

January 29, 2009

LATE TESTIMONY



Hawaii State legislature
State Capital
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Support Testimony on H.B. NO. 254

RELATING TO PUC Switched Access Phone Service

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Representative Robert Herkes, Chair
Representative Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Thursday, January 29, 2007, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Enterprise Honolulu **supports H.B 254**, directing the public utilities commission to treat switched access phone service as fully competitive.

Under the current PUC regulations, the incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC), Hawaiian Telcom, has mandated access and charging regulations designed to open up the Hawaii market to competition. These requirements assisted competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs), without their own network infrastructure, in penetrating the market and growing. Some have built portions of their own local networks, but have increasingly relied on the ILEC to provide basic network backbone services at a disadvantage to the ILEC and ultimately to the disadvantage of the entire community.

It appears to be the right time to review these policies and create a level playing field for all telecom providers in Hawaii and this legislative action starts that process.

Enterprise Honolulu, the Oahu Economic Development Board, supports **HB 254**.

Sincerely,

John Strom

VP Director of Business Development & Technology



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Scot F. Long
Business Mgr. / Financial Sec.

Ted M. Furukado
President

HB 254
RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES
SCOT F. LONG
BUSINESS MANAGER / FINANCIAL SECRETARY
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
LOCAL UNION 1357
JANUARY 29, 2009

Chairman Herkes and Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

I am Scot Long, testifying on behalf of IBEW Local Union 1357, on HB 254, "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES." IBEW Local Union 1357 strongly supports this bill.

IBEW Local 1357 is proud of its role in the establishment and maintenance of our state's most critical communications infrastructure. We know first-hand that the outdated regulation mandated upon the local exchange carrier results in a very unlevel playing field where competitors have little or no regulation.

HB 254 will require the Public Utilities Commission to treat switched access phone service as fully competitive, thus creating regulatory parity among all voice service providers: VOIP, wireless, and wireline. We are NOT asking for a handout—what we are asking for is fairness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Dan Youmans
Director
External Affairs

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LATE TESTIMONY

January 29, 2009

The Honorable Representative Robert Herkes
Chair, Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Hawaii State Legislature

RE: AT&T Comments on House Bill 254 and House Bill 266

Dear Rep. Herkes and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on House Bill 254 and House Bill 266. AT&T's primary concern with this legislation is the use of the term "switched access service," which is generally used to describe the services local exchange carriers provide to long distance carriers for the origination and/or termination of long distance telephone calls. An example of switched access service would be Hawaiian Telecom terminating long distance calls for AT&T to Hawaiian Telecom's local service customers in Hawaii.

We do not believe this legislation was intended to deregulate these services between companies and the rates charged for these services. If this were the case, AT&T would be opposed to House Bill 254 and House Bill 266.

Instead, it is our understanding that this legislation is intended to deregulate LEC intrastate retail telecommunications services purchased by residential and business customers. To clarify these intentions in the legislation, AT&T supports replacing the term "switched access service" with the term "local exchange intrastate services." Making this change will remove any confusion over the intent of this legislation. With this change and clarification, AT&T would be neutral on House Bill 254 and House Bill 266.

Again, AT&T appreciates the Committee's consideration of our comments. Please contact me if there are any questions concerning our position on these bills.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Youmans
Director, External Affairs
AT&T