
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BROADBAND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds the ongoing coronavirus
2 disease 2019 pandemic has highlighted the significant need for
3 new and enhanced broadband infrastructure. A lack of
4 accessibility to reliable high-speed broadband service has had a
5 tremendous negative effect in many areas, particularly unserved
6 and underserved communities. The legislature acknowledges that
7 additional investment must be made to meet the needs in rural
8 communities and to enhance broadband internet access for those
9 in communities that lack adequate broadband infrastructure. The
10 legislature further finds that increased access to broadband
11 services in unserved and underserved areas of the State would
12 enhance Hawaii's overall economic development, education, health
13 care, and emergency services.

14 Accordingly, the legislature enacted Act 225, Session Laws
15 of Hawaii 2021 (Act 225), to support efforts to improve access
16 to broadband services for residents, consumers, and businesses
17 across the State. Act 225, in part, designated the newly



1 created broadband and digital equity office as a resource to
2 provide a repository, aggregation point, and governance
3 framework for broadband mapping and digital equity data to
4 support mapping, reporting, infrastructure deployment and data-
5 driven policy. Act 225 also appropriated \$5,000,000 of the
6 funds that the State received pursuant to Section 9901 of the
7 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, for grants
8 to support and extend the deployment of facilities used to
9 provide broadband service to unserved and underserved areas in
10 Hawaii. However, the legislature recognizes that the current
11 lack of accurate information regarding broadband data
12 nationwide, especially in rural neighborhoods, is preventing
13 efforts to increase access to reliable high-speed broadband
14 service to unserved and underserved areas, including those
15 within the State.

16 The purpose of this Act is to require broadband service
17 providers to annually disclose to the broadband and digital
18 equity office certain broadband data and the street-level
19 locations where it has deployed fiber cable within the State.



SECTION 2. Chapter 206S, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§206S- Disclosures; broadband data; infrastructure deployment. (a) All broadband service providers that provide service within the State shall disclose in an annual report to the office, the following information on broadband data and infrastructure deployment in the State:

(1) The services and service offerings it provides within the State;

(2) A street-level map of its fiber cable deployed within the State; and

(3) The upload and download speeds of each of its project areas as defined in section 206R-1.

(b) The department shall adopt rules in accordance with chapter 91 to implement this section."

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 21 2022



H.B. NO. 1728

Report Title:

Broadband Service Providers; Disclosures; Broadband and Digital Equity Office

Description:

Requires broadband service providers to annually disclose to the Broadband and Digital Equity Office certain broadband data and the street-level locations where it has deployed fiber cable.

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