



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 28, 2007, 9:30 am, Room 211

by

David Lassner

Vice President for Information Technology
and Chief Information Officer

Mobile: 277-9975 / Email: david@hawaii.edu

HB 310, HD2, SD1 Related to Technology

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawaii supports HB310 HD2, SD1 and would be pleased to participate in the recommended Hawaii Broadband Task Force.

We request one change in the SD1 language. We ask that the President of the University of Hawaii be given flexibility as to the two members from the University of Hawaii who will be appointed to the task force rather than restricting those appointments to the Department of Information and Computer Sciences.

Just as railroads and highways were the critical infrastructure for the industrial revolution, advanced broadband services will be essential in our transformation to an innovation economy. The cost of transportation to and from Hawaii, and between our islands, has limited our ability to participate in many economic opportunities. We must ensure that similar barriers do not continue to prevent our full participation in the information revolution and its capacity to enhance our social and economic development throughout the State.

The marketplace alone will not overcome Hawaii's economic disadvantages in communications beyond our borders or between our islands. And comparisons with the economies that have leapfrogged the U.S. in broadband capability over the past few years make it clear that the marketplace alone may not produce low-cost high bandwidth services comparable to those available in many other countries and communities that have made availability of broadband a community priority.

The University supports this important initiative and looks forward to assisting in helping Hawaii develop its critical infrastructure for the 21st century.