

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



KAULANA H. R. PARK  
CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

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DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

P.O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

September 15, 2009

Received & Inspected

SEP 23 2009

FCC Mail Room

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Subject: WC Docket No. 09-133  
Response to Comments**

Dear Federal Communications Commission:

It has been brought to the attention of the State of Hawai'i, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (Department), by Sandwich Isles Communication (SIC), that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) may benefit from a better understanding of the Department's commitments to award leases and develop homes pursuant to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as amended, (HHCA).

The Department has been the largest affordable housing developer in the state of Hawai'i for the past several years, and we will continue with an aggressive lease award and home development schedule in order to serve the beneficiaries of the Hawaiian home lands trust which was created by the United States under the HHCA. The Hawaiian home lands trust consists of many undeveloped lands, including many rural lands, spread across six of the eight main islands that comprise the state of Hawai'i. There are currently more than 20,000 applicants awaiting Hawaiian homestead lease awards, and additional eligible beneficiaries continue to submit applications as they are encouraged by our progress in awarding leases and developing homes. Thus, pursuant to the HHCA and the Hawaiian home lands trust, the Department will continue to award homestead leases and develop homes for its beneficiaries.

The Department's current Hawaiian homestead lease inventory includes 9,756 homestead lease awards and more than 8,400 homestead leasehold lots that have been conveyed. In 2003, the Department set an aggressive goal of providing every beneficiary on its homestead lease application waiting list an opportunity for homeownership within five years. The Department's current goal is to deliver 1,000 homestead lease awards per year or a total of 5,000 homestead lease awards in the five years from 2007 through 2011. In the last two years, we have awarded more than 700 homestead leases, and we have a realistic opportunity to award an additional

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3,500 homestead leases in the remaining years. Furthermore, the Department is committed to conveying homestead leasehold lots to each holder of a homestead lease within three years of a beneficiary's receipt of a homestead lease.

SIC's telecommunications infrastructure and delivery of modern broadband communications is connecting our communities to each other and numerous private and public entities and institutions in order to access services and educational, medical, social, economic, as well as many other, resources and opportunities. Such resources and opportunities attract and provide jobs and other economic benefits for beneficiaries of the Hawaiian home lands trust and the trust itself. Such resources and opportunities also enable the Department to sustain development of additional homestead subdivisions and accelerate our delivery of more affordable homes. Laying the foundation now allows the Department greater flexibility and mobility to develop affordable homes as the resources become available.

If we at the Department may be of further assistance in providing the FCC with information or answering questions about the Hawaiian home lands trust and the Department's lease award and homestead lot development, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Aloha and mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kaulana H.R. Park".

Kaulana H.R. Park, Chairman  
Hawaiian Homes Commission

cc: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Meredith Baker  
● Ms. Marlene Dortch, Office of the Secretary, FCC  
Mr. Albert Hee, President, Sandwich Isles Communications