

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

TESTIMONY SENATE BILL NO. 2377 S.D.2
RELATING TO PROPERTY DAMAGE OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES
PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

BY

ROYCE M. MURAKAMI

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF STATE OF HAWAII 911 BOARD

MARCH 20, 2026

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey and members of the Economic Development & Technology:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. 2377 S.D.2, a bill that establishes the offense of criminal property damage to critical infrastructure as a class C felony. Furthermore, expands the term “critical infrastructure” to include broadband and cable networks. The 911 Board (the Board) **SUPPORTS** S.B. 2377 S.D.2.

Across the nation, vital communications networks are facing an increasing number of attacks on critical infrastructure, many of which interrupt critical services such as 9-1-1 systems, hospitals, airports, and law enforcement communications. Any disruption to these networks whether caused intentionally or accidentally has immediate and widespread consequences. The proposed measure rightly acknowledges that deliberate damage to these systems goes beyond simple vandalism. This purposeful behavior jeopardizes public safety, hinders emergency response efforts, and inflicts substantial economic loss.

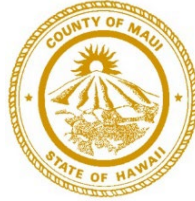
Designating such acts as a Class C felony serves as a significant deterrent and underscores the gravity of the potential outcomes. Therefore, safeguarding these systems is especially critical. Updating the definition of critical infrastructure to include broadband and cable networks is both sensible and necessary, reflecting the vital role modern communications in public safety.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on S.B. 2377 S.D. 2.

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

ANDREW H. MARTIN
Prosecuting Attorney

SHELLY C. MIYASHIRO
First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney



DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
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TESTIMONY ON
S.B. 2377 SD2
RELATING TO PROPERTY DAMAGE
OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES

March 17, 2026

The Honorable Greggor Ilagan
Chair
The Honorable Ikaika Hussey
Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui respectfully submits the following comments **in support of S.B. 2377 SD2, Relating to Property Damage of Critical Infrastructure Facilities**. This measure creates a new felony offense relating to damage of critical infrastructure facilities.

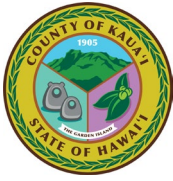
The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui supports this bill because of our community's increasing reliance on infrastructure networks, such as electrical, water and telecommunications systems, for essential services like respiratory devices, temperature control and emergency response, as well as other public and private systems such as gas, water, and telecommunications networks. That increased reliance, in turn, makes us increasingly vulnerable to any criminal act that damages any part of said infrastructure. While existing laws may cover particular acts or provide particular penalties, as a whole they do not completely address a scenario where an offender intentionally or knowingly damages critical infrastructure.

We would also suggest the following amendment. The current SD2 version of this bill adds a definition of "damage" that incorporates the HRS 708-890 definition of "damage" by reference. However, this link to HRS 708-890 also means that certain scenarios involving computer attacks may result in the new offense overlapping with offenses such as Computer Damage in HRS 708-892, 708-892.5 and -892.6, the first of which is a Class A felony with

substantially greater penalties than the Class C felony offense created by this bill. To avoid a scenario where prosecution for a Class A felony offense is barred due to the overlap with the new Class C felony offense created by this bill, we suggest the following amendment:

(4) A conviction and sentence under this section shall be in addition to and not in lieu of any conviction and sentence for any offense; provided that the sentence imposed under this section may run concurrently or consecutively with the sentence for the other offense.

For these reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui **supports S.B. 2377 SD2**. Please feel free to contact our office at (808) 270-7777 if you have any questions or inquiries. Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.



POLICE DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF KAUA'I



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

RUDY TAI, CHIEF OF POLICE
MARK T. OZAKI, DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

March 18, 2026

The Honorable Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair
And Honorable Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in Opposition to SB 2377 SD2, Relating to Property Damage of Critical Infrastructure

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Kaua'i Police Department, I am submitting testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB 2377 SD2, which establishes the offense of criminal property damage to critical infrastructure facilities as a Class C felony.

Critical infrastructure—including communications systems, utilities, transportation networks, and other essential facilities—plays a vital role in maintaining public safety and the continuity of government and emergency services. Across the country, these systems are increasingly being targeted, with incidents disrupting 911 services, hospitals, airports, and law enforcement operations. When infrastructure such as fiber lines or other key systems is intentionally damaged, the consequences can extend far beyond property loss and directly impact emergency response capabilities.

While Hawai'i has not yet experienced incidents at that scale, SB 2377 SD2 represents a proactive and necessary step to deter such conduct. Intentional damage to critical infrastructure is not merely a property crime—it poses a serious risk to public safety and the ability of first responders to carry out their duties. From a law enforcement and emergency response perspective, the integrity of critical infrastructure is essential. Disruptions can delay response times, compromise responder coordination, and endanger lives.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your **support for SB 2377 SD2** as an important step in safeguarding Hawai'i's critical infrastructure and protecting the safety of our communities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

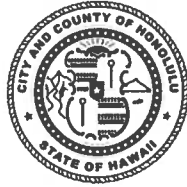
Respectfully submitted,

Rudy Tai
Chief of Police
Kaua'i Police Department

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
KA 'OIHANA 'ENEHANA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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BRIAN MCKEE
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PO'O AND KAHU LUNA 'IKEPILI

STEPHEN COURTNEY
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

March 18, 2026

The Honorable Greggor Ilagan, Chair
The Honorable Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawaii'i State House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street, Room 423
Honolulu, HI 96813

SUBJECT: Testimony in support of S.B. 2377 SD2, Relating to Property Damage
of Critical Infrastructure Facilities

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice-Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Information Technology (DIT) is in support of **SB 2377 SD2**, which would create a new felony offense for the intentional damage of critical-infrastructure facilities in Hawaii'i.

WHY PROTECTING CRITICAL-INFRASTRUCTURE IS VITAL TO HAWAII'

1. **Critical-infrastructure underpins every essential service**—electricity, water, transportation, emergency-response communications, healthcare, finance, and, increasingly, broadband and cable networks.
2. **Hawaii'i's island geography limits redundancy.** A single fiber-cut or sabotage of a power substation can isolate an entire island for days, jeopardizing hospitals, schools, and first-responders.
3. **The problem is growing rapidly.** The report, *Protecting the Nation's Critical Communications Infrastructure Theft & Vandalism – Fall 2025* (https://protectcci.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/CriticalAttacksReport_Oct25.pdf) documents a **near-doubling** of intentional theft or sabotage incidents targeting communications networks:

Period	Reported Incidents (theft/sabotage)
June – Dec 2024	5,770
Jan – Jun 2025	9,770
Jan – Jun 2025 + Jun – Dec 2024	15,540 incidents in a 12-month span

These 15,540 incidents represent a **70 % increase** over the previous six-month period and illustrate an accelerating threat to our state’s communications backbone.

- Economic and public-safety costs are severe.** Each incident typically generates **hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars** in repair costs and lost revenue. More importantly, fiber cuts and equipment sabotage can paralyze emergency communications, endangering lives at hospitals, fire stations, police dispatch centers, and airports.
- Broadband and cable networks are now essential.** The bill’s inclusion of these networks reflects the reality that schools, businesses, health-care providers, and government agencies depend on high-speed internet for daily operations and emergency response.

CURRENT LEGAL GAP

Hawai‘i’s existing criminal-damage statutes (HRS 708-1) do not specifically address critical-infrastructure facilities, creating prosecutorial ambiguity when the victim is a privately owned broadband system or a municipal fiber network. The absence of a targeted felony provision reduces deterrence and hampers law-enforcement’s ability to treat these acts as the serious public-safety threats they are.

HOW S.B. 2377 SD2 CLOSES THAT GAP

Provision of S.B. 2377 SD2	Practical Effect
Creates a specific offense of “criminal property damage of a critical-infrastructure facility.”	Sends a clear message that attacks on utilities, communications, and other essential services are far more serious than ordinary vandalism.
Class C felony classification (up to 5 years imprisonment).	Provides a meaningful deterrent and aligns penalties with potential harm.
Definition of “critical-infrastructure facility” adopts the expanded definition in HRS 708-890, including broadband and cable networks.	Recognizes modern reliance on digital communications and ensures those networks receive the same protection as power, water, and transportation systems.

Provision of S.B. 2377 SD2	Practical Effect
Effective date of September 1, 2050 (allows jurisdictions time to update policies, training, and coordination).	Gives agencies a realistic timeline to prepare inter-agency protocols, evidence-collection guidelines, and public-awareness campaigns.

SUPPORTING EXAMPLES FROM OTHER STATES

- **Kentucky (2025)** – Enacted legislation classifying equipment or communications lines used in the delivery of cable TV, telephony, or broadband service as critical infrastructure, with enhanced felony penalties for damage, possession, or tampering.
- **Indiana (2025)** - The definition of critical infrastructure was amended to expressly include communications facilities such as cell towers, wires, and equipment.
- **Texas (2022)** – Added “critical-infrastructure” to its criminal-damage statutes.
- **Federal level – H.R. 2784, “Stopping the Theft and Destruction of Broadband Act of 2025”** was introduced in Congress. – Recognizes the national urgency of protecting broadband networks.

These precedents show that targeted felony statutes work and that Hawai'i would be aligning with best practices across the nation.

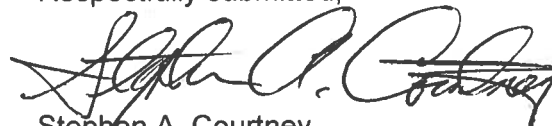
CONCLUSION

S.B. 2377 SD2 fills a critical legislative gap, modernizes our definition of critical infrastructure, and creates a deterrent felony that reflects the seriousness of intentional damage to the systems on which Hawai'i's citizens, economy, and public-safety depend.

I respectfully urge the Committee to **pass this legislation** and help safeguard the resilience of Hawai'i's critical-infrastructure facilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

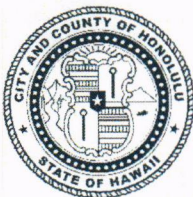


Stephen A. Courtney
Hawai'i 911 Board Member and
Deputy Director
Department of Information Technology
City and County of Honolulu

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT
KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU
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AARON TAKASAKI-YOUNG
BRANDON NAKASATO
INTERIM DEPUTY CHIEFS
NĀ HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I KŪIKAWA

OUR REFERENCE VL-RZ

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Greggor Ilagan, Chair
and Members
Committee on Economic Development
and Technology
House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street, Room 423
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Ilagan and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 2377, S.D. 2, Relating to Property Damage of Critical Infrastructure Facilities

I am Vince Legaspi, Captain of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 2377, S.D. 2, Relating to Property Damage of Critical Infrastructure Facilities.

The HPD supports this bill because intentionally damaging critical infrastructure is not just a property crime; it can immediately jeopardize public safety, emergency responses, and the community's ability to function. Creating a specific offense and making it a Class C felony provides clearer accountability and a stronger deterrent for conduct that can disrupt essential services. This bill updates the definition to include broadband and cable networks and reflects the critical role modern communications systems play in public safety operations and the public at large.

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 2377, S.D. 2, Relating to Property Damage of Critical Infrastructure Facilities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Rade K. Vanic in black ink.

Rade K. Vanic
Interim Chief of Police

Handwritten signature of Vince Legaspi in black ink.

Vince Legaspi, Captain
Criminal Investigation Division

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO HO'OPI'I
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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LOIO HO'OPI'I



THOMAS J. BRADY
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
HOPE MUA LOIO HO'OPI'I

**THE HONORABLE GREGGOR IIAGAN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawai'i**

March 19, 2026

RE: S.B. 2377, S.D. 2; RELATING TO PROPERTY DAMAGE.

Chair Greggor, Vice Chair Hussey, members of the House Committee on Economic Development & Technology, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu submits the following testimony in support of S.B. 2377, S.D. 2.

S.B. 2377 establishes a new offense for damaging critical infrastructure facilities without consent. This bill creates a new felony crime for intentionally or knowingly damaging critical infrastructure and expands protection to broadband and cable networks.

Both “critical infrastructure” and “damage” are defined consistent with the computer damage statute.¹ The law presently allows prosecution for first-degree computer damage for attacks causing “substantial impairment” to critical infrastructure.² That crime is punishable as a Class A felony.³ This bill would permit prosecution for less serious attacks on critical infrastructure that impair the integrity or availability of these vital services.

In a digital age, protecting telecommunications, electrical networks, and other critical infrastructure is vital for public safety and economic security. Losing these services is not simply a property offense: it can endanger lives. As such, our Department will have a clear charging tool when infrastructure damage threatens public safety or essential services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

¹ HRS § 708-890.

² HRS § 708-892(1)(b).

³ HRS § 708-892(2).



Charter Communications
Testimony of Rebecca Lieberman, Director of Government Affairs

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Hawaii State Capitol
Friday, March 20, 2026

SUPPORT FOR S.B. 2377, S.D. 2 - RELATING TO PROPERTY DAMAGE OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES.

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of S.B. 2377, S.D. 2, a bill that establishes penalties for intentional damage to critical infrastructure facilities.

As the largest broadband provider in the state, Charter recognizes the severe consequences that vandalism, sabotage, or destruction of critical infrastructure can have on public safety, emergency communications, and economic stability. Hawaii's businesses and residents rely on secure and reliable connectivity. Damage to broadband and telecommunications infrastructure, whether through deliberate acts or negligence, can disrupt emergency response efforts, commerce, healthcare services, and educational access. A recent study highlights the scope of this problem.¹ Establishing stronger protections and penalties for such offenses is essential to deterring attacks that could jeopardize public welfare.

In 2025, Charter extended its network to reach an additional 7,000 homes and small businesses in Hawaii, investing \$107 million across the state. Charter participated in the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB) and Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which helped connect over 59,000 eligible households in Hawaii with high-speed broadband. Broadband internet access is more important than ever and Charter offers a variety of affordable high-speed internet packages to meet all the connectivity and budget needs of our customers. With Spectrum Internet Assist, qualifying low-income families and seniors can receive high-speed internet for only \$15 per month.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2377, S.D. 2.

¹ *Protecting the Nation's Critical Communications Infrastructure from Theft & Vandalism*, 2025, https://protectcci.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/CriticalAttacksReport_Oct25.pdf



March 19, 2026

Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 419
Honolulu, HI 96813

Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 320
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: Senate Bill 2377 Amendment Request – Critical Telecommunications
Infrastructure**

Chair Ilagan and Vice Chair Hussey,

On behalf of CTIA®, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 2377 related to improved protections for telecommunications critical infrastructure.

At a time of exploding consumer demand for wireless services, our industry is working hard to deploy and upgrade infrastructure for Hawai'i communities. In 2024, the wireless industry invested \$29 billion in private funding to maintain and upgrade wireless networks, and approximately \$220 billion since 2018. These investments support consumers and fuel economic growth in Hawai'i, where the wireless industry employs approximately 23,000 residents and contributes \$2.1 billion to the state's GDP annually. However, ongoing criminal theft and vandalism of telecommunications infrastructure puts this progress at risk.

In recent years, a variety of factors have led to a significant uptick in the theft of copper and engineering equipment and destruction of telecommunications and broadband assets in Hawai'i and across the nation. During a one-year period in 2024-25, nearly 16,000 incidents of theft and vandalism were reported. While attention has focused on the price and resulting theft of copper, these incidents are impacting all types of wireless and broadband infrastructure. Perpetrators steal batteries and power cables from wireless towers and small cell sites, cut copper and other communication lines, and willfully and intentionally destroy wireless sites and fiber optic lines.

While we support the goals of Senate Bill 2377, we recommend an amendment to improve the impact of this bill:

SECTION 2. Section 708-890, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending the definition of "critical infrastructure" to read as follows:



""Critical infrastructure" means publicly or privately owned or operated systems or assets vital to the defense, security, economic security, public health or safety, or any combination thereof, of the State or nation. "Critical infrastructure" includes:

- (1) Gas and oil production, storage, and delivery systems;*
- (2) Water supply systems;*
- (3) Telecommunications networks;*
- (4) Electrical power delivery systems;*
- (5) Finance and banking systems;*
- (6) Emergency services, such as medical, police, fire, and rescue services;*
- (7) Transportation systems and services, such as highways, mass transit, airlines, and airports; [and]*
- (8) Government operations that provide essential services to the public[.]; and*
- (9) Broadband, wireless and cable television networks."*

Given the ongoing impacts of these incidents and our members' commitment to continue enhancing connectivity in Hawai'i communities, we strongly support this legislation and urge adoption of this amendment to make further improvements to the bill.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Crandall
Assistant Vice President
State Legislative Affairs

Written Statement of

Jeannine Souki,
Senior Manager – Government & Regulatory Affairs

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

March 20, 2026, 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423 & Videoconference

SUPPORT WITH REQUESTED AMENDMENT FOR:

**SB 2377 S.D. 2 – RELATING TO PROPERTY DAMAGE OF CRITICAL
INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES**

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee

RE: Testimony providing strong support and requesting clarifying amendment for SB2377 SD2

Aloha Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB2377 SD2, which establishes the offense of criminal property damage of a critical infrastructure facility and classifies it as a Class C felony. The bill also updates **HRS §708-890** by explicitly adding “**broadband and cable television networks**” to the definition of “critical infrastructure.” **Hawaiian Telcom further requests a clarifying amendment to “telecommunication networks,” to include “broadband services.”**

Hawaiian Telcom’s network—including the copper, fiber, and related infrastructure that supports statewide communications—is already encompassed within the existing term “**telecommunications networks**.” However, expressly adding “**broadband**” removes any potential ambiguity and ensures full clarity that critical fiber-based facilities are included.

Therefore, Hawaiian Telcom respectfully requests the following amendment to HRS §708-890(3):

“(3) Telecommunications networks, including broadband services;”

Incidents of theft and vandalism targeting communications infrastructure—often motivated by the resale value of materials—have increased. In 2025 alone, Hawaiian Telcom experienced several outages caused by fiber cuts and vandalism on O‘ahu, resulting in significant repair costs

and wide-ranging service disruptions. This measure will help deter such activity and equip law enforcement with appropriate tools to address this growing threat.

For these reasons, Hawaiian Telcom respectfully urges the Committee to **pass SB 2377 SD2 with the requested clarifying amendment.**

Mahalo for your consideration.