

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 202
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

January 30, 2018

Catherine P. Awakuni Colón
Director
State of Hawaii
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
335 Merchant Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Proposed Change of Channel Numbers by Spectrum

Dear Director Awakuni Colón:

As you are aware, 'Olelo Community Media ("Olelo") is the public, educational, and governmental ("PEG") access provider in the City and County of Honolulu ("City"), pursuant to an agreement with your Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

'Olelo has four cable channels and two video on demand channels ("PEG programming channels"), and achieves its mission of strengthening island voices and advancing community engagement through the airing of non-commercial programming with unique and local stories from a myriad of dedicated community producers.

The City has been producing live and tape-delayed cable programming covering City activities, events, meetings, and issues ("City Programming") for 'Olelo for many, many years. The televising of gavel-to-gavel broadcasts of meetings of the Honolulu City Council ("Council"), which often involve the most controversial and important issues directly affecting our community, is an effective means of ensuring free and open public access to information about our government.

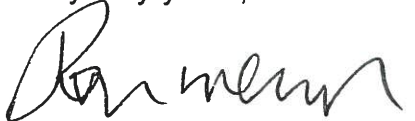
We understand that Charter Communications, Inc., purchased Time Warner Cable, the parent company of Hawaii's Oceanic Time Warner Cable, in May of 2016 and that Oceanic Time Warner Cable was renamed Spectrum in June 2017.

Based on media reports, we further understand that, effective February 6, 2018, Spectrum plans to change PEG programming channel numbers to high-numbered channels (above 100) that are far from the main cable television traffic line-up. We believe that this channel change will cause confusion for long-time viewers and force community producers to rebrand their PEG programs to the new channel numbers, which will be a lengthy and costly process. Additionally, Spectrum is now advising subscribers that viewers who do not acquire a special box to connect to their televisions will no longer have access to the PEG programming channels.

We believe that allowing Spectrum to change long-standing PEG programming channel numbers would be a serious disservice to the viewing public because it would significantly weaken media diversity, make government less accessible to the general public, and reduce community engagement.

We therefore register our strong opposition to the proposed change of public, educational and governmental programming channel numbers by Spectrum.

Very truly yours,



Ron Menor
Chair, Honolulu City Council



Carol Fukunaga
Chair, Public Works, Infrastructure &
Sustainability