

**TESTIMONY OF CARLITO P. CALIBOSO
CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE
MARCH 14, 2011**

MEASURE: S.B. No. 1347 SD 1
TITLE: Relating to Public Utilities Commission.

Chair Herkes and Members of the Committee:

DESCRIPTION:

This bill directs the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") to accept filings electronically no later than January 1, 2012.

POSITION:

The Commission provides the following comments.

COMMENTS:

As currently drafted, this bill would allow the Commission only six months to amend its filing rules and to design and implement an electronic filing system. The Commission supports measures that will increase our operational efficiency, but the measures that are implemented, first and foremost, must allow the Commission to maintain the integrity of our official records. That will require going through the RFP and procurement process to obtain a vendor to develop and create an electronic filing system that integrates with our current Docket Management System ("DMS"). Given our current staffing and resource constraints it would be extremely difficult to both complete the rulemaking process, and procure, develop and implement a reliable and appropriate electronic filing system. Therefore, the Commission requests that the bill be amended to require that the rules be in place and electronic filings be accepted no later than July 1, 2012.

Moreover, while the bill allows the Commission to assess a surcharge for electronic filings, this will not help the Commission develop the system. The Commission, therefore, requests an appropriation of \$500,000 out of its special fund for that purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2011
2:00 P.M.

TESTIMONY OF JEFFREY T. ONO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY,
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT H. HERKES, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

**SENATE BILL NO. 1347, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.**

DESCRIPTION:

This measure proposes to allow public utilities to file applications for rate changes either electronically or as paper documents with the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission").

POSITION:

The Division of Consumer Advocacy ("Consumer Advocate") strongly supports this measure.

COMMENTS:

This measure seeks to modernize the Commission's practices and procedures by providing public utilities with the option of filing their applications for rate changes as either an electronic document or a paper filing. The Consumer Advocate notes that the amendment builds upon trends seen in the nation's federal court systems and the Hawaii appeals court system which permit electronic filing of court documents. The

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Consumer Advocate believes that the proposed amendment would streamline the regulatory process for those entities regulated by the Commission and would result in efficiencies in terms of the reduction of duplicated effort by Commission staff (for example, file stamping paper applications received by the Commission, scanning paper filings into the Commission's Document Management System, etc.).

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB 1347 SD1

RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**KEN HIRAKI
VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

HAWAIIAN TELCOM

March 14, 2011

Support

Chair Herkes and members of the House Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee:

I am Ken Hiraki, testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Telcom on SB 1347 SD1, Relating to the Public Utilities Commission.

The purpose of this measure is to amend HRS 269 by allowing regulated utilities the option to electronically file certain required documents with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Hawaiian Telcom supports this "green" initiative.

The advantages of electronic filing are compelling. Numerous governmental agencies on the federal, state, and local levels have embraced electronic filing of documents as a benefit to both the regulator and regulated community to promote operational efficiency, reduce labor and paper costs, and conserve our natural resources. Presently Hawaiian Telcom filings required by the PUC are confined to either regular mail or hand delivery of the original required paper document plus multiple copies (sometimes up to twelve extra copies).

Electronic filing will also increase governmental transparency and speed up the posting of public documents on the PUC website by removing delivery and reproduction delays inherent with regular mail or hand delivery. In this era of technology, Hawaiian Telcom supports the growing governmental trend toward adoption of electronic delivery of documents as an acceptable alternative to paper delivery.

Based on the aforementioned, Hawaiian Telcom respectfully requests that this measure be passed. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.