



THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

**Annual Report on the  
(1) Development and Expansion of Telework Initiatives  
and  
(2) Receipt and Expenditure of Federal Moneys  
Related to Broadband**

CABLE TELEVISION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE OF HAWAII

Submitted December 2018

## **Annual Report on the Development and Expansion of Telework Initiatives**

This report is filed pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) section 440G-11.5(b), which requires the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to submit an annual report to the Legislature “on the department’s efforts to use broadband and its products and services to develop and expand telework initiatives, including telework participation levels and trends of both private and public sector employees in Hawaii.”

DCCA has convened the Broadband Assistance Advisory Council (BAAC) as required under Act 199, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2010. Pursuant to Act 199, as amended by Act 151, SLH 2011, the BAAC is to advise the Director on, among other things, “policy and funding priorities to promote and encourage use of telework alternatives for public and private employees” and other states’ best practices involving telework promotion and policies. The BAAC formed an Adoption Work Group to address broadband adoption. Although the Adoption Work Group discussed telework as a potential solution to increase broadband adoption, the work group members advised that efforts would be best spent on removing barriers to adoption across the State and promoting broadband use through applications.

In addition to those efforts, DCCA makes information and links to other state and federal telework “best practices” available on its Cable Television Division’s broadband webpage to promote and encourage the use of telework alternatives for both public and private employees. These resources are available at <http://cca.hawaii.gov/broadband/> for both government agencies and private businesses.

## **Annual Report on the Receipt and Expenditure of Federal Moneys Related to Broadband**

This report is filed pursuant to HRS section 440G-11.5(c), which requires the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to report annually to the Legislature on the receipt and expenditure of federal moneys from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and moneys from other federal appropriation measures or applicable federal acts for broadband facilities, services, equipment, or projects. Final receipt of moneys from the ARRA for broadband-related projects occurred in 2015. DCCA is unaware of any subsequent significant grants of federal moneys to state agencies for these purposes.

However, state agencies may access certain ongoing funding programs, including, most significantly, the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Schools and Libraries Universal Support Program. Commonly known as the "E-rate program," this program helps schools and libraries obtain affordable broadband. The FCC's website provides the following information regarding the E-rate program:

Eligible schools, school districts and libraries may apply individually or as part of a consortium. Funding may be requested under two categories of service: category one services to a school or library (telecommunications, telecommunications services and Internet access), and category two services that deliver Internet access within schools and libraries (internal connections, basic maintenance of internal connections, and managed internal broadband services). Discounts for support depend on the level of poverty and whether the school or library is located in an urban or rural area. The discounts range from 20 percent to 90 percent of the costs of eligible services. E-rate program funding is based on demand up to an annual Commission-established cap of \$3.9 billion.

The E-rate program is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company under the direction of the FCC. Specifically, USAC is responsible for processing the applications for support, confirming eligibility, and reimbursing service providers and eligible schools and libraries for the discounted services. USAC also ensures that the applicants and service providers comply with the E-rate rules and procedures established by the Commission.

On December 11, 2014, the FCC took the next step in modernizing the E-rate program, by adopting the Second E-rate Modernization Order (see Order Summary), which sets out to maximize options for schools and libraries seeking to purchase high-speed broadband and adjusting the E-rate spending cap.

According to USAC, for funding year 2017 (July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018), the Hawaii State Department of Education and various state public charter schools were awarded the following amounts through the E-rate program:

Department of Education:	\$4,814,460.18
State Public Charter Schools:	<u>\$234,300.12</u>
Total:	\$5,048,760.30