BROADBAND ASSISTANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (BAAC)
PERMITTING WORK GROUP
State of Hawaii
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Report to BAAC
by
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The Permitting Work Group met three times in 2013. The following summarizes the major recommendations worked on during the year:

1. **Demonstration Projects for Broadband Permit Streamlining/Infrastructure Project Summaries**

    The Work Group considered whether utilizing demonstration projects would be useful to facilitate permit streamlining efforts by allowing the Work Group to identify permitting roadblocks and to form specific recommendations on legislation to expedite the permitting process. Because of expressed limitations and concerns with utilizing current provider projects, the Work Group instead decided to utilize historical timelines and summaries of past experiences from completed projects as successful models or as examples of processes that hindered deployment.

    Provider Work Group members submitted examples of broadband projects on various islands in which the permitting process was either generally reasonable or prolonged. The Work Group discussed methods to address these situations such as revisions to State laws or Counties ordinances, the establishment of a central permitting authority and the development of standardized forms. Given the commencement of the new law (effective January 1, 2014) requiring a 60-day review process of broadband permits (Act 264), the Group will evaluate the effectiveness of this measure in conjunction with reviewing what other steps, if any, need to be taken to streamline broadband permit approvals. Provider Work Group members have been asked to share their experiences with any submissions made under the Act.

2. **Streamlining Department of Transportation (DOT) Use & Occupancy Process**

    The Work Group requested that DCCA engage in discussions with the DOT on possible streamlining of its Use & Occupancy process. DCCA met with DOT on the impact of this process on broadband infrastructure deployment, and DCCA's possible assistance in streamlining processes. Based upon the Federal Highway Administration's published papers pursuant to Presidential Executive Order that

focus on different processes to expedite broadband deployment, DCCA has begun discussions with DOT on how the papers' recommendations might be implemented at the state level. The Group supports DCCA's efforts and will provide assistance and input.

3.   **Capacity Building Planning Projects**

DCCA reported to the Group that, as part of its Broadband Capacity Building grant project, it is looking at potential broadband infrastructure planning projects statewide, particularly those that can help to address un-served and underserved areas. DCCA reported that it has, in coordination with one county, prepared a resource report which reviews existing broadband fiber and microwave assets on a selected island and what steps might be taken to improve both infrastructure deployment and network reliability for both government and private users. DCCA is waiting for input from that county. In the event that recommendations in the report are undertaken, the Working Group will likely be utilized to assist in creating a joint framework that could be applied to expedite future deployment of broadband infrastructure.

The Work Group was asked to suggest other potential projects that might similarly assist in providing greater broadband access in un-served and underserved areas of other counties. DCCA will be seeking input from the Working Group on any planning projects undertaken.

4.   **Creation of Centralized Pole Database.**

The Work Group continued discussions on the creation of a shared centralized pole database with pole loading information. During the year, providers reported on the use of a third party company to process pole applications on Oahu, which significantly improved the process and would likely be used on the other islands. Provider members believe that the gathering of information could still be streamlined through the use of a third party database, but believed that such a project may be better pursued through a joint effort of the private companies involved. OTWC will be taking the lead with relevant stakeholders. The Group is thus suspending any further review or action on this recommendation. OTWC was asked to provide updates on the progress of this project to the Work Group.