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**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.co.maui.hi.us/council/](http://www.co.maui.hi.us/council/)

February 16, 2006

Mr. Clyde S. Sonobe, Administrator  
Cable Television Division  
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs  
PO Box 541  
Honolulu, HI 96809

Dear Mr. Sonobe:

**SUBJECT: TESTIMONY REGARDING RFP FOR PEG PROVIDERS**

Thank you for coming to Molokai and giving our community the opportunity to speak on a most crucial matter concerning our island. As a member of the Maui County Council, I know the importance of fairness and opportunity for the public when it comes to the procurement process, however I feel it necessary to advocate for Akaku Television to be the PEG provider for Molokai.

A rural community like Molokai is a perfect example of the need for, and success of public access television. The Molokai Media Center, which provides the facilities, resources, training and media access to encourage and promote public access TV, plays a critical role in the success of many educational and cultural agencies on Molokai. The media center has trained and certified over 130 individuals, including DOE and private teachers, students and even residents of Lanai. The media center has worked with many community organizations to produce nearly 80 Molokai video programs for cablecast on Akaku's community access stations over the past year. The established relationship with the entities that use the Media Center's services as well as the public with which it interacts is the momentum of the success of Akaku on Molokai.

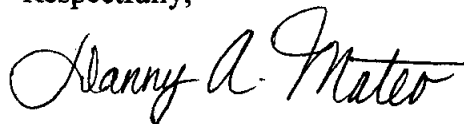
The Molokai Media Center has had a positive effect on our economy. They have provided increasing employment from 2 part-timers, 3 years ago to 3 full-time and 2 part-time today. Further, the Media Center has received an impressive amount in outside funding, \$100,000 in 2006 alone. The strides that the Media Center has made in community participation and Public Access Television use, speaks to the successful management by Akaku in fostering participation, education and viewership. While public access television is indeed an excellent vehicle for community education, information as well as entertainment, it is only as good as it is managed. Akaku has done an exemplary

February 16, 2006  
Page 2

job in serving the Molokai Community. While I believe in free enterprise, for a community like ours, it would be a crap-shoot for the success of a new provider to fill Akaku's shoes.

It is for the forgoing reasons that I am advocating not invoking the RFP process in choosing a PEG service provider for Maui County. Molokai has too much at stake to take that chance. Thank you for allowing Molokai's voice to be heard.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danny A. Mateo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DANNY A. MATEO  
Council Member

DAM:aas

cc: Molokai Council Office  
Matt Yamashita, Molokai Media Center

# Mediation Center of Molokai

To: Governor's Advisory Council and DCCA  
From: Claud Sutcliffe  
Re: Akaku Molokai Media Center

Aloha!

February 16, 2006

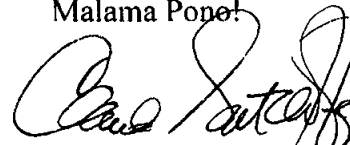
On Molokai, we still believe in the old saying: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" I am writing to tell you that the Akaku Molokai Media Center is one of the few things on Molokai that "ain't broke" so please don't fix it!

Matt Yamashita and his staff are doing an outstanding job, so I support their request for an exemption from the normal state procurement process.

Normally, I support that process, with RFIs leading to RFPs and competitive bidding for POS contracts. But I buy the argument that it would be a waste of taxpayers' money in this particular case. I agree that it would be difficult to design an RFP that would include all the services that Akaku Molokai is currently providing, and I think it is highly likely that they would win any resulting POS contract, in any case.

Please do whatever you can to ensure that Molokai will continue to benefit from such an excellent non-profit organization as Akaku. They do wonderful work, and we need them!

Malama Pono!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Claud Sutcliffe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Claud Sutcliffe, Ph.D.  
Executive Director



# QUEEN LILI'UOKALANI CHILDREN'S CENTER LILI'UOKALANI TRUST

**MAIN OFFICE**

1300 HALONA STREET  
HONOLULU, HI 96817  
PHONE 847-1302  
FAX 841-0502

**HONOLULU UNIT**

1300-A HALONA STREET  
HONOLULU, HI 96817  
PHONE 847-7991  
FAX 841-6449

**CENTRAL WEST UNIT**

94-216 FARRINGTON HIGHWAY  
SUITE A-2  
WAIPAHU, HI 96797  
PHONE 676-5070  
FAX 676-5613

**KO'OLAUPOKO UNIT**

46-316 HAIKU ROAD  
KANE'OHĒ, HI 96744  
PHONE 235-7613  
FAX 236-1948

**WAI'ANAE COAST UNIT**

87-1876 FARRINGTON HIGHWAY  
WAI'ANAE, HI 96792  
PHONE 668-2314  
FAX 668-8811

**WINDWARD UNIT**

53-516 KAMEHAMEHA HIGHWAY  
HAU'ULA, HI 96717  
PHONE 293-8577  
FAX 293-5182

**HILO UNIT**

919 ULULANI STREET  
HILO, HI 96720  
PHONE 935-9381  
FAX 969-7599

**KONA UNIT**

QUEEN KA'AHUMANU HIGHWAY  
P.O. BOX 2819  
KAILUA-KONA, HI 96745  
PHONE 329-7336  
FAX 326-7587

**MOLOKA'I UNIT**

KAMEHAMEHA HIGHWAY  
P.O. BOX 55  
KAUNAKAKAI, HI 96748  
PHONE 553-5369  
FAX 553-5816

**MAUI UNIT**

1791 WILI PA LOOP  
WAILUKU, HI 96793  
PHONE 242-8888  
FAX 242-1576

**KAUA'I UNIT**

4530 KALI ROAD  
LIHU'E, HI 96766  
PHONE 245-1873  
FAX 245-2167

February 14, 2006

Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs  
Cable Television Division  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Attention: Clyde Sonobe

Dear Mr. Sonobe:

I want to say mahalo for the opportunity to express my thoughts about the services provided by our PEG (Public, Education, Government) Access organization and the possible issuance of a RFP (Request for Proposal) for PEG services.

In the recent years, there has been a surge of interest and participation in public media and related programs, both in community and among our youth through collaborative programs with the schools, local non-profit organizations, and the business community.

As a community, we have worked hard to build partnerships to improve access and use of media as a powerful means of communication and learning. Many of us believe that every segment of our community deserves to have access to information and to have a voice on government or community matters that affect them. I have been encouraged by the efforts of AKAKU, our PEG access organization in Maui County, to expand and improve services to Molokai. We now have dedicated staff at our Molokai Media Center who has acquired the trust and respect of the community for making their services accessible and meaningful for our community. Our local staff was instrumental in organizing the Molokai Community Alliance for Media (M-CAM), whose purpose is to support access to and development of media-related programs, projects, and services in the Molokai community. It is made up of a consortium of educators, service providers, private business interests, and local government. There has been a noticeable increase in Molokai programs on AKAKU, which is an indicator of the program's successful efforts to do outreach into our community.

Given the program's development under our current PEG access organization, AKAKU, it would be counter-productive to risk what we have so far by the issuance of an RFP. It is clear to me that the DCCA should request an exemption to the RFP process.

Mahalo again for this opportunity to share mana'o.

Barbara Kalipi, Unit Manager  
Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center

# Thank You For Filling Out This Form

Below is what you submitted to info@akaku.org on Thursday, February 16, 2006 at 18:48:53

**name:** CURTIS CRABBE - 708 LEI KUKUI PL  
HOOLEHUA HI 96729

**phone:** 8085676543

**hours:** Strongly Satisfied

**equipment:** OK

**training:** Strongly Satisfied

**knowledge:** Strongly Satisfied

**overall:** Strongly Satisfied

**value:** Strongly Satisfied

**exempted:** Yes

**Comments:** while the state procurement laws prevail, molokai, maui, and lanai have a unique environment where we heavily depend on akaku to broadcast many events including maui council/state legislative hearing. i cannot perceive as to how bidding, or even an rfp, could enhance services that akaku has pioneered. akaku has a proven track record. however it should be noted that extreme scrutiny should be exercised in the annual evaluation of the budgets and funds that akaku receives from the state. it would be a serious error in judgement to let the services that akaku provides the the small tri-isle community of maui, be let out to bid. the drafting of an rfp by a consultant not in the county of maui, and the attempt to "cookie cutter" all PEG services throughout the state of Hawaii, would be a travesty and an a complete disregard to the smaller, inaccessible communities like molokai. let akaku stand on its own merits. let politics continue elsewhere in the big city.

FormMail V1.92 © 1995 - 2002 Matt Wright  
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MILILANI — MOLOKAI

OLELO - EXCELLENT MEDIA

AKAKU

- FOSTER ECONOMIC GROWTH
- EDUCATION
- BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
- PARITY V. CONTROL



Nakoa Ka'ahanui <jawaiian\_kind@yahoo.com> on 02/20/2006 12:12:37 PM

CABLE DIVISION  
COMMERCE AND  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

2006 FEB 21 A 10: 42

To: cabletv@dcca.hawaii.gov  
cc:

A \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ P \_\_\_ S \_\_\_

Subject:

FILE \_\_\_\_\_

Aloha CATV Division,

My name is Nakoa Ka'ahanui and I am a resident of Moloka'i and also a former employee at Akaku Molokai Media Center. I am currently a college student at Menlo College in California and have recently heard about this threat to terminate Akaku on Molokai.

Molokai sadly does not have much things on the other islands as far as media and the only way people on molokai can get their voice or opinion out is through the public access station Akaku.

Recently there were many important meetings held on Molokai regarding the housing proposal down at La'au Point and Molokai Ranch and many residents of the island were unable to attend these very important meetings for various reasons but because each and every meeting was filmed the residents were able to catch in on the Akaku station.

Akaku has also helped me in regards of my future plans after high school. Before working at Akaku I was not sure as to what I wanted to do after graduation, but because I was working at Akaku with filming events and editing them after I realized that I really enjoyed doing that and could also attend college to major in media and video production.

I believe that the DCCA Cable Television Division should seek an exemption from the requirement that those services be procured through a competitive bid process and that Akaku should be left available to the residents of Molokai.

Sincerely,  
K. Nakoa Ka'ahanui

Yahoo! Autos. Looking for a sweet ride? Get pricing, reviews, & more on new and used cars.



"Matt Yamashita" <molokaimatt@hotmail.com> on 02/23/2006 05:11:33 PM

To: cabletv@dcca.hawaii.gov  
cc:

Subject: testimony - RFP exemption for PEGs

To: DCCA Director, Mark Recktenwald  
Cable Administrator, Clyde Sonobe  
Governor Linda Lingle

From: Matt Yamashita, Molokai Community Alliance for Media

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2006

Subject: RFP and PEG Access Providers

The competitive bid process for state issued contracts often provide for the benefits of open competition, less spending of taxpayer money, and better service under most circumstances. It would NOT, however, benefit the State of Hawaii or its counties, cities and rural communities to subject PEG cable access provider contracts to the procurement process. Neither would it be practicable.

I testify specifically in regard to the services provided by Akaku Maui Community TV, but also support exemption from the procurement process for all Hawaii PEG access providers.

The potential negative impact of subjecting PEG contracts to the procurement process far outweighs any potential benefit to our communities.

Akaku has tremendous support from users and cable subscribers in Maui County. With over 10 years of service in this specialized field, Akaku has evolved into an organization that is capable of both measuring and meeting continually evolving community needs. Akaku has created comprehensive networks with government agencies, schools, and other non-profits that are successful because of long histories of working together and a proven track record. Furthermore, Akaku remains at the forefront in providing leading technologies for PEG access and retains a highly skilled and experienced staff.

The services provided by a PEG access provider are comprehensive and many. Customer service, equipment research and purchasing, channel programming and operation, technical training, media education and awareness programs, infrastructure build-up and maintenance, outreach to underserved areas, inter-agency partnerships, production services for non-profits and government agencies, community needs assessments, strategic planning, long-term sustainability planning, data collection and management, budgeting and administration, promotion of freedom of speech, and open access to facilities, equipment, and channels for Public, Education, and Government

sectors of the community. These are just some of the many responsibilities of a quality PEG access provider!

Only a non-profit organization completely dedicated and designed for providing these types of services could effectively provide these services. Furthermore, it would take years of operation before such an organization could create effective operational systems to meet the many needs of an entire county; especially, as is the case, where communities already demand an established level of quality, service, and commitment.

Fortunately, the organizations already exist. They are the current PEG access providers. To add to this, it is a historical fact, as stated on page two of the 1998 PEG Agreement, written by the DCCA, that: in accordance with recommendations made by an access planning committee appointed by the Director (of the DCCA), Akaku was created to manage the public access finances and operate the public access facilities, equipment and channels. In other words, Akaku was not a pre-existing agency looking for a PEG contract; rather, Akaku was created under the guidance and order of the State DCCA to provide the comprehensive and unique services required of a PEG provider. Thus, it would seem to be both a waste of time and taxpayer money for the State's DCCA to design and implement a costly RFP process for services so specific and comprehensive that no agency, aside from the existing PEG providers which were designed for this specific purpose, could qualify.

Furthermore, on page seven, under section G. Payments for Services of the 1999 PEG Agreement, it is stated that: Akaku shall not receive any money or other valuable consideration from the DCCA. The fact that funding for PEG contracts comes from Oceanic Time Warner, under the regulation of the DCCA, and NOT the state's general fund, lends more justification for an allowable exemption. I hope that the DCCA will look carefully at whether or not any other comparable situations exist where the State Procurement law is applied to contracts funded by private, non-government monies?

It must also be made clear that the purpose of PEG access can only truly be served by a private non-profit entity. PEG access is successful and beneficial to communities when access is free, uncensored, non-discriminating, and non-commercial. It would be difficult for a government agency or a for-profit agency to provide these guarantees.

Finally, I make a specific appeal on behalf of the residents of Molokai. Akaku Maui Community TV has served our island well. When Molokai residents expressed a need for expanded services and better facilities, Akaku responded by allocating increased resources to its Molokai Media Center. Akaku has remained committed to its efforts on Molokai and has encouraged Molokai staff to work towards best serving its community.

In the last year alone (January 2005 to January 2006) the Molokai Media Center has trained and certified over 130 individuals, of which 110 were Molokai youth, 13 were Molokai DOE and private school teachers, and 8 were Lanai residents. It has worked with, and continues to work with a long list of community organizations and has submitted nearly 80 Molokai-produced video programs for cablecast on Akaku's community access stations in the past 12 months. It also provides employment for five Molokai residents.



It is critical to recognize that Akaku provides Molokai with the following services at no cost:

- \* The ability to view County Council, legislative, & other civic meetings held on outer islands
- \* An opportunity for isolated Molokai voices to be heard throughout Maui County
- \* A media venue for local artists to showcase their talent
- \* An avenue for non-profits to create greater awareness for their services and programs
- \* A community driven media resource for creating awareness about Molokai-based events, issues and meetings
- \* A comprehensive video training and media education provider actively working with schools, non-profits, & individuals
- \* Video production equipment and facilities open to the entire community

It is not an understatement to say that these services bring social cohesiveness, valuable educational opportunities and an avenue of empowerment to Molokai and its people. A strong testament to this is the formation of the Molokai Community Alliance for Media (M-CAM), a community network of on-island agencies designed to support media access and education on Molokai; all of which depend on Akaku's Molokai Media Center for providing media training and access resources.

Furthermore, Akaku's Molokai Media Center, for its solid track record and proven community need, was awarded over one hundred thousand dollars in outside grant funding to provide training services and programs to Molokai residents and youth over the next eighteen months. These hard earned, badly-needed funds will be lost should Akaku be replaced.

There is also the growing relationship between PEG agencies across the state. The Akaku Molokai Media Center has modeled itself after the highly successful Olelo Waianae program. Over the past five years this relationship has lead to partnerships between the two PEG agencies. Students from Molokai have traveled to Waianae for exposure and training on several occasions while Akaku Molokai Media Center staff have been guided and mentored by Waianae staff. This inter-agency partnering and support is something that has just begun to truly blossom.

Finally, should the DCCA and the State Procurement Office disregard the peoples' majority voice, and an exemption is not filed or is denied, and a procurement process initiated, it is paramount that the many valuable services and qualities that I have attributed to Akaku within the body of this testimony be written in as necessary requirements for any entity applying for the RFP.

In a state where our island communities and seats of government are physically separated by expanses of water, and in which social, cultural, and economic demographics are shifting at an unprecedented rate, PEG access television is of the greatest importance to the practice of democracy and to the welfare, education and empowerment of our people. The current PEG access providers excel in providing these necessary and valuable services and have become trusted community institutions and, therefore, should not be

hampered by additional layers of bureaucracy, unnecessary controls, or threats to their funding resources. As long as they continue to be supported by our public, so too should our state agencies and policymakers celebrate and support the preservation of our current PEG access providers.

Sincerely,  
Matt N. Yamashita  
Molokai Community Alliance for Media  
Director, Akaku Molokai Media Center  
PO Box 265  
Kaunakakai, HI 96748  
(808)553-5011



- DCCA RFP testimony Matt Y 2-21-06.doc

To: DCCA Director, Mark Recktenwald  
Cable Administrator, Clyde Sonobe  
Governor Linda Lingle

From: Matt Yamashita, Molokai Community Alliance for Media

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2006

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Sincerely,

Matt N. Yamashita

Molokai Community Alliance for Media

Director, Akaku Molokai Media Center

PO Box 265

Kaunakakai, HI 96748

(808)553-5011



marge yokomizo-bento <yokobento@yahoo.com> on 02/23/2006 11:42:37 AM

To: cabletv@dcca.hawaii.gov  
cc:

Subject: Testimony Regarding RFP for PEG Providers

Attach is my testimony  
Mahalo,  
Marge Yokomizo-Bento

What are the most popular cars? Find out at [Yahoo! Autos](#)



- Akaku's testimony.doc

February 23, 2006

To: cabletv@dcca.hawaii.gov  
From: Marge Yokomizo-Bento

Subject:  
Testimony Regarding RFP for PEG Providers

My name is Marge Yokomizo-Bento I was born and raised on the island of Molokai. This is my testimony in support of Akaku Maui Community TV. I am 100% against the competitive bid process or request for proposal of Akaku Maui Community TV.

Matt Yamashita, Josh Pastrana, Daniel Emhof and staff/volunteers of Akaku Molokai Media Center are valuable assets to the Molokai community. Along with many other community members I have witnessed the unconditional efforts of these fine young adults using their intelligence, skills and talents to teach the community the modern techniques of a growing communication industry. This provides our youth an opportunity to learn hands-on, especially on Molokai where opportunities are limited. Akaku has achieved its success through the efforts of Matt Yamashita, Josh Pastrana, Daniel Emhof and staff/volunteers.

I do not support the competitive process or RFP

Sincerely,

Marge Yokomizo-Bento





marge yokomizo-bento <yokobento@yahoo.com> on 02/23/2006 11:41:01 AM

To: cabletv@dcca.hawaii.gov  
cc:

Subject: Testimony Regarding RFP for PEG Providers

Here's my testimony  
Mahalo,  
Marge Yokomizo-Bento

---

Yahoo! Mail

Use Photomail to share photos without annoying attachments.



- Akaku's testimony.doc

February 23, 2006

To: cabletv@dcca.hawaii.gov  
From: Marge Yokomizo-Bento

Subject:  
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I do not support the competitive process or RFP

Sincerely,

Marge Yokomizo-Bento



"Editor at The Molokai Dispatch" <editor@themolokaidispatch.com> on  
02/23/2006 06:04:02 PM

Please respond to <editor@themolokaidispatch.com>

To: <cabletv@dcca.hawaii.gov>

cc:

Subject: Akaku Testimony - Todd Yamashita

To Whom It May Concern,

As the owner and editor in chief of the Molokai Dispatch, the island's most venerated news publication, I have had the extraordinary advantage of being very close to most of the various non-profit, education-oriented programs. The achievements and the merits of Akaku Molokai are of the most notable, and measurably successful of these programs. I hereby testify that subjugating Akaku to an RFP process is not only unnecessary, but not practicable, and most definitely disadvantageous to the State of Hawaii.

As Clyde Sonobewitnessed at the Molokai Governor's Council meeting, island support for Akaku RFP exemption is set at 100%. Linda Linglewill receive/has received the Council's official recommendation for Akaku's exemption. It cannot be more clearly stated how obviously integral Akaku's service of providing free speech is to the residents of Molokai. Please advise "EXEMPTION" for Akaku to the State Chief Procurement Officer.

Sincerely, Todd Yamashita

**THE MOLOKAI DISPATCH**

**TODD YAMASHITA - EDITOR IN CHIEF**

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P.O. Box 482219 | Kaunakakai, HI 96748



"Kevin & Dana Kaahanui" <ka\_mahiai@hotmail.com> on 02/23/2006 10:14:12 PM

To: cabletv@dcca.hawaii.gov  
cc:

Subject: Testimony - Akaku Molokai Media Center

February 23, 2006

Kevin & Dana Kaahanui  
P.O. Box 471  
Hoolehua, Hawaii 96729

Aloha,

This letter is a testimony as to the positive impact that Akaku Molokai Media Center has had on the Kaahanui family.

Four years ago our son, Nakoa Kaahanui, took a class that Akaku Molokai Media Center offered to the students at Molokai High School. Our son, like many students, had no clue as to what his future aspirations were. Akaku opened his eyes, as he began to realize that video technology was a career that he wanted to pursue. Nakoa was offered an internship with Akaku Molokai Media Center. He filmed many community meetings that aired on public access cable, which helped to keep the community informed on issues that affected the island of Molokai. It is because of the staff at Akaku, Matt Yamashita and Josh Pastrana that our son is attending college and pursuing a degree in Media Studies.

Therefore, we support exemption from RFP.

Thank You,

Kevin & Dana Kaahanui



"Gene Anderson" <gamangos@aloha.net> on 02/24/2006 01:46:45 AM

To: <cabletv@dcca.hawaii.gov>  
cc: <Governor.Lingle@hawaii.gov>

Subject: PLEASE SAVE OUR MOLOKAI , "AKAKU" !

**TO: Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs  
State of Hawaii**

**FROM: Gene Anderson  
P.O. Box 1748  
Kaunakakai, Hi. 96748**

To Whom it may Concern, Aloha:

Feb. 23rd, 2006

As visitor to Ohau more than a dozen of times in the 60s and 70s, I was always struck by the quaint, parochial nature of the Hawaiian TV News broadcasting. However, since I was in the islands as a tourist, I found it very relaxing not to know too much about what was going on in the world around me.

But when my wife and I discovered Molokai in the 80s, and retired here in the 90s, all that changed ! Now we are members of the Molokai island community, and we need to be aware and informed in order to understand and perpetuate in the social, cultural, and environmental values of this very special place. Surprisingly, this is not an easy task. TV news from Honolulu stays the same; more reporting of violence, more new development, more traffic jams, and very little news about the governor, legislature, mayor or county council. Consequently, the population is numbed, and lulled into complacency, and everything seems to be on "cruise control."

Not here on Molokai ! I have never witnessed a population with more community spirit and eagerness to participate in the future of their island. This community of 7,200 men, women, and children "turns-out" remarkable numbers for meetings of the planning commission, Maui county council, DLNR hearings, etc., as well as, visits from county, state and federal representatives and politicians. This rural population, largely of Hawaiian decent, wants to know what's going-on, and is willing to question and speak-out for what thinks is right.

To this end, AKAKU has played a critical role in providing firsthand coverage of numerous public meetings on both Maui and Molokai. Thanks to their tireless camera crews, we able to eye-witness the great diversity of events, activities, thoughts and talents of this unique island population. AKAKU provides the kind of uncensored, non-discriminating, non-commercial, open access television that is essential to the preservation of this island, "this aina" and its ways and heritage, in a time when people are too quick change things, worry about the consequences later.

Please, KEEP "AKAKU" FREE AND INDEPENDENT of the Request for Proposal, and the competitive bid process which will surely undermine the clear, civic "voice" that AKAKU provides our community. AKAKU and the Molokai Media Center have provided award-winning access services for more than a decade. AKAKU'S excellent services and growing partnerships have been built with cable access monies, which are carefully accounted for, along with accompanying reports. AKAKU has proven itself ! Let it continue to provide its skill and experience, in serving the community.

**Thank you for your consideration in this matter.**

**Respectfully, Gene Anderson**  
**[gamangos@aloha.net](mailto:gamangos@aloha.net)**  
**PH. 553-5563**