



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

Social Science Research Institute (SSRI)
Telecommunications and Information Policy Group (TIPG)

January 21, 2011

Ms. Sharon Gillett, Chief
Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Reference: Docket No. 02-60

Dear Ms. Gillett:

This letter is to request a one-year extension to encumber the Rural Health Care Pilot Program funds for the Pacific Broadband Telehealth Demonstration Project (PBTDP) from June 30, 2011 to June 30, 2012. We are also requesting a one-year extension of the five year period to invoice USAC from July 2015 to July 2016.

The PBTDP network has been working diligently with health care providers in the State of Hawaii and the Pacific Island Territories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam to design and develop the organizational relationship and technical infrastructure of the PBTDP. Much progress has been made in establishing the cooperative agreements and working relationships. Our regional network has some unique challenges in that it spans three time zones and across the Pacific Ocean. Similarly to other FCC Pilot networks, the PBTDP involves several independent and diverse government organizations and health care providers each with differing telecommunication needs, administrative and procurement requirements and processes.

The project is currently finalizing the competitive bidding documents for the Pacific Island Health Care Provider networks for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam; however additional time would enable us to further investigate potential opportunities for improving the network design, efficiency and cost savings.

2424 Maile Way, Suite 713, Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96822
Telephone: (808) 956-8848, Facsimile: (808) 956-8019
www.peacesat.hawaii.edu

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII*
MĀNOA

Social Science Research Institute (SSRI)
Telecommunications and Information Policy Group (TIPG)

Additional time is also required to coordinate the initiative in American Samoa as it is pending a review and redesign, and equipment procurement as part of a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program and other telecommunication network development activities in the territory. The PBTDP could move forward but this may result in lack of coordination and wasted resources in American Samoa.

The PBTDP is executing 466s for the State of Hawaii related equipment and services. Many of these services were a part of the first Request for Proposals that was issued in November 2009. There are some outstanding eligibility issues relating to the unique circumstance in the State of Hawaii as having only one unified Health Department so the eligibility requirement of "local health department" remains unclear. To work around this issue the project has eliminated several potentially eligible Health Department agencies; the additional time would allow us the opportunity to work through these issues with RHCP and USAC and meet the encumbrance deadline.

Although much progress has been made, a one-year extension is required to ensure maximization of resources, continued coordination with the several telecommunication infrastructure initiatives and also enable the PBTDP to work through some of the eligibility issues that have been put on hold in order to move the project forward. Additional time will ensure optimal use of the FCC Pilot Program funding and to better meet the needs of the Health Care Providers in the State of Hawaii and the Pacific Island Territories.

We sincerely appreciate your kind consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman H. Okamura".

Norman H. Okamura
Project Coordinator
Pacific Basin Telehealth Demonstration Project

2424 Maile Way, Suite 713, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
Telephone: (808) 956-8848, Facsimile: (808) 956-8019
www.peacesat.hawaii.edu

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution