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December 11, 2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Chairman Pai:

I write to express my strong concerns with the proposed rules under MB Docket No. 05-311, "Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992". These proposed rules would drastically impact funding for public, education, and governmental (PEG) access organizations, which air community produced content and provide critical information to local communities in Hawaii.

Under the Cable Communications Policy Act, local franchising authorities (LFA) can negotiate franchise agreements with cable operators and require them to serve local communities by reserving channels for local PEG stations. The Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) current proposal, however, would substantially reduce or possibly eliminate franchise fee payments and endanger local PEG providers from operating community access channels and deliver critical information and diverse cultural programs to the many local communities in the Hawai'i islands. As an island state consisting of four different counties, our residents rely on PEG channels to keep abreast of local events and monitor government proceedings including city and county councils, neighborhood boards and state legislature to stay informed. Furthermore, PEG stations provide critical information to communities during natural disasters - including providing emergency updates during the Kilauea volcanic eruption on Hawai'i island.

I urge you to consider the adverse implications this proposal would have on PEG access organizations and their ability to provide meaningful and important content that serve local communities in Hawaii and across the country.

Sincerely,

TULSI GABBARD
Member of Congress

COLLEEN HANABUSA
Member of Congress