



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Technology
and

Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism
Friday, March 15, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.

By

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HB 821 HD2 – RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Chairs Keohokalole and Wakai, Vice Chairs English and Taniguchi, and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i strongly supports HB 821 HD2 which authorizes the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to enter into a public-private partnership to plan, build, and manage key strategic broadband infrastructure that benefits the State, including a cable landing station in Kaka'ako, on the island of O'ahu. This bill recognizes the critical importance of the construction of an open access, carrier neutral cable landing station, together with support for convenient interconnection with terrestrial fiber networks to enable the efficient exchange of traffic with other submarine cable systems and local terrestrial networks, to attract transpacific fiber optic cables to Hawai'i. The resulting outcomes will help to ensure Hawai'i's future viability in the global economy, and provide the critical telecommunications infrastructure to keep our community from being isolated from the rest of the world on the wrong side of the digital divide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 821 HD2.