



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Economic Development and Business Concerns

April 2, 2007

by

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HCR 295 Requesting the Hawaii State Legislature to Convene a Hawaii Broadband Task Force to Expand Broadband Access and Usage in Hawaii

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawaii supports HCR 295 and would be pleased to participate in the recommended Hawaii Broadband Task Force.

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.

We support this important initiative and look forward to assisting in helping Hawaii develop its critical infrastructure for the 21st century.