



“Supporting knowledge work doesn’t degrade our environment, brings in well-paying jobs, and strengthens our economy. Having world-class broadband capabilities that allow us to transmit everywhere in the world is crucial to attracting and retaining that knowledge work.”

—Richard Lim
Director, Department of Business,
Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT)

6.4 PROGRAM: HAWAII BROADBAND INITIATIVE (HBI)



Objective: Provide all Hawaii residents with ultra-high-speed, affordable, and reliable broadband services by 2018.

Description: Broadband modernization is extremely important to the State — especially as the State increases its broadband consumption and looks to attract global businesses to strengthen Hawaii’s economy. During 2012–2014 OIMT partnered with various departments, including the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT), to improve the State’s underlying infrastructure for broadband to increase broadband performance for both Hawaiian residents and businesses.

As part of the State’s broadband modernization efforts, OIMT has been:

- Working with network and cable providers to establish more infrastructure and faster speeds at affordable prices
- Partnering with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to negotiate more available infrastructure on Neighbor Islands through cable franchise agreements
- Negotiating for new fiber optic cables to be established in Hawaii
- Upgrading the State’s network to accommodate faster broadband speeds
- Securing new funding for broadband upgrades — the Legislature recently approved \$20M to fund the Transpacific Fiber Optic Cable Landing Site project
- Planning for future increased broadband needs and studying the availability of wireline and wireless broadband services statewide

Impact: As a result of improvements to infrastructure for broadband — connections are now faster, more reliable, and more affordable for residents and businesses, and interisland connections have improved. Provider upgrades to broadband have also improved capacity — with the State moving from 3G access to 4G LTE access.

OIMT continues to analyze the current state of broadband infrastructure for ubiquitous, affordable access for Hawaii residents by 2018.

Related Projects and Initiatives:

Broadband Mapping Study

OIMT worked with DCCA who conducted a mapping study for broadband connectivity to show where there were connectivity capabilities and where there were not, and to identify areas that have been underserved with unreliable connectivity. The study also analyzed interisland connections. It was the first time that such extensive broadband information had been gathered together, documented, and compiled into one place.

University of Hawaii Funding Grant

The University of Hawaii (UH) received a grant to provide faster, more reliable broadband coverage to all public schools and libraries in the state, partnering with OIMT and the Department of Education (DOE) on the initiative. As a result of the funding, 300+ additional community access points (e.g., schools and libraries) were provided with high-speed internet connectivity.

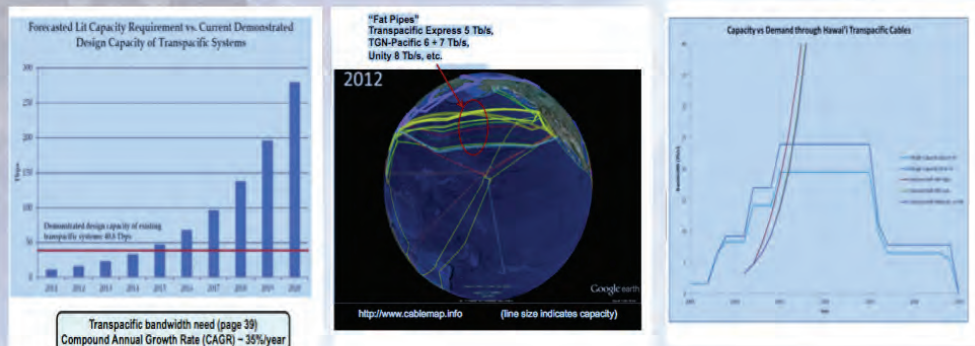
Public Library Laptop Program

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) is launching a laptop checkout program to provide all Hawaiian residents access to a computer and the Internet.

Hawaii Broadband Strategic Plan

OIMT’s Chief Strategy Officer for Broadband and Telecommunications co-authored this plan with DCCA, the Pacific Disaster Center and the HBI Program Executive.

The Importance of Broadband to Hawaii

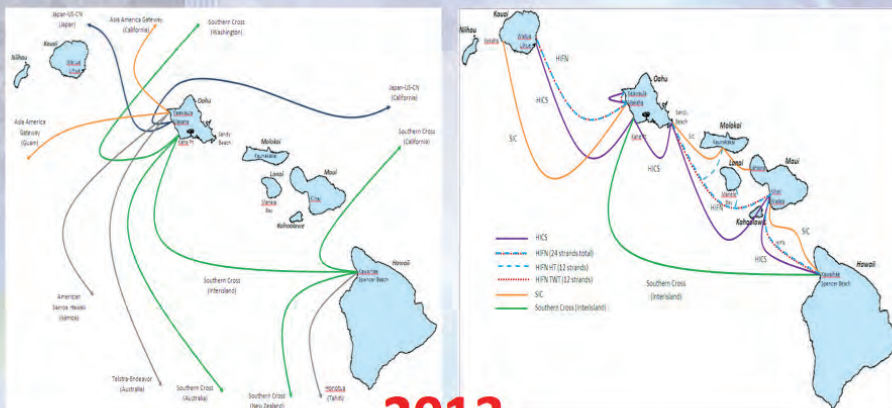


Source: HBI – Trans-Pacific Landing Site Briefing to Legislature FY 2013 – Mike Vitale and Joel Ogren/Johns Hopkins University Advanced Physics Laboratory (JHUAPL)

What is HBI?

Transpacific Connectivity
6 transpacific submarine fiber cable systems provide most of the State's connectivity

Inter-Island Connectivity
6 Interisland Cable Systems



Difficult on-shore and off-shore fiber facilities and conditions.

