

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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

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DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWÉ 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.C.R. 53 / S.R. 35

MARCH 25, 2025, 3:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 225 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

REQUESTING THE COMPTROLLER TO COOPERATE WITH THE HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM TO IDENTIFY RURAL AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE WITH A NEED FOR BETTER TELECOMMUNICATION ACCESS FOR RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.C.R 53 and S.R 35 which requests the comptroller to cooperate with the Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) to identify rural and underserved communities in the State with a need for better telecommunication access for residents to participate in the State legislative process.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports the intent of S.C.R. 53 / S.R. 35 and offers the following **comments**. DAGS does not have the expertise to determine whether or not a community is underserved and lacks connectivity. The department recommends that the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development and the Hawai'i Broadband and Digital Equity Office support DAGS and HSPLS in the analysis by conducting

the necessary research.

The HSPLS currently has 51 libraries that have been outfitted with internet access (wifi), laptops, are environmentally controlled (air conditioning), and have 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



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, March 25, 2025
Conference Room 225
3 p.m.

By Stacey A. Aldrich
State Librarian

**S.R.35/S.C.R. 53 RELATING TO BETTER TELECOMMUNICATION ACCESS FOR RESIDENTS TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS**

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

The Hawai‘i State Public Library System (HSPLS) supports the intent of S.R. 35 and S.C.R. 53 which require the Comptroller to cooperate with the Hawai‘i State Public Library System to identify rural and underserved communities in the state with a need for better telecommunication access for residents to participate in the state legislative process.

Hawai‘i’s 51 public libraries across the State have been providing the public with these resources to participate in the legislative process for many years:

- Information about the process (<https://www.librarieshawaii.org/participate-in-the-hawaii-state-legislative-process/>),
- Computers, Chromebooks, and free internet access to provide remote testimony, and
- Assistance provided by trained staff.

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.R. 35 and S.C.R. 53.



**STATE OF HAWAI'I
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA**

PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
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March 25, 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: SR35/SCR53 REQUESTING THE COMPTROLLER TO COOPERATE WITH THE HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM TO IDENTIFY RURAL AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE WITH A NEED FOR BETTER TELECOMMUNICATION ACCESS FOR RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **supports SR35/SCR53**, which is requesting the comptroller to cooperate with the Hawaii State Public Library system to identify rural and underserved communities in the state with a need for better telecommunication access for residents to participate in the State legislative process.

This measure is particularly significant to the intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) community. Access to the legislative process is fundamental to civic engagement, and individuals with I/DD—many of whom live in rural and underserved areas—face unique challenges when it comes to participating in government proceedings. These barriers include limited transportation options, financial constraints, and insufficient access to accessible telecommunication services.

By leveraging the Hawaii State Public Library System's established infrastructure, this measure has the potential to significantly reduce these barriers. Libraries are already trusted community hubs that offer free internet access, and with fifty-one locations statewide, they are

SR35/SCR53 REQUESTING THE COMPTROLLER TO COOPERATE WITH THE HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM TO IDENTIFY RURAL AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE WITH A NEED FOR BETTER TELECOMMUNICATION ACCESS FOR RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

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well-positioned to provide individuals with I/DD and other underserved populations with the opportunity to engage directly in legislative processes.

The importance of remote participation cannot be overstated. For individuals with I/DD, traveling to the Capitol is often costly and physically challenging. Additionally, caregivers and support staff who assist individuals with I/DD are frequently unable to take extended time off work to attend hearings in person. Providing accessible telecommunication options at designated locations would empower these individuals to voice their concerns, advocate for their needs, and participate fully in shaping public policy.

We commend the Legislature's commitment to ensuring that all residents—including those with disabilities and those in rural areas—have equitable access to the legislative process. By improving telecommunication infrastructure, this resolution will promote inclusiveness, strengthen civic engagement, and enhance the effectiveness of the legislative process for all Hawai'i residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SR35/SCR53**.

Sincerely,



Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

SR-35

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 9:39:12 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this initiative.

LATE

SR-35

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 8:45:02 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaili Swan	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am in strong support of the measure beacuse people with disabilities need to have access to affordable technology in the Hawaii state library system without any issues that they may have please pass this bill thank you