



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
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By

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SB 2076 SD2 HD2 – RELATING TO BROADBAND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, 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 HD2.

SB 2076 SD2 HD2 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.

Given the interest and importance of this topic, we will convene a working group consisting of state and private experts in related topics, to meet 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 HD2.