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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, March 21, 2025
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229 & Via Videoconference

On the following measure:
G.M. 562, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, NATHANIEL EVSLIN,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2028

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Randy M. Leong, and I am the Administrator of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Cable Television Division. The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Nathaniel Evslin's appointment to the Cable Advisory Committee (CAC).

Mr. Evslin is the Kaua'i Campus Director of the Hawai'i Technology Academy and formerly served as High School Division Director at the Island School in Lihue. Outside of his professional activities, Mr. Evslin previously served as a board member for Hō'ike Kaua'i Community Television and currently serves as a board member for the Kōke'e Discovery Center Association Inc.

As a resident of Kaua'i, Mr. Evslin is positioned to fill the Kaua'i seat and provide a Garden Island perspective that will contribute to CAC discussions. Thus, the Department supports his nomination and confirmation to the CAC.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Testimony of Sean Taketa McLaughlin
Hawaii' Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
Tuesday March 11, 2025 at 1:00 pm

Supporting GM562 - Cable Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, NATHANIEL EVSLIN

Thank you for this opportunity to share testimony supporting GM562 to confirm Nathaniel Evslin to serve on the Cable Advisory Committee (CAC). As an educator with technology expertise, he is well qualified to serve - both his independence and his commitment to local community are clear and compelling.

Under HRS Chapter 440G-13, "The [CAC] committee shall advise: (1) The director, cable operators, and access organizations on matters within the jurisdiction of this chapter at the request of the director, any cable operator, or any access organization; and..."

Sadly the CAC has languished for some years now and has not been engaged to help represent consumers or to consider the public interest. As a result, DCCA's cable TV regulation fails to address consumer protection and lacks perspective to properly represent or even to consider public interests. Effectively, cable TV regulation in Hawai'i, like broadband and telecom regulation, has been captured by industry and primarily serves absentee owned corporations.

Keep in mind the DCCA's Division of Consumer Advocacy (DCA) does not even participate in proceedings that inform the Director's Decisions and Orders under CAC purview.

DCCA's current process fails to gather any public input on *proposed* D&O's - consumers and public interests are relegated to commenting on outdated applications by corporate folks who "negotiate" terms opaquely in private with the State. No transparency, no accountability.

By appointing a well qualified individual who is independent of the regulated industry, you have an opportunity to begin rebuilding the integrity of cable TV regulation for Hawai'i.

Thanks for considering my testimony and please feel free to contact me anytime if I can provide more information or perspective that is not funded by the cable TV/broadband/telecom industry.

O wau me ka ha'aha'a

Sean Taketa McLaughlin
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GM-562

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 9:02:08 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
E. Allegra Gaines	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Allegra Gaines

Hawai‘i Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

Supporting GM562 – Cable Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, **Nathaniel Evslin**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of **GM562** to confirm **Nathaniel Evslin** to the **Cable Advisory Committee (CAC)**. As the President/CEO of Hō‘ike: Kaua‘i Community Television, I am deeply invested in ensuring that Hawai‘i’s cable access system remains responsive to the needs of our community.

Nathaniel Evslin is an excellent candidate for this role. His expertise in technology, deep commitment to local communities, and independent perspective make him well-qualified to serve on the CAC. Under **HRS Chapter 440G-13**, the committee is tasked with advising the Director of DCCA, cable operators, and access organizations on matters impacting Hawai‘i’s cable television landscape. Unfortunately, the CAC has been largely inactive in recent years, leaving consumer protection and public interest considerations absent from DCCA’s cable TV regulation process.

Without proper engagement from the CAC, the regulatory framework has become overly influenced by corporate interests, sidelining the needs of consumers and independent access organizations. Public input is not meaningfully incorporated into decision-making, and transparency in cable TV regulation has been significantly weakened. Nathaniel Evslin’s appointment would be a step toward restoring integrity and public accountability in this process. His background and values align with the core mission of the CAC—ensuring that cable services operate in a manner that benefits Hawai‘i’s residents rather than just industry stakeholders.

By appointing a highly qualified and independent nominee like Nathaniel Evslin, the Senate has an opportunity to revitalize the Cable Advisory Committee and reinstate a much-needed public interest perspective in Hawai‘i’s cable television oversight.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any further insight.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Allegra Gaines

President/CEO, Hō'ike: Kaua'i Community Television