

BROADBAND ASSISTANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (BAAC)
PERMITTING WORK GROUP
STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

REPORT TO BAAC
by
Everett Kaneshige, Acting Chair
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I. Continue to Pursue/Review

- a. Broadband Utilities and Project Coordinator. After discussions with the State Department of Transportation (DOT), DCCA prepared a draft scope of work for a position to facilitate and coordinate broadband infrastructure projects utilizing government roadways and rights of way. Duties would include review of broadband projects for compliance with DOT right of way and use and occupancy requirements, liaison between the broadband applicant and DOT, and coordination among projects to promote the dig once concept. The objective is to improve the efficiency and turnaround time for these types of approvals in exchange for providing the State with a “big picture” view that could allow for strategic cooperation between government, utility companies and communications companies. The Work Group is supportive of DCCA’s efforts as a solution to expedite broadband deployment.
- b. Act 264. The Work Group continues to be interested in the effectiveness of this measure which requires a 45-day review process of broadband permit applications. To date, no member of the Group has had submitted an application for approval that would be subject to the Act.
- c. Hawaii Island Fiber Gap. This is a joint project by DCCA, the County of Hawaii and various stakeholders to close the existing fiber network “gap” of approximately 25 miles between Naalehu and Volcano. Most of the Work Group’s members attended an on-island kick-off meeting at the end of April to discuss the project and potential roles and responsibilities of the participants. Also in attendance were representatives of the National Park Service and the U.S. Geological Service. As a result of the meeting, the first step identified to implement the project was the inclusion of the proposed new fiber line in the environmental analysis that is being prepared by Hawaii Electric Light Company in conjunction with the proposed relocation of its existing poles in this area.

II. Evaluate for Future Action

- a. DCCA provided the Work Group with a report prepared by its consulting engineer entitled *Broadband Capacity Building Resource Report: Proposals To Implement Broadband And Internet Service To Underserved And Un-Served Locations In South And Southeast Hawaii Island*. The report reviewed different wireless broadband solutions that could be used to provide service to unserved and underserved areas of Hawaii Island (The engineer also prepared a “white paper” that focused on using “TV White Space” technology as a transmission method). DCCA is currently working with the County of Hawaii to fund coverage studies, pilot projects and a community assessment for the Puna and Hamakua districts. Completion of these initial projects is scheduled for January 31, 2015. The results of these projects will be shared with the Work Group. DCCA and the County also received a briefing by Hawaiian Telcom of existing and proposed projects to extend broadband service on Hawaii Island pursuant to monies received under the Federal government’s Connect America Fund.
- b. As part of its grant activities DCCA is compiling and analyzing State and County statutes, administrative rules, ordinances as well as agency policies and procedures (if publicly accessible) related to the deployment of broadband (wireless and wireline) infrastructure on public lands. This includes laws and procedures related to easements, licenses, permits, approvals, zoning and construction. The scheduled completion for this project is January 31, 2015, and the final report will be shared with the Work Group.