



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Garret T. Yoshimi, Vice President for Information Technology/Chief Information Officer
University of Hawai'i System

SCR 120 SD1 – URGING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT AN EFFICIENT, STREAMLINED PROCESS TO REVIEW REQUESTS MADE BY ELECTRIC UTILITIES TO PROVIDE MIDDLE MILE BROADBAND SERVICES IN FURTHERANCE OF THE STATE'S EFFORTS TO EXPEDITE BROADBAND ACCESS TO UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED AREAS

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

The University of Hawai'i, representing the State's broadband interests, supports SCR 120 SD1, to encourage the Public Utilities Commission to consider and adopt a streamlined process for review and approval of requests made by electric utilities to provide middle mile broadband services in support of the State's efforts to expedite broadband access and equity, and promote robust, resilient and affordable broadband service for the State. We firmly believe the availability of such a streamlined process would help to avoid unnecessary delays in provisioning new middle mile facilities and should help provide the Public Utilities Commission with an efficient path for its review and oversight of the electric utility requests in this area. We understand the need to maintain full transparency in costs attributed to the operations of the electric utilities, and expect that the incremental provisioning of terrestrial middle mile fiber optic facilities will provide substantial public benefit without negatively impacting electric utility operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 120 SD1.