



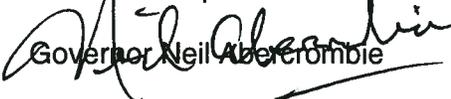
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

August 23, 2011

EXECUTIVE MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Department Heads

FROM:  Governor Neil Abercrombie

SUBJECT: Hawaii Broadband Initiative

Hawaii's future depends upon the actions we take now to create a globally competitive economy and society. As stated by the National Academy of Sciences, broadband capability can be expected to do as much to drive innovation, the economy, and job creation in the 21st century as the telephone, interstate highways, and air travel did in the 20th century. Advanced broadband also underlies the advances we all need in education, health care and civic engagement to improve the quality of life for all.

For Hawaii in particular, the ability of broadband technology to connect individuals, businesses and institutions between our islands and to the rest of the world instantaneously will be transformative. In order to ensure that Hawaii is globally competitive, we must begin to act now to create a 21st century Hawaii in which all our citizens have access to ultra high-speed broadband capabilities at affordable prices.

The first steps are being taken now. For example, using federal monies received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Hawaii will be the first state in the nation with direct 1 gigabit per second broadband connectivity at every public school, every public library, and every public university and college campus throughout the State. We must now carry this momentum forward to provide this same access to all of our citizens at an affordable price no matter where they work or where they live.

To achieve this, I hereby establish the Hawaii Broadband Initiative with the following goals:

1. Ensure ubiquitous access to world-class gigabit-per-second broadband service at affordable prices throughout Hawaii, without leaving behind our underserved communities.
2. Increase the use of high-speed broadband services and applications for economic development, health care, education, public safety, governmental efficiency and civic engagement while reducing the digital divide that leaves some citizens behind.
3. Reduce Hawaii's barriers to global participation by promoting greater trans-pacific fiber connectivity and ensure equitable access for all our islands.

4. Develop and implement a modern regulatory and permitting environment that supports and advances investment in broadband infrastructure and services for the public.

I direct the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) and the Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) to lead the Hawaii Broadband Initiative, working with the University of Hawaii and others. DCCA shall work with federal, state and county agencies, broadband providers and private stakeholders to create and implement a plan to achieve the goals of the Hawaii Broadband Initiative and shall work with the Legislature to identify and address statutory barriers to success. DBEDT shall supplement these efforts by creating financial incentives to attract investment from providers and forging public-private partnerships that will allow greater access to broadband services. DBEDT shall also develop a plan to leverage these new capabilities to provide economic opportunities, whether through development of new industries or the attraction of new companies to Hawaii. All other state departments and agencies, including the State's Chief Information Officer, shall use their best efforts and resources to assist DCCA and DBEDT to ensure that we achieve the goals of the Hawaii Broadband Initiative.

The results of this initiative will pay dividends for years to come. By taking the steps needed to develop this critical 21st century infrastructure today, we will provide our State with the competitive edge necessary to ensure a vibrant and sustainable economy with innovative industries that create high quality jobs and improve the quality of life for citizens throughout the State.