
**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS,
CONCURRING**

Re: *GTE Hawaiian Telephone Company, Inc. Application for Review of a Decision by the Common Carrier Bureau, Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc. Petition for Waiver of Section 36.611 of the Commission's Rules and Request for Clarification (AAD 97-82)*

In 1998, the Common Carrier Bureau concluded that for regulatory purposes it would treat Sandwich Isles Communications' service territory as a study area. Shortly after the Bureau released its decision, GTE Hawaiian Telephone Company filed an application for review by the full Commission, contending that the service area at issue was within its serving territory. Incomprehensibly, this dispute has sat in front of the Commission for six years. I support today's decision. But I limit my support to concurring because fairness requires that we resolve issues involving support for unserved areas and disputed territory with greater speed than we attempt to do here. I can only hope that a fuller record in a subsequent study area waiver proceeding will bring an equitable solution for all.