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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BROADBAND SERVICE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that it is essential to  
2 ensure that people can access websites and information freely  
3 and fairly over the Internet, which provides worldwide  
4 communication and a platform for a global marketplace where even  
5 the smallest businesses can participate. In 2015, the Federal  
6 Communications Commission adopted strong rules and regulations  
7 to protect internet users, as all content over the internet was  
8 treated equally and without preferential treatment. However,  
9 the more recent Federal Communications Commission's ruling to  
10 repeal net neutrality deregulates the internet service industry,  
11 jeopardizing the future of access to websites and information  
12 and creating an environment that could allow internet service  
13 providers the opportunity to limit or prioritize certain access  
14 to information at their discretion.

15           The purpose of this Act is to ensure that the Internet  
16 remains free and open in the State by:



- 1 (1) Requiring providers of broadband internet access
- 2 services to be transparent with network management
- 3 practices, performance, and commercial terms of its
- 4 broadband internet access services; and
- 5 (2) Prohibiting providers of broadband internet access
- 6 services from:
  - 7 (A) Blocking lawful websites;
  - 8 (B) Impairing or degrading lawful internet traffic;
  - 9 (C) Engaging in paid prioritization; or
  - 10 (D) Unreasonably interfering with or unreasonably
  - 11 disadvantaging users of broadband internet access
  - 12 services.

13 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by  
 14 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read  
 15 as follows:

16 "CHAPTER

17 BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE

18 § -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the  
 19 context otherwise requires:

20 "Broadband internet access service" means a mass-market  
 21 retail service, including any service that the Federal



1 Communications Commission finds to be functionally equivalent,  
2 by wire or radio that provides the capability to transmit data  
3 to and receive data from all or substantially all internet  
4 endpoints, including any capabilities that are incidental to and  
5 enable the operation of the communications service, but  
6 excluding dial-up internet access service.

7 "Edge provider" means any individual or entity that  
8 provides any content, application, or service over the Internet,  
9 and any individual or entity that provides a device used for  
10 accessing any content, application, or service over the  
11 Internet.

12 "End user" means any individual or entity that uses a  
13 broadband internet access service.

14 "Mobile broadband internet access service" means a  
15 broadband internet access service that serves end users  
16 primarily using mobile stations.

17 "Paid prioritization" means the management of a broadband  
18 provider's network to directly or indirectly favor some traffic  
19 over other traffic, including through the use of techniques such  
20 as traffic shaping, prioritization, resource reservation, or  
21 other forms of preferential traffic management, either:



- 1           (1) In exchange for consideration, monetary or otherwise,
- 2                    from a third party; or
- 3           (2) To benefit an affiliated entity.

4           "Reasonable network management" means a practice that has a  
5 primarily technical network management justification, but does  
6 not include other business practices. A network management  
7 practice is reasonable if it is primarily used for and tailored  
8 to achieving a legitimate network management purpose, taking  
9 into account the particular network architecture and technology  
10 of the broadband internet access service.

11           § -2 **Broadband internet access service; disclosure;**  
12 **protections.** (a) A person engaged in the provision of  
13 broadband internet access service in the State shall publicly  
14 disclose accurate information regarding the network management  
15 practices, performance, and commercial terms of its broadband  
16 internet access services sufficient for consumers to make  
17 informed choices regarding use of such services and for content,  
18 application, service, and device providers to develop, market,  
19 and maintain internet offerings.



1 (b) A person engaged in the provision of broadband  
2 internet access service in the State, insofar as such a person  
3 is so engaged, shall not:

4 (1) Block lawful content, applications, services, or  
5 nonharmful devices, subject to reasonable network  
6 management;

7 (2) Impair or degrade lawful internet traffic on the basis  
8 of internet content, application, or service, or use  
9 of a nonharmful device, subject to reasonable network  
10 management;

11 (3) Engage in paid prioritization; or

12 (4) Unreasonably interfere with or unreasonably  
13 disadvantage:

14 (A) End users' ability to select, access, and use  
15 broadband internet access service or the lawful  
16 internet content, applications, services, or  
17 devices of their choice; or

18 (B) Edge providers' ability to make lawful content,  
19 applications, services, or devices available to  
20 end users;



# S.B. NO. 253

1 provided that the prohibition on paid prioritization pursuant to  
 2 paragraph (3) may be permitted if a petitioner demonstrates that  
 3 the practice would provide some significant public interest  
 4 benefit and would not harm the open nature of the Internet in  
 5 the State."

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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# S.B. NO. 253

**Report Title:**

Broadband Internet Access Service; Protections; Net Neutrality

**Description:**

Requires a provider of broadband internet access services to be transparent. Prohibits a provider of these services from blocking lawful websites, impairing or degrading lawful internet traffic, engaging in paid prioritization, or interfering with or disadvantaging users of broadband internet access services.

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