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## Issues concerning the location of cell towers (continued)

- Objections that these towers are unsightly have resulted in a number of techniques to hide towers (called "stealth towers"). The most common community objection is that cell towers result in a loss of property values. Another objection is that microwave radiation from these towers is a health hazard. The wireless industry had a provision inserted into the '96 Telecommunications Act that prevents local community planning groups from considering health issues and the courts have generally upheld this provision in ruling that a community cannot reject a cell tower because of health concerns.
- Health concerns are a growing issue especially because churches, schools and government buildings are being increasingly used as cell sites. Cash strapped local governments are anxious for the rent paid by the wireless providers. Firestations are a prime location for cell sites. In a study conducted for WCA it was shown that the power levels in the fire station sleeping quarters was four to five times higher than the power leaving the cell site antenna because the room bounced the signals back and forth. The firefighters in that location reported that they had become ill since the installation of the cell tower on their station. Research is urgently required. [Click here if you want to help.](#)



- Residents of a state housing project in Honolulu say that the state is making money at the expense of their health. The occupants of the project complain that they became ill after the installation of a cellular tower on top of their apartment building. These residents say that there has been an increased number of miscarriages and illness during the two years following the tower installation. The state health department says that the antennas should not be causing any health problems although they admit that someone standing within ten feet of the transmitter for more than a few minutes could suffer tissue damage. For more on this story see <http://www.thehawaiiichannel.com/news/2516208/detail.html>.
- On August 14, 2003, the Federal Communications Commission responded to a petition by the EMR Network that request a review of the health standards

for cell towers. The FCC rejected this petition saying that the standards it adopted were based on industry input and there is a dearth of scientific evidence on this subject. [\[Click here to see copy of this decision\]](#). The official position of the FCC is that there is not enough evidence to say that cell towers pose a risk of harm to human health. That is, the FCC is not saying that cell towers are safe or unsafe. Since almost all scientific research on this issue is funded by and controlled by the wireless industry, we are going to raise the funds to pay for independent research. Your help is critical. [Click here for more information.](#)

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