
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GOVERNMENT.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a need to
3 modernize state government to reflect the current generation of
4 Hawaii residents, as recent studies have shown a lack of public
5 support for government in the State. Furthermore, the current
6 structure of government presents challenges to effective and
7 efficient governing at all levels. The legislature also finds
8 that the needs of society have changed drastically, with greater
9 emphasis on modernization, transparency, and accountability, and
10 that these needs should be reflected in the functions and
11 services provided by state government.

12 The purpose of this part is to establish the state
13 government realignment commission to periodically review the
14 state executive branch's departments, divisions, and agencies,
15 including functions and services, and submit its findings and
16 recommendations to the legislature.



1 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
2 adding a new chapter to title 4 to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "CHAPTER

5 STATE GOVERNMENT REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

6 § -1 Establishment of the commission. (a) There is
7 established a state government realignment commission,
8 hereinafter called the commission, which shall be placed within
9 the department of accounting and general services for
10 administrative purposes. The commission shall consist of seven
11 members. Three members shall be appointed by the governor, two
12 members by the president of the senate, and two members by the
13 speaker of the house of representatives. All members appointed
14 by the governor shall be subject to the advice and consent of
15 the senate. The commission shall elect its chairperson from
16 among its members.

17 (b) The members of the commission shall receive no
18 compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for
19 actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

20 (c) To perform its duties, the commission may engage
21 employees without regard to chapter 76 and enter into contracts



1 with consultants. Departments of the state government shall
2 make available to the commission any data and facilities that
3 are necessary for the commission to perform its duties.

4 § -2 **Term.** Members of the commission shall be appointed
5 and confirmed on or before July 1, 2022, and new members of the
6 commission shall be appointed and confirmed on or before July 1
7 every ten years thereafter; provided that if any vacancy occurs
8 in the membership of a commission prior to the completion of its
9 duties or dissolution, there shall be appointed a replacement
10 member in accordance with section 26-34. The commission shall
11 meet as necessary to execute its duties. The commission shall
12 dissolve upon the adjournment sine die of the legislature to
13 which it submits the evaluation and recommendations required by
14 section -3.

15 § -3 **Duties.** The commission shall conduct a systematic
16 review of the state executive branch's departments, divisions,
17 and agencies, including functions and services, that uses
18 standards such as equity, efficiency, and modernization to
19 consolidate, expand, or reassign services. Thirty days prior to
20 the convening of the second regular session of the legislature
21 after the members of the commission have been appointed, the



1 commission shall submit to the legislature the findings of its
2 systemic review of the state executive branch and any
3 recommendations based on the findings; provided that the
4 legislature shall review and take into consideration the
5 commission's findings and recommendations."

6 PART II

7 SECTION 3. The legislature finds that broadband is the
8 critical infrastructure of the twenty-first century. The term
9 "broadband" has been generally defined as a data transmission
10 service that enables users, such as residents, schools,
11 businesses, and government, to access the Internet and use web
12 applications at particular speeds. From a practical standpoint,
13 broadband allows a student to connect to a remote classroom,
14 businesses to conduct secure financial transactions, and health
15 providers to serve patients without coming into a clinic or
16 hospital.

17 In March 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic required all
18 residents to shelter in place, broadband became fundamental to
19 everyday life. The public and private sectors immediately
20 shifted to remote work, schools transitioned to distance
21 learning, and many services were available only online.



1 Evolving solutions to meet the COVID-19 crisis and communication
2 about those solutions were posted on social media and various
3 websites. During the evolution of the pandemic, the digital
4 divide between those with broadband access and those without
5 became painfully evident.

6 The legislature further finds that broadband is a public
7 sector priority and access to broadband should not be limited by
8 geographical location or ability to pay. The purpose of this
9 part is to significantly increase access to broadband for the
10 most vulnerable populations in the State by appropriating funds
11 for various broadband infrastructure installation or expansion.

12 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the American
13 Rescue Plan Act, Public Law 117-2, the sum of \$ or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 and
15 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
16 year 2022-2023 for:

- 17 (1) The purchase of secure and reliable high-speed
18 broadband through fixed fiber or copper connections
19 and high-speed wireless, such as wi-fi;
- 20 (2) Endpoint device availability and management;
- 21 (3) Support and management of technical issues;



1 (4) Network management of user needs; and
2 (5) Changing network requirements;
3 provided that priority shall be given to rural and underserved
4 communities, including state public housing and geographic areas
5 with high concentration of Title I recipients.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
7 of accounting and general services for the purposes of this
8 part.

9 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the American
10 Rescue Plan Act, Public Law 117-2, the sum of \$ or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 and
12 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
13 year 2022-2023 for the purchase and installation of broadband
14 infrastructure to enhance and upgrade broadband and internet
15 connectivity for state buildings, including libraries.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
17 of accounting and general services for the purposes of this
18 part.

19 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the American
20 Rescue Plan Act, Public Law No. 117-2, the sum of \$ or
21 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022



1 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for
2 fiscal year 2022-2023 for:

3 (1) Extension of fiber to every department of education
4 classroom building's wiring room, as needed, in order
5 to provide fiber interconnection to every classroom
6 building resulting in better network performance and
7 management for each classroom; and

8 (2) Enhancement and upgrade of cabling from the wiring
9 room to every classroom, for every department of
10 education classroom building, as needed, to support
11 better connectivity and performance for student
12 devices.

13 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
14 of accounting and general services for the purposes of this
15 part.

16 SECTION 7. The department of accounting and general
17 services and department of transportation shall submit an annual
18 report to the legislature by December 1, regarding
19 implementation of this part and any other broadband projects
20 implemented by the departments, including but not limited to:



- 1 (1) The status of procurement of broadband services and
- 2 equipment;
- 3 (2) Total number and prioritization of broadband delivery
- 4 sites statewide and by county;
- 5 (3) Estimated number of households served statewide and by
- 6 county; and
- 7 (4) Future funding and any proposed legislation, if any.

8 PART III

9 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112.



Report Title:

State Government Realignment Commission; Departments; Divisions;
Agencies; Broadband Infrastructure; American Rescue Plan Act;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a state government realignment commission to periodically review the state executive branch's departments, divisions, and agencies, including functions and services, and submit its findings and recommendations to the legislature. Appropriates American Rescue Plan Act funds for various broadband infrastructure installation and updates throughout the State. Effective 7/1/2112. (PROPOSED HD2)

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