



THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
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**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

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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.”

The DCCA convened the Broadband Assistance Advisory Council (BAAC) as required under Act 199, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2010, as amended by Act 151, SLH 2011, 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’s Adoption Work Group, formed shortly thereafter, advised at that time that efforts would be best spent on removing barriers to adoption across the State and promoting broadband use through applications. To promote and encourage the use of telework alternatives for public and private employees, however, the DCCA provided information and links to other state and federal telework “best practices” on its Cable Television Division’s broadband webpage at cca.hawaii.gov/broadband/.

The COVID-19 pandemic drove the significant shift that began in fiscal year (FY) 2020 by both public and private employers to offer and use telework alternatives to keep their employees safe, help prevent the spread of the virus, and address workforce retention and hiring issues. With the unpredictability of possible surges in COVID-19 cases because of evolving new variants, state agencies were given the flexibility to continue to offer telework to keep their employees safe. The COVID-19 Interim Telework Exceptions Guide that the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) issued to all departments on March 17, 2020, remained in effect in FY 2022.

Amendments to the 2010 Telework Program Guidelines are being made, taking into consideration the recommendations and best practices of other government agencies gleaned from the “Work Where You Live” (WWYL) study, completed in 2021, that DHRD participated in and lessons learned over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. The WWYL study was conducted through a partnership between the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD), DHRD, and the City and County of Honolulu’s Department of Transportation Services, and was funded in part through the City and County of Honolulu’s Department of Transportation Services; the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization; and grants from the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

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 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.

Other federal moneys received for broadband facilities, services, equipment, or projects in FY 2021 included the following:

1. Schools and Libraries Universal Support Program (via Federal Communication Commission (FCC))

Under this program (commonly referred to as the “E-rate program”), eligible schools, school districts and libraries may apply for funding 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, range from 20 percent to 90 percent of the costs of eligible services, depend on the service area level of poverty and its urban or rural classification. E-rate program funding is based on demand up to an annual Commission-established cap of \$4.15 billion.

The E-rate program is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under the direction of the FCC. According to USAC, for funding year 2021 (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022), the Hawaii State Department of Education, various state public charter schools, and the Hawaii State Public Library System were awarded the following amounts through the E-rate program¹:

Department of Education:	\$ 25,817,277.60
State Public Charter Schools:	\$ 656,585.74
Hawaii State Public Library System:	<u>\$ 592,104.74</u>
Total:	\$ 27,065,968.08

¹ Listed amounts are based on USAC’s reporting procedures, and the release schedule of funding waves in each funding year may not always align with the State’s FY.

2. Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (via U.S. Department of the Treasury)

The University of Hawaii (UH) expended \$37,908.11 (\$31,100 salary, \$5,152.05 fringe, \$1,656.06 travel), under the administrative funds sub-awarded to UH by the Department of Budget and Finance (B&F). These funds covered UH's oversight and management of inter-island system site surveys and preliminary design project for broadband infrastructure, and broadband program research and support for its broadband program office.

3. Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (via U.S. Department of the Treasury)

UH expended \$432,708.52 in sub awarded funds from B&F relating to broadband infrastructure. These funds were an initial disbursement for a contract with Ocean Networks for inter-island submarine fiber optic system landing site surveys and preliminary system design.

4. Various Funding – Department of Health (DOH)

The DOH received various telehealth related funds, including the following federal funds listed by DOH program:

Amount	Funding Source	Period of Funding	Program Receiving Funding	Program Activities
\$600,000/year	Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)	6/1/03-5/31/24	Genomics Section	Support purchase of equipment and genetic counseling services by telehealth to the neighbor island families, including the development of family resources to access telehealth for the University of Hawaii Pacific Basin Telehealth Resource Center.
\$250,000 Multi-state project	CARES ACT funding (via HRSA and the Association of Maternal Child Programs)	10/1/20 – 4/30/21	Genomics Section	Develop family support and resources to learn about telehealth and use it well.

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\$5,000,000	ARPA (via CDC)	6/1/21 – 5/31/23	Genomics Section	Support the Library Telehealth Access Project which funds health and digital navigators to work in 15 state libraries across the state in underserved areas to help individuals/families learn how to access on-line health information and telehealth visits; and funds mobile clinic vans and community health workers on each island which will allow telehealth to be done in the library parking lot, community sites, or even a patient's home.
\$600,000	Public Health Service Act, Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021, CRRSAA - Grant to address COVID-19 health disparities among high-risk and underserved populations	6/1/21 – 5/31/23	FHSD - Office of Primary Care and Rural Health	Incorporate COVID-19 health care information into Project ECHO Hawaii's clinical series (behavioral health, geriatric medicine, pediatric care), as guidelines, recommendations, and best practices evolve during this public health emergency.
\$805,291	Same as above	6/1/21 – 5/31/23	FHSD - Office of Primary Care and Rural Health	Rural Equity for Advancing Community Health (REACH) telehealth pilot to increase understanding/utilization of telehealth technologies to improve healthcare access in rural and medically underserved areas, including training Community Health Workers/students as telehealth navigators to conduct home visits and support seniors in accessing healthcare, and providing tablets, laptops, and mobile hotspots as needed.