

**BILL045(21)**  
**Testimony**

**MISC. COMM. 172**

COUNCIL

## **COUNCIL Meeting**

Meeting Date: May 4, 2022 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 85

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 32

Name: daniel lin	Email: dan.lin@rideback.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Rideback	Position: Support	Submitted: May 1, 2022 @ 12:43 PM

Testimony:

IN SUPPORT Dear Chair Say, Vice Chair Cordero, and Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 45 (2021) – RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESS. My name is Dan Lin and I am the founder and CEO of Rideback, a film and television production company. My company and I have produced films that have generated over \$5 billion in global box office sales, including the SHERLOCK HOLMES, LEGO, and GODZILLA movies. We are based at our headquarters at Rideback Ranch in the Historic Filipinotown area of Los Angeles. Our work is focused on promoting diversity and inclusion in the world of entertainment and we offer numerous training programs to educate the next generation of under-represented voices. I moved to Honolulu full-time 2 years ago to raise my family here as I believe there is no better place for children to grow up than in Hawaii. I commute to the mainland for my work as I am currently in production on films and TV series in Vancouver, Atlanta, New Orleans, and Austin. The reason I film in these cities is because they have built state-of-the-art production complexes and offer economic incentives that make local productions financially viable. For example, I am currently filming the movie THE HAUNTED MANSION for Disney at Trilith Studios in Atlanta, GA. They not only offer top notch production stages and tax rebates for us to film there, but they have also built a local community including housing and businesses that thrive due to the productions that shoot there. However, despite those incentives, my crews and I would strongly prefer to work in Hawai'i! Hawai'i offers outdoor landscapes and a rich culture that are second to none, but we don't have adequate indoor facilities to accommodate interior filming. I am actively developing film and TV scripts that I can shoot in Hawaii to create jobs here and showcase our local talent to the rest of the world, but we lack the facilities to make the large-scale productions that I produce. Diamond Head Studios is constantly booked by CBS and is not big enough to film a large film. The budgets for my films and TV shows typically exceed \$100 million and require much more stage space than what Oahu currently offers. The passage of Bill 45 would allow for developers to build a film/TV studio in Oahu that would attract many more films and TV productions, thus creating hundreds of jobs and training for the next generation. Just as importantly, we would be able to share more stories that promote Hawai'i and its culture to the rest of the world. I am happy to discuss my thoughts further on this subject if it would be helpful to you and the committee. Sincerely, Dan Lin Founder and CEO

Name: Michael Shibata	Email: shibatam@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96822
Representing: University of Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: May 2, 2022 @ 07:42 AM

Name: FAIRAI RICHMOND	Email: fbrfilms1@gmail.com	Zip: 96815-4449
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 2, 2022 @ 12:19 PM

Testimony:

This studio has provided so many jobs in our state. I feed my family of 4 with the money I make from working at this studio space. There aren't many studio spaces in the state of Hawaii. This studio invites shows to come here and keep our state more competitive. Please pass this bill so that we can keep this studio space running so that we can continue to feed our families, live and thrive here in the islands.

Name: Bryan Li	Email: bryan@blacksandcapital.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: BlackSand Capital, LLC	Position: Support	Submitted: May 2, 2022 @ 01:03 PM

Name: Roy Tjioe	Email: roy@islandfilmgroup.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Island Film Group	Position: Support	Submitted: May 3, 2022 @ 07:10 AM

Name: David Zelon	Email: dzmgmt@hotmail.com	Zip: 90402
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Representing: Manhattan Beach Studios "MBS"	Position: Support	Submitted: May 3, 2022 @ 07:53 AM
<p>Testimony: May 4, 2022</p> <p>The Honorable Calvin Say, Chair The Honorable Radiant Cordero, Vice Chair Members of the Committee on Budget 530 South King Street, Room 202 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813</p> <p>RE: Bill 45 (2021) – Relating to Incentives for Business</p> <p>IN SUPPORT</p> <p>Dear Chair Say, Vice Chair Cordero, and Members of the Committee:</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in <b>STRONG SUPPORT</b> of Bill 45 (2021) – <b>RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESS</b>.</p> <p>My name is David Zelon and I am a Founder of the Manhattan Beach Studio Group's Advisory Board. MBS specializes in building, operating and servicing independent studios around the world. Through our affiliate Hackman Capital we own 123 stages across 16 studios and operate another 15 studios for other property owners and major content creators. We currently supply lighting and grip equipment to over 450 stages as well, across more than 65 locations in six different countries. One of our strongest attributes are our excellent relationships, cultivated over the past 30 years, with every network, content studio and streaming service. Through this we know every project going into production which allows us to fill our studios with TV shows, films and streaming programs. We are the largest independent studio operator in the world.</p> <p>We have been reviewing and researching the possibility of building a major studio on the island of Oahu for the past 24 months. This studio would consist of approximately 6-12 soundstages, production offices, construction mills and associated warehouse buildings. It would be the biggest studio in the State since filming started there over a century ago and be one of the most technically advanced studios in the world.</p> <p>Building this studio complex will translate to jobs -- literally hundreds of living wage jobs during construction and hundreds more as the studio complex becomes the operational hub for Hawaii's growing production industry. Films, television shows, streaming content and commercials in 2021 will exceed \$400 million in direct spend in the State of Hawaii. With a first-class studio complex, that number could more than double to a consistent \$1 billion a year in direct spend. Large studio complexes such as the ones we manage globally create entire eco-systems through the innumerable tertiary businesses they foster and support.</p> <p>Hawaii's successful diversification of the economy through the filmed production industry is currently constrained by the severe lack of physical infrastructure. There is only one small stage complex -- Diamond Head Studios, which can only accommodate one tv show at a time and is not fit for any large films. The blockbuster films of today require not just Hawaii's beautiful scenery and culture, but extensive studio sound stages and post production facilities. Through the University of Hawaii Academy for Creative Media, the State has developed a steady pipeline of qualified production workers. This human infrastructure coupled with responsible economic incentives still lacks the physical facilities to significantly magnify the full potential of the film &amp; TV industry.</p> <p>We have been working with our local development, architectural and construction partners to develop a significant film studio on Oahu. A major obstacle to launching this project is the vastly increased cost of construction. Any developer who wishes to build a film studio in the State will encounter this hurdle. The passage of Bill 45, which would provide property tax relief for this project -- currently estimated to cost well more than the \$100 million threshold as stated in Bill 45, would be a crucial step to making this project a reality.</p> <p>I would be happy to make myself or any of my colleagues available to discuss our plan so you could see the enormous benefit it would have for the local film community and the number of jobs it would create immediately and over the next decade.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>		

Sincerely,  
David Zelon

David Zelon  
Founder, Advisory Board  
The MBS Group  
c) 310-567-2700  
e) dzmgmt@hotmail.com

Name: Ricardo Galindez	Email: ric@islandfilmgroup.com	Zip: 96701
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Representing: Island Film Group	Position: Support	Submitted: May 3, 2022 @ 08:13 AM
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Name: Chris Lee	Email: chris@chrisleemedia.com	Zip: 96816
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Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 3, 2022 @ 09:06 AM
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Name: Mufi Hannemann	Email: mhannemann@hawaiilodging.org	Zip: 96815
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Representing: Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association	Position: Support	Submitted: May 3, 2022 @ 03:03 PM
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Name: Kali Watson	Email: 6kali9@gmail.com	Zip: 96813
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Representing: Hawaiian Community Development Board	Position: Support	Submitted: May 3, 2022 @ 03:08 PM
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Name: Gerard Elmore	Email: gerard.elmore@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
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Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 3, 2022 @ 05:24 PM
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Testimony:  
My name is Gerard Elmore. Vp of film at NMG network and Executive Director of 'Ohina. Writing in support of the bill.

I submitted testimony early on in the process and stand by what I said. We need to diversify our economy and this bill is a great step in that direction.

This help builds a better economy and will provide quality jobs and opportunities for local talent.

Mahalo nui,

Gerard Elmore

Name: Letani Peltier	Email: cnhapolicycenter@hawaiiancouncil.org	Zip: 96816
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Representing: Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA)	Position: Support	Submitted: May 3, 2022 @ 06:14 PM
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Name: Christopher Flaherty	Email: cflaherty@3leafholdings.com	Zip: 96813
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Representing: Ikenakea Development, LLC	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 03:47 AM
Name: Collin Mansanas	Email: kuumaka7373@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:17 AM
Testimony: I am in strong support of Bill 45.		
Name: Lyle Nicely	Email: lylenicely1995@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:26 AM
Testimony: I am in strong support of Bill 45.		
Name: Kale Ornellas	Email: kaleornellas@gmail.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:26 AM
Testimony: I am in strong support of bill 45. I believe it can spike not only our general industries but small supporting businesses. Businesses that can possibly be sub contracted by bigger businesses or over all growth.		
Name: Lawrence DeCosta	Email: ldciii@aol.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:26 AM
Testimony: I am in strong support of Bill 45!		
Name: Falaniko Vitale	Email: nvitale.pkoa@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:38 AM
Testimony: I'm in strong support of Bill 45!		
Name: David Chew	Email: kupaa46@yahoo.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:38 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of Bill 45. Thank you		
Name: Jon White	Email: jonwhite.hawaii@yahoo.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:49 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of Bill 45		
Name:	Email:	Zip:

Guyson Amina	a.guyson@yahoo.com	96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:49 AM
Testimony: I am strong in support of Bill 045		
Name: Blayne Dikito	Email: dikitz22@yahoo.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:52 AM
Testimony: I am strong support in Bill 45.		
Name: Jowen Murray-Thornton	Email: j_murraythornton12@yahoo.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:52 AM
Testimony: I am in strong support of Bill 45		
Name: Troy Keithley	Email: onelifefitness99@gmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:52 AM
Testimony: I am in strong support of bill 45		
Name: J Souza	Email: souza96744@yahoo.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:53 AM
Testimony: I am in strong support of bill 45		
Name: Mark Tuinei	Email: bigmark808@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:53 AM
Testimony: I AM IN STRONG SUPPORT OF BILL 45		
Name: Nick West	Email: nickwest808@yahoo.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:54 AM
Testimony: I strongly support Bill 45 and I urge the city to support our businesses as well.		
Name: Seen Morimoto	Email: seen.morimoto@gmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:56 AM
Testimony:		

I am a strong supporter of Bill 45. Thank you and Aloha		
Name: Noah Kassebeer	Email: kassebeernoah@yahoo.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:57 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45		
Name: Keenan Luke	Email: konan_l@hotmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:57 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45		
Name: Kahekili Fuchs	Email: kahekilifuchs@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:58 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of Bill 45.		
Name: Dane Kaluhiwa	Email: dakine808kaluhiwa@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:58 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45		
Name: Seth Holck	Email: holck239@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:58 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of Bill 45		
Name: Chad Failma	Email: cdfailma@yahoo.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:58 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of Bill 45		
Name: Terry Suan	Email: suanie58@gmail.com	Zip: 96797
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:58 AM
Testimony: "I am in strong support of Bill 45"		
Name: Eddie Klaneski	Email: klaneski21@gmail.com	Zip: 96822



Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:58 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of Bill 45!		
Name: Rodney Choy Foo	Email: kaikigirl@yahoo.com	Zip: 96797
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:58 AM
Testimony: I strongly support Bill 45		
Name: Louis Mansanas	Email: mansanaslouis@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:58 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bil 45		
Name: Cisco Valeho	Email: ciscovaleho@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:58 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45		
Name: Manny Kulukulualani	Email: paahawaii@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:58 AM
Testimony: I strongly support Bill 45		
Name: Gavin Concepcion	Email: Gav.concepcion@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:59 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of Bill 45.		
Name: Ka'ena Paikai	Email: kaenapaikai@yahoo.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:59 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45.		
Name: Ted Scott	Email: kahakiiart@gmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:59 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45		

Name: Blair Nahale	Email: bnahale808@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:59 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45		
Name: Douglas Hiu	Email: doughiu@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:59 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45.		
Name: Chauncey Dunhour	Email: micahdunhour@yahoo.com	Zip: 96844
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:59 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of Bill 45.		
Name: Christopher Finau	Email: chris79finau@gmail.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:59 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of Bill 45		
Name: Kuulei Kupihea	Email: kuulei.kupihea@gmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:59 AM
Testimony: I am in strong support of Bill 45.		
Name: Keoni Mendiola	Email: keoni8727@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 07:59 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of Bill 45.		
Name: Noah Campbell	Email: kauanoah06@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:00 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of Bill 45		
Name: Conan Donahue	Email: kiekie13don@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:00 AM

Testimony: I stand in strong support of Bill 45		
Name: Jonovan Tuinei	Email: smjt93@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:00 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45		
Name: Dave Teriirere	Email: dave.teriirere@yahoo.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:00 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of Bill 45		
Name: Kyle Miyahana	Email: kylem@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:01 AM
Testimony: I strongly support this bill.		
Name: John Rabanal	Email: jrabanal01@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:01 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45		
Name: Robert Enriquez	Email: robnani99@yahoo.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:01 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45		
Name: Kodey Saizon	Email: quintet_listing0r@icloud.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:01 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45		
Name: Kekoa Bruhn	Email: kekoabruhn@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:01 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45		
Name: Tyler Yuu	Email: tyleryuu@gmail.com	Zip: 96786

Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:02 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45		
Name: Jay Amina	Email: jkealii3@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:03 AM
Testimony: I support bill045.		
Name: Kekoa Masutani	Email: neuspeedkekoa@yahoo.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:03 AM
Testimony: I am in strong support of Bill 045(21) Relating to incentives for businesses		
Name: Kelsey Beck	Email: ilikea.beck@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:03 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of Bill 45		
Name: Sy Delizo	Email: delizosy2@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:03 AM
Testimony: I strongly support bill 45!		
Name: Burton Chun	Email: burtonchun88@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:03 AM
Testimony: I strongly support bill 45		
Name: Logan Freitas	Email: loganfreitas1@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:04 AM
Testimony: I strongly support this bill 45.		
Name: Brandon Parker	Email: brandonjkparker@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:04 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45"		

Name: Pomai Kalama	Email: pomaikalama21@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:05 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of Bill 45.		
Name: Corwin Tam	Email: ctam_fish@yahoo.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:05 AM
Testimony: I strongly support bill 45.		
Name: Wade Terlep	Email: wterlep@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:06 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 045(21)		
Name: Paquito Capillan	Email: kalei21511@icloud.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:06 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of Bill 45		
Name: Hubert Pruett	Email: hubertpruett@yahoo.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:07 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45		
Name: Alana Kaili	Email: alanakk31@yahoo.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:07 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45.		
Name: Mauiakalana Wolfgramm	Email: tonu702@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:09 AM
Testimony: I strongly support Bill 45		
Name: Joshua Demello	Email: tamatoa02@yahoo.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:09 AM

Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45.		
Name: Ryan Antone	Email: rantone262@yahoo.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:09 AM
Testimony: I am is strong support!!!!		
Name: Walter Walker	Email: wwwalker3111@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:11 AM
Testimony: I stand Strong in support of bill 45		
Name: KAIKA SASAOKA	Email: kaikas57@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:11 AM
Testimony: I strongly support Bill45!		
Name: Levi Archuleta	Email: Islandshores_99@yahoo.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:11 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45		
Name: Shawn Tsutsumi	Email: tsutsumi58@hotmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:12 AM
Testimony: I am in strong support of bill 45		
Name: James Mueller	Email: jimmueller1@yahoo.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:12 AM
Testimony: I STAND IN STRONG SUPPORT OF BILL 45.		
Name: Clayton Glass	Email: claytonglasshawaii@gmail.com	Zip: 96786
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:12 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45.		
Name: James Martin	Email: jbomar10@yahoo.com	Zip: 96744

Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:14 AM
Testimony: I am in strong support of Bill 45		
Name: Montgomery Meyer	Email: meyerstrong6@gmail.com	Zip: 96819
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:16 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of Bill 45		
Name: Louie Lee	Email: louielee77@yahoo.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:18 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45		
Name: Jason Hanna	Email: jdhanna121172@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:18 AM
Testimony: I am in strong support of Bill 45.		
Name: Casey Purdy	Email: purdyinc@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:18 AM
Testimony: I am in Strong support of Bill 45		
Name: Faifaiese Emosi Jr	Email: aritana84@yahoo.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:19 AM
Testimony: I am in strong support of Bill 45.		
Name: Anthony Padilla	Email: anthonycpadilla@yahoo.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:21 AM
Testimony: I am in strong support of bill 45(21)mahalo		
Name: Peter Sarono	Email: psaronohi@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:25 AM
Testimony:		

I am in Strong support of Bill 45		
Name: Anthony Kassebeer	Email: Zaydenzayden808@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:25 AM
Testimony: I am in Strong Support of Bill 45!		
Name: Seth Ilae	Email: ilaeseth@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:25 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45		
Name: Clinton Blackman	Email: ctk.blackman@gmail.com	Zip: 96797
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:26 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of Bill 45.		
Name: Kainalu Paikai	Email: nalupaikai1998@gmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:26 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45		
Name: Tom Tuinei	Email: tuinei88@yahoo.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:27 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45		
Name: Brent Iwasaki	Email: brentiwa@gmail.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:28 AM
Testimony: I am in strong support of Bill 45.		
Name: Walter Contrades	Email: kaleic1992@yahoo.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:29 AM
Testimony: I strongly support bill 45		
Name: Jerome Kupukaa	Email: jeromekupukaa@gmail.com	Zip: 96707



Representing: Hsi	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:29 AM
Testimony: I am in strong support of Bill 45		
Name: Brennon Pias	Email: brennonp07@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:30 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of Bill 45		
Name: Chad Amasiu	Email: chadaamasu@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:33 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45		
Name: Kaa Bruhn	Email: bkaai@yahoo.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:34 AM
Testimony: "I am in strong support of Bill 45"		
Name: Mikaele Yam	Email: mikaileyam8@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:36 AM
Testimony: I am in strong support of Bill 45		
Name: Samantha DeCorte	Email: sdecorte@hotmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:37 AM
Testimony: I support Bill 45		
Name: Luke Perreira	Email: lukeperreira@gmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:39 AM
Testimony: I am in strong support of bill 45.		
Name: Benjamin Hirokawa	Email: bjhirokawa@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:43 AM
Testimony:		

I am in strong support of Bill 45.		
Name: Nepo Leutu jr	Email: toafiaoalii@gmail.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:50 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45		
Name: Thomas Ilae timoteo	Email: thomasilae@ymail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:53 AM
Testimony: I am in STRONG support of bill 45		
Name: Travis Rabellizsa	Email: rabellizsa1811@gmail.com	Zip: 96786
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:54 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support on bill 45.		
Name: Gabriel PIEPER	Email: gabe.pieper@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 08:54 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of Bill 45.		
Name: Donton Meinel	Email: dontonmeinel@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 09:06 AM
Testimony: I support bill 45		
Name: Brandon Ching	Email: brandon_ching@hotmail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 09:18 AM
Testimony: I am in strong support of Bill 45		
Name: Billy Campbell	Email: bcampbell3255@gmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 09:31 AM
Testimony: I stand in support of bill 45		
Name: Jason Yoshimura	Email: Kaiponohea56@gmail.com	Zip: 96819

Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 09:32 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support for bill 45		
Name: Jacob Ramos	Email: jacobjames_07@yahoo.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 09:35 AM
Testimony: I stand in Strong Support of BILL 45(21)		
Name: Arnold Orpilla	Email: ahhhnode@yahoo.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 09:39 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of bill 45.		
Name: Georja Skinner	Email: georja.skinner@hawaii.gov	Zip: 96813
Representing: Creative Industries, DBEDT	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 09:44 AM
Name: Christopher Pieper	Email: cpieper808@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 09:53 AM
Testimony: I am in strong support of bill 45		
Name: Dustin Vierra	Email: dustinv80@gmail.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 4, 2022 @ 09:57 AM
Testimony: I am in strong support of bill 45.		



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Honolulu City Council  
May 4, 2022  
By  
David Lassner  
President, University of Hawai'i

### BILL 45 – RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESSES

Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and members of the City Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this issue. With the consideration as an “Anchor institution,” the University of Hawai'i supports Bill 45, which would provide added incentives to entice high-value commercial development in selective re-development areas that could spur economic growth and job creation – especially in transit development areas.

The University of Hawai'i is already working to advance transit-oriented development opportunities and potentials on our lands at or surrounding the transit stops. While the University of Hawai'i would not benefit directly from a real property tax exemption, the proposed approach in Bill 45 would create an attractive benefit to some private developers or businesses that may eventually develop on or around UH properties. Taking the current exemption of three years and extending the exemption to 30 years, while expanding the list of eligible businesses types that may fall under this extension would further the opportunity for growth.

The University of Hawai'i believes that for at least one major project we are attempting to develop, the proposed tax incentives would significantly improve the financial feasibility of the opportunity for private development and investment that could be a significant contributor to economic diversification and job creation on O'ahu.

We welcome the opportunity to support economic development and business sustainability as a vital part of post-pandemic recovery. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony in support of Bill 45.

BLACKSAND  
CAPITAL

May 2, 2022

The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair  
The Honorable Esther Kia'āina, Vice Chair  
Members of the City Council  
530 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: Bill 45 (2021) – Relating to Incentives for Business**

Dear Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and Members of the City Council:

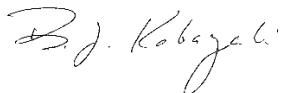
Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Bill 45 (2021) – RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESS. BlackSand Capital is a locally owned and operated real estate investment firm based in Honolulu. A large part of BlackSand Capital's investor base is composed of people who live in or have a connection to Hawaii — including beneficiaries of local retirement funds and endowments. We invest in, finance, and develop real estate projects solely in the state of Hawaii.

Bill 45 provides incentives for certain qualified businesses in certain locations to be eligible for real property tax rebates, waiver of City imposed fees, and expedited permits. The Bill appropriately categorizes the level of incentives based on two categories of investment: 1) investments greater than \$10 million and 2) investments greater than \$100 million.

The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the need to make the State's economy more resilient, and Bill 45 will be a strong catalyst to achieve this goal. Significant and meaningful investments in infrastructure for various growth industries including healthcare, film and creative media, and specialty tourism can create new employment opportunities for our island residents. Acting now will allow our State to grow our economy expeditiously.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony for Bill 45. We commend the City Council for proposing bold ideas to spur economic growth and to provide new employment opportunities for our island residents.

Sincerely,



B.J. Kobayashi  
Chairman and CEO



CITY COUNCIL  
City and County of Honolulu

REGULAR MEETING

RE: BILL 45 (2021)

Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2022  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
City Council Chamber

May 3, 2022

From: Roy Tjioe and Ricardo Galindez  
Island Film Group  
99-1245 Halawa Valley St.  
Aiea, HI 96701  
808-536-7955

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia`aina, and Members of the Council:

**Our Background**

Island Film Group is a locally owned and operated production company. We began working in Hawaii's film and television industry in 2001 as attorneys at Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel, where we represented filmmakers and other production companies. Since our formation of Island Film Group in 2007, we have been working full-time as producers of feature films such as "Princess Ka'iulani" and "Soul Surfer", network and cable television movies and series, as well as a large number of commercial productions.

**We SUPPORT** Bill 45 (2021) – Relating to Incentives for Businesses. The bill provides incentives to businesses located within certain areas to create new jobs and generate economic benefits for the city, including those that support the film and television industry. We see a need to strengthen the film and television industry infrastructure

through the construction of purpose-built soundstage and production facilities, which will boost our efforts to promote Hawaii as a filming location. While the natural beauty of Hawaii is obviously a major factor in the decision of where to film, the existence of an established infrastructure helps to make the numbers pencil out.

Me ke aloha,

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left is for Roy Tjioe, and the second signature on the right is for Ricardo Galindez.

Roy Tjioe and Ricardo Galindez  
Co-Founders  
Island Film Group  
Honolulu, Hawaii



Honolulu City Council  
Regular Meeting  
May 4, 2022 at 10 a.m.

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTIONS BILL 45 (2021)**

May 3, 2022

From: Roy Tjioe and Ricardo Galindez  
Island Film Group  
99-1245 Halawa Valley St.  
Aiea, HI 96701

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia`aina and Members of the Council:

**I. Company Background**

Island Film Group (“IFG”) is a locally owned and operated film and television production company. The principals of IFG began working in Hawaii’s film and television industry in 2001 as partners at the law firm of Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel, where they represented studios, filmmakers and independent production companies. Since its formation in 2007, IFG has produced well over 100 feature films, television movies and national/international commercials, more than any other local production company, and operates a 7,500 sf film and television production facility in Halawa Valley. IFG is currently preparing to shoot its third Hallmark movie this year.

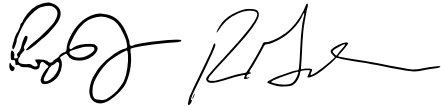
**II. BILL 45 (2021) should be passed**

The Bill provides incentives to businesses located within certain areas to create new jobs and generate economic benefits for the city, including those that support the film and television industry. We see a need to strengthen the film and television industry infrastructure through the construction of purpose-built soundstage and production facilities, which will boost our



efforts to promote Hawaii as a filming location. While the natural beauty of Hawaii is obviously a major factor in the decision of where to film, the existence of an established infrastructure helps to make the numbers pencil out.

Me ke aloha,

Handwritten signatures of Roy Tjioe and Ricardo Galindez in black ink.

Roy Tjioe and Ricardo Galindez  
Co-Founders  
Island Film Group  
Honolulu, Hawaii

REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER  
21ST SESSION  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022  
10 A.M.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND TESTIMONY**

TOMMY WATERS  
CHAIR & PRESIDING OFFICER ESTHER KIAĀINA  
VICE CHAIR  
ANDRIA TUPOLA  
FLOOR LEADER  
RADIANT CORDERO BRANDON J.C. ELEFANTE CAROL FUKUNAGA  
CALVIN K.Y. SAY  
HEIDI TSUNEYOSHI  
AUGIE TULBA

**RE: Bill 45 (2021) – Relating to Incentives for Business**

IN SUPPORT

Dear Chair Watters Presiding Officer Kiaaina, and Members of the City Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today as a private citizen in STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 45 (2021) – RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESS.

My name is Chris Lee, Founder and Director of the University of Hawaii Academy for Creative Media System. Since starting the ACM at UHM Manoa in 2003, the program has expanded to all ten campuses on all islands and resulted in hundreds of graduates staying in the islands contributing to our growing creative economy.

Hawaii's successful diversification of the economy through the production industry is currently constrained by the severe lack of physical infrastructure. We have only one stage -- Diamond Head Studios, which can only accommodate one tv show at a time, and is not fit for any large films. The blockbuster films of today require not just our scenery, but extensive studio sound stages and post production facilities. Through the University of Hawaii Academy for Creative Media, the State has developed a steady pipeline of qualified production workers. This human infrastructure coupled with responsible economic incentives still lacks the physical facilities to significantly diversify our economy.

Building a studio complex will translate to jobs -- literally hundreds of living wage jobs during construction and as the studio complex becomes the operational hub for Hawaii's growing production industry. Films, television shows, streaming content and commercials in 2021 will exceed \$400 million in direct spend in the State of Hawaii. With a first-class studio complex, that number could double to a

consistent \$1 billion a year in direct spend. Large studio complexes create entire eco-systems through the innumerable tertiary businesses they foster and support. This is not possible with just the Diamond Head Studio which is restricted in a residential neighborhood and does not have the scale to accommodate more than one television series

As Sumner La Croix and James Mak have written on behalf of [UHERO](#) in their report [Understanding the Role of the Hawaii Film/TV/Digital Production Tax Credit In Diversifying the Hawaii Economy](#), “Since the passage of the film credit in 2006, spending in Hawaii on TV/film productions has soared, with inflation-adjusted spending increasing by 116 percent between 2007 (\$164.5 million) and 2019 (\$355.6 million). This is much larger than the overall increase in Hawaii real gross domestic product over the same period, a modest 17 percent. “ Indeed, with Direct Spending exceeding \$400 million a year now, film, television and streaming content production ranks as Hawaii’s most successful diversification of our economy. Bill 45, if passed, offers an opportunity to dramatically build on this success.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today and I am happy to answer any questions from the Committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Lee  
Founder and Director,  
Academy for Creative Media System, University of Hawaii



**HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM**  
**A S S O C I A T I O N**

Testimony of  
Mufi Hannemann  
President & CEO  
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Honolulu City Council  
Bill 45 (2021)  
May 4, 2022

Chair Waters and members of the Honolulu City Council, mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's oldest and largest private sector visitor industry organization.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association—nearly 700 members strong, representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers—supports initiatives that makes it easier for businesses to operate in Honolulu while incentivizing them to employ and maintain large workforces of local residents.

In its current form, Bill 45 (2021) rightly seeks to reward business owners and operators in transient-oriented development areas by providing real property tax rebates, waivers for City-imposed fees, and expedited permits where needed. Measures such as this one will further confirm the fact that Honolulu is a business-friendly city that provides owners and operators with adequate incentives to start new businesses, open new locations, and invest in both the local economy and workforce.

It is our position that this measure would significantly help our economy which has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, create new jobs for Honolulu residents, and drive investment and development in transient-oriented development areas.

**The net benefits created by Bill 45 (2021) are clear and, for these reasons, HLTA supports Bill 45 (2021).**

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



‘IKENĀKEA DEVELOPMENT LLC

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1188 Bishop Street, Suite 907 • Honolulu, HI 96813 • 808-529-0404

May 3, 2022

To: **Tommy Waters, Chair**  
**Esther Kia’aina, Vice Chair & Members of the Council**

From: **Kali Watson**  
**President/CEO**  
**Hawaiian Community Development Board**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

Re: **Hearing on CR-97 Bill 45 (2021)**  
May 4, 2022, Wednesday at 10:00 am  
Honolulu Hale

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

Dear Chairperson Waters and Vice Chair Kia’aina, and Members:

My name is Kali Watson, President/CEO of Hawaiian Community Development Board, a nonprofit developer, working with 3 Leaf Holdings, Inc. under the development company called Ikenakea Development LLC. We are developing a hotel in Chinatown designed to display and celebrate Hawaii’s diverse and special cultural connection to our Chinese immigrant population. The hotel is located in Chinatown between Maunakea and Kekaulike Streets fronting Nimitz Highway. Chinatown is a centrally located and historically significant part of Honolulu. It is on the National Register of Historic Places, is a designated Special District within Honolulu’s Land Use Ordinance and falls with the Downtown Transient Oriented Development Plan approved in 2020.

Bill 45 relates to incentives for businesses developing such projects within the TOD areas that will create new jobs and generate economic benefits for the City.

'Ikenakea Development LLC plans to build a \$127 million hotel with 240-key lifestyle rooms which will cater to US and foreign visitors, along with local travelers. It will also preserve the adjacent historic "Blue Rock" which was used as a boarding house for Chinese immigrants who worked in Chinatown during the turn of the century. It will contain historic artifacts and art renderings of Chinatown as it grew into a flourishing and vibrant community of various Chinese and Asian businesses. Chinatown's history is truly amazing and worth preserving and sharing with the world.

Obviously this project will create many construction jobs, along with many permanent hotel jobs.

Having a viable project becomes more possible with Bill 45 with the proposed tax incentive rebates, expedited permitting and waiver of fees.

The hotel will clearly revitalize Chinatown. It will help the surrounding businesses by bringing more tourist customers. This large investment and real estate development will improve the area and enhance the adjacent property values thereby generating high real property taxes and related revenues from the increased economic activities both at and around the new hotel. This will benefit the City as intended with the passage of this Bill.

We support Bill 45 and ask for your positive and timely approval.

Pupuka I Holomua,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kali Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Kali" and "Watson" being capitalized and prominent.

Kali Watson  
President/CEO  
Hawaiian Community  
Development Board (HCDB)

## **HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL TESTIMONY**

Bill 45 – Relating to Business Incentives  
Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 10:00am, via Videoconference

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) submits testimony in **SUPPORT** of Bill 45, which would provide incentives to businesses located within certain areas to create new jobs and generate economic benefits for the city.

Bill 45 will provide incentives for businesses to construct and develop new facilities and create jobs within transient-oriented development areas. Not only will this help to mitigate traffic congestion, as well as associated environmental concerns, but access to public transportation will also provide workers with a higher quality of life. Furthermore, these businesses will contribute to the vibrant and dynamic communities envisioned by transit-oriented development.

Bill 45 also provides incentives for businesses that are engaged in certain industries that have been identified as having the potential to be significant, long-run contributors to economic growth and skilled jobs. By encouraging the construction and development of new facilities and the creation of new jobs within these specific industries, Bill 45 will encourage businesses to invest in the capital and labor that are necessary to promote long-term growth and, importantly, a more diverse economy.

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement appreciates the Honolulu City Council's efforts to promote emerging and base-growth industries in transit-oriented development areas. By offering incentives for businesses to construct and develop new facilities and create jobs, Bill 45 encourages smarter and more sustainable development in industries that have the potential to diversify Hawai'i's economy and contribute to long-term economic growth.

Accordingly, CNHA urges the Honolulu City Council to **PASS** Bill 45. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

J. Kūhiō Lewis, CEO  
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement



‘IKENĀKEA DEVELOPMENT LLC

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1188 Bishop Street, Suite 907 • Honolulu, HI 96813 • 808-529-0404

May 4, 2022

To: **Tommy Waters, Chair**  
**Esther Kia’aina, Vice Chair & Members of the Council**

From: Christopher M. Flaherty  
**Co-Managing Partner**  
**Ikenakea Development, LLC and 3**  
**Leaf Holdings, Inc.**

**Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

Re: **Hearing on CR-97 Bill 45 (2021)**  
May 4, 2022, Wednesday at 10:00 am  
Honolulu Hale

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

Dear Chairperson Waters and Vice Chair Kia’aina, and Members:

My name is Chris Flaherty, Co-Managing Partner of Ikenakea Development and President of 3 Leaf Holdings, in partnership with Hawaiian Community Development Board and Kali Watson. We are developing a hotel in Downtown Chinatown in hopes of providing a catalyst for change. Our Hotel is designed to display and celebrate Hawaii’s diverse and special cultural connection to our Chinese immigrant population. The hotel is located in Chinatown between Maunakea and Kekaulike Streets fronting Nimitz Highway. Chinatown is a centrally located and historically significant part of Honolulu. It is on the National Register of Historic Places, is a designated Special District within Honolulu’s Land Use Ordinance and falls with the Downtown Transient Oriented Development Plan approved in 2020.



Bill 45 relates to incentives for businesses developing such projects within the TOD areas that will create new jobs and generate economic benefits for the City.

Ikenakea Development LLC plans to build a \$127 million hotel with 240-key lifestyle rooms which will cater to business travellers as well as locals looking to experience Chinatown. It will also preserve the adjacent historic “Blue Rock” which was used as a boarding house for Chinese immigrants who worked in Chinatown during the turn of the century. It will contain historic artifacts and art renderings of Chinatown as it grew into a flourishing and vibrant community of various Chinese and Asian businesses. Chinatown’s history is truly amazing and worth preserving and sharing with the world.

Obviously this project will create many construction jobs, along with many permanent hotel jobs. The hotel is projected to employ once completed over 100 jobs. Over 500 construction jobs will be needed to develop the project as well.

Having a viable project becomes more possible with Bill 45 with the proposed tax incentive rebates, expedited permitting and waiver of fees.

The hotel will clearly revitalize Chinatown. It will help the surrounding businesses by bringing more tourist customers. This large investment and real estate development will improve the area and enhance the adjacent property values thereby generating high real property taxes and related revenues from the increased economic activities both at and around the new hotel. This will benefit the City as intended with the passage of this Bill.

We support Bill 45 and ask for your positive and timely approval.

Pupuka I Holomua,

*Christopher M. Flaherty*

Christopher M. Flaherty  
Co-Managing Partner  
Ikenakea Development and  
President of 3 Leaf Holdings



## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Web site: [dbedt.hawaii.gov](http://dbedt.hawaii.gov)

Telephone: (808) 586-2355

Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of  
**MIKE MCCARTNEY**  
**Director**

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**  
**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

10:00 AM

City and County Council Chambers

In consideration of  
**Bill 45**

**A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESSES**

Honorable Chair Waters and members of the Honolulu County Council.

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) and its Creative Industries Division (CID) supports HB45 (21) which seeks to establish economic incentives within the City and County of Honolulu, with a focus on transit-oriented development (TOD) areas designated within the City and County of Honolulu, generating jobs and economic growth for the region, as well as the state.

The department recognizes the value of this measure as a means to bring County, State, community and private sector together to build strategic infrastructure, as noted in HRS Section 201-19 (a) (1). The opportunities presented in the measure align with industries identified by DBEDT as base and emerging growth areas, including agriculture, technology, energy and film and media industries.

With the recent passage HB1982, CD1, extension of the sunset date for the Motion Picture, Digital Media and Film Industry Tax Credit Program to January 1, 2033, along with the increase in % for Oahu productions to 22%, neighbor islands at 27% and the per project cap raised to \$17 million, will provide a foundation for business certainty to production as well as private investors.

Thanks to the work of our state and county film offices, from 2017 to 2021 (with the exception of 2020) Hawaii's film and media industries have consistently generated an average annual production spend of \$400,000,000, generating over 4,200 jobs. Imagine what is possible when we have purpose built facilities.

We pledge our support to working collaboratively with Mayor Blangiardi, his OER team and the County Council in building a strong public-private-partnership to achieve a vision we collectively share.

As the states lead agency for economic development DBEDT encourages the Council to continue the necessary work on Bill 45 to develop new infrastructure across emerging sectors, including the media, film and related supporting industries to complete the ecosystem of a thriving creative hub in the Pacific.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.