

LATE TESTIMONY

Good afternoon. I'm Robert Stiver, a retiree from Pearl City. I'm interested in this proposed bill from the following perspectives:

--Although I wouldn't presume to call myself "unique," I do have some elements of my background and current situation that I believe are pertinent here:

---I'm an 'Olelo viewer, a regular consumer of the varied and valuable programs offered by the public-access TV medium.

----I'm a trained 'Olelo cameraperson, editor and producer. I've (together with two co-producers) aired hundreds of programs on 'Olelo – typically on Channels 49 and 54 – since late 2005, or five-plus years. My experience with 'Olelo executive, administrative, and technical people has always been one of satisfaction. It is my distinct pleasure to interact with a staff that has a big-picture sense of what public-access TV is and how it should best be pursued in making free speech and expression a daily part of life in our community.

----I'm a retired Federal civil servant whose career, starting in 1968, was in the procurement and contracting field. I retired in 1999, so I had some 30 years of procurement experience.

For five years or so now, I've observed, and participated, in the long-term discussions over whether a new procurement contract for operation of public-access TV services should be undertaken, through competitive RFP (Request for Proposals) procedures. My position has been fairly simple and straightforward: whereas, in the Federal sector, people like me were responsible for expending the taxpayers' money properly through stringent contracting rules and procedures – perhaps centrally through price and/or technical competition – the services provided by 'Olelo for over 20 years do not fit that category. (I note in passing that, in 1984, the concept of "competition" was enshrined in Federal law via the Competition in Contracting Act, or CICA. CICA became the "go to" statute governing every procurement, and as far as I know it is still given at least lip service, despite misadventures some of us may have read about in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere.) My cable franchise fee, and the fees of others, which are allocated in part to make public-access TV a reality on 'Oahu and on the neighbor islands, are not "taxpayer" dollars – and thus the typical competitive environment via a procurement channel does not pertain.

It is thus my firm belief that House Bill 112, which would delegate responsibility to secure and oversee the operations and management of a public-access TV provider to the competent technical folks at DCCA, is the needed step in the right direction.

Thank you for your attention, and good luck.

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(Prepared January 31, 2011)