



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Tuesday, March 21, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

By

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### SB 2076 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO BROADBAND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i, representing the State's broadband interests, provides the following comments and recommendations on SB 2076 SD2 HD1.

SB 2076 SD2 HD1 creates a state broadband infrastructure authority, and provides for clarification of the role of the state broadband offices within DBEDT to focus on critical elements of digital equity and literacy to maximize benefits of public and private investment in broadband infrastructure and services. Based on a series of conversations and views expressed over the past weeks and months, while the creation of a state broadband infrastructure authority may be necessary at some point in the future, we recommend waiting on the upcoming announcements of Federal program rules and guidelines, as well as determination of any requirements or needs around ownership and governance of any resulting public assets and facilities constructed or acquired with the expected influx of public funds. The inclusion of regulatory responsibilities in the duties of the state broadband infrastructure authority may also create conflicts or overlapping responsibilities in the generally competitive broadband markets currently under the oversight of the FCC.

Given the interest and importance of this topic, we are committed to convene conversations over the next several months to ensure broad inputs into the strategic topic of governance and sustainability of the assets to be acquired over the following years through public investments. As part of our responsibility to help lead the state's broadband infrastructure investments, we will continue our work to help guide the creation of any state broadband infrastructure authority, including requesting assistance by the Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 2076 SD2 HD1.