

MEMORANDUM

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

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Broadband Assistance Advisory Council

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Hawaiian Electric
Hawaiian Telcom

To: Broadband Assistance Advisory Council Members and
Broadband Stakeholders

From: Catherine Awakuni Colón *Catherine P. Awakuni Colón*
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Date: September 30, 2020

Re: Activity Updates

Aloha BAAC members and participants. Once again let me express the Department's appreciation for your willingness to serve on or participate with the Council, as well as for each of your individual efforts to expand broadband access throughout the State. Recent events have highlighted the tremendous need for access to highspeed internet -- from children connecting to online classrooms, to employees connecting for telework, to the sick connecting to online healthcare services, to isolated family and friends connecting with each other. While the capacity of providers to meet the sudden and enormous demands on their systems is laudable, there remain pockets of residents for whom broadband connection remains unavailable, so the challenge continues.

In lieu of a meeting, we have compiled this update on the various efforts being made by BAAC members and participants to address access issues and infrastructure deployment. As always, we remain open to all of your thoughts on priorities, funding, and activities that may continue to advance our State's broadband goals. Please also inform us of your interest in any other specific items or issues for the next BAAC meeting or memorandum update.

I. DCCA Broadband Activity Update

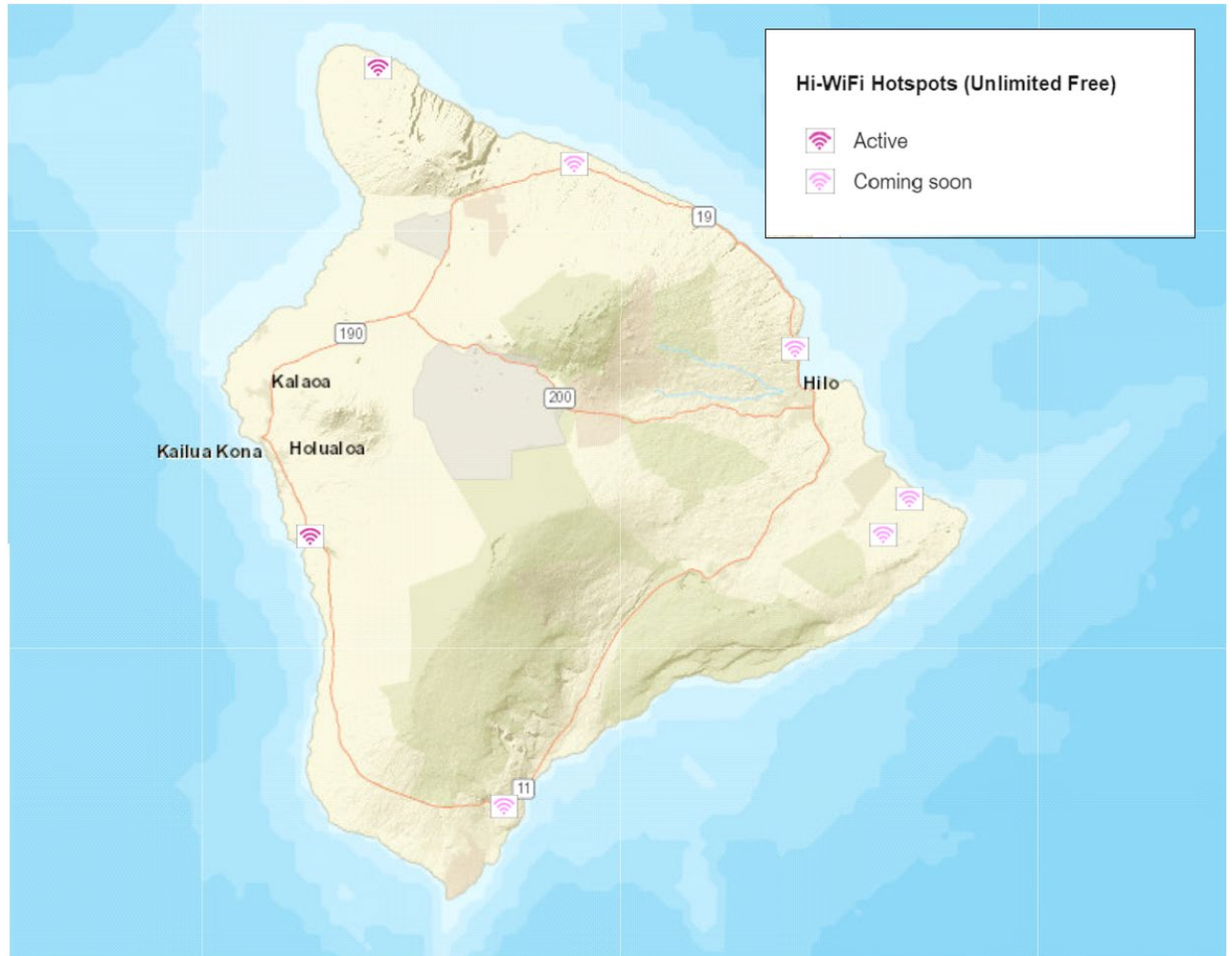
A. Hi-WiFi Pilot Project

Hi-WiFi is a DCCA pilot project in partnership with the County of Hawaii to evaluate the feasibility and cost of providing residents with free internet access at government locations. Our thanks again to Hawaii County and its Department of Information Technology, led by BAAC member Jules Ung, for their efforts in implementing the project.

The 7 pilot sites selected with County input 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: The hotspots in Captain Cook (at Yano Hall) and Kapaau (at the Kohala Senior Center) are now available to the public, and the remaining 5 hotspots are being installed and should be available soon. The WiFi hotspots will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily.



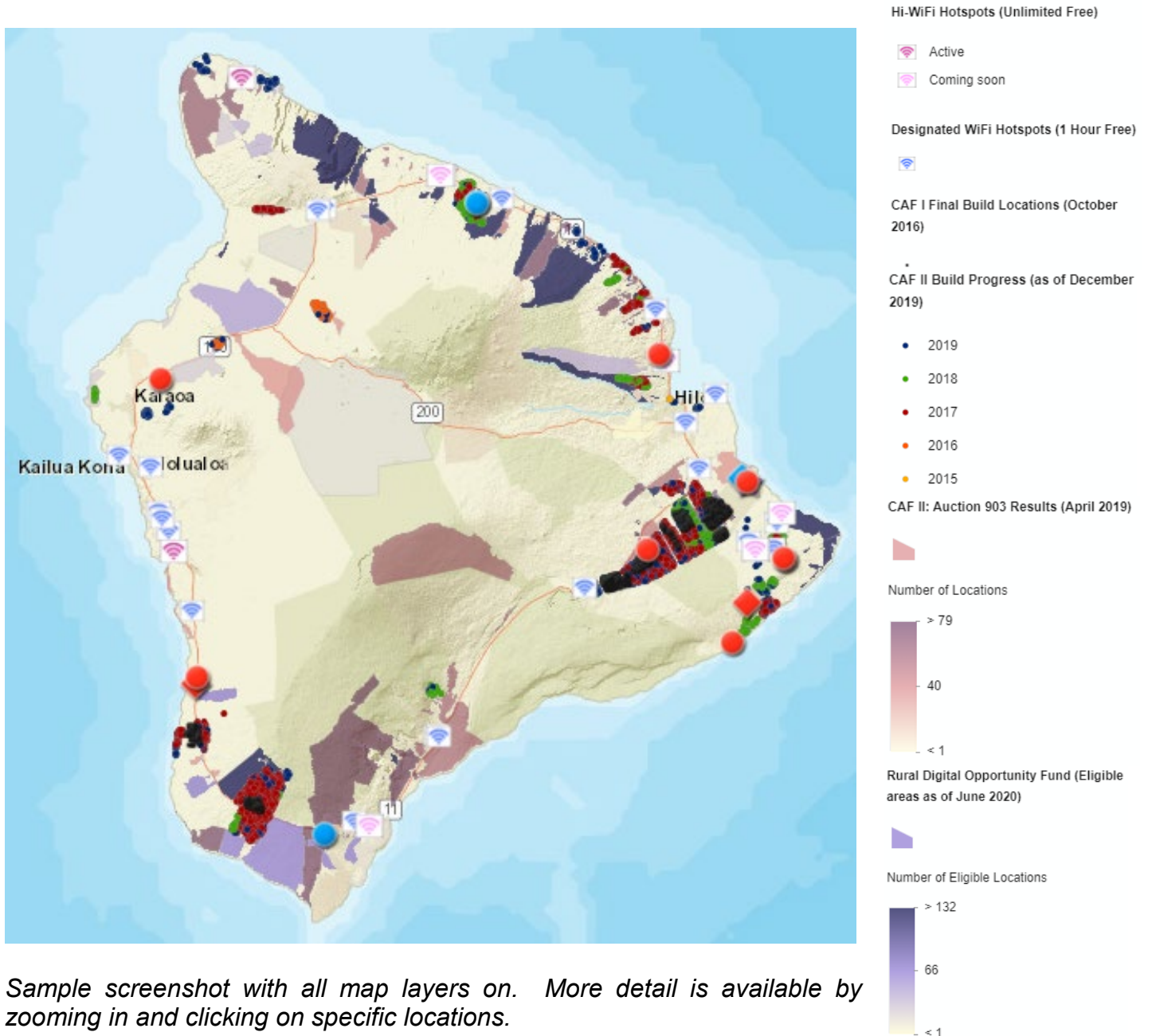
Hawaii County IT will be providing usage data for activated hotspots. DCCA hopes to use this pilot as a model to partner with the County of Maui and the County of Kauai to implement similar projects, subject to available funding.

B. “No Internet Service Map” Tool

DCCA created a “No Internet Service Map” tool to provide more information to stakeholders on unserved areas. This tool allows residents to report: (1) no available wireline (cable, DSL, or fiber) internet service at their home location; (2) whether there is wireline availability nearby; and (3) whether they have cellular service, and if so, the available cellular coverages at their location. The tool maps the user’s location and shows the information reported.

This tool is available at: <http://cca.hawaii.gov/broadband/no-internet-service-map/>

- UPDATE:** New map layers, which may be clicked on and off, have been added to show:
- (1) The Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) Connect America Fund (CAF) awarded and built locations and eligible areas under the FCC’s CAF successor program, the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF);
 - (2) DCCA’s designated locations for Spectrum Oceanic WiFi hotspots (offering 1 hour of free service per device per day); and
 - (3) Hi-WiFi pilot project hotspots that provide (or will soon provide) free, unlimited WiFi access at seven county facilities in underserved areas around Hawaii Island.



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

C. New “Internet Speed Map” Tool

DCCA developed the “Internet Speed Map” tool to allow residents to report their home wireline internet speeds to create a crowd-sourced map. This tool was launched in June 2020, and is available at: <http://cca.hawaii.gov/broadband/speedmap/>



This tool supplements the data provided through DCCA’s issued 2018 and 2019 reports on fixed wireline speeds in the State using data obtained from Ookla, proprietor of Speedtest.net. The reports provide publicly accessible information to identify unserved and underserved areas in the State and to evaluate the speed and quality of existing Internet services offered, for use in facilitating broadband infrastructure deployment and measuring advancements made. The reports are available at: <http://cca.hawaii.gov/broadband/>

D. State-Designated Spectrum Oceanic WiFi Hotspots

DCCA has designated the location of 100 new Spectrum Oceanic WiFi hotspots as part of its approval of the transfer of the Oceanic Time Warner Cable franchises in the State from Time Warner Cable to Charter Communications. These designated Spectrum Oceanic hotspots are at public parks, civic and other community centers, and other public open areas and gathering places, and offer 1 hour of free WiFi service per device per day. DCCA worked with stakeholders and Spectrum Oceanic to identify 100 sites primarily in unserved and underserved rural areas where there is greater need for access, but also available infrastructure for the hotspots.

UPDATE: As of April 1, 2020, all 100 sites were designated, installed, and activated. Designations by island are as follows:

Kauai:	20 hotspots
Oahu:	10 hotspots
Molokai:	18 hotspots (10 @ Kalaupapa)
Lanai:	2 hotspots
Maui:	15 hotspots
Hawaii Island:	35 hotspots

A full list of locations is included with this memorandum as *Appendix 1*. A full list and maps of the designated hotspot locations, by island, may also be found on the DCCA broadband webpage at: <http://cca.hawaii.gov/broadband/dcca-designated-wifi-hotspots/>.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and taking the FCC's Keep America Connected pledge, Spectrum Oceanic provided free, unlimited public access to all of its WiFi hotspots, including these designated hotspots, from mid-March through the end of June 2020. Spectrum Oceanic provided usage data on the designated hotspots for the period from March 20, 2020 to July 20, 2020, summarized below:

AP Location (# of Aps)	Total # of connected devices 3/20-6/20	Total # of sessions	Connection sessions @ 15-30 min***	Connection sessions @ 1-15 min***	Total # of users	Free access users	1st time users	Daily users	Weekly users	Monthly users
Hawaii Island (35)	6,372	61,308	9,680	41,059	6,971	1,412	1,339	1,336	1,578	1,774
Kalaupapa (10)	103	10,762	1,844	4,665	133	21	3	80	11	8
Kauai (20)	4,266	54,476	8,006	39,086	5,045	817	542	1,786	1,183	639
Lanai (2)	97	1,739	230	1,428	106	24	25	41	19	12
Maui (15)	2,629	19,344	2,944	12,536	2,891	366	612	416	570	785
Molokai (8)	648	17,906	3,281	11,851	783	300	104	248	167	105
Oahu (10)	7,376	39,080	4,770	27,460	8,088	196	2,843	999	1,583	1,838
TOTAL (100)	21,491	204,615	30,755	138,085	24,017	3,136	5,468	4,906	5,111	5,161

***Sessions measured at intervals of ≤ 1 min; 1-15 min; 15-30 min; 30-60 min; 1-2 hrs; 2-6 hrs; and ≥ 6 hrs. Intervals summarized here are generally the most used intervals.

II. BAAC Member/Participant Activity Update

A. Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF II) – HT Awards

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: Mr. Daniel Masutomi provided a CAF update, dated August 12, 2020, included with this memorandum as *Appendix 2*.

B. Hawaii Broadband Initiative (HBI) – Transpacific Fiber Optic Cable Landing Project

As part of the HBI, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) is working on the Transpacific Fiber Optic Cable Landing Project, an initiative to build a secure, carrier neutral, open access cable landing station for transpacific fiber.

UPDATE: In August 2020, DBEDT submitted an HBI grant application to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), a bureau within the U.S. Department of Commerce, for the funding of cable landing infrastructure on four islands, Kauai, Oahu, Maui and Hawaii. The request for funding was made under an EDA disaster program to

provide federal investment assistance to communities and regions to devise and implement long-term economic recovery strategies through non-construction and construction projects to address economic challenges in areas where a Presidential declaration of a major disaster was issued as a result of hurricanes, wildfires, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and other natural disasters occurring in calendar year 2018, and tornadoes and floods occurring in calendar year 2019. Award is being made on a rolling basis as funds remain available under the program.

C. Hawaii Island Fiber Gap

Hawaii Island's fiber infrastructure gap extends from Volcano Village to Pahala. Completion of the Hawaii Electric Light Company's 3400 line rebuild project through the Volcanoes National Park will supply the poles needed for service providers to bridge that fiber gap.

UPDATE: Christian Whitney, Director of the Pole Infrastructure Enterprise at Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO), provided the following update:

- 3400 line rebuild segment on the Kau side of the national park is complete.
- 3400 line rebuild segment on the golf course (Hilo) side is 95% complete.
- 3400 line segment in the middle of the two above will start in September and be completed in November 2020.
- When the above three segments are done, the new pole line will facilitate fiber attachments through HECO's Pole Attachment Program between the golf course and the Kau end of the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Carriers have indicated this was enough for them to close the fiber gap.

D. Other HECO Infrastructure Programs

HECO has other infrastructure programs that may help to facilitate the extension of broadband infrastructure and access across the State.

UPDATE: Ms. Whitney provided the following updates on HECO's programs and activities:

1. HECO's Pole Attachment Program. HECO continues to execute telecommunications pole attachment requests, despite COVID 19 and work-from-home orders. A majority of carriers participate in bi-weekly meetings with HECO's pole attachment team to run through current requests, and share updates, concerns, or future needs. HECO continues to refine its billing process and can now accept up-front larger dollars from each carrier in order to establish a draw-down account as individual processing charges and annual rents come due. Please contact Christian Whitney, Director of Business Development, for more information.
2. HECO's Pole Attachment Database. Today, the core database for tracking pole attachment requests is in place utilizing a temporary standalone database with limited automation. HECO continues to establish processes, define responsibilities and make sure those processes are integrated into regular operations. Once complete, HECO will begin to evaluate what steps in the process can be enhanced by full automation in the short term, followed by assessing full automation for long-term needs.
3. HECO's Role as Infrastructure Provider. HECO continues to enhance its pole attachment business model by looking into new and innovative ways the Company could lease other available infrastructure &/or HECO-owned land to carriers interested

in deploying telecommunications & broadband services in Hawaii. HECO is currently in negotiations with several carriers and welcomes the opportunity to discuss innovative solutions with anyone interested. Please contact Christian Whitney, Director of Business Development for more information.

4. HECO's Pole Attachment Audit, Pursuant to Section 12.4 of the License Agreement for Pole Attachments. HECO is in the process of evaluating bids for its pole attachment audit, which was issued on August 6, 2020. This audit will identify all telecom attachments mainly on HECO's distribution poles. This will provide all carriers & HECO with the most up-to-date details and photos of their attachments, some of which have not been documented in decades. All carriers will be invited to provide feedback, participate & approve the audit results as they are provided. Thereafter, HECO will be seeking proportionate reimbursement from each carrier with existing attachments.

III. Legislative Update

The following bills were debated during this year's abbreviated legislative session:

A. Broadband Grant Program Bill - S.B. No. 2527, S.D.2, H.D.1

This bill sought to establish a broadband infrastructure grant program administered by DBEDT to extend infrastructure to provide broadband service to unserved and underserved areas of the State. This measure did not receive a hearing in its penultimate House committee (Finance).

B. Hawaii Broadband Office – H.B. No. 2264, H.D.1 and S.B. No. 2546, S.D.1

H.B. No. 2264, as introduced, sought to establish an executive office on broadband development within the Office of the Governor and a broadband advisory council to promote statewide access to broadband services, but was amended by the House Committees on Economic Development and Business and Intrastate Commerce to instead provide funding to DBEDT for cable landing infrastructure development. S.B. No. 2546, S.D.1, sought to establish a broadband office within the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation. Neither bill passed out of their respective chamber.