

**Statement of Sanford Inouye
President and CEO, Olelo Community Media
Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
March 23, 2018
At 9:00 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
SCR 75
Relating to Cable Communications**

Chair Baker, and Vice-Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee.

Olelo Community Media respectfully supports the intent of SCR 75, “Urging Hawaii’s Congressional Delegation to Advocate for Local Franchising Authorities To Receive Greater Cable Television Regulating Power and For the Federal Communications Commission to Provide Clarity and Allow Local Franchising Authorities More Discretion Regarding the Regulation of Cable Operators As It Relates to Public, Educational and Governmental Access Channels.”

We appreciate the support of the many introducers of SCR 75 and members of this committee for protecting the public interest with respect to public, government and education (PEG) access channels here in Hawaii. As noted in SCR 75, these channels are “critical to government transparency and open access to broadcasts of state legislative and county council proceedings and neighborhood board meetings provide programming that offers valuable information to viewers ... and serve an important consumer protection function by broadcasting information to the public during natural disasters and emergencies.”

Here in Hawaii, the current PEG access channel locations have been on the cable system for decades. Channel locations that are well known to viewers, branded by our local community producers for their diverse, cultural, civic and community programs and for essential local government

programming such as state, county and neighborhood proceedings and meetings. If these long standing programs are unilaterally relocated at the whim of a cable operator, it will cause confusion for viewers, loss of viewership, and will be difficult and cost prohibitive for local community producers to rebrand their programs. Clearly that is not in the public interest.

We understand that federal law does not pre-empt local franchising authorities' ability to regulate the channel designations of PEG access channels as both California and Illinois have statutes in place to that effect. SB 36 SD2 which was recently approved by the Senate is similar to both statutes. As such, we respectfully request that SCR 75 be amended accordingly.

Thank you Chair Baker and committee members for your support of this very important consumer protection matter that touches every aspect of our unique local communities.