
The mission of the Hawaii Information Network Corporation (HAWAII INC) is to promote the development of an information industry in the state of Hawaii by:

...encouraging public and private efforts to develop information resources: data bases, commercial videotex, and other information applications

...enabling private information providers to attach to the State of Hawaii information gateway

...facilitating users' access to service through the information gateway

...supporting public and private efforts to create and sustain a business climate favorable to the information industry

...stimulating and promoting cooperative research projects and other activities.

Board of Directors

A nine member board of directors governs HAWAII INC. Six are appointed by the Governor of Hawaii; three (the Director of Finance, the Director of Business and Economic Development, and the President of the University of Hawaii) serve ex officio. The board members are:

Warren H. Haruki, Chair
Vice President, External Affairs,
GTE Hawaiian Tel

Bettina Lum, Esq., Vice Chair
Partner, Okamoto, Himeno & Lum

Dr. Meheroo Jussawalla
Research Associate, East-West Center

Sandra Ohara
President, Data Tel & Power, Inc.

Robert Ota
Consultant, Agri-business

Ex Officio

Dr. Albert Simone
President, University of Hawaii

Yukio Takemoto
Director of Finance, State of Hawaii

Roger A. Ulveling
Director of Business and Economic
Development, State of Hawaii

Executive Director
Arthur F. Koga

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HAWAII INC

The information industry is comprised of businesses that create, broker and otherwise process information to add value to basic data then make that information accessible to prospective users. The Information Industry Association of America estimates that such businesses annually generate more than three billion dollars in revenue.

The industry is in its infancy. The revolutionary changes emerging in telecommunications and information technologies promise to make the processing and sale of information a major factor in economic development in the coming decades.

Hawaii intends to be an important player in the field. In the 1980's state government leaders envisioned the possibility of combining Hawaii's unique geographical location and multicultural population with a state-of-the-art public telecommunications infrastructure to make the state a major information center for the Pacific region. It was this vision that led to the passage of the Hawaii Telecommunications and Information Act by the 1988 Hawaii State Legislature.

The law charged the state's Department of Budget and Finance with creating a high speed digital microwave communications network that would link the major Hawaiian islands. The network would provide voice communications as well as image processing and distributed computing capabilities and the use of video conference centers, all with the aim of improving service to the public and upgrading the efficiency and effectiveness of government programs. The law also provided for the establishment of the Hawaii Information Network Corporation, or HAWAII INC, to assist in meeting the challenge of making Hawaii the information center of the Pacific.

A primary task of HAWAII INC is to promote the start-up of information businesses that provide such services as online data bases and commercial videotex applications. Another is to encourage development of programs that enable private information providers to attach to a publicly operated gateway system. A third task, contributing to the development of a critical mass of end users, is to facili-

tate access to information from government sources as well as private data bases on the gateway. HAWAII INC works closely with the Department of Budget and Finance, the state agency that operates both the gateway and HAWIAN, the Hawaii Area Wide Information Access Network.

To fulfill its mission, HAWAII INC encourages both public and private involvement in the process of creating an information center for the Pacific. Its functions include exploring and recommending legislation and regulations; supporting initiatives to develop a favorable business climate; encouraging cooperative research and other activities; offering training programs and marketing assistance; and exploring and recommending legislation and regulations.