# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATION.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that providing access for
- 2 residents to participate in the state legislative process is a
- 3 basic right of citizenship in the State and should continue to
- 4 be a priority. Equitable access to the legislative process
- 5 would encompass the nearly four hundred fifty thousand residents
- 6 on the neighbor islands as well as those in rural Oahu and
- 7 promote inclusivity. With the rising costs of airfare, gas, and
- 8 lodging, providing designated locations or state offices on
- 9 neighbor islands and in rural Oahu where citizens can
- 10 participate remotely in the legislative process will help to
- 11 reduce the financial burden of participation.
- 12 The purpose of this Act is to require the comptroller to
- 13 identify certain state resources that can be utilized for
- 14 telecommunication access to increase neighbor island and rural
- 15 Oahu residents' participation in the state legislative process.
- 16 SECTION 2. (a) The comptroller shall identify state
- 17 office buildings that are able to provide equitable



## S.B. NO. 552 S.D. 1 H.D. 1

- 1 telecommunication access to residents of the counties of Hawaii,
- 2 Kauai, and Maui, and the rural areas of Oahu, and including
- 3 residents with disabilities who live in those areas, to
- 4 participate remotely in legislative hearings.
- 5 (b) The comptroller shall submit a report of the
- 6 comptroller's findings and recommendations, including any
- 7 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty
- 8 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2024.
- 9 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.

## Report Title:

Department of Accounting and General Services; Comptroller; State Office Buildings; Telecommunications; Accessibility; Legislative Hearings; Report

## Description:

Requires the comptroller to identify state office buildings that can provide equitable telecommunication access to allow certain residents, including residents with disabilities, to participate remotely in legislative hearings. Requires a report to the legislature. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

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2023-2742 SB752 HD1 HMSO