



February 20th, 2018

Honorable Roy M. Takumi
Chair, House Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee
House District 35
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 320
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Honorable Linda Ichiyama
Vice Chair, House Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee
House District 32
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 327
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Support Intent HB 2651 HD1 – Wireless Broadband Facilities

Dear Chairman Takumi and Vice Chair Ichiyama,

On behalf of CTIA, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I am writing to express support for HB 2651 HD1. While we support the intent of the bill, there are some extremely problematic provisions that have been amended into the bill that we have significant concerns with. We would respectfully request these provisions be removed.

HB 2651 HD1 rightfully recognizes the importance of wireless to the people of Hawaii and the need for wireless providers to be able to update and upgrade their network infrastructure to accommodate demand and ready the networks for the next generation of wireless services. Notably, the deployment of small broadband facilities – commonly known as small cells – will be an important component of these next generation wireless networks.

However, the amendments added to HB 2651 severely restrict the size volumetrics of what constitutes a small cell. The proposed definition of six cubic feet has not been adopted anywhere in the country. Additionally, such a provision would effectively create Hawaii-specific wireless infrastructure requirements, thereby, potentially precluding wireless deployment of small cells in Hawaii.

Additionally, an amendment was added to HB 2651 that would sunset the entire Act in 2020. This provision is also extremely problematic. While there are limited 5G trials occurring across the country today, it is expected that widespread commercial deployment will be occurring in 2019 and beyond. By repealing the Act in 2020, Hawaii risks depriving itself of full 5G deployment and its benefits.



In closing, CTIA and its members support the intent of HB 2651 HD1, but have significant concerns with recent amendments. We look forward to working with the sponsor to find an appropriate path forward.

Sincerely,

Bethanne Cooley
Senior Director, State Legislative Affairs
CTIA