
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. Ensuring equitable access to the legislative
5 process for nearly four hundred fifty thousand residents on
6 neighbor islands, as well as those in rural O'ahu, is crucial to
7 improving the functionality of the legislative process. With
8 the rising costs of airfare, gas, and lodging, providing
9 designated locations or state offices on neighbor islands and in
10 rural O'ahu where citizens can participate remotely in the
11 legislative process will help reduce the financial burden of
12 participation.

13 The purpose of this Act is to require the comptroller and
14 state librarian to collaborate to identify certain state office
15 buildings, including state libraries, that can be utilized for
16 telecommunication access to increase neighbor island and rural
17 O'ahu residents' participation in the state legislative process,



1 and estimate the costs and resources, including additional
2 staffing, required to effectuate this purpose.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The comptroller and state librarian, or
4 their respective designees, shall collaborate to:

5 (1) Identify state office buildings, including state
6 libraries, that are able to provide equitable
7 telecommunication access to residents of the counties
8 of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui, and residents of rural
9 areas of Oahu, including individuals with disabilities
10 who reside in those areas, to participate remotely in
11 legislative hearings; and

12 (2) Estimate the costs and resources, including additional
13 staffing, required to increase equitable
14 telecommunication access to allow residents to
15 remotely participate in legislative hearings in the
16 state office buildings identified pursuant to
17 paragraph (1).

18 provided that the controller and state librarian may partner
19 with the university of Hawaii in performing the tasks required
20 in this subsection.



1 (b) The comptroller, in collaboration with the state
2 librarian, shall submit a report of the findings and
3 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
4 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
5 the regular session of 2026.

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect January 1, 2525.



Report Title:

Comptroller; State Librarian; UH; State Office Buildings; State Libraries; Telecommunications; Accessibility; Legislative Hearings; Report

Description:

Requires the Comptroller and State Librarian to identify state office buildings, including state libraries, that can provide equitable telecommunication access to allow certain residents, including residents with disabilities, to participate remotely in legislative hearings and estimate the costs and resources, including additional staffing, to effectuate this purpose. Allows the Comptroller and State Librarian to partner with the University of Hawaii in performing these tasks. Requires a report to the Legislature. Effective 1/1/2525. (SD1)

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