



**KONA-KOHALA
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

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March 17, 2008

Via ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

MAR 24 2008

FCC Mail Room

Re: FCC Docket No. 08-4, Hawaiian Telcom Petition for Waiver of High-cost Universal Support Rules

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Aloha. The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce, as an advocate for the business environment in West Hawaii, understands the challenges of doing business here. The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce is the leading business advocacy organization on the west side of the Big Island of Hawaii. The Chamber would like to provide comments on Hawaiian Telcom's petition in the above entitled matter. It is our understanding that this petition would give Hawaiian Telcom federal support to upgrade facilities and equipment serving West Hawaii as well as the entire state.

We are supportive of this petition. As one of the benefits, Hawaiian Telcom would strengthen its telecommunications network. This would benefit our membership for the following reasons. The island of Hawaii is the largest island in the state. Because of this fact, residents and businesses face challenges not present on the other islands. For one, distances between major business sectors require more infrastructure and maintenance to maintain these vital connections. Hawaiian Telcom's intent to maintain or upgrade its network in these areas will benefit our communities and businesses.

Hawaii is also still growing. With the world's only active volcano, Kilauea, constant threats of lava flows threaten to sever communication to remote areas. The threat of earthquakes due to Kilauea's volcanic activity is also a concern. Recently in 2006, a 6.7 magnitude earthquake struck Hawaii and caused severe property damage, injuries, and power outages. In addition, as an island state in the middle of the Pacific, we are constantly at risk for hurricane activity as well. We support any effort to strengthen Hawaii's communication network for times like these.

In closing, the Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce supports this petition. We look forward to continue working toward a better environment for our members.

Mahalo,

Vivian Landrum

Vivian Landrum
Executive Director

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