STAND. COM. REP. NO. <u>1494</u> Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2021

RE: S.B. No. 135 S.D. 2 H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-First State Legislature Regular Session of 2021 State of Hawaii Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 135, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require the Office of Enterprise Technology Services to:

- (1) Establish a working group to conduct a study to identify state office buildings that are able to provide equitable telecommunication access to allow residents of the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui, and residents of rural areas in the City and County of Honolulu, including residents with disabilities, to participate remotely in legislative hearings; and
- (2) Submit a report of its findings and recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the Legislature prior to the 2022 Regular Session.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Enterprise Technology Services. Your Committee finds that the devastating effects of the coronavirus disease 19 pandemic highlighted the need for remote work and learning capabilities. In addition the pandemic changed the way people interact with government and each other. This measure will assist in making legislative hearings more accessible to residents throughout the State, particularly residents in rural areas and residents with disabilities, thus enabling opportunities for greater citizen participation in the legislative process.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 135, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

MARK M. NAKASHIMA, Chair