

**CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (“CAC”)
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF HAWAII**

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: March 25, 2024

Time: 10:32 a.m. – 10:51 a.m.

Place: Queen Liliuokalani Conference Room
Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs
335 Merchant Street, 1st Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

CAC MEMBERS: Scott K. Wong

OTHERS: Nadine Ando, Director; Randy Leong, CATV Administrator; Jamie Sheu, CATV Staff Attorney

AGENDA: The agenda for this meeting was filed with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

- I. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m.
- II. Minutes of September 15, 2020 Meeting – The minutes were accepted by the CAC.
- III. New Business
 - A. Hawaiian Telcom Services Company, Inc. Application for cable television franchises for the island of Kauai, island of Hawaii, and Maui County.
 1. Director provided a summary of the filing dates of the applications, public hearings dates and number of comments received.
 2. Presentation by Hawaiian Telcom on its Applications and additional information submitted to DCCA

Steven Golden, Vice President of External Affairs at Hawaiian Telcom (HT), presented to the CAC members, staff, and audience. Mr. Golden noted that HT has applied for 15 year franchises in the Kauai, Hawaii and Maui counties to provide fiber connected best in class video services in Fioptics+. This service has already launched in Oahu which he believes will allow for seamless launch in the other counties. The neighbor islands will have greater options, value, and by having access to more IPTV

technology, will directly benefit customers by allowing choice in products that meet their needs. This service can also be bundled with HT's other services. HT is committed and invested \$233 million in closing the digital divide. There are approximately 100K fiber enabled locations on the neighbor islands. HT was awarded \$70M for middle mile and undersea cable systems which will improve service to customers and is anticipated to be in service in 2027.

Seanna Russell, TV Product Manager at HT was introduced to provide more technical detail. Ms. Russell noted that Fioptics+ is an integrated customizable entertainment system, combining standard linear tv with direct to consumer apps. It has superior picture and video quality, interactive features, customizable options, cost and energy savings and better reliability. Competitive channels will be offered including PEG channels. No additional wiring needed from HT internet service for Fioptics+ service and it is a self-install system.

Mr. Golden concluded with explaining that HT waited to offer this service to the neighbor islands because the fiber network wasn't built out yet, but now that over 50% has been built HT is ready to go statewide.

B. Questions/Comments from CAC Members.

Mr. Wong noted that HT services sound good and he has it in Waimanalo. After reviewing the public testimony from public tv, he inquired about HT's relationship with them and the community. He also saw testimony about Spectrum and HT being on equitable terms and inquired if HT has reached out to the PEG stations. He had also heard concerns from Maui and Hawaii Island about reach to the furthest public schools.

Mr. Golden responded that HT is just establishing relationships now on the neighbor islands and believes that the relationship with Olelo has been fine. Schools can be reached with the exception of Hana as being the one challenge. Hana currently receives service by a microwave signal from the Big Island, as there is no pole line right now. There is a county road that HT is in the process of getting permits for and are committed to it. There is fiber to premise locations in Hana, but the network connection to the fiber is still not there so it won't be as fast until the line is built.

Roger McKeague, Olelo, noted that HT has given HD channels which the other provider hasn't. HD is important in how things are shot since people cannot view things as well in SD.

Seanna Russell stated that HT has reached out to Hoiike and Na Leo to start initial conversations. They will be reaching out to Akaku shortly.

Mr. Wong brought up that in the last meeting the big thing with Spectrum was the channels. He also stated that several years ago, he commented that TV is ending and people will switch to online. He noted that there is a concern with fees for public tv, if things go directly to people's phones is that a collectable item or not. This should be worked out with the public access people, a fair standard should be set with DCCA. Mr. Wong also stated that there was no negative testimony from the public which is a good sign.

IV. Public Comment

Director Ando inquired if anyone would like to provide public comments. Roger McKeague stated that things have worked well with HT and he thinks they are doing a great job.

No other public comments were provided.

V. Announcements

Director Ando stated that there are four open positions on the CAC. The Kauai, Maui County, Big Island and the at-large positions are currently vacant. She encouraged that anyone interested in serving on the CAC should visit the State's Board and Commission site (<https://boards.hawaii.gov/>); and a link to Boards and Commission's website is also accessible from the CATV home page. Administrator Leong also noted that Scott's term would be finishing at the end of June.

VI. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Taken and recorded by:

Jamie Sheu

Date: _____