



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 4, 2008

Mr. Kip Hawley
Assistant Security of Homeland Security
Transportation Security Administration
601 South 12th Street
Arlington, VA 22202-4220

Dear Mr. Hawley:

Re: TWIC Office on Lana'i and Moloka'i, Hawai'i

I write as the Hawai'i state senator and as Chair of the Committee on Transportation and International Affairs. I represent the islands of Lana'i and Moloka'i.

This is a request to the Transportation Security Administration to make it more convenient for shippers on Moloka'i and Lana'i to obtain the transportation workers identification credential (TWIC). I was informed by a flood of communications last month that the company implementing the TWIC program in Hawai'i refuses to set up a TWIC processing facility on Moloka'i or Lana'i, forcing customers located on Moloka'i or Lana'i to travel to another island to enroll.

Aside from the inconvenience, the added cost of travel is unreasonable for small businesses, which dominate Moloka'i and Lana'i. Even with the current low airfares, the cost of roundtrip travel between the islands is around \$90. Adding to that the price of the TWIC brings the cost to \$246 per card (per employee), which does not include transportation between the airport and the TWIC facility. In this regard, a rental car could add another \$100. A typical small business owner having four employees would be forced to purchase four cards at a total cost of nearly \$1,000. In addition, it is my understanding that applicants for TWIC cards must also personally take receipt of the TWIC card, thus necessitating another inter-island trip for these applicants.

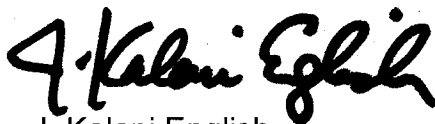
May I remind you that Hawai'i is an island state. As such, the cost of traveling to another island to obtain the mandated identification card should be avoided. We simply need to have a TWIC processing facility on Moloka'i and Lana'i, or at least on Moloka'i

alone. The disadvantage for Moloka'i and Lana'i business owners is that they are not serviced by a freight consolidator that can offer pick-up service at the wharf.

Without belaboring the point, I received a letter dated January 15, 2008, from the Kualapuu Market, Ltd., on Moloka'i. The owner says her market is a "mom and pop grocery store and for us to send our employees to comply with this requirement will take a toll on our operation and budget."

Therefore, may I respectfully request that the Transportation Security Administration take steps to either locate a TWIC processing facility on Moloka'i or establish a procedure that would require your contractor, Lockheed Martin Business Process Solutions, to, at very least, operate this program and issue TWIC cards on the islands of Moloka'i and Lana'i on a periodic basis in the interests of service, convenience, fairness, and economics.

Sincerely,



J. Kalani English
Chair, Senate Committee on Transportation
and International Affairs

cc: Michael Boutte
TWIC Field Coordinator
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