Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 2021

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel
Acting Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

SUBJECT: RNN National's Decision to Remove Japanese and Filipino Programming from the KIKU-TV Network

Dear Acting Chairwoman Rosenworcel

We are writing to raise our community's concern about the decision by RNN National, LLC, the licensee of KIKU (TV) (Honolulu, Hawai'i) to replace the broadcast station's Japanese and Filipino programming with ShopHQ.[1] We strongly support preserving access to KIKU-TV's multicultural programming as it serves the needs and interests of its diverse community.

The U.S. Census reports that as of July 1, 2019, 37.6% of Hawai'i's population of 1.4 million are persons of Asian descent.[2] The Federal Communications Commission's manual *The Public and Broadcasting* states:

> In exchange for obtaining a valuable license to operate a broadcast station using the public airwaves, each radio and television licensee is required by law to operate its station in the 'public interest, convenience and necessity.' Generally, this means it must air programming that is responsive to the needs and problems of its local community of license. To do this, each non-exempt station licensee must identify the needs and problems and then specifically treat these local matters in the news, public affairs, political and other programming that it airs.[3]

The Japanese and Filipino programming aired on KIKU is crucial to ensuring access to cultural programming in the languages many of our community members speak. Additionally, this programming is tremendously important for language learning and cultural immersion. Our

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[1] Brian McKinnis, "Hawaii TV Channel KIKU to Shift Out of Japanese Language Programming," Pacific Business News, May 21, 2021.
[2] U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, "QuickFacts, Hawaii," at https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/HI#qf-headnote-a. This estimate does not include persons who self-reported more than one race.
[3] Federal Communications Commission, "Media Bureau; Documents Reports, and Surveys; The Public and Broadcasting, Introduction" at https://www.fcc.gov/media/radio/public-and-broadcasting#FCC.

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constituents and we are deeply concerned about the impact the programming changes will have on the public interest and our local community.

For decades, KIKU has been a constant presence for our community, from children watching *Kikaida* and *Power Rangers* to shows and dramas for adults including *Abarenbo Shogun* and *Hagure Keiji*; KIKU has provided both entertainment and education for thousands of Hawai'i residents. U.S. Census data shows that Japanese, Tagalog and Illocano are among the top languages other than English spoken in homes in Hawai'i, and these shows have helped thousands of residents transition to life in Hawai'i.[4]

The license of KIKU, like those of other television stations within the State of Hawai'i, is set to expire on February 1, 2023. We appreciate your full consideration of the impacts of RNN National's removal of Japanese and Filipino programming on the public interest when the Commission reviews RNN National's application for license renewal, and any other applications.

If you have any questions, please contact Congressman Kahele's Legislative Aide, Sonia Norton, at Sonia.Norton@mail.house.gov or Congressman Case's Legislative Assistant, Mitch Heidenreich, at Mitch.Heidenreich@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely

Kaiali'i Kahele
Member of Congress

Ed Case
Member of Congress

CC: Richard French, President and CEO, RNN National
Phyllis Kihara, Vice President and General Manager, RNN National

[4] U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, "Languages Spoken at Home," at https://census.hawaii.gov/whats-new-releases/language-spoken-at-home/.