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**Press Release for Immediate Distribution**

## **University of Hawai'i and Ocean Networks Announce a new \$120M Undersea Cable Project**

*The new Hawaiian Islands Fiber Link (HIFL) subsea cable will expand high-speed internet statewide*

**Honolulu, HI - January 30, 2024** - [University of Hawai'i \(UH\)](#) and [Ocean Networks, Inc. \(ONI\)](#) announce a \$120 million, public-private partnership to construct a submarine optical fiber cable system that will connect the Hawaiian Islands and improve and expand high-speed broadband internet throughout the state. The project, the Hawaiian Islands Fiber Link (HIFL), is a key component of [Connect Kākou](#), the state's broadband initiative, a top priority of the Governor. Josh Green administration. Under the direction of Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke, Connect Kākou will ensure that people from all walks of life have reliable and affordable access to high-speed internet.

“This inter-island cable system will leverage the once-in-a-generation federal investment for technological infrastructure, and position our state for long-term economic growth,” said Gov. Green, M.D.. “The resulting network will be open to all carriers and sufficiently support all manner of telecommunications carrier and enterprise traffic, including anticipated future high-capacity demands supporting healthcare, education, research, public service, commerce, and government uses.”

ONI is responsible for the supply, construction, operations and maintenance of the inter-island cable system. Partial funding will be provided through a federal grant, and the remaining funds will be secured by ONI through private equity and secured debt. When it goes online, HIFL will be able to process a high volume of data with minimal delay and will be the inter-island backbone of Connect Kākou.

“This is just one part of our plan to guarantee the state's long-term internet connectivity,” said LG Luke. “Connect Kākou has over \$500 million in federal grants, state funds, and private matching funds available as we work towards connecting the unconnected and make sure everyone has access to reliable, affordable, high-speed internet.”

HIFL will be a carrier-neutral, open-access system with landing sites on O'ahu, Hawai'i, Maui, Kaua'i, Lāna'i and Moloka'i (graphic below) that will improve Hawai'i inter-island and regional connectivity. The system will have 24 fiber pairs with a design life of 25 years and is expected to be ready for service in late 2026. The project is being overseen by the UH System Office for Information Technology with support from the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i.



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“We are very pleased to be partnering with Ocean Networks, Inc.,” said Garret Yoshimi, UH Vice President for Information Technology and CIO. “The Ocean Networks team has significant industry experience, specifically working here in Hawai‘i. It’s an honor for UH to play an important role in connecting Hawai‘i to the future.”

“We are delighted to collaborate with the UH and proud that ONI has been selected to build and operate the new HIFL submarine cable system,” said Cliff Miyake, VP Business Development of Ocean Networks, Inc. “The HIFL system will provide critical improvement to the broadband infrastructure for the State of Hawai‘i.”

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### **About Ocean Networks**

Ocean Networks, Inc. is a privately held telecom development and service company that is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia (USA). Ocean Networks develops submarine cable systems for carriers, content providers, governments, as well as research and education groups. Under its subsidiary Submarine Cable Salvage, Ocean Networks repurposes Out of Service (OOS) submarine cable systems for ocean science. Ocean Networks currently owns 8,000+ km of submarine cable systems globally. Please visit [www.OceanNetworks.com](http://www.OceanNetworks.com) for more information.

### **About University of Hawaii**

Founded in 1907, the University of Hawai‘i System includes three universities, and seven community colleges and community-based learning centers across Hawai‘i. As the state’s public system of higher education, UH offers opportunities as unique and diverse as our island home.

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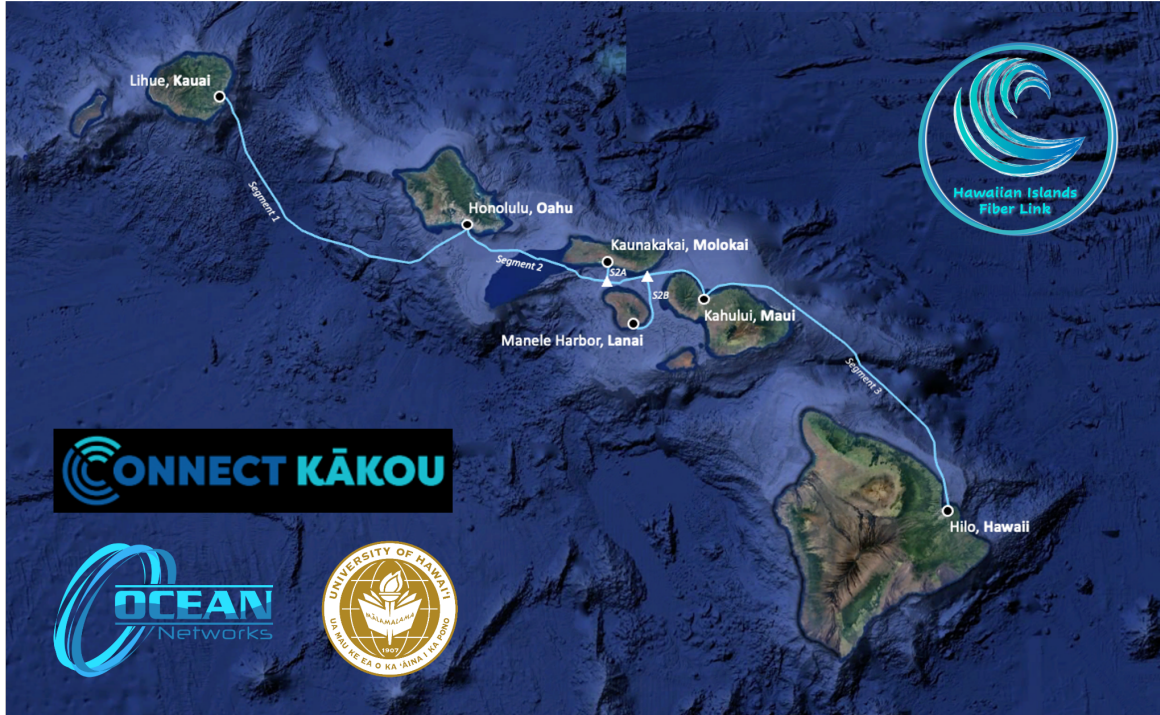
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