

**Broadband Task Force**  
(Established by Act 2, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2007)  
State of Hawai'i  
[www.state.hi.us/auditor](http://www.state.hi.us/auditor)

**Minutes of Meeting**

The agenda for this meeting was filed with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, as required by Section 92-7(b), Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

Date: Thursday, September 11, 2008

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Conference Room 309  
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Present: Chair David Lassner, University of Hawai'i  
Gordon Bruce, City & County of Honolulu  
Senator Will Espero, The Senate  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, The Senate  
Jennifer Goto Sabas, Office of Senator Daniel K. Inouye  
Ken Hiraki, Hawaiian Telcom  
Senator David Ige, The Senate  
Clyde Sonobe, Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs  
Representative Gene Ward, House of Representatives  
Kiman Wong, Oceanic Time Warner

Marion M. Higa, State Auditor, Office of the Auditor  
Jayna Oshiro, Special Projects Coordinator, Office of the Auditor  
Pat Mukai, Secretary, Office of the Auditor

Robert Doeringer, RHD Consulting, LLC

Excused/  
Absent: Gary Caulfield, First Hawaiian Bank  
Representative Marcus Oshiro, House of Representatives  
Henk Rogers, BluePlanet Wireless  
Representative Kyle Yamashita, House of Representatives

Call to Order: Chair Lassner called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. at which time quorum was established.

Presentation: Mr. Oscar Libed of Hawaiian Telcom did a brief presentation on Recommendations to  
Clearwire Streamline a Broadband Wireless Network. This presentation can be found at the Auditor's website at: <http://www.hawaii.gov/auditor>

Mr. Libed stated that Clearwire customers are experiencing 4 to 6 mbps of download and 1 mbps of upload. He stated that these speeds are comparable to DSL and Roadrunner services. For wireless broadband network, private capital is used to build wireless network. Investors will ask, what state or city can invest in to maximize by return on investments. It is expensive to build due to leasing, zoning, and building permit barriers. For Clearwire, currently considering for WiMax implementation, the site acquisition timeframe is a major factor.

Mr. Libed explained the site acquisition process. The State of Hawai`i can assist in convincing wireless investors to invest money in Hawai`i. The current site acquisition process is:

- Leasing = 2-3 months
- Zoning = 2 months
- Complex zoning = 1-2 years
- Building permits = 3 months
- Building permit modifications = varies from 1 month to over a year
- Construction = 7 months to over a year

Noting the Task Force's use of the phrase, "impatient capital," he noted that one barrier is the barrier of time. A typical wireless site earns \$500/day in revenue. Every day of delay represents a loss of opportunity to the investor. How can the city, state, and federal governments remove the barriers? The following are Mr. Libed's recommendations:

- Make approval of wireless sites as a statewide policy.
- Create approved templates for state and county licenses.
- Prioritize zoning and building permit applications to be done faster than 5 months.
- Restructure the Neighborhood Board requirements of submitting a zoning application. Currently, one must appear before the board to do a live presentation of the site being built. It requires 1-2 months to get on the schedule, therefore losing 2 months before filing for zoning application.
- Rural areas always had problems with land line broadband providers because it's expensive to build out to these rural areas. Co-location sites need to be identified for wireless carriers.

Mr. Libed commented and supported item 13 of the DRAFT Hawai`i Broadband Task Force Findings and Recommendations which talks about, "Wired or Wireless?" It's not either/or, it's both. With wireless infrastructure in place the state can be in a position to include the wireless industry's 4<sup>th</sup> generation wireless broadband network in Hawai`i, specifically WiMax and its competing LTE networks.

Presentation: Member Gordon Bruce did a presentation on Telecommunications Master Plan. Mr. City and Bruce's presentation can be found at the Auditor's website at: County of <http://www.hawaii.gov/auditor> Honolulu

Mr. Bruce stated that the incumbent telephone company is the only telephone provider, in that they are the only company to provide traditional land line telephone service. Similarly, the cable company is the only real video provider and wireless is just remote telephones. In reality, there are other options available. From the developer's standpoint, there are condo master plans and light pole master plans. If the City wanted to put wireless internet onto the light poles, the challenge is at PUC and HECO. HECO has their special rate determined by the PUC for the electric bills on light poles. The moment the city puts an antenna on the light pole, the city compromises the PUC building arrangement. It is estimated to take two years to change that. This is why the city doesn't put antennas on light poles. To plan for wireless ahead of time, easements, licenses, and lease agreements all need to be standardized.

Another problem is all the aspects coming up in the community—whether it's underground, above the ground, it's all over the place. You also have the problems of the communities and neighborhood boards saying, they don't want these things in their backyards and it should be put somewhere else. Because of these issues, the public needs to be educated.

When developers come in and develop cities, they install additional conduits. There are

dedication and easement issues and this is where the problem is. When the city takes over, who's responsible? The master plan for communications equipment is to co-locate and have an agreement with wireless carriers for co-location sites ahead of time or after the fact.

The city has a centralized application process in place but they still don't have standardized agreements. This city's scenario for planning/permitting/zoning. When you submit an application, the city will encourage you to go to the neighborhood board, then you have to go through the City Council to get approval because the city encumbers the land. It's a 3-month process at a minimum. When applying for Special Use Permits (SUP), you need to go through the State and that adds more time to the process. There are also land conveyance issues. For example, take a piece of property dedicated to the city as a park. Telcom facilities will not be allowed on the park or it reverts back to the developer. There are all different kinds of aspects—parks, buildings, base yards—and they are all different. Therefore, this can get in the way of the process.

An example of deployment of broadband—the city enters into a partnership with non-profits and they will work with with the city and the private sector to put in wireless hot zones. The city has been doing that. It doesn't infringe on the wireless providers because it's filtered—no video streaming, no downloading, just basic contents.

Chair's Report: Minutes of previous meeting  
Member Hiraki moved to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2008 meeting, seconded by Member Goto Sabas and the motion was unanimously carried.

Draft Recommendations and Outline: Chair Lassner asked the task force to work through and think about how to handle version 0.4 of the Findings and Recommendations draft, trying to make sure when the task force is done, the task force submits something to the Legislature that's fairly actionable and can make a difference. The final report will be the one that people could look at and say, this is what the task force did over the past year or so. Does the draft seem to have the right kind of flavor and if the flavor is right, the task force should go through the draft and see whether we as a task force agree? Member Goto Sabas said the findings are okay but suggested the recommendations need to be cleaner and simpler because we are presenting the report to the Legislature and we need to better connect-the-dots for the Legislature. Senator Fukunaga suggested having some charts the consultant could help us with, to try and tell the story and show what's important. Having charts would support and compliment the findings portion.

The task force then engaged in an extensive and lengthy discussion of the draft Findings and Recommendations. Chair Lassner agreed to revise the draft to reflect the discussion and share a revised draft before the next Task Force meeting for further discussion and refinement.

Future Meetings and Events: Chair Lassner would like to have at least three more meetings by the end of November. The Auditor's Office will poll members for their availability.

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Reviewed and approved by:

Sterling Yee  
Assistant Auditor

September 24, 2008

Approved as circulated.

Approved with corrections; see minutes of \_\_\_\_\_ meeting.

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