



**Hawaiian Telcom**

— since 1883 —



**For Immediate Release**

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**Hawaiian Telcom Launching \$87 Million Fiber Broadband Infrastructure Project  
*\$37 Million Federal Grant and \$50 Million Company Investment in Hawai'i***

Honolulu, Hawai'i (June 19, 2023) – Hawaiian Telcom announced an \$87 million fiber broadband project to expand middle mile infrastructure throughout the state. The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) awarded Hawaiian Telcom \$37 million from a highly competitive grant and the company will be providing \$50 million in matching funds and in-kind contributions. In addition to this middle mile project, Hawaiian Telcom has already invested more than a billion dollars since 2011, \$500 million in just the last five years, to expand and support fiber broadband access to the people of Hawai'i.

This NTIA grant is part of the Biden-Harris Administration's Investing in America program and the Internet for All Initiative. More than 260 grant applications were submitted in late 2022 and more than 30 grant recipients were awarded \$930 million for the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program. Hawaiian Telcom was the only Hawai'i recipient of the grant, which invests in building regional networks that connect to national Internet networks.

"Hawaiian Telcom has been instrumental in keeping Hawai'i connected to the world since 1883 and this project is an example of our continued commitment to Hawai'i," said Su Shin, President & General Manager of Hawaiian Telcom. "It will expand broadband access across the islands, unlocking limitless potential for innovation, education, telehealth, collaboration, and so much more. We look forward to partnering with our federal, state, and county governments to achieve digital equity for all of Hawai'i. I am very proud of our team for developing a comprehensive and innovative plan to expand fiber broadband infrastructure across the Hawaiian islands that met the NTIA's stringent criteria."

Middle mile infrastructure carries large amounts of data over long distances, increases capacity to local networks, boosts network resiliency, and helps connect unserved regions to the Internet backbone. Hawaiian Telcom's \$87 million project will build 15 new middle mile fiber routes, over land and undersea to better connect the islands.

"Everyone in Hawai'i should have access to high-speed internet," said Senator Brian Schatz, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. "This new funding will give us the resources we need to remain connected to each other and the world by expanding broadband

infrastructure between islands and across the state, and help make sure more families and small businesses can get affordable, dependable high-speed internet service.”

“Isolated in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, Hawai‘i is uniquely dependent on the trans-Pacific fiber optic cable to provide the first mile, or backbone, of our access to the Internet,” said Congressman Ed Case. “The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that I supported made possible the funding that will now help connect that backbone to the next ‘middle mile’ infrastructure that is critical to full buildout of an advanced network to serve people throughout our state in both urban and rural communities. This grant is especially key to ensuring that broadband connectivity is also accessible to the unserved and underserved so that they, too, can connect to the global network that is an essential part of our daily life.”

“Digital equity is a critical right for everyone in Hawai‘i, especially for our neighbor islands and the rural communities in my congressional district,” said Congresswoman Jill Tokuda. “It’s about access and affordability. The infrastructure expansions funded by this grant will help our residents to access essential services like telehealth and education, and strengthen the resiliency of our networks so that our families remain connected even through natural disasters.”

“Our top priority is to create positive change in Hawai‘i. We need reliable internet connectivity for all residents, from keiki to kūpuna, wherever they reside in Hawai‘i, so they can access all the opportunities and benefits that broadband can offer,” said Governor Josh Green, M.D. “As a state, we are working hard to increase digital equity and are grateful to all of our industry partners for their continued investment to expand more fiber infrastructure statewide and for aggressively pursuing federal support.”

“As an island state, building reliable middle mile broadband infrastructure is critical to ensuring high-speed connectivity for Hawai‘i’s communities. The NTIA grant is a huge step towards bridging gaps in connectivity, so that every community – unserved and underserved, rural or urban, can access reliable internet,” said Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke. “I look forward to working closely with Hawaiian Telcom to see this project forward to improve our state’s broadband resiliency.”

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law includes a historic \$65 billion investment to expand affordable and reliable high-speed Internet access in communities across the U.S.

For more information about Hawaiian Telcom’s NTIA grant, please [click here](#).

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### **About Hawaiian Telcom**

*This year, Hawaiian Telcom celebrates its 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Established by King David Kalākaua in 1883, Hawaiian Telcom carries on its commitment to innovation and digital equity for Hawai‘i residents and businesses. The company’s expanding future-proof, energy-efficient*

*fiber network across the Hawaiian Islands, including rural neighbor island communities, supports access to an array of communication services and business solutions. For more information, visit [hawaiiantel.com](http://hawaiiantel.com).*