



Opportunities and Challenges for First-mile Development in Rural Hawaiian Communities

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Broadband in Rural Hawai'i

- Little studied area
 - ICTs and broadband in Hawai'i
- Hawaii as a unique context
 - Native Hawaiians as an indigenous group
 - Rural populations are disproportionately Native Hawaiian
 - Geographic isolation (7 inhabited islands)

Moving forward: Island of Hawai'i

- The Island of Hawai'i's low population density, scattered populations, two active volcanoes, and rugged terrain make broadband provision difficult (Hawaii Broadband Strategic Plan, 2012).
- Statewide mapping project has led to several areas with reports of no broadband (complicated by maps that reflect broadband in partially-served census blocks). Many others underserved.
 - e.g., Honomakau (population: ~375), reports of high-cost satellite Internet (actual throughput unknown, but limited data suggest well below 768kbps).
- Next step: travel to unserved/underserved communities on the Island of Hawai'i to investigate the perspectives of Native Hawaiians living in rural and remote communities.



Hawaii (Big Island)

