



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

September 9, 2020

Board of Land and Natural Resources, DLNR
Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

SUBJECT: Support of New AT&T / Cingular Wireles PCS Small Cell

Dear Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) depends upon various means of communication, including cellular coverage, to fulfill its public safety mission. One vital emergency communication for alert & warning is Wireless Emergency Alerts also known as “WEA” which is part of FEMA’s Intergrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS). I am the engineering point of contact for the State of Hawaii IPAWS program.

In addition, like many public safety agencies across the country, HI-EMA utilizes the FirstNet network. FirstNet is a nationwide public safety broadband network dedicated to first responders and emergency management.

Due to our location within Diamond Head crater, cellular coverage within Diamond Head is limited. We have worked with AT&T on improving coverage for HI-EMA through temporary solutions and are pleased that a long-term solution to the wireless connectivity needs within the crater are being proposed.

This small wireless facility will provide improved WEA / FirstNet / Wireless Voice & Data connectivity for HI-EMA staff, other public safety agencies, and also park visitors. For these reasons, I offer my full support for AT&T’s application.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me at 808-733-4300, x531 or ryan.j.hirae@hawaii.gov

Sincerely,

Ryan J. Hirae
Telecommunications Branch Chief, acting
Hawaii Emergency Management Agency