

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS Cable Television Division

DCCA News Release

LINDA LINGLE GOVERNOR

> MARK E. RECKTENWALD DIRECTOR Phone: (808) 586-2850 Fax: (808) 586-2856

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 5, 2007

CABLE COMPANY TO REFUND APPROXIMATELY \$162,000 TO MAUI & HILO FRANCHISE SUBSCRIBERS

HONOLULU—The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) has issued orders to Time Warner Entertainment Company, L.P., to refund \$120,078 to its Maui subscribers (excluding the Lahaina franchise area) and \$42,100 to its Hilo subscribers for over-collected franchise fees.

DCCA commissioned financial consultant, Merina & Company, LLP to review Time Warner's franchise fee calculation, assessment, collection, and payment process from June 1, 1999 through December 31, 2003 for Maui and May 1, 1996 through December 31, 2003 for Hilo.

The 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.

Oceanic Time Warner Cable Maui subscribers (excluding Lahaina) and Hilo subscribers should expect to see a credit in the amount of about \$2.79 (Maui) and \$1.85 (Hilo) on a future monthly cable bill. The credit to all subscribers should be completed by May 5, 2007.

The Lahaina franchise area has its own franchise agreement and therefore Merina & Company reviewed it separately. In the Lahaina review, the consultant determined that Time Warner under-collected franchise fees. The reports are posted in their entirety on DCCA's website at <u>www.hawaii.gov/dcca/areas/catv/decisions_orders/files/</u>.

###

For more information, contact: Christine Hirasa Public Information Officer Phone: 586-2622 Email: chirasa@dcca.hawaii.gov