

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: University of Hawaii

Project Title: Hawaii Broadband Initiative: Public Computing Centers

Project Type: Public Computer Center

Executive Summary

The December 2008 Hawaii Broadband Task Force Report to the Governor and Legislature recommended that "Government lead by example in demonstrating the value of broadband to our citizenry, deploying broadband services to the public, and ensuring that we do not leave behind the economically disadvantaged members of our communities who may be inhibited from full participation in the 21st century."

The Community TeleStructure Initiative's "Fiber to the Library" - F2L positions the library as the "Community Technology Hub" with three key roles. These roles, Early Adopter, Face of E-gov and First Responder are all vital components of the range of services that public computing centers can offer.

Broadband networks and access to the Internet have become an essential component of today's public library and educational services. At a time when millions of people have been laid off and have had to make do with less, many have no Internet access and others have had to give up their home Internet service subscriptions. Because many employers are publishing job openings and accepting applications only via the Internet, the newly-unemployed, the newly disenfranchised, and others who traditionally have had no private access to the Internet are increasingly looking to public computer centers in libraries and community colleges for this access. With restricted budgets, health care and public safety agencies are also increasingly promoting digital technologies to educate and inform the public about health and safety issues. All of these driving forces will rapidly shift the demand for increased broadband and public Internet access from a "nice to have" to a "must have" service for all our citizens to not only survive but thrive in this global community.

The Hawaii Broadband Initiative, through complementary Education and Library Infrastructure and Public Computing Centers proposals will provide a minimum 1Gbps connection in every one of the 51 public libraries and 287 public schools on all islands of the State of Hawaii, and a minimum of 10Gbps connection to 23 public higher education facilities on all islands. The proposal will also incubate wireless capabilities in all libraries and provide broadband training in communities on all islands, as well

as establish modern inter-operable distance learning capabilities for all higher education locations to advance workforce development and the educational capital of the State.

The University of Hawaii, Hawaii State Public Library System and Hawaii State Department of Education all have extensive experience with all the networking and personal computer technologies required to implement both the Public Computing Centers and the companion Hawaii Broadband Initiative: Education and Library Infrastructure proposal. By agreement of all partners and the Hawaii Governor's Office, the University is the lead institution and works to ensure a comprehensive statewide approach that uniquely defines these two inter-related proposals from all others. To the extent any individual center may face a particular challenge, it will have full access both to its own statewide parent organization as well as to the full resources of this collaborative partnership to ensure success.

The 2008 census estimates the population for the State of Hawaii to be 1,299,198.

The overall cost of the project is estimated at \$1,533,250.00.