



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
Ke Ke'ena O Ka Hope Kia'aina

TO: Chair Kyle Yamashita
Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa
Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Sylvia Luke, Lieutenant Governor

RE: Testimony for S.B. 1317 – Relating to Broadband

DATE: March 30, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of S.B. 1317** which appropriates general funds to provide required matching funds for the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, requires my office to convene and lead the working group established in Act 231, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, and transfers the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor on a temporary 4-year basis.

The COVID-19 worldwide pandemic showed us that reliable, high-speed internet access is not only important for remote-learning and remote-work, but critical for tele-health services, commerce, and for Hawaii to stay connected to the world. Over the next few years, Hawaii is poised to receive millions of dollars in formula and competitive federal grants to support broadband expansion, some of which require matching funds from the state. Since the Governor has entrusted my office to oversee initiatives that will modernize our state's broadband infrastructure and ensure access to high quality connectivity, particularly in rural areas, I would be honored to convene and chair the broadband working group. Transferring the Broadband and Digital Equity Office to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor may require additional discussion related to appropriate funding amounts, physical workspaces, and operational issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 1317.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

CHRIS J. SADAYASU
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
CHRIS J. SADAYASU
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, March 30, 2023
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
SB 1317, SD3, HD1
RELATING TO BROADBAND.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports SB1317, SD3, HD1** that appropriates general fund moneys that are required to match federal moneys for broadband programs and requires the Office of the Lieutenant Governor to convene and chair the working group established pursuant to Act 231 (SLH 2022).

In the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment issued on May 13, 2022, by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA-BEAD-2022) it states each *Eligible Entity shall provide, require its subgrantee to provide, or provide in concert with its subgrantee, matching funds of not less than 25 percent of project costs.* This moneys will help to meet that requirement.

Over the course of the last three years, the COVID-19 pandemic has spotlighted the need for broadband infrastructure and digital equity for all of Hawai'i's residents and community stakeholders. Consequently, the federal government identified the need to fund broadband infrastructure and digital equity programs across the country.

DBEDT also supports the transfer of the Hawai'i Broadband and Digital Equity Office to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor on a temporary, 4-year basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Garret T. Yoshimi, Vice President for Information Technology/Chief Information Officer
University of Hawai'i System

SB 1317 SD3 HD1 – RELATING TO BROADBAND

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i, representing the State's broadband interests, supports SB 1317 SD3 HD1.

The appropriation will ensure that Hawai'i can fully utilize the state allocation for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. BEAD is the largest of the federal broadband funding programs supporting states and territories, and requires that states provide matching funds of at least 25% of the total project costs. The program funds a wide range of eligible costs, and places a priority for states to address robust, reliable and affordable broadband access to those residents that are currently unserved by existing telecommunications providers.

Hawai'i is currently in the process of developing the required Five-Year Plan, due to NTIA in July, that will articulate the state's approach to statewide investments to maximize the benefits of federal broadband funds. This effort is funded by BEAD Planning Funds allocated to Hawai'i, and shall include community outreach for the planning effort, and over the course of the project execution funded by state BEAD funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support on SB 1317 SD3 HD1.

Written Only

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/30/2023

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 1317, SD3, HD1 RELATING TO BROADBAND.

Purpose of Bill: Transfers the Hawaii broadband and digital equity office from the department of business, economic development, and tourism to the office of the lieutenant governor on a temporary, four-year basis. Appropriates general funds to provide required matching funds for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program. Appropriates funds received by the State from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program. Requires the office of the lieutenant governor to convene and lead the working group established pursuant to Act 231, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 1317, SD3, HD1, which appropriates the necessary funds required to match federal monies for the implementation of the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. This funding will help increase reliable and affordable broadband access for Hawaii residents.

Equitable access to reliable and affordable internet has been a long-standing challenge for Hawaii residents, especially for those in underserved and unserved communities. The COVID-19 pandemic brought the issue of broadband access and equity to the forefront as Hawaii residents needed to rely on online resources for work, education, health services, and other services and support. Federal and state funding will continue

to help Hawaii address the “digital divide.”

As a member of the working group established under Act 231, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, the Department appreciates the opportunity to provide input and insight on broadband equity and access from the perspective of K-12 education and looks forward to continuing collaboration and discussion with the working group and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

March 30, 2023

The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita Chair
House Committee on Finance
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Yamashita and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB1317 SD3 HD1 RELATING TO BROADBAND.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS SB1317 SD3 HD1**, which transfers the Hawai'i broadband and digital equity office from the department of business, economic development, and tourism to the office of the lieutenant governor on a temporary, four-year basis. Appropriates general funds to provide required matching funds for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program. Appropriates funds received by the State from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program. Requires the office of the lieutenant governor to convene and lead the working group established pursuant to Act 231, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022.

The intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) population is greatly reliant upon access to and the use of digital technology in order to remain engaged members of the community. This measure helps allocate funding and support the development of vital broadband infrastructure for underserved communities across the state, improving access and affordability. Hawaii's I/DD population resides in these communities and would greatly benefit from access to high-speed internet and improved broadband equity. Our I/DD population utilizes telehealth at a higher rate than most and having increased access to broadband can help support our I/DD population and their health needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB1317 SD3 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



Testimony Presented before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 2:00pm

SB1317 SD3 HD1 – Relating to Broadband

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Vibrant Hawai'i supports SB1317 SD3 HD1, which would among other things, appropriate general funds to provide required matching funds for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program and appropriate funds received by the State from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program.

Vibrant Hawai'i is committed to advancing digital equity and is a proud member of the Hawai'i Island Digital Equity Collaborative (HIDEC), led by the County of Hawai'i. At Vibrant Hawai'i, one part of our mission is to shift deficit narratives, systems, and policy that perpetuate poverty and inequity. We value flexibility and learning that lead to transformation, and we demonstrate this by practicing makawalu and acknowledging that we each hold one piece that is part of something bigger. That is the basis of our support for this bill.

In January 2022, Vibrant Hawai'i engaged community-based instructors to distribute refurbished laptops, facilitate computer skills workshops in rural communities, and connect residents with the Emergency Broadband Benefit. We were able to reach 300 participants in a 90-day project period where upon completion of the program, 91% of participants either strongly agreed or agreed to being more confident using email, 78% were willing to use a computer for online health appointments, 55% shared they would use a computer to seek employment and submit an employment application online, and 84% were willing to participate in future online learning opportunities.

The outcomes of this project are an example of how Vibrant Hawai'i and other organizations can work in collaboration with the State to leverage government resources and reach many more residents of the state who can benefit from access to broadband. Appropriating general funds to provide required matching funds for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program and appropriating funds received by the State from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program would significantly allow

Vibrant Hawai'i and other community organizations to help the State in reaching the unserved and underserved populations of our State.

Vibrant Hawai'i supports SB1317 SD3 HD1 for the reasons above and we kindly request that you pass this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Janice Ikeda', written in a cursive style.

Janice Ikeda
Executive Director
Vibrant Hawai'i

House Committee on Finance

Date: March 30, 2023
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Where: State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
RE: Supporting SB1317 SD3, HD1 Relating to IIJA and BEAD funds and Digital Equity Officing moving to Office of Lt. Gov.

Aloha mai e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee,

As members of the Broadband Hui, the listed organizations and individuals SUPPORT SB1317 SD3, HD1 which appropriates money received by the State from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) for the broadband equity, access, and deployment (BEAD) program.

We recognize that HB963 which your Committee passed on Feb. 24 and now is in the Senate covers much of the same actions as SB1317 SD3, HD1 except for the Digital Equity Office move. Experts from the University of Hawai'i and the Hawai'i Broadband and Digital Equity Office will, we are confident, assist you in reconciling the bills. We write in support of the concept of the bill because in addition to knowledge and computer devices, all the residents of Hawai'i should have broadband internet connections. The appropriation of both federal funds and State matching funds will make these new, modern connections possible for the un-served and under-served peoples of the State.

The appropriation of matching funds should be large enough to give the State full flexibility in providing the best options to all residents.

Through the work of the Broadband Hui, we have supported broadband infrastructure development in rural communities, provided digital devices for students and families, supported the accessibility of telehealth, provided information on low-cost internet options, and adopted a Digital Equity Declaration to set a vision and goals for a more equitable digital future.

For these reasons, we kindly request you support SB1317. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. (Please see names on the following page.)

Hawaii Broadband Hui Members & Organizations Supporting SB1317

Logos of Supporting Organizations



Hawaii Broadband Hui Members & Organizations Supporting SB1317

Name	Organization	Email	Zip code
Ken Farm		farmk@hawaii.edu	96817
Lynn Otaguro	O`ahu County Democrats Digital Equity Committee	lmotaguro@yahoo.com	96821
Angelina Mercado	Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence	amercado@hscadv.org	98614
DOUGLASS S ADAMS	County of Hawaii Dept of Research & Development	douglass.adams@hawaiicounty.gov	96720
Jill Takasaki Canfield	Hawaii Literacy	jill.takasaki.canfield@hawaiiliteracy.org	96817
Kaleo Bennett	'Auamo Collaborative	kokua@auamocollaborative.org	96720
Mayson Asano Jr		molokaishaka@yahoo.com	96748
Nicholas Winfrey	Maui United Way	nicholas@mauiunitedway.org	96708
Peter Dames	Servco Pacific Inc	peter.dames@servco.com	96814
WANDA ANAE-ONISHI		wanaeonishi@gmail.com	96797
Riley Saito	Succeed Hawaii, LLC	rsaito@succeedhawaii.com	96740
David Sun-Miyashiro	HawaiiKidsCAN	david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org	96814
Jaclyn Kaina	Kauai Economic Development Board	jkaina@kedb.com	96766
Matt Stevens	Hawai'i Workforce Funders Collaborative	matt@hawaiiwork.org	96755
Herb Lee, Jr.	Pacific American Foundation	herblee@thepaf.org	96734
Alexis Ching	Ewalu Industries	alexis@ewaluindustries.org	96740
Nathan Prescott	County of Kauai - Office of Economic Development	nprescott@kauai.gov	96766
Rachel Solemsaas	Hawai'i Community College	rsolems@hawaii.edu	96720
Mary Oneha	Waimanalo Health Center	moneha@waimanalohealth.org	96795
LORNA STRAND		LORNA.STRAND@GMAIL.COM	96701
David Earles	Junior Achievement of Hawaii	david@jahawaii.org	96815
Deborah Bond-Upson	LearningBond	deborah@learningbond.org	96734
Wayne Buente		wayne.buente@gmail.com	96826
Ka'ala Souza	Digital Ready Hawaii	kaala@digitalreadyhawaii.org	96734
Jeanne Skog	Skog Rasmussen LLC	jskog@skograsmussen.com	96793
Georgette Stevens	'Ōlelo Community Media	gstevens@olelo.org	96819
Joseph Passantino	Ke'elikolani Middle School	Joseph.passantino@k12.hi.us	96813
Jay April, President & CEO	Akaku Maui County Community Media	jay@akaku.org	96732
Jeanne Skog	Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii	jskog2435@gmail.com	96708
Kiran Polk	Kapolei Chamber of Commerce	kiranpolk@gmail.com	96707

Hawaii Broadband Hui Members & Organizations Supporting SB1317

Name	Organization	Email	Zip code
Keilee Simms		keilees@keyproject.org	96744
Judith Mikami	Molokai Rural Health Community Association	jmikami44@gmail.com	96748
Gregory DiBenedetto		gregdib@yahoo.com	96778
Dr. Adrienne Dillard, Ph.D., MSW, LSW	Kula no na Po'e Hawaii o Papakolea, Kewalo, Kalawahine	kula.papakolea@gmail.com	96813
Sean Taketa McLaughlin		seantaketa@gmail.com	96817
Joseph Lapilio	Waianae Economic Development Council	j.lapilio@thewedc.com	96792
Alexandra Slous	Perspective Media	ali@createwithperspective.com	96734
Mahealani Keo	Nurture Cultivate Inc	mahealani.keo@ncihawaii.org	96717
Kuulei Arce	MOLOKAI RURAL HEALTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	22kuulei@gmail.com	96729
Linda Clark		clarkl004@gmail.com	96713
Jenny Miller	EducationSuperHighway	jenny.miller@educationsuperhighway.org	80303
Todd Robertson	Hyperspective Studios, Inc.	todd@hyperspective.com	96813
Brian Dote	Tapiki LLC	brian@tapiki.com	96797
Daniel C. Smith, PhD		dancsmith@rocketmail.com	96782
Ian Kitajima	PICHTR	ian.kitajima@pichtr.org	96814
Crystal Yamasaki	Crystal Clear Communications	crystalclearcomms@gmail.com	96817
Cheryl A. Cross	C. A. Cross & Associates, LLC	ccrossmph@gmail.com	96825



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The State Legislature
The House Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 30, 2023
Conference Room 308
2:00 p.m.

TO: The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Chair
FROM: Keali'i S. López, State Director
RE: **Support for S.B. 1317 SD 3, HD1** Relating to Broadband

Aloha Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social impact organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for the issues that matter most to older adults and their families, including telehealth. **AARP supports S.B.1317 SD3, HD1** which appropriates general fund moneys that are required to match federal moneys for broadband programs; and transfers the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office to the Office of the Lt. Governor on a temporary, 4 year basis.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program will help states develop and implement comprehensive plans to ensure equal access to the internet for historically underserved communities and populations, including digital inclusion programs for seniors. It is essential that Hawaii takes full advantage of these federal funds appropriated to the states.

Achieving digital equity requires addressing the rural-urban digital divide, the affordability barrier for people in getting high-speed internet access and digital devices, and the need for digital skills development which is essential to obtaining the benefits of high-speed internet access in the home. The federal funding will help Hawaii address the digital disparities in access and adoption especially among the underserved communities and populations. AARP recognizes the value and significant benefits of digital technology that can improve the lives of kupuna. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B 1317, SD3, HD1.



ALOHACARE

To: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager

Hearing: Thursday, March 30, 2023, 2:00 pm, Conference Room 308

RE: **SB1317 SD3 HD1 Relating to Broadband**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB1317 SD3 HD1**. This measure would transfer the Hawai'i Broadband and Digital Equity Office from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor on a temporary, 4-year basis; appropriate general funds to provide required matching funds for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program; appropriate from the funds received by the State of Hawai'i from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program; and require the Office of the Lieutenant Governor to convene and lead the working group established pursuant to Act 231, SLH 2022.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit, safety net health plan serving over 80,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately half of our membership are keiki. We are Hawai'i's only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dually-eligible beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person health needs.

AlohaCare supports the expansion of reliable broadband statewide as well as ensuring people have the digital literacy to effectively use online access. The COVID pandemic underscored the need for broadband equity to ensuring equal access to health care. In rural settings or other unconnected areas, it is a challenge to ensure people can access the health care they need to either maintain health or address health concerns. Our kupuna also struggle to navigate the online systems to make and access appointments independently. The problems extend beyond telehealth. People were unable to adequately work or learn from home over the course of the pandemic because of either poor connectivity or inability to utilize online systems. Access to these necessities is integral to a person's overall well-being as well as their ability to feel connected in various ways to their community. We applaud the leadership of the Lieutenant Governor, the Legislature, the broadband working group, and the Broadband Hui in advancing broadband and digital equity.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of SB1317 SD3 HD1**.

1357 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1250, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Call: 973-0712 • Toll-free: 1-877-973-0712 • Fax: 808-973-0726 • www.AlohaCare.org



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 308
THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023 AT 2:00 P.M.

To The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

SUPPORT SB1317 SD3 HD1 RELATED TO BROADBAND

The Maui Chamber of Commerce supports **SB1317 SD3 HD1**, which appropriates money received by the State from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) for the broadband equity, access, and deployment (BEAD) program.

As a member of the Broadband Hui, we echo their testimony in support of this bill. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed that access to broadband internet access is critically important for remote learning and work, as well as telehealth services and commerce. The appropriation of both federal funds and State matching funds will make these broadband connections possible for the un-served and under-served peoples of the State.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our **support of SB1317 SD3 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.