



Representative Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Legislature

District 1 Fairbanks

House Bill 360 Sponsor Statement

"An Act relating to state procurement regulations."

HB 360 would require contracted Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to practice net neutrality while doing business with the State of Alaska. It would add to the state procurement code a prohibition from contracting with ISPs that do not treat all websites equally or that engage in paid prioritization. HB 360 would harness the State's market power to incentivize ISPs to keep their word and follow net neutrality in practice.

Without net neutrality, ISPs may legally speed up certain sites, slow down others, block sites all together, and require certain users to pay more for Internet fast lanes. The elimination of net neutrality gives ISPs the power to determine what websites consumers can visit and what content website creators can share. Allowing ISPs to discriminate based on content undermines a free and open Internet, puts Alaskans' right to free speech and association at risks, undermines Alaskans' Constitutional right to privacy and distorts the fair market.

On multiple occasions, millions of Americans have publicly commented in favor of protecting net neutrality and have spoken out against the recent Federal Communications Commission order to eliminate net neutrality rules implemented in 2015. Net neutrality is widely supported by consumer rights groups, privacy groups, and businesses organizations.

The Governors of Montana, New York, New Jersey, and Vermont have all signed executive orders implementing procurement restrictions like those in HB 360.

This bill would ensure that the agencies of the State of Alaska have access to a free and open internet and it would put pressure on ISPs to ensure the public has access to the same. I respectfully request your support for HB 360.

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