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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
RICHARD C. LIM
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

Thursday, March 22, 2012

9:15 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of

HCR 77

**URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT AND ESTABLISH A
NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK.**

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business:

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism ("DBEDT") **supports HCR 77**. In leading the Hawaii Broadband Initiative ("HBI"), DBEDT concurs that establishing a National Broadband Network across the United States should be a priority for the United States Congress to serve as a foundation to maintain global economic competitiveness and a catalyst to drive innovation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this House Concurrent Resolution.

Written Statement of
YUKA NAGASHIMA
Executive Director & CEO
High Technology Development Corporation
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS
Thursday, March 22, 2012
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State Capitol, Conference Room 312
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**URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT AND ESTABLISH A
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Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business:

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports HCR 77**. Hawaii, along with the mainland states, suffers from broadband speeds far below the global standard. Currently, the United States ranks 25th in the world for broadband speed and connection quality, and within that Hawaii ranks 31st. To remain competitive in a global economy which is increasingly dependent on high-speed connectivity, development of a broadband network must be a national priority.

The demand for speed is growing rapidly, and in Australia, **downloads have increased by 19,000 percent in fewer than 20 years**. A unified alternative to our current patchwork network in the United States is fundamental. Using a model like Australia's National Broadband Network (NBN) would create a cohesive framework to advance our nation's high speed communications infrastructure. A national effort would provide a platform for Hawaii and other states to build upon and federal funds to support the required infrastructure development. Furthermore, with Hawaii both geographically isolated and also a gateway to the Asian economy, the State will be a prime candidate for federal broadband infrastructure investment. This type of support would be a huge resource toward the success of the Hawaii Broadband Initiative, which seeks to connect the entire state of Hawaii with gigabit access by 2018.

By investing in a National Broadband Network, we are investing in our nation's success in the world economy. High speed broadband access will be road on which we travel to work, communicate with family, conduct business, and obtain healthcare. If we fail to pave the way for these innovations today, we will fall further behind.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this House Concurrent Resolution.