Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Economic Development Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Bv

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## HB 1782 - RELATING TO BROADBAND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i, representing the State's broadband interests, supports HB 1782.

Robust, resilient and reasonably priced broadband services are a critical need for all of our communities. The global pandemic has only served to bring that need front-and-center over the past two years. Hawai'i needs all of our critical infrastructure operators to be part of the future broadband solution to help ensure that we will be well served both now and into the future. This bill serves to help include the significant and vital capabilities and experience of our electric utilities as part of our overall infrastructure solution, consistent with a national movement to expand and improve broadband access for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 1782.