

## The Senate

STATE CAPITOL HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 4, 2010

Ms. Marlene Dortch Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Secretary Dortch:

Re: Applications of French Polynesia Office of Posts and Telecommunications FCC File Nos. SCL-LIC-20081008-00017 and ITC 214-20081008-00453

I am writing in regards to the application by the Government of French Polynesia, through its Office of Posts and Telecommunications ("OPT") to operate its international undersea cable, Honotua, in the United States.

The Honotua cable will be monitored and maintained on the Island of Hawaii at a cable landing station operated by Wavecom Solutions, a Hawaii-based telecommunications company, which has been working with OPT since the inception of the Honotua project. The Honotua cable will provide critical additional telecommunications services to Tahiti, as well as economic benefits for the State of Hawaii – both important considerations in the current technological and economic climates.

Providing this physical broadband capacity to Tahiti will assist in connecting Tahiti's people and its economy to the global marketplace in a much more significant way than satellite communication speeds can provide. This will, in turn, enable enhanced distance learning initiatives for adults and children alike and make it possible for Tahiti's businesses to avail themselves of mission-critical enterprise applications not currently available.

The Honotua cable could also provide significant economic benefits to the people of the State of Hawaii, particularly with respect to job creation, as the project moves forward and expands carrier-based telecom services.

As the Chair of the Hawaii State Senate Committee on Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs, and as a senator serving a rural, island constituency, I am very well aware of the telecommunications and economic benefits the Honotua cable project can provide.

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I respectfully urge you to expediently grant OPT's applications to operate the Honotua cable in the United States.

Sincerely, Geil .

J. Kalani English Senator, 6<sup>th</sup> District Hana, East and Upcountry Maui Moloka'i, Lana'i and Kaho'olawe Chair, Senate Committee on Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs