



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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**LATE TESTIMONY**

**BERCROMBIE**  
GOVERNOR

**RICHARD C. LIM**  
DIRECTOR

**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Telephone: (808) 586-2355  
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Statement of  
**RICHARD C. LIM**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Tuesday, February 27, 2012

10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of

**HB 2874 RELATING TO BROADBAND**

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee on Finance: Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2874 relating to a broadband special fund to support public school broadband and laptop initiatives.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports the intent HB 2874**. The bill strives to locate a viable funding source for the laptop program for the Dept. of Education, a project captured under Governor Abercrombie's Hawaii Broadband Initiative, to increase the adoption of broadband. In leading the Hawaii Broadband Initiative (HBI), DBEDT recognizes the importance of public private partnerships.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.



## LATE TESTIMONY

February 27, 2012

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro  
Chair, Committee on Finance (FIN)  
Hawaii State House of Representatives  
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 306  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the FIN Committee;

**Subject: Letter in Strong Opposition to Portions of HB 2874 Relating to Broadband**

My name is Roy Amemiya, President and Chief Executive Officer of 'Ōlelo Community Media ('Ōlelo ), the PEG Access Provider for Oahu. I am writing to oppose Section 2 of the bill further capping cable access revenues to recipients such as 'Ōlelo and the other PEG providers. As you may be aware, 'Ōlelo's fees are already subject to a cap and this has resulted in serious funding deficiencies for a number of years.

The timing of this bill is a bit curious. Last year, HB 112, HD 1 was passed into law as Act 19. This committee voted unanimously in favor of the measure, as did the full House. Along with setting a procurement procedure for PEG contracts, the act also requires that an independent auditor conduct management and financial audits of each PEG for three consecutive years. The audits were required because there were questions about 'Ōlelo's use of cable access fees. We did not object to the audits because our senior management team believed that a comprehensive audit by an independent third party would finally put to rest House member's concerns about 'Ōlelo's fiscal practices. The firm of Merina and Company LLC was commissioned to conduct the audit and followed U.S. Government Auditing Standards. The audit was comprehensive and reviewed operating policies and procedures; financial budgets, ratios, and practices; management; and compliance with government requirements. In December of last year, the management audit was published and my team and I were extremely pleased because we believe that the resulting report describes 'Ōlelo as a well-managed company but requiring additional funding. The report validated 'Ōlelo's long contention that the cap on its funding should be removed or lifted.

1122 Mapunapuna Street, Honolulu, HI 96819 | Tel: (808) 834-0007 | Fax: (808) 836-2546  
[www.olelo.org](http://www.olelo.org)

**WHEN OUR VOICE THRIVES, SO DOES OUR COMMUNITY**

Specifically, Merina concluded that, "The use of resources is exceeding the operating funds available. This cannot continue for much longer. Either its spending has to be brought in line with its available resources or the funding for the organization has to be increased". So you can understand why we are bewildered. We agreed to undergo a performance audit, the auditor concluded that we are well managed but under-funded, and we find ourselves back before this committee again on the issue of funding.

And so I thank this committee for this opportunity to hopefully convince House Finance Committee members that we are in a very tenuous financial position, and that limiting future revenues would in our opinion be unwise. My testimony is very focused. It is designed to specifically address six misunderstandings of fact that we believe need to have corrected.

Misunderstanding 1: 'Ōlelo is prospering financially while other NPOs are struggling.

Fact: Unfortunately, 'Ōlelo is not prospering. In fact, the cap on its funding has resulted in it not being profitable for many years. Between 2004 and 2010, 'Ōlelo averaged \$235,000 in losses per year. This has severely reduced operating reserves to an uncomfortable level of being less than six months of operating costs. Staff count at 'Ōlelo, which once stood at 75 is now just 63 and includes 10 part timers. Like employees across the island, up until this year, ours had not received merit increase raises for 4 years. Like others, they are now paying a much larger share for family medical coverage, and several years ago contributions to retirement was reduced from 4% to just 1% of their annual salary. But we are blessed because, in spite of earning lower than industry counterparts, our staff remains dedicated and passionate to their clients and allowing their voices to be heard. I believe a number of you have witnessed your own personal stories about your interaction with them.

Misunderstanding 2: 'Ōlelo has state-of-the art, broadcast quality equipment.

Fact: This is a myth. 'Ōlelo's equipment is very old. Two thirds of our fixed asset inventory is fully depreciated and in many instances are no longer supported by manufacturers. When cameras breakdown, our engineering staff cannibalizes parts from previously broken cameras because parts are no longer available. The massive transition from analog to digital equipment including our master control unit was a result of necessity. Anecdotally, when a retired general manager of a broadcast station entered our studio control room last year, his face brightened as saw the equipment and he looked at me and stated that he hadn't seen such equipment in decades and felt like he was in a broadcast museum. To again quote from the Merina & Company audit, "The transition to digital and HD has been entirely necessary".

Misunderstanding 3: 'Ōlelo is against the cable industry's transition from analog to digital.

Fact: We fully understand and support analog being replaced by the superior technology. Our objection is not to advancement in technology, but something much more pragmatic. 40% of the cable company's subscribers are only able to watch analog transmitted programs. That is why the major broadcast stations are still being transmitted in analog, in addition to digital and HD. When PEG channels move off analog and to the digital tier, four of every ten subscribers end up paying for a service that they cannot readily receive. Like the broadcast stations, we would much prefer to have our programs cablecast on multiple tiers. We realize that is not likely to happen so our position is that we

would like to remain on analog and transition when the broadcast stations no longer have analog channels.

Misunderstanding 4: 'Ōlelo owns a building worth over \$10 million and the rent it receives can fund its operations.

Fact: 'Ōlelo owns its headquarters building in Mapunapuna and it rents out parts of the building that it does not need. The Department of Education leases office space on the second floor where it creates programs for its distance learning instruction including programs for its PEG access channel. Another tenant leases a warehouse space in the back of the property but they will be vacating the space at the end of February and will be replaced with a short-term tenant. Together, these two tenants have been paying more than \$600,000 annually in rent and common area maintenance. However, that total is not even enough to cover the ground lease rent of \$670,000 annually that we pay to fee owner LMTC. And although the City assesses the property in excess of \$10 million, close to 60% of the value is in the land which 'Ōlelo does not own. Furthermore, since the building is on leasehold property with the rents fixed only until early 2014, there wouldn't be any prudent buyers should 'Ōlelo ever decide to sell the building. Finally, the building was not a recent acquisition. It was purchased by 'Ōlelo almost 18 years ago and no one on the current management team was involved in the purchase decision.

Misunderstanding 5: 'Ōlelo's expansion into community locations is a costly waste of money.

Fact: The expansion into underserved communities is a very low cost business model and is an example of a win-win partnership with the Department of Education. By locating a media center at a school, our equipment and staff knowledge is shared with students and teachers during school hours. In the evening, the center is open to the general community. By having locations around the island rather than just at the Mapunapuna headquarters, we are able to service many more clients. For that privilege, schools can assess 'Ōlelo up to \$100 a month in rent. For that \$100, 'Ōlelo receives classroom and studio space, utilities, parking, security, and access to both students and the community at large. The partnership works so well, that several schools waive the \$100. Staffing is an ongoing expense but the majority of positions have been the result of transferring position that previously were at Mapunapuna. As mentioned earlier, through the years, the overall staff count at 'Ōlelo has been reduced.

Misunderstanding 6: You Tube and other forms of social media is making 'Ōlelo obsolete.

Fact: Interestingly, the reverse appears to be true. In fact, the hours of local programming produced by our clients has been increasing every year and in 2011 surpassed 5000 hours. This averages out to more than 13 hours of new local produced programs every single day of the year. There are probably many reasons contributing to this, but one may be because producers can use social media as an inexpensive and timely method of advertising their programs to a wide spectrum of potential viewers.

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to testify. I will be available to answer any questions that you may have.

# Koani Foundation **LATE TESTIMONY**

Producer of the national award-winning programs  
Voices of Truth and Free Hawaii TV  
P.O. Box 1878 • Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawaii 96766

**TO: HOUSE COMMITTEES ON FINANCE AND LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT**

**FOR: HEARING of HB 2874**

**FEBUARY 27, 2012**

**10:00 AM, ROOM 308**

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 2874 – RELATING TO RELATING TO PUBLIC, EDUCATIONAL, OR GOVERNMENTAL ACCESS FACILITIES**

CHAIRS OSHIRO and YAMASHITA, VICE-CHAIRS LEE and TOKIOKA and MEMBERS of the FINANCE and LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES:

Aloha. I offer this testimony today on behalf of the Koani Foundation to register our strong **OPPOSITION** to **HB 2874** because of the damage this will cause to free speech in Hawaii.

One of the greatest injustices resulting from the pirating of the Hawaiian Kingdom has been the practice of squelching dissent from the people—whether it be annexation, indentured servitude, unionizing, sovereignty, independence, land titles, sustainability, rail development and so forth.

In recent years, 'Olelo and other public access facilities across the state have provided a crucial platform for the Public to speak from regarding critical issues, and to offer insightful, constructive ideas to remedy these problems.

With the merging of mainstream media into corporate uniformity, these "public access" programs, produced independently by members of the community, are a vital source of alternative views in the public discourse of critical issues.

In a time of rising costs, capping PEG funds and diverting the access to other uses would cause the public's voice to be stifled. This is particularly egregious since the PEG funds are not coming from the state's coffers, but are fees from cable TV companies specifically earmarked for PEG.

If the state legislature needs funds for its broadband/"free"-laptop program, let it extract it from the monolithic cable/broadband/telecommunications companies as a separate, new fee.

We urge you not to pass **HB 2874** and preserve a vital part of free speech.

Aloha Aina,



Leon Siu  
'Olelo Producer, Voices of Truth

200 Akamainui Street  
Mililani, Hawaii 96789-3999  
Tel: 808-625-2100  
Fax: 808-625-5888



## LATE TESTIMONY

Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

**RE: HB2874 – Relating to Broadband**  
**Agenda #1 - February 27, 2012; 10 a.m., Hawaii State Capitol Room 308**

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the committee,

On behalf of Oceanic Time Warner Cable (Oceanic), which provides a diverse selection of entertainment, information, and communication services to over 425,000 Hawaii households, schools and businesses and currently employs more than 1,000 highly-trained individuals, we appreciate the opportunity to express our support of this bill, which creates broadband special fund to support funding public school broadband and laptop initiatives through cable fees and contributions, grants, endowments, or gifts in cash received by the fund.

Oceanic is supportive of initiatives such as this legislation that provides a more equitable distribution of cable fees toward education and government services.

Oceanic's subscribers through cable franchise fees provided more than \$7.5 million in operating funds and over \$1.1 million in capital funds to Olelo, Akaku, Hoike and Na Leo combined in 2011. On Oahu alone, Oceanic's customers have provided to Olelo over \$96 million in operating funds and capital funds combined since 1989.

This bill proposes to freeze the level of funding at the 2011 rates and utilize any additional funding toward funding for one of the administration's broadband initiatives to provide laptop computers for Hawaii's public school students.

Additionally, Oceanic believes that a critical factor to achieving Hawaii's broadband goal is adoption. Funding additional laptops in the education system will increase broadband usage in schools and at home where there is currently no usage.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your committee's support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Bob Barlow  
President of Oceanic Time Warner Cable



2350 Dole Street | Honolulu, HI 96822 | Tel – (808) 973-1000 | [www.PBSHawaii.Org](http://www.PBSHawaii.Org)

House Finance Committee Hearing  
February 27, 2012

**LATE TESTIMONY**

RE: House Bill 2874, relating to cable franchise fees

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and members of the House Finance Committee:

I'm Leslie Wilcox, President and CEO of PBS Hawaii. As Hawaii's only statewide noncommercial educational broadcaster, we support strategic efforts to equip students with 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills.

However, we are concerned that HB 2874 would harm PBS Hawaii in our successful work of equipping students with 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills.

We receive 1% of the fee proceeds and this has proved critical to us in weathering the recent recession and the continuing uneven economy. Moreover, it has helped us create and cover the costs of a rapidly growing, innovative educational program, HIKI NŌ: The Nation's First Statewide News Network.

In one year, the number of participating schools in HIKI NŌ has jumped from 54 to 73. All middle and high schools in Hawaii may join at no cost to the schools. Students learn real-world, 21<sup>st</sup>-century workforce skills and "habits of mind," and at the same time, they're sharing responsible stories about their school communities with a statewide television audience and the worldwide web.

On this very day in Washington D.C., PBS Hawaii and HIKI NŌ have been awarded the top national award for innovation at a public media summit. That's why I'm not able to deliver this testimony in person.

We ask that you consider the effect that the current draft of HB 2874 is likely to have in limiting educational services at PBS Hawaii, including this effective digital media program which reaches deeply into schools across the state.

Thank you for listening, and *mahalo* for seeking and vetting ways to strengthen student learning.

Sincerely,

*Leslie Wilcox*

# **House Bill NO. 2874**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2012

## **COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair

Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Rep. Isaac W. Choy

Rep. Chris Lee

Rep. Ty Cullen

Rep. Dee Morikawa

Rep. Sharon E. Har

Rep. James Kunane  
Tokioka

Rep. Mark J. Hashem

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita

Rep. Linda Ichiyama

Rep. Barbara C.  
Marumoto

Rep. Jo Jordan

Rep. Gil Riviere

Rep. Derek S.K.  
Kawakami

Rep. Gene Ward

## **COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT**

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

Rep. Joey  
Manahan

Rep. Gene  
Ward

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### **Testimony by.**

Jesse Ponce de Leon

I strongly oppose Bill HB2874

A) Language; possible discriminatory practices.

B) Clarity in the Language for an intelligent determination.

Justine Espiritu

1611 ua Drive Honolulu HI

96816

## **LATE TESTIMONY**

To Whom It May Concern,

This testimony is to voice my opposition to HB2847.

By limiting PEG Access funding, the State will also be limiting the free expression of local voices. Community participation and PEG Access programming continues to grow. With capped funding, 'Olelo will be hard pressed to meet the community's future communication needs. Funds are collected from cable subscribers for the purpose of supporting PEG Access and should only be used for that purpose. Cable subscribers should not bear the burden for creating a Broadband initiative

# LATE TESTIMONY

I am against HB 2874.

I want you to preserve and protect Access of all sectors and all voices. By capping funding levels at 2011 will take future fund that support access and community free speech and use to support other state initiative.

- By limiting PEG Access funding, the State will also be limiting the free expression of local voices
- Community participation and PEG Access programming continues to grow. With capped funding, 'Olelo will be hard pressed to meet the community's future communication needs.
- Funds are collected from cable subscribers for the purpose of supporting PEG Access and should only be used for that purpose

Cable subscribers should not bear the burden for creating a Broadband initiative.

Larry Roberts

4127 C Guadalcanal Circle  
Kapolei HI 96707  
808.388.5086

# LATE TESTIMONY

2801-N2 La-I Road  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
February 26, 2012

## Stuart Scott's Testimony in Opposition to HB 2874

Dear Representatives:

I urge you to not pass HB 2874 in its current form. While the goal of providing broadband in schools is laudable, the means you have chosen for funding this initiative is unacceptable. Restricting the funding of Public Access TV ('Olelo) to current funding levels will in essence kill it. Is that your intention? If so, don't go hiding it in other bills to avoid responsibility for that action. If that is not your intention, then your idea for raising funds for one good program by strangling another essential one is just flat out a bad idea.

If you want to find the funding for broadband in schools, take it from rail. Remember the saying, "Let your fingers do the walking." We should be investing in the digital superhighway rather than the concrete boondoggle that Oahu's current rail plan is. And I'm not mixing cases between State and County initiatives, since the State is currently collecting a huge amount of money earmarked for heavy rail. Dump that and go light. You folks never seem shy about raiding funds for programs other than the ones the funds were originally intended for, to wit, the Hurricane Fund has been spent on all sorts of things (just wait until the next hurricane hits!). So dump rail and use the funds for broadband in schools.

Sincerely,



Stuart Scott

Jacob Kamhis

HB2874

## LATE TESTIMONY

Free expression in society is a key indicator of popular health.

Olelo programs have helped, entertained and discussed issues of importance to local residents. These programs have also allowed its contributors to expand and broaden their horizons in the area of communication, to reach out and engage others.

By limiting PEG access funding, the State of Hawaii will also be limiting the free expression of local voices.

Local residents are recognizing the importance of Olelo Community Media and thus this organization continues to grow. If funding is capped, it will be very difficult for Olelo to address and meet the community's communication needs.

Funds are collected from cable subscribers for the purpose of supporting public, educational and government access. These funds should only be used for that purpose and not diverted to other programs. Furthermore, cable subscribers should not have to bear the burden for creating a broadband initiative.

Support of artists in the community should be continued broadly because without artists, there is no community.

Thank you.

**OPPOSE**

## **LATE TESTIMONY**

I am against HB 2874.

I want you to preserve and protect Access of all sectors and all voices. By capping funding levels at 2011 will take future fund that support access and community free speech and use to support other state initiative.

- By limiting PEG Access funding, the State will also be limiting the free expression of local voices
- Community participation and PEG Access programming continues to grow. With capped funding, 'Olelo will be hard pressed to meet the community's future communication needs.
- Funds are collected from cable subscribers for the purpose of supporting PEG Access and should only be used for that purpose

Cable subscribers should not bear the burden for creating a Broadband initiative.

Sarah Roberts

4127 C Guadalcanal Circle  
Kapolei HI 96707  
808.542.0228

To Whom It May Concern,

## **LATE TESTIMONY**

I am writing this testimony to express my opposition to HB 2874, which will effectively limit PEG Access funding, and make services such as 'Olelo, which serve the wider community, unable to continue this service as it stands in coming years. While I support the initiative to assist schools in getting Broadband access, this absolutely must not come at a cost to other sectors of the community. Cable subscribers should not have to bear the cost of a Broadband initiative – this is unfair. Funds collected from cable subscribers should be used to support PEG Access.

Please preserve access to services for the community, and protect PEG Access by voting against HB 2874.

Mahalo,  
Hazel Ito

# LATE TESTIMONY

I am against HB 2874.

I want you to preserve and protect Access of all sectors and all voices. By capping funding levels at 2011 will take future fund that support access and community free speech and use to support other state initiative.

- By limiting PEG Access funding, the State will also be limiting the free expression of local voices
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- Funds are collected from cable subscribers for the purpose of supporting PEG Access and should only be used for that purpose

Cable subscribers should not bear the burden for creating a Broadband initiative.

Sarah Roberts

4127 C Guadalcanal Circle  
Kapolei HI 96707  
808.542.0228

# LATE TESTIMONY

**Mari Nakamura**

As someone who utilizes 'Ōlelo Community Media on behalf of organizations serving the public, I am strongly opposed to this bill to cap funding.

- By limiting PEG Access funding, the State will also be limiting the free expression of local voices.
- Community participation and PEG Access programming continues to grow. With capped funding, 'Ōlelo will be hard pressed to meet the community's future communication needs.
- Funds are collected from cable subscribers for the purpose of supporting PEG Access and should only be used for that purpose.
- Cable subscribers should not bear the burden for creating a Broadband initiative.

Thank you.

**LATE TESTIMONY**

February 27, 2012

Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

House Committee on Finance  
Representative Kyle Yamashita  
Representative James Kunane Tokioka  
House Committee on Legislative Management

**Subject: Opposition for HB 2874 – Relating to Broadband**

**Hearing on HB 2874**

**Monday, February 27, 2012; 10:00 A.M. Conference Room 308**

Most Honorable Chairs Oshiro and Yamashita, and Vice Chairs Lee and Tokioka,

Please do not reduce the funding for PEG access.

It is important for the public to have free expression to reach local viewers. Do not jeopardize this community service.

The community turns to Olelo to hear about local events and educate themselves as well – receiving informative and valuable information from leaders in education and representatives of the community.

Youth are encouraged to participate and learn what happens “behind the scenes” in the communication business--fostering responsibility, encouraging education and providing mentorship programs that turn into future career paths.

If PEG Access programming is capped, how will these services be able to continue? The equipment and operating costs are not capped by external entities. It will be difficult for Olelo to continue with a budget that cannot expand to cover the costs necessary to operate.

Please continue to support PEG Access and vote NO on House Bill 2874.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Olah  
[TropicalHawaii@aol.com](mailto:TropicalHawaii@aol.com)  
(808) 282 4010

# LATE TESTIMONY

February 27, 2012

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro  
Hawaii State House of Representatives  
Chair, Committee on Finance  
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 308  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Finance Committee;

**Subject: Letter in Strong Opposition to HB 2874 Relating to Broadband**

My name is Meredith Nichols and although I am submitting testimony as a private citizen today, for the purposes of full-disclosure, I want to let you know that I am also the Director for Community Development at 'Ōlelo Community Media and have been employed by 'Ōlelo since 1999.

As a resident of a rural community on O'ahu, I can testify to the frequently uneven resources available to those communities outside of central Honolulu. My home-town of Wahiawā is beautiful. Our people are hard-working and we love our community. We don't have much. One thing we do have, thanks to a partnership between 'Ōlelo and the DOE's Leilehua High School, is a community media center where Wahiawā folks (student through kupuna) can learn how make videos and share their stories. Before there was a media center in Wahiawā, our unique stories were not on television. The Kunia Orchid show, the Pineapple Festival, The Central O'ahu band competition, Iliahi's May Day program, Wahiawā kupuna oral histories...and so many others are now being shared via television on 'Ōlelo. In fact, since opening the Wahiawā CMC three years ago, 257 hours of community programming from nearly 500 community programs from the Wahiawā, North Shore and Central O'ahu area have been distributed on television via 'Ōlelo's channels.

I have three sons at Iliahi Elementary school. Thanks to 'Ōlelo's presence in Wahiawā, my fifth grader has already had the opportunity, along with his classmates, to learn more about video production. He and his classmates are hard at work right now on completing their video submission for 'Ōlelo's annual Youth Xchange competition. I hope that the resource is still there when my second and third grade sons are old enough to create their own videos.

So why is this information relevant to a Bill on Broadband? I agree that it shouldn't be. Broadband is an important initiative that should be addressed, but it should not be connected with funds derived from cable subscribers. I know that the only way 'Ōlelo is able to operate centers in communities like Wahiawā, Kahuku, Wai'anae, Waipahu, Kaneohe and Palolo are through the PEG access funding it receives. Note that these funds are from Oceanic Time Warner, a mainland cable company who enjoys millions and millions in profits from our community each year. These are not tax payer dollars, although it is true that Oceanic TWE passes the fee on to our subscribers, not wanting invest any of their profits in funding free speech and community access. Placing a permanent cap on these funds (which are collected for this purpose) would make it impossible for 'Ōlelo to continue to serve communities like mine from within the community. This Bill would be bad for community participation in free speech. It would limit resources and opportunities for our neediest communities.

As a mother, with high-hopes for the future of Hawai'i nei, I ask that you support the community's on-going ability to access video production resources across our islands by rejecting HB 2874. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Meredith Nichols

February 27, 2012

**Opposed: HB 2874 relating to Broadband**

Four years ago, I joined 'Olelo as its marketing manager following retirement after twenty three years with Starr Seigle Communications, the last six years serving as chairman and CEO.

I submit this testimony as an individual, not as an employee as I believe my perceptions prior to joining 'the company is, like many of the committee perhaps, were terribly uninformed. Frankly, I had not spent much time viewing 'Olelo's channels and knew little of the outreach programs or programming they are responsible for in the community. I didn't know...

1. about the annual Youth Xchange student video competition (the state's largest) where students with their teachers create videos relating to issues facing our community. The program provides training to teach students how to use their voice by employing video in a positive manner. The competition received over 580 entries last year and has awarded over 200 video cameras to our schools since its inception eight years ago.

2. about the "Vote Informed" campaign 'Olelo hosts during election years offering candidates on O'ahu or seeking statewide or federal office the opportunity to present themselves and their platform on TV at no cost. The campaign also features forums and debates, not only for those high profile candidates for a particular office, but for all candidates. As part of "Vote Informed" 'Olelo produces more hours of election programming than any other TV station in Hawaii.

3. 'Olelo has been recognized nationally as one of the leading community access organizations for its innovations and commitment to all sectors of the community, public, educational and government (PEG). A commitment made possible by keeping PEG together, a knowledgeable decision made by 'Olelo's founding fathers, including Governor Neil Abercrombie.

I could go on and on, but I respectfully suggest to the committee that you should not trust perceptions, but rather visit the 'Olelo Community Media Centers located around 'Oahu, meet the students, visit with the community producers who have turned over 100,000 locally produced programs to 'Olelo and I'm confident that like I was, you'll be amazed at the impact and relevance that 'Olelo has had on 'Oahu.

To further reduce the funding by diverting those funds away from the purpose they were created will crush public access on 'Oahu. If you intend to limit the public's access to media to express themselves, it will work and we can join a long list of third world countries who use similar techniques to stifle public voice.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John W. Bates

1459 Kalanikai Place

Honolulu, HI 96821

February 27, 2012

The Honorable Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Marcus Oshiro, Vice Chair Marilyn Lee and Members, Committee on Finance:

**Re: HB 2874 - RELATING TO BROADBAND SPECIAL FUND**  
**Monday, February 27, 2012; 10:00A.M. Conference Room 308**

I seek a collaborative effort that strengthens our community. This bill seeks to divide and weaken our communities. At first blush a computer for every student is a great objective. Broadband service for everyone is also a great goal. At what price 100,000 students times \$200.00@ computer = \$20,000,000.00? Who gets computers, the access? The communities with political clout? Underserved communities? Underperforming schools? Will access be at school only? At home? Who will maintain the units. Monthly cost to manage the resource at each school and monthly broadband fee? After school hours students, teachers now are public and NO PUBLIC ACCESS is ALLOWED with this proposal.

I've talked with principals, teachers, it staff, parents, students, community leaders and business leaders. I've done research on school districts who when down this road. Test scores did not improve. Student ability to communication improved. Increase in Sexting and Bullying occurred. Programs were forced to end. Moneys spent lost.

Cable user fees on the Basic Cable fee based on using our Public rights of way provides the funding not tax dollars. DO NOT change any provisions for the use of Cable Franchise Fees. Remove the Cap on Cable fees to Cable Access Television, charge the maximum allowed to support the continued support of community building and access to resources. Users fees must have community access to its resources as a creator of content, freedom of thought and voice without corporate or political censorship.

I would like to see the originators and advocates of this Bill collaborate with communities, schools, businesses and Community Access Media to help build a strong State of Hawaii. Allow our respective communities to participate in the development process of broadband or laptop to students, before legislation is considered.

Please, DO NOT SUPPORT BILL 2874, creating broadband special fund and laptop initiative.

James "Sparky" Rodrigues  
86-222 Puhawaii Road  
Waianae, Hawaii 96792

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** Peter C-King [p420haze@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 26, 2012 11:38 PM  
**To:** testimony@akaku.org  
**Subject:** STRONG OPPOSITION to HB2874

**LATE TESTIMONY**

This is my testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB2874.

## FINTestimony

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From: Kit Thomas [kit@aloha.net]  
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2012 11:22 PM  
To: testimony@akaku.org  
Subject: Vote NO on HB2874

**LATE TESTIMONY**

This is my testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB2874. Although I support the state effort to encourage fast, ubiquitous and affordable broadband for all Hawaii residents by 2018, freezing the funds for already underfunded PEG Access stations is not the way to do it. Since PEG Access centers are truly the sole Community Anchor Institutions already set up to train residents in broadband adoption and community broadband access, it would be a huge mistake to divert funding away from these resources. Please vote no on this measure or add an amendment that will increase, not freeze PEG funding for purposes of broadband education.

Christopher Thomas  
P.O. Box 368  
Kula, HI 96790

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 26, 2012 4:54 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** amori@chaminade.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2874 on 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Testimony for FIN 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2874

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Art Mori  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [amori@chaminade.edu](mailto:amori@chaminade.edu)  
Submitted on: 2/26/2012

**Comments:**

In a democracy free speech is important, and access to free speech even more so. Please heed the pleadings of `Olelo and others who know what access is all about.

Mahalo.

Art Mori

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 26, 2012 6:15 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** redahi@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2874 on 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Testimony for FIN 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2874

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: B.A. McClintock  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [redahi@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:redahi@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/26/2012

Comments:  
Please oppose this bill!

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** joseph sterling [joedoggy@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 26, 2012 5:40 PM  
**To:** testimony@akaku.org  
**Subject:** Vote NO on HB2874

## **LATE TESTIMONY**

This is my testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB2874. Although I support the state effort to encourage fast, ubiquitous and affordable broadband for all Hawaii residents by 2018, freezing the funds for already underfunded PEG Access stations is not the way to do it. Since PEG Access centers are truly the sole Community Anchor Institutions already set up to train residents in broadband adoption and community broadband access, it would be a huge mistake to divert funding away from these resources. Please vote no on this measure or add an amendment that will increase, not freeze PEG funding for purposes of broadband education.

thank you  
Joseph A. Sterling  
685 Meakanu Lane #1002  
Wailuku, Hi 96793

808-870-1685

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 26, 2012 5:25 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** patricia Blair@msn.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2874 on 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM

# **LATE TESTIMONY**

Testimony for FIN 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2874

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Patricia Blair  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [patricia Blair@msn.com](mailto:patricia Blair@msn.com)  
Submitted on: 2/26/2012

Comments:  
Do not freeze funds for public funding to Island PEG.

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 26, 2012 4:43 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** cdesiato@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2874 on 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Testimony for FIN 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2874

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Caterina Desiato  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [cdesiato@hawaii.edu](mailto:cdesiato@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 2/26/2012

**Comments:**

The broadband initiative can be beneficial only if youth and citizens in general have access to a real diversity of media. However, this bill would create a broadband special fund at the expenses of community media. Community media are a different and necessary forum for the convergence of local voices of innovation, and to give voice to local concerns.

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** nancy sundberg [njsxpress@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 26, 2012 4:35 PM  
**To:** testimony@akaku.org  
**Subject:** Vote NO on HB2874

**LATE TESTIMONY**

This is my testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HB2874. Although I support the state effort to encourage fast, ubiquitous and affordable broadband for all Hawaii residents by 2018, freezing the funds for already underfunded PEG Access stations is not the way to do it. Since PEG Access centers are truly the sole Community Anchor Institutions already set up to train residents in broadband adoption and community broadband access, it would be a huge mistake to divert funding away from these resources. Please vote no on this measure or add an amendment that will increase, not freeze PEG funding for purposes of broadband education.

Thank You,  
Nancy Sundberg

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 10:08 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** rokzpro@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2874 on 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Testimony for FIN 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2874

Conference room: 308

Justifier position: Oppose

Justifier will be present: Yes

Submitted by: Zoe Tanaka

Organization: Individual

E-mail: [rokzpro@yahoo.com](mailto:rokzpro@yahoo.com)

Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:

Strongly oppose!!!

OPPOSE

I am against HB 2874.

## LATE TESTIMONY

I want you to preserve and protect Access of all sectors and all voices. By capping funding levels at 2011 will take future fund that support access and community free speech and use to support other state initiative.

- By limiting PEG Access funding, the State will also be limiting the free expression of local voices
- Community participation and PEG Access programming continues to grow. With capped funding, 'Olelo will be hard pressed to meet the community's future communication needs.
- Funds are collected from cable subscribers for the purpose of supporting PEG Access and should only be used for that purpose

Cable subscribers should not bear the burden for creating a Broadband initiative.

Erika Teska

4127 C Guadalcanal Circle  
Kapolei HI 96707  
808.354.2659

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** Jack De Feo [jdefeo@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 6:21 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** HB 2874

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Aloha & Greetings,

Much to my dismay there is legislation going to be heard on discussion for Bill 2874 the morning of 3/27/12. This attempt to divert funds intended to insure 'Olelo can adequately meet the needs of all the communities they serve must STOP! While PEG Access continues to grow, 'Olelo will be hard pressed with capped funding to provide the community's future communication needs. Furthermore this bill will also limit the free expression of our local voices that we depend on for vital information in our decision making process as engaged citizens on issues of local and national concern. To circumvent the funds collected from cable subscribers for the sole purpose of supporting PEG Access is tantamount to malfeasance by our public officials who are in support of Bill 2874. Cable subscribers should not have to bear the burden of creating a Broadband initiative when there are other means and ways to achieve that admirable goal. I ask that The Finance Committee in good faith put to rest and bury Bill 2874!

Mahalo,

Jack De Feo - 723-9002

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** Hanaside News [hanaside@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 7:06 AM  
**To:** testimony@akaku.org  
**Subject:** Vote NO on HB2874

## **LATE TESTIMONY**

This is my testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HB2874. Although I support the state effort to encourage fast, ubiquitous and affordable broadband for all Hawaii residents by 2018, freezing the funds for already underfunded PEG Access stations is not the way to do it. Since PEG Access centers are truly the sole Community Anchor Institutions already set up to train residents in broadband adoption and community broadband access, it would be a huge mistake to divert funding away from these resources. Please vote no on this measure or add an amendment that will increase, not freeze PEG funding for purposes of broadband education.

## FINTestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 2:43 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: hb2874\_2012@hawaii-wifi.com  
Subject: Testimony for HB2874 on 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2874

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Alan Lennard  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [hb2874\\_2012@hawaii-wifi.com](mailto:hb2874_2012@hawaii-wifi.com)  
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:  
I OPPOSE HB 2874

Dear Legislators,

We are very alarmed that there appears to be a State Capitol wave to deny public engagement in Hawaii.

There are outrageous bills that will deny the public the protection of Sunshine and due process laws.

And now we have HB 2874 to deny ample opportunity to participate in public media access.

Olelo community media provides a critical tool to promote open democracy and free speech.

Many experienced and articulate volunteers use this inexpensive media to engage the public on various issues that government and special interests do not provide. There are growing grassroots sentiments that these open media discussions are making legislators and special interests feel uncomfortable. I hope this is not the case.

All pro-democracy and pro-sunshine legislators should support this PEG platform, not undermine and dilute it.

I oppose HB 2874 and also share the below premises of many Olelo supporters:

By limiting PEG Access funding, the State will also be limiting the free expression of local voices

Community participation and PEG Access programming continues to grow. With capped funding, 'Olelo will be hard pressed to meet the community's future communication needs.

Funds are collected from cable subscribers for the purpose of supporting PEG Access and should only be used for that purpose. This was an agreement between cable business and the public in the 1970s.

Cable subscribers should not bear the burden for creating a new Broadband initiative.

Thank you

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 1:52 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** ao1worship@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2874 on 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2874

# LATE TESTIMONY

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jake  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [ao1worship@gmail.com](mailto:ao1worship@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:

## FINTestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2012 11:41 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com  
Subject: Testimony for HB2874 on 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Testimony for FIN 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2874

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Choon James  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com](mailto:ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/26/2012

Comments:

OPPOSE HB 2874

Dear Legislators,

We are very alarmed that there appears to be a State Capitol wave to deny public engagement in Hawaii.

There are outrageous bills that will deny the public the protection of Sunshine and due process laws.

And now we have HB 2874 to deny ample opportunity to participate in public media access.

Olelo community media provides a critical tool to promote open democracy and free speech.

Many experienced and articulate volunteers use this inexpensive media to engage the public on various issues that government and special interests do not provide. There are growing grassroots sentiments that these open media discussions are making legislators and special interests feel uncomfortable. I hope this is not the case.

All pro-democracy and pro-sunshine legislators should support this PEG platform, not undermine and dilute it.

I oppose HB 2874 and also share the below premises of many Olelo supporters:

By limiting PEG Access funding, the State will also be limiting the free expression of local voices

Community participation and PEG Access programming continues to grow. With capped funding, 'Olelo will be hard pressed to meet the community's future communication needs.

Funds are collected from cable subscribers for the purpose of supporting PEG Access and should only be used for that purpose. This was an agreement between cable business and the public in the 1970s.

Cable subscribers should not bear the burden for creating a new Broadband initiative.

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** Steve Freid [stevefreid@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 1:02 AM  
**To:** testimony@akaku.org  
**Subject:** Vote NO on HB2874

**LATE TESTIMONY**

This is my testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HB2874. Although I support the state effort to encourage fast, ubiquitous and affordable broadband for all Hawaii residents by 2018, freezing the funds for already underfunded PEG Access stations is not the way to do it. Since PEG Access centers are truly the sole Community Anchor Institutions already set up to train residents in broadband adoption and community broadband access, it would be a huge mistake to divert funding away from these resources. Please vote no on this measure or add an amendment that will increase, not freeze PEG funding for purposes of broadband education.

With Aloha,

Steve Freid

 <http://lifeonmaui.com/>

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## FINTestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 12:36 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: oreneroma@hawaii.rr.com  
Subject: Testimony for HB2874 on 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Testimony for FIN 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2874

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Oren Tsutsumi  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [oreneroma@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:oreneroma@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 9:34 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** vsc@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2874 on 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2874

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Victoria Cannon  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [vsc@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:vsc@hawaiiantel.net)  
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 7:18 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** laulani@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2874 on 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2874

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Laulani Teale  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [laulani@gmail.com](mailto:laulani@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:  
Aloha Kākou,

As a youth educator, I urge all of you to please stop this measure immediately. While I am sure the intention is good, and while I certainly support school video initiatives, the effects of this measure would be devastating on the very youth it attempts to help. 'Olelo Community Media is already the BEST resource young people have available to them, and unlike school-based projects, it is a resource they can stay involved with when they leave school. Please SUPPORT and PROTECT this crucial community resource.

Mahalo nui loa,

Laulani Teale

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 26, 2012 10:07 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** lutfyr001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2874 on 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Testimony for FIN 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2874

Conference room: 308  
Identifier position: Support  
Identifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Judith Lutfy  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [lutfyr001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:lutfyr001@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/26/2012

### Comments:

Please do not freeze funds for Olelo. Olelo is an important part of our community and should be encouraged to continue the good work, particularly with the young. Their work needs encouragement not opposition.

## FINTestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 4:33 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: eteska@gmail.com  
Subject: Testimony for HB2874 on 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN. 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2874

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Erika Teska  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [eteska@gmail.com](mailto:eteska@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:

## FINTestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 9:38 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: carolphilips1@gmail.com  
Subject: Testimony for HB2874 on 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2874

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Carol Philips  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [carolphilips1@gmail.com](mailto:carolphilips1@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

We are very alarmed that there appears to be a State Capitol wave to deny public engagement in Hawaii.

There are outrageous bills that will deny the public the protection of Sunshine and due process laws.

And now we have HB 2874 to deny ample opportunity to participate in public media access.

Olelo community media provides a critical tool to promote open democracy and free speech.

Many experienced and articulate volunteers use this inexpensive media to engage the public on various issues that government and special interests do not provide. There are growing grassroots sentiments that these open media discussions are making legislators and special interests feel uncomfortable. I hope this is not the case.

All pro-democracy and pro-sunshine legislators should support this PEG platform, not undermine and dilute it.

I oppose HB 2874 and also share the below premises of many Olelo supporters:

By limiting PEG Access funding, the State will also be limiting the free expression of local voices

Community participation and PEG Access programming continues to grow. With capped funding, 'Olelo will be hard pressed to meet the community's future communication needs.

Funds are collected from cable subscribers for the purpose of supporting PEG Access and should only be used for that purpose. This was an agreement between cable business and the public in the 1970s.

Cable subscribers should not bear the burden for creating a new Broadband initiative.

Respectfully,  
Carol Philips

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** Joana Johnston [joanamariajohnston@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 8:11 AM  
**To:** testimony@akaku.org  
**Subject:** Vote NO on HB2874

**LATE TESTIMONY**

This is my testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB2874. Although I support the state effort to encourage fast, ubiquitous and affordable broadband for all Hawaii residents by 2018, freezing the funds for already underfunded PEG Access stations is not the way to do it. Since PEG Access centers are truly the sole Community Anchor Institutions already set up to train residents in broadband adoption and community broadband access, it would be a huge mistake to divert funding away from these resources. Please vote no on this measure or add an amendment that will increase, not freeze PEG funding for purposes of broadband education.

## FINTestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 6:18 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: hokuokekai50@msn.com  
Subject: Testimony for HB2874 on 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2874

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Conference room: 308

Testifier position: Oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Mary Lacques

Organization: Individual

E-mail: [hokuokekai50@msn.com](mailto:hokuokekai50@msn.com)

Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:

Aloha Chair Oshiro and Vice-Chair Lee,

I am testifying in strong opposition to HB 2874, a very bad bill that will decrease the public's access for participation in public media. Why would you cripple our ability to engage in civic discourse concerning issues that government and special interests do not provide? I work regular business hours, and without Olelo I would be less engaged in our government and the broader community. I am sure that you are aware that community participation and PEG Access programming continues to grow. Please do not hinder Olelo's ability to meet projected community communication needs. As a cable subscriber, I resent being asked to bear the burden for creating a new broadband initiative.

I thank you in advance for not stifling our ability to engage in our local, state, and international community.

Sincerely,

Mary Lacques

## FINTestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 8:45 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: HNL-Jack@hawaii.rr.com  
Subject: Testimony for HB2874 on 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2874

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: John W. Bates  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [HNL-Jack@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:HNL-Jack@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

### Comments:

Four years ago, I joined 'Olelo as it's marketing manager following retirement after twenty three years with Starr Seigle Communications, the last six years serving as chairman and CEO.

I submit this testimony as an individual, not as an employee as I believe my perceptions prior to joining 'Olelo is, like many of the committee perhaps, of 'Olelo were terribly uninformed. Frankly, I had not spent much time viewing 'Olelo's channels and knew little of the outreach programs or programming they are responsible for in the community. I didn't know...

1. about the annual Youth Xchange student video competition (the states largest) where students with their teachers create videos relating to issues facing our community. The program provides training to teach students how to use their voice by employing video in a positive manner. The competition received over 580 entries last year and has awarded over 200 video cameras to our schools since its inception eight years ago.

2. about the "Vote Informed" campaign 'Olelo hosts during election years offering candidates on O'ahu or seeking statewide or federal office the opportunity to present themselves and their platform on TV at no cost. The campaign also features forums and debates, not only for those high profile candidates for a particular office, but for all candidates. As part of "Vote Informed" 'Olelo produces more hours of election programming than any other TV station in Hawaii.

3. 'Olelo has been recognized nationally as one of the leading community access organizations for its innovations and commitment to all sectors of the community, public, educational and government (PEG). A commitment made possible by keeping PEG together, a knowledgeable decision made by 'Olelo's founding fathers, including Governor Neil Abercrombie.

I could go on and on, but I respectfully suggest to the committee that you should not trust perceptions, but rather visit the 'Olelo Community Media Centers located around 'Oahu, meet the students, visit with the community producers who have turned over 100,000 locally produced programs to 'Olelo and I'm confident that like I was, you'll be amazed at the impact and relevance that 'Olelo has had on 'Oahu.

To further reduce the funding by diverting those funds away from the purpose they were created will crush public access on 'Oahu. If you intend to limit the public's ability access to media to express themselves, it will work and we can join a long list of third world country's who use similar techniques to stifle public voice.

Respectively submitted,

## FINTestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 9:51 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: kcstuff@hotmail.com  
Subject: Testimony for HB2874 on 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2874

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: KC Connors  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [kcstuff@hotmail.com](mailto:kcstuff@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Comments:  
STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 2874  
Feb 27, 2012-10am Finance Committee

Aloha Chairman Marcus Oshiro & distinguished members of the Finance Committee,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 2874. I strongly oppose PEG Access being limited because it will severely damage and close some of OLELO's excellent Community Media Centers in our school around Oahu.

Olelo Public Television is such an asset to Hawaii and needs to be fully funded! Over the years, OLELO has developed so many of the excellent partnerships with Schools, Businesses, Non-profits, individuals and Communities that greatly leverage OLELO's resources for the benefit of the public and our youth. To cap OLELO's funding would exponentially damage our Communities and all these great programs and opportunities for our students.

OLELO believes Digital Media is the Literacy of the Future. And Olelo has been in the forefront of teaching Video & TV to our keiki and youth all over the island in fun and innovative ways. Olelo has many great programs in schools, wonderful Summer Programs and its Youth X-change is the largest student program and Video contest in the State!

Olelo is a great supporter of our Rural Communities- with branches all over the island. With all the corporate media mergers, the mainstream press no longer has reporters in our outer areas and in the Country. Now often our local TV stations won't cover a story unless we drive all the way to their offices in Honolulu! Without Olelo important stories, from outside of Honolulu won't be told. Capping OLELO's PEG funding would rob us all of important news and views from outside Honolulu.

Our rural youth, for example at Kahuku Intermediate & High School would not have had a chance to learn 21st Century Media technology if it weren't for the small Olelo Community Media Center at the school- and the Big Hearts and countless additional volunteer hours of the Olelo staff. Olelo has given our rural Community a whole new vision of their future and possible 21st Century job opportunities and training for our youth.

I have visited a Public Television station and I have seen how well-equipped facilities can be when the public and the political leadership ensure that their Public Television gets the full 5% allotted to them by law. This full 5% funding comes from the lucrative Cable

Company contracts with no cost to tight government budgets or the public. One again, there are &quot;misunderstandings&quot; in our Legislature.

Please review this article: &quot;For Time Warner, Isles are a gold mine&quot;  
<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2010/Jan/18/ln/hawaii1180337.html>  
And please take a fresh look at renewal contract between the DCCA Cable Division and the Cable Companies to ensure that Oahu and OLELO get the full 5% funding allowed by law.

Instead of capping PEG and Olelo's funding, it needs to be expanded. More of our schools need to have an Olelo Community Media Training Centers and more of our students need to participate in Olelo's many exciting learning events.

Mahalo for allowing me to use my voice to speak-up strongly for such a great organization, a great ohana like Olelo and its funding. Mahalo for opposing HB 2874 and supporting the funding and expansion of Olelo.

Sincerely,  
KC Connors  
Ko'olau Loa

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** Carole Livingstone [liv777@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 7:49 AM  
**To:** testimony@akaku.org  
**Subject:** Vote NO on HB2874

## **LATE TESTIMONY**

This is my testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HB2874. Although I support the state effort to encourage fast, ubiquitous and affordable broadband for all Hawaii residents by 2018, freezing the funds for already underfunded PEG Access stations is not the way to do it. Since PEG Access centers are truly the sole Community Anchor Institutions already set up to train residents in broadband adoption and community broadband access, it would be a huge mistake to divert funding away from these resources. Please vote no on this measure or add an amendment that will increase, not freeze PEG funding for purposes of broadband education.

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Have a beautiful day!!!  
Carole Livingstone  
808-250-2468 cell

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 8:29 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** jude-naleo@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2874 on 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2874

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jude Lyon  
Organization: Na Leo O Hawaii  
E-mail: [jude-naleo@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jude-naleo@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

## **LATE TESTIMONY**

### **Comments:**

Finance Committee Members & Legislative Management Members:

What you are proposing is a raid on the funding for public access broadcasting and the people's rights to freedom of speech on the airways. In essence, you wish to take money that is derived from cable franchise fees paid for by subscribers for the purpose of supporting public access television, and repurpose the money in any way that you choose. This money does not belong to the state. It belongs to the people of Hawaii and has a single purpose - to assure that their voices will be heard through television broadcasts.

I strongly oppose this raid on public access funding. If this bill is passed, it will slowly but surely silence free speech and the people you serve.

While the intent of this bill has positive attributes, you must not sacrifice free speech for all Hawaii's people for the benefit of projects of your choosing.

Please find funding elsewhere for this bill.

## FINTestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2012 7:38 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: stiver-aloha@hawaii.rr.com  
Subject: Testimony for HB2874 on 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2874

Conference room: 308  
Stifier position: Oppose  
Stifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Robert H Stiver  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [stiver-aloha@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:stiver-aloha@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/26/2012

# LATE TESTIMONY

### Comments:

I can't imagine who is responsible for this proposed legislation, but he or she should be ashamed and immediately withdraw it. PEG access, via 'Olelo Community Television, is a vibrant part of our community, used by old (like me) and young alike. I've been using 'Olelo for 6.5 years, and I want its excellence and its programs for the public EXPANDED, not frozen or reduced. Every cent marked for PEG access via my cable-franchise fees should be released to 'Olelo, including gradual increases which I assume are in the pipeline. It's so gratifying for me to see young kids around 'Olelo's Mapunapuna studio -- I'd rather have them communications endeavors rather than defacing their precious bodies with tattoos or racing cars on the H-1. I repeat: as an 'Olelo admirer and user, please reject this unwise legislation!

## FINTestimony

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m: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2012 8:25 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: jyohta@hawaii.rr.com  
Subject: Testimony for HB2874 on 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Testimony for FIN 2/27/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2874

Conference room: 308

Identifier position: Oppose

Identifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Jeanne Ohta

Organization: Individual

E-mail: [jyohta@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jyohta@hawaii.rr.com)

Submitted on: 2/26/2012

### Comments:

I am opposed to section 2 of this bill, which places a cap on the funds going to PEG Access. Community media is growing on all islands. Placing a cap on funding will limit growth of community access. Community programs give people who never had a voice an avenue for expressing their points of view. They are expressing views that are reflected nowhere else. PEG programming is reflective of all sectors of our community. Section 2 of this bill seeks to limit that growth and the community opportunity to voice concerns and diverse points of view.

Rights-of-way and airwaves are public space and as a community benefit, the cable operator is required to serve the public interest by making channels available for the purpose of broadcasting community media.

The funds for the broadband initiative should not be taken from the funds provided by cable fees. The modest fees collected for the use of public airwaves should be entirely dedicated to community media.

Please hold this measure.

**From:** Tina Lia [tinalia@tinalia.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 26, 2012 7:24 PM  
**To:** testimony@akaku.org  
**Subject:** Vote NO on HB2874

This is my testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HB2874. Although I support the state effort to encourage fast, ubiquitous and affordable broadband for all Hawaii residents by 2018, freezing the funds for already underfunded PEG Access stations is not the way to do it. Since PEG Access centers are truly the sole Community Anchor Institutions already set up to train residents in broadband adoption and community broadband access, it would be a huge mistake to divert funding away from these resources. Please vote no on this measure or add an amendment that will increase, not freeze PEG funding for purposes of broadband education.

Aloha.  
Tina Lia  
[tinalia@tinalia.com](mailto:tinalia@tinalia.com)  
P.O. Box 881156  
Pukalani, HI 96788