

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

S. B. 870

JANUARY 28, 2025, 3:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 225 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATION

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 870.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) offers **comments** for S.B. 870, which requires the Comptroller to identify state office buildings that can provide equitable telecommunication access to allow certain residents, including those with disabilities, to participate remotely in legislative hearings and requires a report to the legislature.

We appreciate the intent of this measure and, based on our research and discussion with the Hawaii State Library System, we believe the infrastructure and resources may already be in place. The Hawaii State Library System currently has 51 libraries that have been outfitted with internet access (wifi), laptops, are environmentally controlled (air conditioning), and have a staff capable of providing the necessary support to potential users wanting to access legislative

hearings. The State's libraries are designed to support residents with disabilities to ensure access to the services available there. We will continue to work closely with the Hawaii State Library System to provide support and to help share information about the existing access.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



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

January 28, 2025

The Honorable Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator McKelvey, and Committee members:

SUBJECT: SB870 Relating to Telecommunication

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS SB870**, which 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.

The Council actively encourages and supports members of the intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) community in providing both oral and written testimony during the legislative year. The option to testify via Zoom has significantly increased accessibility for our IDD and neighbor island communities.

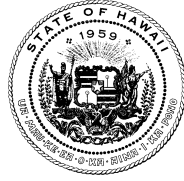
However, many individuals lack reliable internet access in their homes, and lengthy travel is not a feasible option for them. To address this barrier, identifying and utilizing state buildings as access points for providing remote testimony would help amplify the voices of our neighbor island and disability communities at the legislature. This solution will allow for more perspectives and concerns to be heard and considered in the legislative process.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB870**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
‘OIHANA HALE WAIHONA PUKE AUPUNI O KA MOKU‘ĀINA O HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN
44 MERCHANT STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
Tuesday, January 28, 2025
3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225

By Stacey A. Aldrich
State Librarian

S.B. 870 RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS

To: Sen. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) **supports** the intent of S.B. 2482 and provides comments on this measure, which 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. This measure also requires the Comptroller to submit a report to the Legislature.

The HSPLS has been providing the public resources to participate in the legislative process for many years. In 2020, while most businesses and government offices were still closed to the public, the HSPLS deployed 16 Chromebooks and charging stations to each of our 51 public libraries statewide to supplement the technology already available at our public libraries.

Working in coordination with both the Senate and House Clerk’s Offices, we also updated our website and trained HSPLS staff in order to effectively assist any member of the public who wanted to participate in the 2021 Legislative Session. The equipment and processes remain in place for any member of the public to participate in the legislative process each year. We look forward to working with the Comptroller to achieve the intent of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on S.B.870.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Government Operations
Tuesday, January 28, 2025; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol; Conference Room 225
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 0870, RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 0870, RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would require the Comptroller to identify certain state resources that can be utilized for telecommunication access to increase neighborhood island and rural Oahu residents; participation in the state legislative process.

This bill would take effect upon its approval.

Hawaii has long been at the forefront of integrating newer technologies into daily life. One example of this is Hawaii's Telehealth Law which has served as a model across the United States. Yet, it was only after COVID struck our islands that this law became fully integrated into daily life.

Today, it is common practice to ZOOM or SKYPE with your health practitioner instead of physically going to the provider's office for a visit. When COVID first hit our islands, many health providers had to limit the number of patients that could be serviced in-person because of a scarcity of Personal Protective Equipment, restrictions in the gatherings of groups, and the need for changes to the physical arrangement of examination rooms and other diagnostic facilities.

For people with adequate broadband access, telehealth was a lifeline for the provision of essential primary health care services. Yet, health care facilities in rural areas experienced the same problems when COVID hit. They too had to limit the number of patients they could see. But because these communities lacked adequate broadband access, they were effectively cut off from primary care. Many were forced to bear their maladies until it became necessary to go to the emergency room.

In light of this, the HPCA views the lack of broadband access in rural areas as an issue of social equity. In this day and age, everyone should have equal access to health care. Telehealth was envisioned as the means of leveling the field between urban and rural areas. The lack of broadband ensures that urban and rural communities remain unequal.

If this bill turns certain key state facilities into broadband hubs, it would not only help to promote the public's access to the legislative process, but also provide all citizens with desperately needed services such as telehealth.

For this reason, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii
PO Box 75380
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

A private, non-profit organization

January 27, 2025

The Honorable Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i
96813

Dear Senator McKelvey, and Committee members:

SUBJECT: SB870 Relating to Telecommunication

Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii **SUPPORTS SB870**, which 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.

Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii actively encourages and supports members of the intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) community in providing both oral and written testimony during the legislative year. The option to testify via Zoom has significantly increased accessibility for our IDD and neighbor island communities.

However, many individuals lack reliable internet access in their homes, and lengthy travel is not a feasible option for them. To address this barrier, identifying and utilizing state buildings as access points for providing remote testimony would help amplify the voices of our neighbor island and disability communities at the legislature. This solution will allow for more perspectives and concerns to be heard and considered in the legislative process.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB870**

Sincerely,

Michael P. Marsh, MA, CFRE
President & CEO

SB-870

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 1:45:40 PM

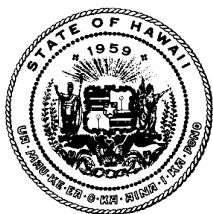
Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANNETTE TASHIRO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

People with disabilities need equitable telecommunication access to continue to do their due diligence as citizens of Hawaii. During the Pandemic, the State of Hawaii provided access to participate remotely in Legislative Hearings. People who do not have access to equitable transportation can still have their voices heard through telecommunication access. Many of us who are aging have challenges getting to the State Capitol. With telecommunication access, we can continue to keep our leadership informed on the challenges in our communities.

LATE



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Rm. 118 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • (808) 204-2466 (VP)

January 28, 2025

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senate Bill 870 – Relating to Telecommunication

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 870 – Relating to Telecommunication. This bill would require 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. Also, this bill would require a report to the Legislature.

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act requires state and local governments to ensure equal access for individuals who are disabled when providing programs, services, or activities. Senate Bill 870 will facilitate the identification of appropriate state office buildings where residents can remotely participate in legislative hearings. It is important to ensure these hearings are equally accessible to the full spectrum of persons with disabilities. Senate Bill 870 is especially beneficial for residents who do not reside on Oahu and find it difficult to participate in the legislative process.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

LATE

SB-870

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 12:54:24 PM

Testimony for GVO on 1/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
suzie	Testifying for Arc of Maui County	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Honorable Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Senate Committee on Government Operations

The Thirty-Third Legislature

State Capitol

State of Hawai'i Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator McKelvey, and Committee members:

SUBJECT: SB870 Relating to Telecommunication

Arc Of Maui County **SUPPORTS SB870**, which 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.

Arc Of Maui County actively encourages and supports members of the intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) community in providing both oral and written testimony during the legislative year. The option to testify via Zoom has significantly increased accessibility for our IDD and neighbor island communities.

However, many individuals lack reliable internet access in their homes, and lengthy travel is not a feasible option for them. To address this barrier, identifying and utilizing state buildings as access points for providing remote testimony would help amplify the voices of our neighbor island and disability communities at the legislature. This solution will allow for more perspectives and concerns to be heard and considered in the legislative process.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB870**

Sincerely,