting time in the wireless industry. Most carriers, including AT&T, are embarking on the deployment of new Long Term Evolution (LTE) technology in our networks. These speeds will be much faster than the current 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation technology. These network improvements will be most notable in the speed at which the hundreds of thousands of applications can run. From business operations to health care to public safety to education to entertainment, people are finding new and beneficial uses for their smart phones and pads. We want to deliver those great experiences with faster wireless broadband services.

AT&T continues to invest in Hawaii and to upgrade our network. In fact, over the period of 2009-2011, AT&T invested nearly \$100 million in its wireless and wireline networks, including adding new cell sites, faster fiber-optic connections, and greater capacity in our cell sites. We plan to continue investing in Hawaii, but would certainly benefit from a more streamlined approach to zoning and permitting decisions around our facilities.

Thank you for considering House Bill 2653.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Youmans, AT&T