

**BILL059(23)**  
**Testimony**

**MISC. COMM. 524**

COUNCIL

## **COUNCIL Meeting**

Meeting Date: Oct 4, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 3

Oppose: 1

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Ellie Tsuchiya	Email: ellie.ayane@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Oct 1, 2023 @ 02:16 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Dear Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kiaina and members of the committee,</p> <p>My name is Ellie Tsuchiya and I live in West Loch, and I am testifying today in opposition of Bill 59. Just a couple of months ago I moved here from Atlanta, GA to help take care of extended family members. In Atlanta, I worked in economic development for many years helping to recruit companies and create jobs for Georgians. I became quite familiar with the state's "business friendly" tax incentive policies that attracted major film studios and talent making us the "Hollywood of the South". Over the past several years I watched as large film studios (Blackhall, Trillith etc.) began to gentrify historically marginalized neighborhoods and attract new talent to move to Georgia for opportunities in the industry. I advocated with the local arts and cultural community who suffered from a lack of visibility and funding because of all the attention that legislators put into growing the film industry. I supported my friends who worked 12 hour days as non union production assistants barely making their bills and still without health insurance.</p> <p>Hollywood is glamorous and the film industry is a money maker. But for who?? The recent strikes should make it clear that this is an extractive industry. As much as the intent may be to create "good jobs", I am highly skeptical due to larger structural issues within the industry. I am also deeply concerned for the aina. I believe that there are countless other uses for the land that would meaningfully feed and nourish Hawai'i rather than building something that would ultimately just feed yet another greedy exec on the continent. I understand the intent of this legislation but due to my lived experience I must ask you to reconsider and ask yourself if this is the type of economic development project you want credit for to keep your seat on the council or if this is what the people of Hawai'i want and need. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.</p> <p>Ellie Tsuchiya, 96706</p>		
Name: Christopher Lee	Email: cpl@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96822
Representing: University of Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 3, 2023 @ 08:50 AM
Name: Kiran Polk	Email: kiranpolk@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Kapolei Chamber of Commerce	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2023 @ 08:30 AM
Name: Choon James	Email: ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com	Zip: 96762
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2023 @ 09:53 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha,</p> <p>We need to diversify and create more industries such as filmmaking.</p> <p>We need to start weaning from putting most of our eggs in the "tourism" basket.</p>		



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o

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Testimony Presented Before the  
City Council

October 4, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

By

Kalbert K. Young

Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer  
University of Hawai'i System

## BILL 59 – RELATED TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this issue. The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports Bill 59, which would provide added incentives for eligible film studio facilities.

While the UH would not benefit directly from the proposed incentives, the proposed approach in Bill 59 would create an attractive benefit to eligible private film studio developers or businesses that may eventually develop on or around UH properties.

We welcome the opportunity to support economic development and business sustainability of film studio facilities in the State. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony in support of Bill 59.

October 4, 2023

Honolulu City Council  
830 S. King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



*Working together for Kapolei*

Dear Chair Waters and City Councilmembers:

**RE: Bill 59 (2023)**

My name is Kiran Polk, and I am the Executive Director of the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce. The Kapolei Chamber is an advocate for businesses in the Kapolei region which includes Waipahu to Ka'ena Point. The Chamber works on behalf of its members and the entire business community to improve the regional and state economic climate and help Kapolei businesses thrive. We are a member- driven, member-supported organization representing the interests of all types of business: small, medium or large, for profit or non-profit businesses or sole proprietorship.

The Kapolei Chamber is in **support** of the intent Bill 59 (2023) which would provide real property tax incentives for the dedication of real property for eligible film studio facilities.

The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce has prioritized the effort to support the establishment of a film studio in West O'ahu. One of the priorities of the Business Revitalization Task Force is to *"Advocate for job growth in digital media, film production and technology industries in West O'ahu."*

**This measure will provide the needed incentives to grow a billion-dollar industry here in Hawai'i.**

According to the Motion Picture Association, the film and television industry is directly responsible for more than 3,630 jobs in the Islands, which includes more than \$192 million in wages statewide. Hawai'i's Motion Picture, Digital Media and Film Production Income Tax Credit production reports data indicates that local hires are at 80% on average, if not higher.

A film studio would only bring revenue into O'ahu county, it will provide an opportunity for our students to stay here in Hawai'i making a living wage and provide an opportunity for Hawai'i residents to return home. **There are opportunities to employ Hawai'i people across a range of sectors, from construction, catering, costuming, camera, post-production, and beyond.** We also believe that West O'ahu provides the ideal location for a film studio, with the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu's Academy of Creative Media establishing just a couple of years ago. The measure also supports providing internships for our future workforce which is also essential to grow this industry.

**More jobs, specifically living wage, professional jobs are needed on the west side to keep pace with the population growth in West O`ahu. Decades ago, the City and County of Honolulu adopted a goal of creating a “Second City” and moving residential and economic growth toward West O`ahu.** West O`ahu’s growing population of almost 200,000 includes the Wai`anae Coast, `Ewa, and Waipahu. In Kapolei and `Ewa alone households are expected to exceed 56,000 by the year 2035 and over the next 30 years the population in Kapolei and `Ewa will increase by 40 percent and housing by 52 percent.

We believe the incentives for job growth, especially in West O`ahu are warranted and needed. We also specifically support job growth in film production on the west side including the incentives so greatly needed to support the effort.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Polk", is placed over a light gray rectangular background.

Kiran Polk  
Executive Director