

**Statement of Sanford Inouye
President and CEO, Olelo Community Media
Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
February 22, 2018
At 9:30 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
SB 36 SD1
Relating to Cable Communications**

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

Olelo Community Media respectfully offers its strong support of SB 36 SD1 Relating to Cable Communications.

SB 36 SD1 would require the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to regulate public, education and government (PEG) access channel number designations on cable systems operated by cable service providers in the State.

We strongly support this bill as evidenced by the recent actions of Charter Communications to relocate PEG access channels on Oahu and subsequently on the neighbor islands. Charter's actions are arbitrary, capricious, unilateral and not in the best interest of the people of Hawaii. Charter has not offered any legitimate reason to relocate PEG access channels, other than to have commercial networks with multiple channels acquire an additional channel by removing PEG access channels from their current locations. PEG access channel locations that have been on the cable systems for decades. Channel locations that are well known to viewers, branded by our local community producers for their programs and for essential local government programming such as legislative hearings and sessions, county council meetings and hearings, and neighborhood board meetings. If these long standing programs are relocated, we will all need to start all over again. That is clearly impractical, costly and totally unnecessary.

Local community producers who on their own time without remuneration put their heart and soul into their programs as well as the government programs from the legislature, county councils, and neighborhood boards that provide open access and transparency to the public, can and will be lost without the protections afforded under SB 36 SD1.

As part of our testimony, together with written comments submitted to the Cable Advisory Committee meeting on February 2, 2018, I will offer the more than one hundred letters strongly opposing Charter's planned relocation of PEG access channels from community members, each of the four county mayors, state legislators, and county council members. Clearly, maintaining the current channel locations of PEG access channels is in the public interest.

Thank you Chair Baker and committee members for your support on this very important matter that preserves and fosters local community access programming for all of Hawaii.

Thank you again for the opportunity to offer our strong support of SB 36 SD1.