

HONOLULU COMMUNITY MEDIA COUNCIL

Post Office Box 22415 Honolulu, Hawai`i 96823

August 21, 2006

Dear Jim:

You care about the state of our media, so we are writing to ask you to renew your membership in the Honolulu Community Media Council (HCMC) – the oldest of only five community media councils in the country.

HCMC was formed in 1970 because then-Mayor Frank Fasi had banned a *Honolulu Star Bulletin* reporter from his press briefings. Outraged, a group of citizens came together to protest this abuse of governmental power, and the Honolulu Community Media Council (HCMC) was born.

The HCMC is a nonpartisan, non-governmental independent organization that

- Promotes accurate and fair journalism in Hawai`i
- Broadens public understanding of the role of the media
- Strengthens public support for First Amendment rights
- Improves public access to information
- Encourages improvements in news coverage from a variety of diverse viewpoints that are so vital to modern democracy
- Serves as a vehicle for resolving disputes and complaints within or about the media

So what have we done for you lately and why should you renew your membership?

HCMC has continued to explore media issues in public forums, conduct educational activities about freedom of expression, undertake efforts on behalf of imprisoned journalists, pursue public interest litigation, and advocate on media ownership issues. For example:

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Public Forums:

- “They Are Killing Journalism” – Luchi Cruz-Valdez, Vice President for News ABS-CBN Broadcasting (Philippines)
- “Media Policy Basics” – Sean McLaughlin, Chair, Alliance for Community Media Policy Committee and member HCMC.
- “Media Advocacy and the Public Interest” – David Cohen, Co-Founder of Common Cause and the Advocacy Institute.
- “Digital Democracy & Freedom of Information” – Marc Cooper, Research Director, Consumer Federation of America and author, *Media Ownership and Democracy in the Digital Information Age: Promoting Diversity with First Amendment Principle*, speaking at the 2006 Freedom of Information Day Celebration at East-West Center.

Freedom of Expression In the Schools: Utilizing a grant from the Strong Foundation, HCMC has recently commissioned noted Constitutional law professor Jon Van Dyke to create a high school curriculum on the First Amendment that will be presented in schools this fall in partnership with the Hawai‘i Chapter of the American Constitutional Law Society.

Journalists Behind Bars: HCMC made imprisoned Burmese journalist U Tin Win an honorary member of the Media Council and sent out an international press release to that effect, joining our voice to others throughout the world demanding the release of this courageous fighter for democracy. A letter writing campaign will be undertaken this fall.

Public Interest Litigation: HCMC joined as a plaintiff in litigation to challenge Honolulu City Council’s “serial closed door communications” in violation of the Sunshine Law. Victory in Circuit Court, appeal pending.

Media Ownership Issues: HCMC Vice-Chair Chris Conybeare has helped resource numerous community organizations regarding emerging issues regarding consolidation of media ownership and has become widely quoted in the local media on these issues.

We Need YOU! As you can see, the HCMC is alive and well...but in order to continue to thrive, we need your participation and support as a member. Please renew your membership today!

With aloha and thanks,

Beth-Ann Kozlovich
President, Board of Directors

Chris Conybeare
Vice-President, Board of Directors

P.S. To help us plan the coming year’s activities, and elect next year’s officers, please join us at our Annual Meeting on Thursday, Sept. 14, 2006, at 12 noon, at the YWCA, room 309, 1040 Richards Street (betw. Hotel and King); parking in Ali‘i Place on Alakea. RSVP 808.222.3035 or emailbkoz1@aol.com. And write your check today!