

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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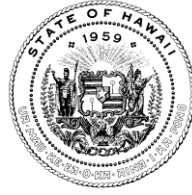
**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB533 HD2 SD1**  
**RELATING TO BROADBAND.**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: April 3, 2019

Room Number: 211

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unspecified general fund appropriation.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the creation of the Hawaii
- 3 Broadband Office and State Broadband Strategy Officer proposed by HB533 SD1.
- 4 A robust broadband infrastructure is essential to assure ubiquitous and high quality access to
- 5 telehealth services, especially in rural or remote areas of the state. Hawaii's health care provider
- 6 shortage continues to worsen, and although telehealth utilization has been increasing over the
- 7 past several years, it is far from being a standard of care.
- 8 Increasing the adoption of telehealth is a strategic priority for the Department of Health, and it
- 9 would benefit greatly from coordination with a dedicated broadband resource.
- 10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, April 3, 2019  
10:25 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**On the following measure:  
H.B. 533, S.D. 1, RELATING TO BROADBAND**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ji Sook “Lisa” Kim, and I am the Cable Administrator of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs’ (Department) Cable Television Division. The Department supports this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) establish the Hawaii Broadband Office within the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC), including the creation of a state broadband strategy officer position to head the office; (2) rename the Broadband Assistance Advisory Council to the Broadband Advisory Council and amend the council’s membership and duties; and (3) transfer the amended duties of the council to the HTDC.

The Department recognizes the strong relationship between broadband access and economic development, as well as broadband’s importance in fostering education, health, community building, and civic engagement throughout the State. Accordingly,

the Department supports the approach taken by this measure to create a central office solely focused on facilitating the availability of affordable broadband access services through the development of the State strategy and policies, coordination of efforts among public and private broadband stakeholders, and the securing of funding and investment for broadband infrastructure, services, and programs. The Department defers further comment to the affected agency with respect to the overall program scope of the proposed broadband office and its required funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY  
DIRECTOR

## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of  
**MIKE MCCARTNEY**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Wednesday, April 3, 2019  
10:25 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of  
**HB 533, HD2, SD1**  
**RELATING TO BROADBAND.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **Supports** HB533, HD2, SD1 which establishes the Hawaii Broadband Office within the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation; establishes the position of State Broadband Strategy Officer; requires the CEO of HTDC to convene and chair the Broadband Advisory Council; and amends the Council's purpose and membership.

DBEDT recognizes that broadband is important to business and is essential to maintain Hawaii's global competitiveness. Therefore, DBEDT supports the creation of the broadband office in HTDC and the restructuring of the Broadband Advisory Council to meet the duties set forth in the measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 04/03/2019

**Time:** 10:25 AM

**Location:** 211

**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 0533, HD2, SD1 RELATING TO BROADBAND.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes the Hawaii Broadband Office within HTDC. Establishes the position of State Broadband Strategy Officer. Renames the Broadband Assistance Advisory Council as the Broadband Advisory Council and amends its purpose and membership. Requires the CEO of HTDC to convene and chair the Broadband Advisory Council. Appropriates funds. Takes effect 7/1/3000. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

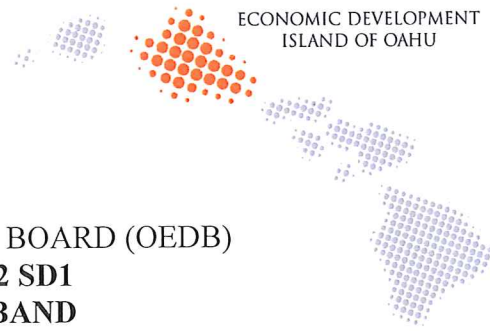
The Department of Education (Department) supports HB533 HD2 SD1.

A strategic focus on improving broadband in the state is vital in today's society which leverages and consumes broadband services in greater numbers. This is especially the case in the education setting, where curriculum, assessment, and learning tools continue to move towards online and digital delivery.

Hawaii's schools and students leverage broadband on a daily basis and use continues to grow annually, especially with the Department's strategic focus on modernization and school design.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



Testimony of the  
OAHU ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD (OEDB)  
**In Support of HB 533 HD2 SD1**  
**RELATING TO BROADBAND**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 3 2019  
10:25 A.M.  
Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

The Oahu Economic Development Board (OEDB) supports HB 533 HD2 SD1.

In the fall of 2018 OEDB with the Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii convened various individuals with diverse expertise in Media, IT, Education, Security, Energy, and Economics to listen to their input on a Broadband Initiative for Hawaii. The conversation was not a question of support for Broadband Infrastructure but the critical unrecognized hardship or handicap our youth will need to overcome if we don't provide for it.

OEDB supports establishing the Hawaii Broadband Office within HTDC, the position of State Broadband Strategy Officer and the appropriation of funds for said office and initiative. We strongly encourage your forwarding of this very important resource for our most important resource, our residents and their future children.

Mahalo,

Pono Shim  
President and CEO





Written Statement of  
**Len Higashi**  
Acting Executive Director  
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation  
before the  
**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**  
Wednesday, April 3, 2019  
10:25 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of  
**HB533, HD2, SD1**  
**RELATING TO BROADBAND.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports** HB533, HD2, SD1 which establishes the Hawaii Broadband Office within the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation; establishes the position of State Broadband Strategy Officer; requires the CEO of HTDC to convene and chair the Broadband Advisory Council; and amends the Council's purpose and membership.

As part of HTDC's vision to create 80,000 new innovation jobs in Hawaii earning \$80,000 or more by 2030, HTDC supports initiatives aimed at promoting technology and innovation jobs. HTDC recognizes that broadband is important to business and is essential to maintain Hawaii's global competitiveness. HTDC looks forward to working with DBEDT and other stakeholders on the duties of the Hawaii Broadband Office.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

**HB-533-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 4:34:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Bidleman	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I am a retired college professor/network engineer. The level of internet service offered in rural areas is significantly lacking. Satellite internet service (Viasat) is inadequate, particularly with the heavy rainfall in some areas here on the Big Island.

Hawaiian Tel tells us they are out of sockets in certain areas and cable connections are based on a number of connections in a geographical area. In order for them to install infrastructure, they want 25 or more households.

Various governments (county and state) should be lobbying providers to go after FCC grants to provide service to underserved populations. It is in the best interest of businesses (particularly real estate) to pursue better internet service. It is often the "deal breaker" for lack of good internet service. With 5G technology already being implemented, this is even more important.

If we had really good internet, some of the tech support that is off shore could create jobs here in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.