Broadband
Assistance
Advisory
Council

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    Spectrum Oceanic
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    Hawaiian Electric
Hawaiian Telcom

MEMORANDUM

To: Broadband Assistance Advisory Council Members and
        Broadband Stakeholders

From: Catherine Awakuni Colón
        Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Date: November 10, 2021

Re: BAAC Members and Participant Broadband Activities

Aloha BAAC members and participants, and welcome to our newest members, State House Representative Aaron Ling Johanson and Scott Uehara, Director of Information Technology for the County of Hawaii.

The following updates the various efforts of BAAC members and participants towards expanding broadband service access and infrastructure deployment in the State. As always, we welcome your thoughts on priorities, funding, and activities that may continue to advance our State's broadband goals. Please share any interest in specific items or issues for the next BAAC meeting or update.

I.   DCCA Broadband Activities

A. Hi-WiFi Pilot Project
    Hi-WiFi is a joint project of DCCA and Hawaii County to evaluate the feasibility and cost of providing residents with unlimited, free internet access at government locations in underserved areas of Hawaii Island. The 7 pilot sites are: (1) Hawaiian Beaches Park (Pahoa); (2) Pahoa Community Recreation Center (Pahoa); (3) Naalehu Community Center (Naalehu); (4) Yano Hall (Captain Cook); (5) Kohala Senior Center (Kapaau); (6) Hauoli Senior Center (Honokaa); and (7) Papaikou Community Center (Papaikou).

    UPDATE: All seven Hawaii County hotspots are operational and available to the public from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily.

Pilot Locations

DCCA is currently working with the County of Kauai on a Memorandum of Understanding for a Hi-WiFi project on Kauai. Kauai County has provided a list of county locations across the island that would benefit from Hi-WiFi hotspots.
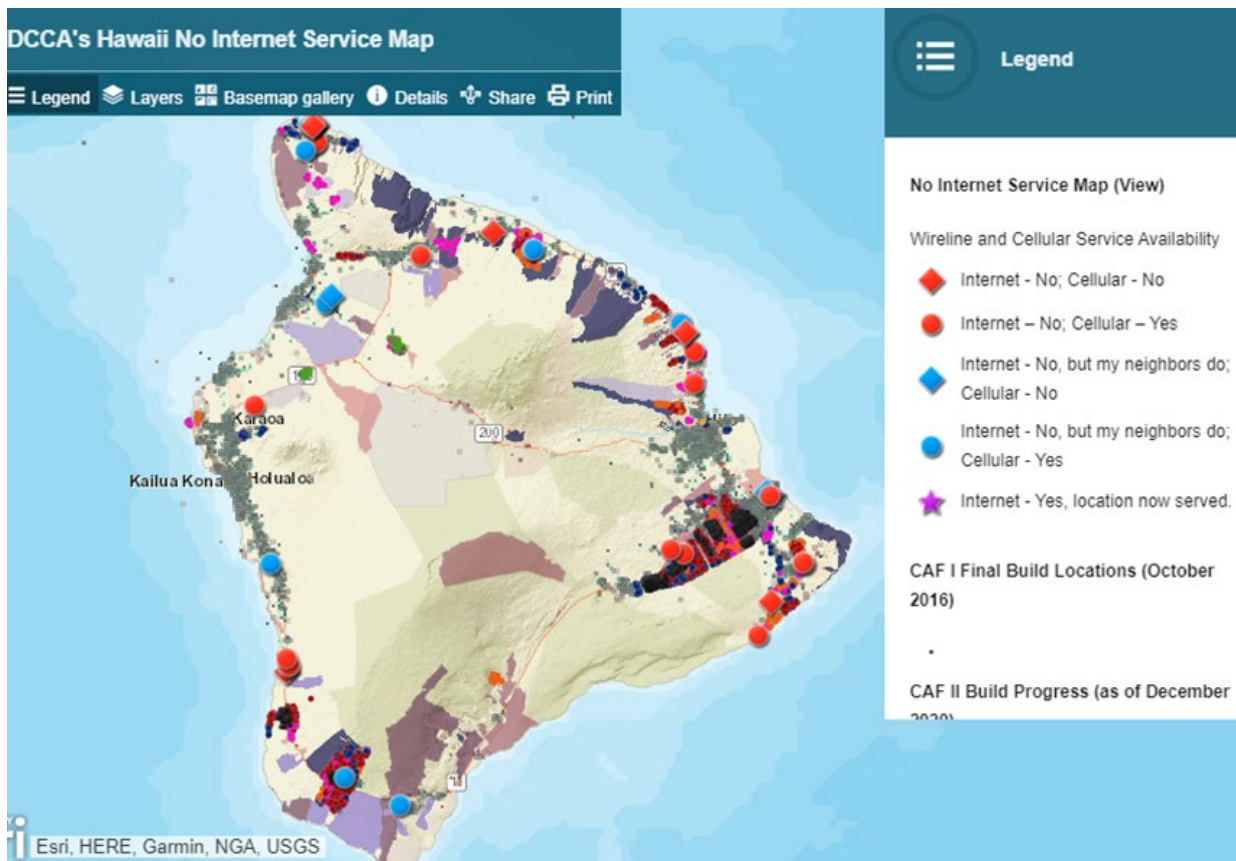
B. No Internet Service Map Tool

DCCA's "No Internet Service Map" tool maps resident-reported information on: (1) no available wireline (cable, DSL, or fiber) internet service; (2) nearby wireline service availability; and (3) cellular service availability. Map layers, which may be toggled on and off, include the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Connect America Fund (CAF) awarded and built locations, DCCA's designated Spectrum Oceanic WiFi hotspots, and Hi-WiFi pilot project hotspots. Available at: http://cca.hawaii.gov/broadband/no-internet-service-map/

UPDATE: New map layers show:
  (1) Awarded areas under the FCC's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF); and
  (2) Ookla fixed and mobile Speedtest data for calendar year (CY) 2020 and CY 2021 Q1 and Q2.

The map also now includes data from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Social Vulnerability Index.
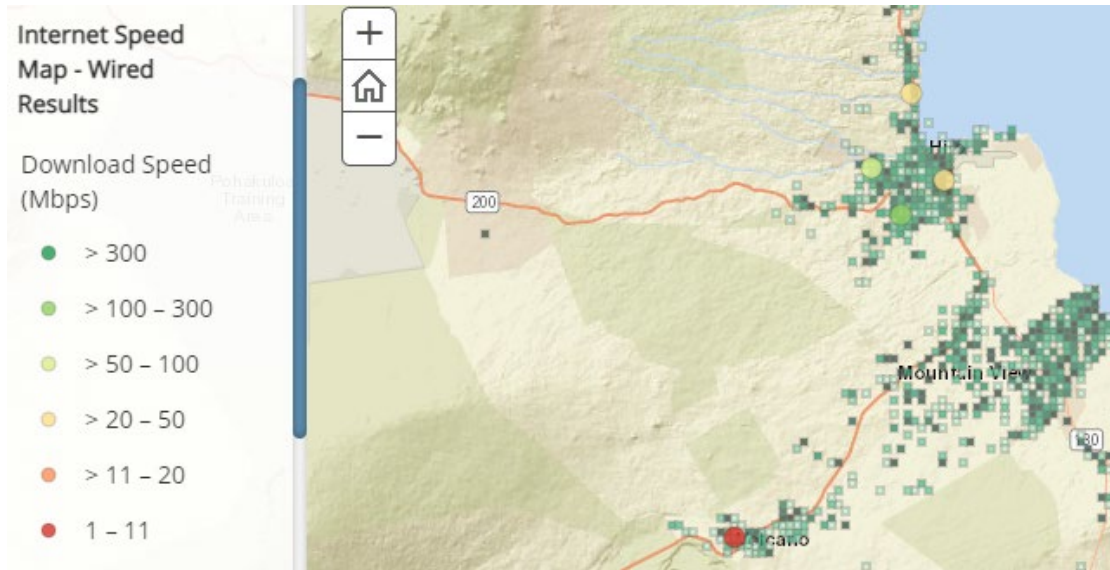

Sample screenshot with map layers on. More detail is available by zooming in and clicking on specific locations.

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C. Internet Speed Map Tool

DCCA's "Internet Speed Map" tool (launched June 2020) creates a crowd-sourced map from resident reports on their home wireline internet speeds. Available at: http://cca.hawaii.gov/broadband/speedmap/

UPDATE: A new map layer includes Ookla fixed performance Speedtest data for CY 2020 and CY 2021 Q1 and Q2.

Sample screenshot with map layers on. More detail is available by clicking on specific locations.

D. State-Designated Spectrum Oceanic WiFi Hotspots

DCCA designated the location of 100 new Spectrum Oceanic WiFi hotspots (as part of its approval of the Oceanic Time Warner Cable franchises' transfers to Charter Communications) at public parks, civic and other community centers, and other public open areas and gathering places. These hotspots offer 1 hour of free WiFi service per device per day. A full list and maps of the designated hotspot locations is available at: http://cca.hawaii.gov/broadband/dcca-designated-wifi-hotspots/.

UPDATE: Hotspots continue to show high usage. The chart below shows usage data for a one-month period from September 16 to October 15, 2021:

AP Location (# of Aps)	# of unique connected devices	Total # of unique sessions
Hawaii Island (35)	6,130	38,000
Kauai (20)	6,080	69,280
Lanai (2)	234	2,480
Maui (15)	3,840	23,630
Molokai (8)	580	9,600
Oahu (10)	4,590	22,730
TOTAL for 100 designated hotspots	**21,454**	**165,720**

II.   BAAC Members/Participants - New Activities and Ongoing Activities Updates

DCCA received the following summaries from BAAC members and participants.

A. <u>CAF Phase II (CAF II) and RDOF – Hawaiian Telcom Awards</u>
    Hawaiian Telcom was awarded CAF II funding to enable 11,081 unserved locations with a minimum of 10 Mbps/1 Mbps service by 2020 and CAF II Auction funding to enable an additional 3,937 unserved locations with a minimum of 1 Gbps/500 Mbps service by 2024.

    UPDATE: Hawaiian Telcom was additionally awarded $24 million in RDOF funding to enable 8,049 unserved locations across 151 census block groups with 1 gigabit speed download and 500 megabits per second upload by the end of 2025. Hawaiian Telcom provided the attached update for its CAF II and RDOF awards received.

B. <u>DBEDT Broadband Activities</u>
    DBEDT provided the following information and updates.

    1. <u>Hawaii Broadband Initiative (HBI)</u> – Transpacific Fiber Optic Cable Landing Project
        As of June 30, 2021, the HBI ended. The cable landing project was appropriated in House Bill (HB) 200 and placed in the Department of Accounting and General Services.
    2. <u>NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Grant Application</u>
        DBEDT submitted the State's grant application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Infrastructure Program on August 12, 2021. The covered partnership includes Hawaiian Telcom, Charter/Spectrum, Banyan Networks and Sun Global. The application is going through NTIA review and expected notification is in late November 2021.
    3. <u>Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office and Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program – Act 225 (HB1191)</u>
        The 2021 Legislature appropriated $5M for the Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program and DBEDT is awaiting the release of the funds. The Hawaii Broadband & Digital Office proceeds to track broadband funding in federal legislation including the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act, 2021.
    4. <u>Federal Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program</u>
        The FCC officially launched the EBB program on May 12, 2021. The Broadband Hui was instrumental in outreach efforts to inform potential participants of the benefit. To date, Hawaii has 15,046 participants generating more than $2M in benefits to residents of Hawaii.
    5. <u>Broadband Hui Activities</u>
        In March of 2020, the Broadband Hui was formed from a cross-section of over 350 public, private, and non-profit community stakeholders to address the gaps in broadband access and digital literacy skills. Building on the Hawaii Broadband Strategic Plan, the group quickly shared information, expertise, resources, and action toward bridging the digital divide. The following are a few accomplishments that have been made so far:
        • Issuing of the Digital Equity Declaration
        • Collaborating on building community networks
        • Rollout of the FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit
        • Identifying projects for CARES Act funding

- Subgroups for policy, 5G, digital literacy, data & mapping, digital sovereignty, kupuna
- Organizing digital literacy classes
- Crowdsourcing data gathering
- Connecting resources to community need
- Participation in Digital Inclusion Week, Oct 4-8, 2021

C. Hawaii Island Fiber Gap

Hawaii Island's fiber infrastructure gap extends from Volcano Village to Pahala. Completion of Hawaii Electric Light Company's line rebuild project through the Volcanoes National Park supplied the needed poles/infrastructure for service providers to bridge the gap.

UPDATE: Hawaiian Telcom applied to the Department of Transportation in August for construction permits along Mamalahoa Highway. Construction will begin shortly after approval of the permits. Spectrum Oceanic's fiber infrastructure is currently being worked on and is not yet available for service.

D. Federal Funding Coordination - University of Hawaii

At the request of Governor Ige, the University is coordinating statewide efforts to maximize the benefits of currently available, and anticipated Federal relief funds to improve broadband access, robustness, and resilience throughout the State of Hawaii. Efforts will focus on both core infrastructure (i.e. middle mile) as well as last mile and access facilities to help ensure that all of our community has robust, reliable, and reasonably priced broadband services both now and in the future. These efforts will be coordinated with the range of direct supports that are broadly available to consumers and educational institutions, including the EBB program, the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF, together with eRate), and various programs to fund consumer device and broadband access. These efforts will dovetail with broad-based community efforts in support of digital equity and literacy.

E. FirstNet – AT&T

UPDATE: AT&T provided the following FirstNet statistics.

FirstNet Nationwide Update as of 7/22/21:
- 2.5M+ FirstNet Connections
- 17K+ Public safety agencies and organizations subscribed
- 170+ apps in the FirstNet App Catalog
- 285+ FirstNet Ready devices
- 2.71M Square miles of LTE coverage nationwide
- 100K Square miles of LTE coverage added in 2020
- 100+ Dedicated deployable network assets, including Flying COWs and FirstNet One

FirstNet Statewide Update as of 9/30/21
- 2 FirstNet New Site Builds (NSB)
- 27 Band 14 overlays on existing sites
- 4 Business as Usual NSB
- 41 Small cells deployed

F. <u>Hawaiian Electric Infrastructure and Business Development Programs</u>
Hawaiian Electric has a variety of 5G, broadband, and cable-related infrastructure programs available to help facilitate the extension of broadband infrastructure and access across the State. Please contact Christian Whitney, Director of Business Development, for more information on any of our program offerings. 808-543-4679 or christian.whitney@hawaiianelectric.com

UPDATE: Hawaiian Electric provided the following updates on its programs and activities:

1. <u>Pole Attachment Program</u>. We continue to execute telecommunications pole attachment requests, despite COVID 19 and work-from-home orders. A majority of carriers participate in bi-weekly meetings with our pole attachment team to run through current requests and share updates, concerns, or future needs. We are looking at different pilot opportunities to improve offerings, beyond FCC requirements, to meet the needs of those with federal or state grant funding. We encourage anyone with pilot opportunities to pitch to our team; we are always looking for new ways to serve our telecommunications customers better.

2. <u>Pole Attachment Database</u>. We are gearing up for a brand-new customer-facing pole attachment database designed to speed up the pole attachment intake process and gain other efficiencies throughout attachment process. This new database will also help to automate the billing process. We will be asking the carriers to proportionately share the database expense.

3. <u>Pole Attachment Audit</u>: We are 3/4s of the way through our Oahu pole attachment audit, led by McLean Engineering. This audit is to document every single attachment on every single Hawaiian Electric-owned distribution pole in all five service territories. All carriers participate in quarterly meetings and receive data files of each of their own attachments (pictures, GPS coordinates, violations). This audit will not only help clean up our infrastructure, but will provide up-to-date, accurate records for all parties. Once the Oahu audit is complete, the team will be relocating to Hawaii Island to begin the audit there.

4. <u>Hawaiian Electric's Role as a Neutral Infrastructure Provider</u>: We are in the process of making more of Hawaiian Electric's infrastructure assets available for lease, including dark fiber, transmission towers, monopoles near our substations and other properties. The same team providing pole attachments on our distribution poles will be shepherding any new opportunities to lease other assets. We welcome any opportunity to discuss how Hawaiian Electric's infrastructure, in partnership with other telecommunications providers, may help bridge the gap in expansion of 5G, broadband, cable services to all areas of Hawaii.

III.   Legislative Update

HB 1191 was signed into law as Act 225 on July 6, 2021. This Act establishes the broadband infrastructure grant program to extend deployment of infrastructure used to provide broadband service to unserved and underserved areas of the State; renames the Hawaii technology loan revolving fund to the Hawaii broadband infrastructure special fund; establishes the Hawaii broadband and digital equity office within DBEDT; requires the governor to appoint a strategic broadband coordinator to head the office; and appropriates funds from moneys received pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.