

December 1, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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RE: Renewal numbers:

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Secretary Dortch,

Hawaii, like many communities, can no longer count on publically licensed television stations for meaningful levels of information and news.


The Media Council of Hawaii reports that during a scheduled thirty minute news production, we are fortunate to receive six minutes of actual news. Most of the remaining time is devoted to teasers, lead ins, self promotions, and a light review of weather graphics three times.

It should be kept in mind that Hawaii has one of the lowest voter turnouts of all states. Certainly, keeping citizens informed is not only a legitimate task for television news, but arguably an obligation. A recent review of election coverage indicated that there were no reports on any of our legislative contests.

For these reasons, there is a legitimate concern that Hawaii's opportunity to receive news has been diminished when one corporation owns two separate stations, and has significant control over a third. The number of independent news operations, reporters, and investigative resources are very limited. We do not have the diversity of opinion nor the depth of coverage that the community needs.

I strongly urge the Federal Communications Commission to seriously evaluate whether this consolidation of ownership is consistent with the spirit and letter of the law and rules. Certainly the creation of monopolies is not in the public interest.

Sincerely,


James T. Shon
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