



Ku'iwalu

February 2, 2005

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Subject: Letter in Support for Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc.'s  
Petition for Waiver of the Definition of the "Study Area"  
CC Docket No. 96-45

We appreciate the opportunity to submit our comments in support of Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc.'s Petition for Waiver of Study Area.

Ho'akea dba Ku'iwalu is a consultant for Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc. (SIC), specifically in the area of cultural resource management (particularly in the area of permitting and cultural concerns) and community outreach with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands' (DHHL) beneficiaries. In the course of our work we have met with hundreds of DHHL residents in their communities. These are rural communities that in many instances lacked any modern utilities (water, electricity, and telephone service). SIC's fiber optic project has enabled these once very rural communities to have access to modern and emergency telephone services, fulfilling the mission of the USDA, Rural Utilities Services (RUS). We are happy to say that SIC's customers are very pleased with their services and future customers are anxious to receive service from SIC as soon as possible.

Furthermore, SIC has agreed to fully finance the installation of the fiber optic telecommunication's infrastructure at no cost to the DHHL. This has enabled DHHL to utilize their limited funds that once had to pay for the installation of telephone services by the incumbent local exchange carrier, to building homes, fulfilling the mission of DHHL.

Finally, SIC has conscientiously chosen to proactively work with the native Hawaiian community to ensure that the planning and installation of their fiber optic project is completed in a culturally sensitive manner. This unprecedented acknowledgement of the cultural issues has been well received not only by the native Hawaiian community, but especially by the state and

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local government regulatory agencies as a means of facilitating permitting approvals. SIC is a company that is dedicated to doing the right thing in the right way for the right reasons!

We would urge the FCC to approve SIC's Study Area Waiver to continue to provide telecommunications' service to the DHHL properties.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dawn N.S. Chang', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
Principal