

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS Cable Television Division

DCCA News Release

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CABLE COMPANY TO REFUND OAHU SUBSCRIBERS NEARLY HALF-A-MILLION DOLLARS

HONOLULU -- The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) has ordered Time Warner Entertainment Company, L.P., to refund its Oahu subscribers \$483,759.00 for over-collected franchise fees.

DCCA commissioned Merina & Company, LLP and Public Knowledge, Inc. to review the cable television franchise fee calculation, assessment, collection, and payment process during a seven year period (January 1, 1995 through December 31, 2002). Their report identified the over-collections, and determined that they were largely a result of the company's internal accounting practices that were utilized at that time. The company has since changed its accounting practices to recalculate franchise fees to ensure greater accuracy.

"We are committed to advocating for Hawaii consumers and ensuring fairness in the marketplace," said DCCA director Mark Recktenwald.

Oceanic Time Warner Cable of Hawaii Oahu subscribers should expect to see a refund in the amount of \$1.92 on a future monthly cable bill. The refund to all subscribers should be completed by June 2, 2005.

Similar refunds for certain neighbor island cable subscribers are being planned for the near future.

The report is posted in its entirety on DCCA's website at www.hawaii.gov/dcca/areas/catv/decisions_orders/files/.

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