



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Economic Development and Technology
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By

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HB 934 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY OFFICE

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

The University of Hawai'i, representing the interests of the State in the implementation of federally funded broadband investments, supports HB 934 which transfers the Hawai'i Broadband and Digital Equity Office (HBDEO) from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) to the Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) in the Department of Accounting and General Services, and establishes the Hawai'i Broadband and Digital Equity Special Fund. Transfer of the HBDEO under ETS, would place it within the management and oversight of the State Chief Information Officer, and will properly align the functions of the HBDEO together with other statewide technology infrastructure oversight, management and operations. The measure additionally provides for suitable governance under the statutorily established Information Technology Steering Committee.

Establishment of the Hawai'i Broadband and Digital Equity Special Fund provides for the ability to collect and expend funds received as a beneficial outcome of the public investment in broadband infrastructure assets; and to ensure the funds are used to support long term sustainability of the state's broadband infrastructure assets and the ability of our community to benefit from those infrastructure assets. Placing the ownership of the assets resulting from the federal broadband investments under the State Chief Information Officer, together with the Information Technology Steering Committee, will help to ensure the public's interest is protected and the benefits to Hawai'i maximized over the lifetime of these assets. To help provide clarity over the intent of the use of the funds, we suggest the fund be titled the Hawai'i Broadband Special Fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 934.