



IOLANI SCHOOL

HEAD OF SCHOOL

August 18, 2014

Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

As Head of School at 'Iolani School in Honolulu, the largest Episcopal school in the US, I am pleased to have learned about the proposed merger of Comcast Corporation and Time Warner Cable. Three years ago, I joined 'Iolani after serving as Head of the Harley School in Rochester, New York and prior to Harley I was a senior administrator at the Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, New Jersey where I witnessed first-hand the positive impact Comcast Corporation had on education and youth development in the greater Philadelphia area. I believe the addition of Comcast to the Hawai'i community will add similar support that will benefit many young people in our state.

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education is widely recognized as a key component for 21st century learning. More than ever, with expanding global competition and collaboration, our students need to be equipped with the skills and technology that will make them valued in the workplace of the future. The introduction of STEM curricula and associated professional development for our teachers needs strong corporate partners who are willing to support these emerging programs. Among peer companies, Comcast has an unparalleled record of supporting schools' technology needs and moving beyond this to many efforts that enhance students' digital literacy. They are highly commendable and this will be a great partnership for our school systems, public and private.

One of the main technical challenges facing schools is the integration of cloud-based systems, mobile devices and high bandwidth learning materials. Our students need real time access to video, file sharing and collaboration tools that are in many ways directly analogous to what high level professionals are using around the world. At 'Iolani this past year, we rolled out a 1:1 iPad initiative that added approximately 2,500 concurrent

connections to our WiFi network. The use of productivity Apps and paperless workflow are becoming a common part of the student experience. Fortunately, the school has the resources and knowhow to implement such a major academic technology project.

We are, however, in the minority in our state and it will take a dedicated corporate partner such as Comcast to make this level of academic technology the norm, and it is crucial for future generations and our economy that it does so. Comcast's planned investment in Time Warner Cable's network will allow it to offer Hawaii's schools high-performance broadband solutions with speeds ranging from 1 Mbps to 10 Gbps. Such technology will support the use of electronic records by enabling district-wide communication, allowing teachers to integrate data-intensive content like e-textbooks, video, and distance learning into their classrooms.

Comcast's record in this regard is well established. Its Digital Connectors program has equipped hundreds of community computer labs and trained thousands of high school students on basic digital literacy skills. Programs like these reach beyond the first circle of students and into the community at large. Distributed implementation models are powerful because the students themselves become the community leaders who can promote the importance of digital literacy to those around them.

Another initiative for which I have a great deal of optimism is Comcast's Internet Essentials program. Within this program, families with children are eligible for the National School Lunch Program home Internet service for only \$9.95 per month, free digital skills training, and the option to purchase a heavily-subsidized computer. At 'Iolani and our peer school, Punahou, we run summer learning programs for this precise demographic that have proven effective in closing the achievement gap and increasing high school graduation and college matriculation. One common challenge is the lack of technology in the home. The Internet Essentials program will directly address this technology gap and benefit this group of learners, which is in excess of 100,000 children in our state.

As I noted above, I have witnessed directly how Comcast Corporation's commitment to community and education positively impact the lives of many young people. From the perspective of the business sector in which I work - education - the children of the State of Hawai'i will benefit from our leaders choosing to support companies such as Comcast whose mission includes supporting education. I encourage you to take this point into strong consideration when considering approval of this transaction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. R. Cottrell', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Timothy R. Cottrell, Ph.D.
Head of School, 'Iolani School