

Talking Points
Oceanic Time Warner Franchise Renewal Hearing
September 15, 2009
5-8pm

Picture a community that has a strong identity and is a formidable presence at any City Council, Legislative, or governmental agency hearing or meeting.

Imagine being able to go to a 'Ōlelo Community Media Center or nearby school to make your voice heard in a City Council hearing on matters that affect you and your community. How about the ability for a classroom of students to be able to see and talk to astronauts in orbit; or a community group in Pālolo having a video teleconference comparing family issues with a group in Waianae and another in Kapa'a.

Or how about the ability to produce videos about your community in High Definition Video and having them available for your grandmother, who doesn't own a computer, to view "on-demand" on cable television, then being able to send this same video from a Community Media Center (CMC) directly to 'Ōlelo's Playback Facility, eliminating the need to submit a tape or DVD.

These are just a few examples of the tools that every community deserves to have. That's what 'Ōlelo is trying to create and we need your help to get there.

Oceanic Time Warner Cable is currently in the process of applying for a renewal of their current Cable Franchise. In their application, Oceanic states "Applicant will continue to introduce new and improved technology to address the changing market...", however, in that same application, Oceanic is proposing that no changes be made in the existing channels or connections that service Public, Educational, and Governmental Access. Currently, there are no connections to 'Ōlelo's Community Media Centers, with the exception of the Māpunapuna CMC, and only four high schools are wired into the network.

There is a special opportunity coming up on September 15th that has the potential to make these dreams a reality, or take away the opportunities to empower you and your community for possibly the next 20 years. On this day, the only scheduled hearing for Oceanic's Cable Franchise Renewal is to start at 5pm. In order to make the best of this opportunity, Community Access needs your support in the form of live or written testimony across a wide range of issues. While we do not expect any one person to be able to testify on all issues, we have put together a list of issues that need to be addressed:

1. An increase in funding should be made available to open more CMCs on O'ahu and ensure that the current CMCs are not closed.
2. Capital funding should be made available to support 'Ōlelo's migration to High Definition Television and Oceanic should upgrade 'Ōlelo's current fiber connection to support ATSC (Advanced Television Systems Committee) standards which include captioning and metadata streams.
3. The original cable franchise required that 10% of the operational channels be available for Access use. In keeping with this intent and with the changes in technology, 10% of the total services (not just channels) being offered by Oceanic should be available for Public Access use.

4. Access Channels should be accessible in the same manner as the local network affiliate channels. Oceanic's application is proposing that lesser viewed channels will be made accessible via a system that would take several steps to get to. This would be similar to having to go through several menu layers before finally being able to view the channel. [Click here](#) for an example of how AT&T's U-Verse menuing system works for some California PEG Channels.
5. The current Franchise Agreement has specific requirements for the picture quality of Access Channels stating that it should be at least equal to that of the local network affiliate's channels. It would be in the public's best interest if this wording was retained and enforced.
6. The current network that connects 'Ōlelo and different sites needs to be upgraded to handle High Definition video and data simultaneously. The number of connected sites should also be expanded to include all of 'Ōlelo's facilities, more schools, and public facilities such as the Blaisdell Arena and Concert Hall.
7. In order to build stronger communities, two Statewide channels should be made available for Access programming. These two channels should be in addition to channels allocated to O'ahu Access programming.

If you need additional information to elaborate on any of these points, please feel free to call a [Community Media Center](#) near you.

Please make your thoughts on these issues known to the DCCA. You can provide oral testimony at the DCCA public hearing on Tuesday, September 15, from 5pm to 8pm at McKinley High School's Hirata Hall, to consider all aspects of Oceanic's application. There is no need to pre-register. The deadline for written testimony to the DCCA is Friday, September 18.

DCCA's contact info:

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Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
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Please provide us a copy of your testimony at info@olelo.org.

The last opportunity to provide input on Oceanic Time Warner Cable's franchise was over twenty years ago. Now is the time to let your voice be heard!