

**BROADBAND ASSISTANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING (BAAC)  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (DCCA)  
STATE OF HAWAII**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

Date: Friday, August 2, 2019  
Time: 1:00 p.m.  
Place: 335 Merchant Street, Honolulu, Hawaii

Present: Catherine Awakuni Colón (Chair), DCCA  
BAAC Members Douglas Murdock, Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS)  
Lynn Araki-Regan, Department of Transportation (DOT)  
Mike McCartney, Department of Business, Economic Development &  
Tourism (DBEDT)  
Tony Velasco, City & County of Honolulu (City)  
Bryan Ito, AT&T  
Jason Thune, Hawaiian Telcom (HT) (for John Komeiji)  
Myoung Oh, Spectrum Oceanic (for Gregg Fujimoto)

Other Participants Wendee Hilderbrand, Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) (by phone)  
Everett Kaneshige, State Department of Defense  
Mary Alice Evans, DBEDT  
Arnold Kishi, ETS  
Jason Fujita, HT  
Daniel Masutomi, HT  
Kiman Wong, Spectrum Oceanic  
Christian Whitney, HECO  
Elizabeth Gregg, AT&T  
Kenison Tejada, First Responder Network Authority

DCCA - Cable Ji Sook "Lisa" Kim (Cable Administrator); Cathy Takase; and Jeremy  
Television Division Aoyagi

**I. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. The Chair provided a brief overview for new members and welcomed any future agenda items on matters they may wish to present to the group or for which they may desire assistance.

**II. DCCA Activities**

- A. Report on Fixed Wireline Broadband Speeds in Hawaii (July 2019)  
Mr. Jeremy Aoyagi provided an overview of the DCCA 2019 Report on Fixed Wireline Broadband Speeds in Hawaii (2019 Report), which compiles consumer-initiated fixed wireline speed test data from Ookla, a widely-recognized source for broadband and mobile data. The 2019 Report includes statewide, county, and city data, where available, and includes data from DCCA's wireline report issued in 2018. The 2019 Report also contains significant data from tests taken via WiFi connection, metrics on the top and bottom 10% of test results, and data maps.

2019 Report Highlights (speeds approximate)

- Statewide increases in median download speeds
  - Q3 2016 to Q2 2019: 48 Megabits per second (Mbps) to 92 Mbps
  - June 2018 to June 2019: 78 Mbps to 92 Mbps
- County increases in median download speeds -- Q3 2016 to Q2 2019
  - Hawaii County: 27 Mbps to 76 Mbps
  - City & County of Honolulu: 52 Mbps to 95 Mbps
  - Kauai County: 45 Mbps to 71 Mbps
  - Maui County: 40 Mbps to 74 Mbps

DCCA is working on a current interactive, searchable map that shows the 2019 Report data and additional census block information. Mr. Everett Kaneshige asked whether the WiFi speed test results included tests taken over public WiFi. Mr. Aoyagi responded that generally it includes tests using any type of WiFi connection. The Chair noted that the upward trend is encouraging and reflects providers' steady improvement of services to meet consumer demand.

B. State Designated Spectrum WiFi Hotspots

Pursuant to the Time Warner Cable and Charter merger proceeding, Spectrum Oceanic is to deploy 1,000 WiFi hotspots across the State, with 100 locations designated by DCCA for community gathering areas. DCCA worked with stakeholders and Spectrum Oceanic to identify the 100 sites, focusing on unserved and underserved rural areas where there is less access and thus greater need. To date, 71 locations have been designated with the remaining 29 identified and under field investigation. Designations by island are: 14 hotspots on Kauai (plus 5 proposed); 12 on Maui; 2 on Lanai, 16 on Molokai, including 10 in Kalaupapa; 2 on Oahu (plus 13 proposed); and 24 on Hawaii Island (plus 12 proposed). The designations may be found on the DCCA broadband webpage.

III. **Updates**

A. State Designated Spectrum WiFi Hotspot Deployment and Usage

Mr. Kiman Wong reported that 55 of the 71 designated hotspots are currently active. Sample hotspot usage numbers (approximate) for June 2019 are:

Island	Location	# of Sessions	Unique Users
Kauai	14 Bus Stops	21,800	5,300
Maui	Hana & Wailuku	7,280	2,400
Molokai	Kaunakakai & Kalaupapa	14,000	790
Hawaii	24 across island	910	3,000

For reference, the City's 40 Waikiki WiFi hotspots have approximately 95,000 sessions per month. The Hawaii Island installations are recent and in very rural areas. Given the interest shown by residents, overall usage will likely grow as residents become aware of the active hotspots. Ms. Lynn Araki-Regan asked whether there were any hotspots on the road to Hana. Mr. Wong responded that the hotspots were only in the Hana area.

B. Connect America Fund Phase II

Mr. Daniel Masutomi provided a PowerPoint update of HT's CAF Phase II (CAF II) projects for which HT was awarded funding to enable 11,000 sites with broadband service. HT has completed more than 7,000 households, approximately 63% of its commitment. Although CAF II required a minimum of 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload, HT noted that it is putting in fiber to the premises for most customers.

Mr. Masutomi noted that they are now working in more remote areas so the build out is moving more slowly. He also noted that the auction phase has more stringent federal requirements, such as higher minimum broadband speeds and what qualifies as a household. He provided a summary and maps of the CAF II build-outs for each island, noting the following highlights:

- **Hawaii Island.** A lot of pockets of areas are being provisioned across the island. A focus this year is the Kohala area, with projects scheduled for completion by the end of the year. Build-out locations also include Kalopa Mauka, Papaikou, Laupahoehoe, and the Puna district.
- **Maui.** HT's intent is to get to Maui locations by the end of next year. The largest and most time-consuming challenge is obtaining easements on the road to Hana. Build-out locations for 2019 include Huelo and the Piiholu area.
- **Oahu.** Oahu has small pockets of qualifying areas in rural and urban areas.
- **Kauai.** Areas scheduled this year include Princeville, Kekaha, and northward from Kekaha.
- **Molokai.** Molokai will likely have fiber throughout, except for Kalaupapa.

HT was also awarded funding under the CAF II auction phase to enable an additional 4,000 households over 6 years beginning in 2021 (a few small areas are provisioned earlier if passed by CAF II projects). Mr. Bryan Ito asked whether HT's build-out in the Pahala area would be coming from the south and going to the Volcano area. Mr. Masutomi said that build-out was from the west side to Pahala and would not resolve the existing fiber gap between Pahala and the Volcano area.

C. Hawaii Island Fiber Gap

Ms. Christian Whitney relayed an update provided by Mr. Dave Okamura at Hawaii Electric Light Company (HELCO) with respect to HELCO's line rebuild and relocation project that will relocate 10 miles of transmission line next to the highway right-of-way and install poles that can accommodate broadband attachments to close the fiber gap on Hawaii Island. HELCO is currently targeting March 2020 to begin construction, and completion by October 2020, subject to obtaining required permits. As of June 2019, HELCO has submitted its environmental assessment (EA) and the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (HVNP) will also be filing their EA, using information in HELCO's application. HVNP must wait for approval of their EA before they can process HELCO's special use permit needed to begin construction and its rights-of-way permit.

- D. Hawaii Broadband Initiative – Transpacific Fiber Optic Cable Landing Project  
The Chair relayed an update provided by Mr. Burt Lum: The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) procured a contract with Wilson Okamoto Corporation to provide pre-engineering and planning services for the potential of a transpacific cable landing station. The contract includes a scope to estimate the alignment of the future broadband conduit and terminal as a basis for the EA for the project.

The draft EA was filed in May 2019. During the requisite 30-day comment period, no comments were received. A determination of Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was recommended to the HCDA who approved it at their July 10, 2019 board meeting. The preparation of an EA is a prerequisite for the Special Management Area application for the transpacific cable landing station which will now commence as a result of the HCDA board approving the determination of the FONSI at its July board meeting.

- E. HECO-HT Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Pole Application  
Ms. Christian Whitney, Acting Interim Director, for the Pole Infrastructure Enterprise division (PIE), which has expertise in colocation, telecom, and joint-pole issues at HECO, gave a PowerPoint presentation on PIE activities. The goal of PIE is to be the leasing agent for the infrastructure assets of HECO, HELCO, and Maui Electric Company (MECO), including distribution wooden poles, Maui streetlights, transmission poles and towers, unused substation land, and dark fiber. PIE also facilitates customer installations where power is needed and is generally responsible for all customer service related to poles. PIE is focusing first on the leasing of space on transmission poles, including the tops of poles for small cell antenna.

PIE is standardizing processes and procedures for HECO-owned poles across all islands and HECO companies, including a four-step process for pole attachment requests: (1) pole identification/confirmation; (2) site design walk to account for surroundings and to minimize complaints; (3) formal pole attachment request (or PAR), which triggers FCC timelines; and (4) make ready design and construction, if needed. Numerous other internal workflows are also required, including new training processes and coordination with other HECO departments.

A PUC pole application approved a year ago transferred HT's ownership in the communications space of 120,000 electric distribution poles to HECO (representing 75% of HECO's poles). An additional 10,000 poles are still jointly owned with the city, county, or state, and HECO is working on plans to offer to buy these interests in early 2020. HECO does the administrative work for all jointly owned and recently transferred poles. HECO is also working, with the assistance of HT, to remove the approximately 16,000 existing double-poles within the required 10-year timeframe.

HECO's current docket before the PUC (Docket No. 2019-0032) requests approval of HECO's distribution pole and Maui streetlight leasing opportunities. The PUC denied HECO's request for approval of a Master License Agreement

template to allow entities to request pole attachments without the need for individual PUC approval. The PUC did, however, approve moving forward on four individually signed agreements by Servpac, Mobilitie, AT&T, and Verizon, and implementing an expedited procedural schedule for these entities. HECO is inviting other entities to negotiate their terms and will offer any resulting substantive terms to the four entities that have signed agreements so that all entities will have substantively the same agreement moving forward.

F. HECO Online Project Notification System

Ms. Whitney provided the following update on HECO's online project notification system database. PIE is still working to confirm pole locations in its database, and with other departments (e.g., pole replacement and power) within their company for input into the database for use in their first leasing opportunity with distribution poles. Additional assets will be added to the system later. HECO will eventually allow third parties access to the system to confirm pole locations and what is on the pole.

G. FirstNet

The following national and state specific updates were provided on the national public safety broadband network (FirstNet).

First Responder Network Authority

Mr. Kenison Tejada, representative for the First Responder Network Authority (Authority) for Hawaii and the Pacific territories, noted that the Authority is the federal agency established in 2012 to create a nationwide interoperable public safety network. Since contracting with AT&T to build the network, the Authority oversees that contract to ensure the optimal network buildout for public safety use. Over the last 6-9 months, the Authority's focus has been to meet with the public safety agencies and other users of the system for feedback to inform FirstNet roadmaps on reinvestments into the system for the duration of the 25-year AT&T FirstNet contract.

AT&T

Ms. Liz Gregg, the local AT&T FirstNet account manager, presented AT&T's PowerPoint update on FirstNet activities and accomplishments:

- Nationwide: 600,000+ FirstNet connections (active lines of service) and 7,250+ public safety agencies signed to use the FirstNet network;
- 75 deployable network assets, including 3 "Flying Cows" (cell on wings); 25% faster FirstNet network speed than carriers' commercial networks, including AT&T's commercial network; 600+ markets with Band 14 spectrum with 50%+ delivered. Mr. Kaneshige noted that while Band 14 was set aside by the FCC for FirstNet and is used primarily for and prioritizes traffic for public safety, it may be used by certain non-public safety traffic when there is excess capacity. Ms. Gregg noted that first responders also have full access and priority on AT&T's commercial network when accessing it through the FirstNet core. For example, first responders are given priority use of AT&T's commercial network and Band 14 for events such as Fourth of July celebrations or the Bruno Mars concert at Aloha stadium where concertgoers used all network bandwidth.

- AT&T's Hawaii opt-in commitments for the first 5 years of the FirstNet contract are:
  - 20 Band 14 new sites. Sites have been identified and are in the planning stage.
  - Band 14 capabilities added to 138 existing sites. 30.4% of sites are on-air (primarily downtown Honolulu to Waikiki).
  - One new AT&T commercial site (Waimea Canyon).
  - Three FirstNet deployables. Maui and Hawaii Island have each received a satellite COW (cell on wheels). Oahu is slated to receive a satellite COWT (cell on white truck) by year end.
  - Island based back-up core solution. This is in process.
- AT&T is currently ahead of schedule for the first 5 years of its 25-year overall FirstNet buildout plan

#### State of Hawaii

Mr. Kaneshige, the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator, highlighted the following State roles and activities:

- Interest is in emergency communications in a broader sense, including ways to integrate a wide variety of devices such as radios (in addition to smartphones that operate on the FirstNet system), systems, and users into a communication process regardless of the source of the initial communication.
- Serving as a resource for the state and county departments on evolving technologies.
- Working with partners, including the E911 board and public safety access point boards, on NG911 to allow citizens to text information including pictures (requiring broadband network capacity).
- Resolving issues related to communications between encrypted and non-encrypted messaging.
- Addressing coverage issues across the islands and in-building coverage.
- Determining governance between state and county on response and communications.

## **IV. Legislative Overview**

The Chair invited any legislative proposals for consideration from the members and participants for the next legislative session. If there is any BAAC consensus proposal, DCCA will work on the proposal with the Governor's office for submittal to the legislature. The Chair then summarized two broadband-related bills that will be carried over from the last legislative session.

### **A. Broadband Grant Program Bill**

House Bill No. 1062, H.D. 1, S.D.1, referred to conference committee, establishes a broadband infrastructure grant program to be administered by DBEDT to extend infrastructure to provide broadband services to unserved and underserved areas. The Chair noted that the house and senate versions of this bill differed with respect to grant qualification speeds and application qualifications. The Chair noted that testimony submitted included DCCA's general support for the measure because of its potential to expand broadband

access; DBEDT's comments and amendments regarding implementation of the program; Charter's support; HT and HECO's general support with comments regarding expansion of the participant pool and other program guidelines. The Chair asked for member and participants' comments on the bill. DBEDT Director Mike McCartney noted that they would work closely with DCCA to ensure alignment with the State's strategic broadband plan. There were no other comments.

**B. Broadband Office Bill**

House Bill No. 533, H.D. 2, S.D.1, referred to conference committee: (1) establishes the Hawaii Broadband Office within the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC); (2) establishes a State Broadband Strategy Officer position; and (3) amends the duties and composition of the BAAC. DCCA was supportive of creating a broadband office given DCCA's more limited role. DBEDT was supportive to the extent that it aligned with DBEDT's policy focus. HTDC was supportive of the Senate version. The Department of Education and the Department of Health were supportive of the bill as a means to improve broadband in the State. The Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii, Oahu Economic Development Board, and the Oahu Committee on Legislative Priorities of Democratic Party of Hawaii also testified in support. The Chair asked for member and participants' comments on a broadband office.

Mr. Ito asked what the charter of the new office would be. Ms. Kim responded that the focus would be a broader one of economic development and planning, which aligned with DBEDT's duties and authority. The Chair noted the progress that had been made by providers as shown by the DCCA report on wireline speeds, and suggested that it would be helpful to have an office with a broader reach which to assist providers with challenges they face. Mr. McCartney noted the economic importance of access to broadband, which, like airports and harbors, connects Hawaii with the rest of the world. He noted the intent would be to have the work of the departments facilitate and compliment the other, within each department's role and expertise, and noted the work being done on an Administration strategic plan before making any policy recommendations.

**C. Other**

The Chair asked if the members or participants had any other comments on legislation, including proposals for the 2020 legislative session. There were none.

**V. Other/Announcements**

- The Chair reminded members and participants that DCCA welcomed any agenda items for consideration by the BAAC.
- The 2018 Report on Wireline Speeds is on the DCCA broadband webpage and the 2019 report will be posted shortly.
- Information regarding the designated WiFi hotspots is also on the DCCA broadband webpage.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.