



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 28, 2011

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
United States Senate
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

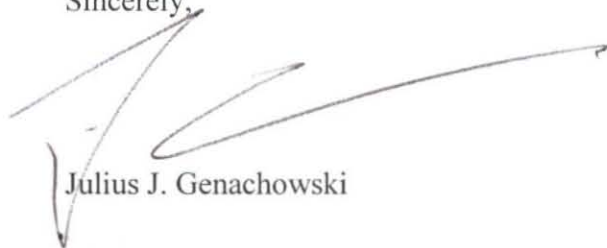
Dear Senator Inouye:

Thank you for your letter regarding the telecommunications challenges relating to Hawaii's geography and topography. During my visit last year, I greatly appreciated the opportunity to witness how Hawaii's unique geography affects the deployment of basic and advanced telecommunications technologies. There is no doubt that such challenges need significant consideration both in reforming universal service mechanisms, and in the Commission's actions to implement the National Broadband Plan. I am committed to closing the digital divide that exists today, and ensuring that Americans in all regions of the nation have access to telecommunications and information services that are reasonably comparable to services provided in urban areas.

I also appreciate knowing of your support for Hawaiian Telcom, Inc.'s petition requesting a waiver to determine high cost support on a wire-center basis. Hawaiian Telcom's petition is under review in the Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau, which is making every effort to conclude its review as quickly and equitably as possible. I will ensure that your letter is included in the record for this proceeding.

Thank you for your interest in this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Julius J. Genachowski

*My visit certainly
helped me appreciate
the unique challenges
of Hawaii.*

*Thank you for the letter and more.
Looking forward to ongoing work together.*