BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

In the Matter of the Petition of 

PACIFIC CARRIAGE LIMITED

For a Declaratory Ruling.

ORDER NO. 21230

Filed August 9, 2004
At 2 o’clock P.M.

Karen Higash
Chief Clerk of the Commission

ATTEST: A True Copy
KAREN HIGASHI
ORDER

I.

Background

PACIFIC CARRIAGE LIMITED, ("Petitioner") seeks a declaratory ruling that its proposed transaction involving the provision of certain limited services on Petitioner's international submarine fiber-optic cable system is not subject to regulation by the commission and does not require certification under chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") and the commission's regulations promulgated thereunder.¹ Petitioner makes its request for declaratory ruling in accordance with Hawaii Administrative Rules ("HAR") chapter 6-61, subchapter 16 and HRS § 91-8.

Petitioner served copies of its petition on the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Division of Consumer Advocacy ("Consumer Advocate").

On August 4, 2004, the Consumer Advocate filed its statement of position, concluding that Petitioner should be

¹Petitioner's petition, filed on July 9, 2004.
considered a public utility under the arrangements set forth in its petition.

II.

Discussion

The commission may issue a declaratory ruling on the applicability of any statute, administrative rule, or order of the commission. HAR §§ 6-61-159 and 6-61-160. The commission must act on such petition within forty-five (45) days after its submission. HAR § 6-61-162. The 45th day governing timely commission action in the instant docket is on or about August 23, 2004. However, upon a finding of good cause shown, the commission may decline to issue a declaratory ruling. HAR § 6-61-164.

In light of the Consumer Advocate’s conclusion that the Petitioner should be considered a public utility if it were to engage in the proposed activity set forth in its petition, the commission believes it is necessary to allow the Petitioner to respond to the Consumer Advocate’s statement of position and the conclusions contained therein. Therefore, the commission finds good cause to refrain from issuing a declaratory ruling within the forty-five (45)-day deadline, pending the commission’s receipt and review of Petitioner’s response to the Consumer Advocate’s statement of position.
III.

Order

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:


2. Unless ordered otherwise, the commission shall issue a declaratory ruling on the matter within forty-five (45) days of: (a) the filing of Petitioner's response, or (b) the lapse of the deadline stated in paragraph 1, whichever is earlier.

DONE at Honolulu, Hawaii AUG 09 2004.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

By Carlito P. Caliboso, Chairman

By Wayne H. Kimura, Commissioner

By Janet E. Kawelo, Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Catherine P. Awakuni
Commission Counsel
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this date served a copy of the foregoing Order No. 21230 upon the following parties, by causing a copy hereof to be mailed, postage prepaid, and properly addressed to each such party.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY
P. O. Box 541
Honolulu, HI 96809

OWEN H. MATSUNAGA, ESQ.
GERSON & HIENEMAN
ASB Tower, Suite 780
1001 Bishop Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

SHAH J. BENTO, ESQ.
LAW OFFICE OF SHAH J. BENTO, LLLC
126 Queen Street, Suite 301
Honolulu, HI 96813

ROBERT J. AAMOTH, ESQ.
KELLEY DRYE & WARREN
1200 19th Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20036

CRAIG HARDIMAN, ESQ.
PACIFIC CARRIAGE LIMITED
Level 11, 165-169 Lambton Quay
P. O. Box 5340
Wellington, NEW ZEALAND 6040

DATED: AUG 09 2004

Karen Higashi