January, 2017

The Commission Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554

Aloha FCC Commissioners,

Subject: Response to FCC orders on Sandwich Isles Communications, WC Docket no. 10-90

Congress authorized the Universal Service Fund (USF) to serve rural residents in sparsely populated areas to be able to enjoy modern telecommunications services at prices comparable to others. Your proposal to terminate Sandwich Isles Communication's (SIC) study area waiver will eliminate federal high-cost service support for the very situation that the program was designed. The low subscriber numbers would otherwise make the service too expensive for rural residents. If the FCC terminates the study area waiver, not only would SIC lose its high-cost support, so would any other company that might happen to take its place. This situation would mean that Hawaii residents will pay into USF, but no longer receive benefits, while every other state in the country uses the fund to benefit their residents. Please maintain the study area waiver for SIC.

Mahalo,

Lee Kaalalii Signature
Lee Kaalalii Print Name
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CC: Senator Brian Schatz
Senator Mazie Hirono
Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard
Representative Colleen Hanabusa
Governor David Ige
Chair Jobie Masagatani
Chair Randall Iwase
Senate President Ron Kouchi
House Speaker Joseph Souki