

December 2016

# Kākou

Promoting unity by providing quality  
telecommunications services statewide

An e-newsletter published by Sandwich Isles Communications

## Aloha and Happy Holidays!

This has been a year of change and challenges for Sandwich Isles Communications, but one thing that has not changed. We remain steadfast in our commitment to serve those on Hawaiian Home Lands.

Sandwich Isles Communications has always been more than just a business to all of us who work for the company. It has been a calling, our mission to ensure those on Hawaiian Home Lands have access to affordable telecommunication services.

Every day, we have the privilege of knowing that we are giving families peace of mind by providing a reliable network that gives them access to emergency services. We are excited whenever we learn those on Hawaiian Home Lands are able to pursue their education online or are launching a business because of the telecommunications services we provide.

We have been keeping our nose to the grindstone, trying to meet the needs of Homesteaders. Most recently we have been able to provide free Wi-Fi at the Community Center at Laiopua. This area is the first of many as we work our way through the Homestead communities to bring them additional services. This furthers our mission: To improve the quality of life, public health and safety, education and economic growth for native Hawaiians by providing tomorrow's broadband technologies today.

Mahalo nui loa,

Liko Kahalewai  
Interim Chief Executive Officer  
Sandwich Isles Communications



## Committed to Supporting Hawaiians on Hawaiian Home Lands

Improving the quality of life for those on Hawaiian Home Lands continues to drive us forward. This is top of mind for all us at the company. Without question, our subscribers are our top priority. That is why we made a decision to continue providing quality telecommunications services without interruption in services over the past year, even though we have not received support from Universal Service Funds (USF).

### FCC Takes Unprecedented Move

Although we are excited about our mission, it has not been easy. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) took the unprecedented step to suspend USF funds to Sandwich Isles Communications while conducting an audit.

Now we are told that the FCC may seek punitive measures based on audit results that are mainly about disagreements on how our phone lines are classified, not on abuse of USF funds. Sandwich Isles Communications has followed industry standards in these matters, based on the recommendations of specialized consultants who work with other telecommunications companies across the nation.

### We Need Your Kokua

There is a danger that the FCC's actions could jeopardize services that are currently being provided to our subscribers, so we ask that you contact FCC Commissioners and our Congressional delegates to voice your concern.

For your convenience, please consider using the sample letter on the next page as a guide to write the FCC Chairman or other Commissioners. You may also email your concerns to our Hawaii congressional delegation.

To send an email to FCC Chairman and the other Commissioners, click on <https://www.fcc.gov/about/contact>. You may email members of Hawaii's congressional delegation:

U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz:

<https://www.schatz.senate.gov/contact>

U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono:

<https://www.hirono.senate.gov/contact/email>

U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa:

<https://hanabusa.house.gov/contact/email>

U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard:

[rms.house.gov/formsgabbard/webforms/email-me.shtml](https://rms.house.gov/formsgabbard/webforms/email-me.shtml)

## Sample Letter

Aloha \_\_\_\_\_ (Commissioner, Senator, Representative),

We need your help. Homesteaders who rely upon phone and Internet service from Sandwich Isles Communications are in jeopardy because of the Federal Communications Commission's misguided decision to withhold funds from the company.

I understand that these monies subsidize the telecommunications services we need. Before taking any action that may threaten current or future services to subscribers like me, the FCC should consult with Sandwich Isles Communications to avoid any unintended consequences.

This is an important decision for those on Hawaiian Home Lands and the entire Hawaiian community. Please urge the FCC to do the right thing. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

## Sandwich Isles Communications Helping to Build West Oahu Shopping Mall

West Oahu residents now have a community gathering place they can call their own. Ka Makana Ali'i, which means The Royal Gift, is a 1.4 million-square-foot regional mall on Hawaiian Home Lands in Kapolei whose tenants are being served by Sandwich Isles Communications.

The mall is being developed by DeBartolo Development, and when complete, will feature more than 150 exciting shopping, dining and entertainment offerings, two hotels and LEED-certified office space. It is DeBartolo's first project in Hawai'i.



### Major Anchors

The development has already attracted major anchors. The first tenant in the mall was Macy's, which opened to the public on September 1, 2016. Other major tenants to date include Hampton Inn, Consolidated Theaters, and California Pizza Kitchen.

Sandwich Isles Communications has completed installation for more than 60 of the 89 tenants. Additional installations are currently scheduled

through the end of the year and Sandwich Isles Communications is ready to support the additional customers when they are ready to order their service, according to **Paige Onishi**, Business Development Director for Sandwich Isles Communications.

As with any great endeavor, it has taken a lot of time, energy and commitment to reach this point. The Sandwich Isles Communications team has been meeting with **DeBartolo**, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and engineers on this project since 2009. Since 2015, Sandwich Isles Communications team members have participated in bi-weekly meetings with DeBartolo; contractors; **Skye Group**, the leasing company; and JLL, the mall management company.

### Sandwich Isles Communications Team

Mahalo to the entire Sandwich Isles Communications team, especially **Jayson Honda**, Field Supervisor; **Eldée Nakasone**, Project Manager; **Derek Suefuji**, Technician; **Warren Bissen**,

Sales & Development Administration, **Sasha Pule**, Service Provisioning Supervisor; and **Paige Onishi**, Business Development Director, and the entire Network Management Center team for their great work on this exciting, new development.



As an added bonus Ka Makana Ali'i will financially support programs that benefit native Hawaiians

statewide, which includes Sandwich Isles Communications subscribers, for decades to come. Watch for more details!