

BILL059(23)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 23

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Jan 24, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 71

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

Name: Mericia Palma Elmore	Email: mericia.palmaelmore@sagaftra.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 18, 2024 @ 09:05 PM

Name: Mark Hack	Email: markehack@gmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 19, 2024 @ 11:13 AM

Testimony:
I Support Bill 59, its positive impact on the local film industry that touches so many local residents in countless ways, from the working crews, food industry, background actors, and more. thank you.

Name: Dennis Garber	Email: dennisgarber4@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 19, 2024 @ 11:18 AM

Testimony:
I believe this will help all local businesses too.

Name: Kaipu Seales	Email: pauwalukai@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 19, 2024 @ 11:53 AM

Testimony:
Aloha City Council for supporting our members in Hawaii.
I am strongly supporting Bill 59!
Bill 59 CD 1, would contribute to 1) the diversification of our local economy; 2) creating more living wage and union jobs, and 3) bringing more revenue to creative industry-focused businesses, and many other businesses that are adjacent to and/or auxiliary to the creative industries.
I and many of my fellow film workers have been able to earn a living wage and continue to live and thrive in our Hawai'i.
Mahalo for considering my testimony,
Kaipu Seales

Name: Chuck Lyons	Email: chucklyons@outlook.com	Zip: 96740
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 19, 2024 @ 12:10 PM

Testimony:
Aloha,

It is imperative for the state of Hawaii to diversify ourselves from over reliance on tourism.

Film production in Hawaii is one method that can reap near term benefits. Hawaii has an established history of film production, a wide variety of talent to support the industry and provides a training ground to retain our young people.

The financials outlined in the bill provides a very respectable Return on our Investment. Of course, that does not include the long term financial and intangible benefits and from enabling the growth of the industry in Hawaii, retention of our younger residents and bringing pride back to Hawaii.

The film industry is changing, yet again. Now is the time for Hawaii to be in front of that change rather than trying to catch up to the changes.

Chuck Lyons

Name: CHARLES SWARTZ	Email: scott.swartz@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 19, 2024 @ 12:17 PM
Testimony: I am an actor, a member of SAG-AFTRA, and a full time resident of Hawaii, and I support this BILL.		
Name: Troy Apostol	Email: troyapostol@gmail.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 19, 2024 @ 12:33 PM
Testimony: Thank you, City Council, for supporting SAG-AFTRA members in Hawaii! We SUPPORT Bill 59!		
Name: Renee Arnold	Email: renee.arnold@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 19, 2024 @ 01:13 PM
Testimony: This bill helps support unions and many businesses connected with the film industry, as well as students in Creative Media programs at the university. The film industry supports the tourism industry, showcasing the state and attracting tourists from all over the world.		
Name: Grace Hall	Email: grace.hall.cheme@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 19, 2024 @ 02:14 PM
Testimony: Film is the biggest boost to tourism the state has to offer. A tax incentive to the film industry is the best way to increase tourism and revenue for the state. Hawaii is known as a vacation destination because people SEE Hawaii in film and television shows as just that. I myself first came to hawaii because of how it was portrayed in different movies and it piqued my curiosity enough to check it out. It's a shame there isn't a question on the visitor form when people fly into hawaii asking if they've seen hawaii portrayed in film and television, I suspect if there was, there would be a 100% yes response. It's finally time for the state to recognize the film industry as the responsible party for our tourism industry biggest boost to our economy. A tax incentive from the state, would mean more opportunity for production on our island, therefore increasing the amount of positive portrayals of Hawaii in media and a boost to our tourism industry and economy. Not only does our industry increase tourism, it also provides countless jobs to locals. These jobs aren't minimum wage jobs. The film industry provides good Union jobs that families can actually live off of and afford the already overpriced hawaii. If more people can work in the film industry and make higher wages, then the state gets another boost off the income tax of the hundreds of high paying jobs it creates. The state has nothing to lose and everything to gain by offering this tax incentive.		
Name: Brian Wallace	Email: bwallace808@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 19, 2024 @ 02:32 PM
Testimony: Aloha, my name is Brian and I am a proud Hawai'i local who works as a grip in the film industry. I am writing to express my strong support for Bill 59, which would provide tax incentives for building and operating film studio facilities in our city. Bill 59 would contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more living wage and union jobs, and bring more revenue to creative industry-focused businesses, and many other businesses that are adjacent to the creative industries. I have been working in the film industry for over 15 years, and I have seen first-hand the positive impact that film production has on our community. Not only does it showcase our beautiful islands and rich culture to the world, but it also provides opportunities		

for local talent like me to pursue our passion and make a living doing what we love. I am a member of IATSE Local 665, which represents hundreds of Hawai'i workers in the film and digital media industry. We are highly skilled and trained professionals who take pride in our work and deliver quality results. We also benefit from fair wages, health insurance, and retirement plans, thanks to our union contracts.

However, the film industry in Hawai'i is not as stable as it could be. We face a lot of competition from other states and countries that offer more attractive incentives and facilities for film production. We often have to deal with uncertainty and inconsistency in our work schedules, as we depend on the availability and demand of film projects. We also have to travel to other locations to work on certain productions, which takes us away from our families and friends.

That is why I support Bill 59, which would encourage the expansion of the film industry in our city by offering real property tax exemptions for the construction and operation of film studio facilities. These facilities would attract more film companies to invest in Hawai'i, and create a stable and sustainable base for the film industry in our city. They would also allow us to work on more diverse and innovative projects, such as animation, digital media, and virtual reality. They would also enhance our skills and knowledge, as we would have access to state-of-the-art equipment and technology.

Bill 59 is a win-win situation for the city and the film industry, as it would benefit both the economy and the culture of Hawai'i. I urge the City Council to pass this bill without delay, and support the growth and development of the film industry in our city. Mahalo for your consideration and support.

Name: Todd Sells	Email: tdsells@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 19, 2024 @ 03:41 PM

Testimony:

Thank you for introducing and considering bill 59. I am in support of the bill. As a long time stuntman, I've experienced the ebbs and flows of the film industry and believe this bill could help bolster our infrastructure and encourage more production to take place locally. Hawaii is always competing with other states for production dollars. Every little bit helps to win these productions and dollars. This could be a great way to diversify our economy here in the islands. Please SUPPORT and pass this bill.

Mahalo,
Todd Sells

Name: Taiana Tully	Email: taianatully@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 19, 2024 @ 04:48 PM

Testimony:

Thank you for supporting our members of the Hawai'i film industry!

Name: David Williams	Email: davidhawaii11@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 19, 2024 @ 07:23 PM

Testimony:

I back this bill fully and I wish for it to pass with no delay. It'll be great thousands of households as well as Hawaii's overall economy.

Name: Daniel Hirsch	Email: dannoh85@gmail.com	Zip: 98615
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 19, 2024 @ 10:00 PM

Testimony:

By supporting the film and television arts you are also supporting countless local performers, tradespeople and small businesses.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
-------	--------	------

Susan Wyshynski	bronzed.dust00@icloud.com	96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 20, 2024 @ 09:20 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Supporting film studios in Hawaii significantly benefits local residents. It diversifies the economy beyond tourism, creating stable and varied employment opportunities. This industry stimulates local businesses and services, further strengthening the economy. Additionally, it fosters local talent, offering career paths in creative and technical fields.</p>		
Name: Michael Shibata	Email: shibatam@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96822
Representing: University of Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 20, 2024 @ 09:28 AM
Name: Lynn McRee	Email: lynnmcree@gmail.com	Zip: 96708
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 20, 2024 @ 05:33 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am a 24 year member of SAG AFTRA! Hawaii needs the financial gain this bill would provide by enticing film production companies to shoot in our state!</p> <p>Please, on behalf of all the union members in the film, ministry pass this bill it benefits, our members and the state of Hawaii. It's a win-win.</p>		
Name: Jess Lundgren	Email: 420north@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 21, 2024 @ 01:41 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>As a working Hawaii based stuntman i personally know how much the film industry brings to our state. From the many departments within the industry to local & private rentals, advertisement's & spending from gasoline to food the list goes on to support how much it means to facilitate the film industry. At the moment im in the middle of making a decision, as many within the industry are of whether or not to stay home or move to the mainland (again) to continue a career ive devoted most of my adult life to. The fact that Hawaii is a very desireable place to film makes this extremely frustrating. Pls support the bill, at a tome like this this is a real no brainer. Thank you very much for your time & interest. W aloha, Jess Kaala Lundgren</p>		
Name: Kelly Rice	Email: ricekell@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 21, 2024 @ 02:50 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha! I'd first like to thank the City Council for supporting our SAG members in beautiful Hawaii. I am in SUPPORT of Bill 59. Passing Bill 59 CD 1 would contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more living wage and union jobs and would bring more revenue to creative industry-focused businesses. I am a working actress for over 20 years and hope to keep booking roles on productions out here in Hawaii. I feel grateful to have worked on many productions shot on Oahu, from Lost to Magnum P.I. countless productions can move forward in planning to shoot in our wonderful state! More productions will create more opportunities for work along with more revenue for the state. Mahalo for keeping the tv and film industry thriving in Hawaii now and into the future!</p> <p>Sincerely, Kelly Rice</p>		
Name: Marie Hathaway Myung	Email: monsterems@yahoo.com	Zip: 96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Self	Support	Jan 22, 2024 @ 10:29 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha, I am fully in support Bill 59. Our state needs to continue to support the film industry for the creativity of the kanaka, the perpetuation of films and projects about the plight of local folks, and the funding to do so. There are so many creative and driven people who need a place to see their visions through. Please pass this Bill.</p>		
Name: Shereen Balles	Email: shereenballes@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 22, 2024 @ 10:55 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Mai Kkou,</p> <p>My name is Shereen Balles. I am an Actress, Writer and Singer here in the State of Hawai'i. I currently work as a recurring background actress on NCIS Hawai'i, and have had speaking roles on Magnum PI, Hallmark's Aloha Heart, and various other independent short movies filmed here in the State. I have been a member of SAGAFTRA; The Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists since 2010, a member of HARA; Hawai'i Academy of Recording Arts since 2019. I am a writer and a singer. I am Kanaka M'oli, I am an Indigenous Actress of Hawai'i, and I see it only makes sense that we, as Kanaka M'oli, original story tellers, deserve a prestigious place to go to as a Hawai'i State Film Industry Hub to be able to have the facility and resources to be able tell our stories authentically. Hawai'i's beautiful paradise is sought after by so many productions. Please pass BILL 59 so that our Film Industry in Hawai'i will provide not only employment for all of us in the Film Industry-Cast, Crew, Actors, Performers of SAGAFTRA, IATSE, DGA, WGA, MGA, etc, but also the Hawai'i State economy-businesses of all kinds will have people patronize them because our Film industry employees need for Hawai'i's resources to survive - eat, drink, stay at hotels, restaurants, etc.</p> <p>Thank you kindly for addressing this Bill. Please pass Bill 59. You have my support.</p> <p>Humbly yours, Shereen Balles Kanaka M'oli, Actress, Writer, Singer, Performer, Producer, Composer, Lyricist</p>		
Name: Jessika Lawrence	Email: jessika.lawrence@me.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 22, 2024 @ 11:55 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Hawaii has long flirted with the entertainment industry and it is time to make it a real revenue stream for the local economy. See Atlanta's example and follow - making incentives and requiring local hires is a good way to build the infrastructure the industry needs to expand here. I hope you will do everything you can to expand this segment of our economy - which pays dividends by promoting Hawaii in each and every film and TV project produced here.</p>		
Name: Grant Matthews	Email: djgrantmatthews@gmail.com	Zip: 96768
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 22, 2024 @ 02:33 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Hawaii State Legislature Ohana:</p> <p>Having recently retired here on Maui to my "home-state" of Hawaii after serving as a Federal Employee for many years on the mainland, I decided to "re-activate" my performance union status in SAG-AFTRA to see about getting some work here in my Senior years. However, between the Maui wildfire disaster and lack of any outer-island film & tv opportunities, I have been frustrated at the lack of opportunities for any kind of acting employment</p> <p>Maui is currently in dire need of local business diversification due to the impact of the wildfires on the local tourist economy. Our tourist arrivals were only 25% of the previous year over the recent holiday season, and the impact on every aspect of our local economy (almost entirely dependent on tourist- related businesses), and Maui is at this point NOT a sought-after location for the film & tv industries. The cost of living in our state is astronomical, and the overhead for production priced out of contention by</p>		

much cheaper 'tropical' locations like Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

I lived and worked in Atlanta for 5 years, and the economic boom engendered by the generous film-industry tax incentives in that state were unbelievable. With our state currently experiencing a decline in tourism overall, and Maui in particular having a negative appeal to visitors from the fires, ANYTHING we as state residents can do to re-habilitate Hawaii's image as a supreme, world-class destination unique in culture, beauty, and the aloha spirit could have a huge impact on Maui's recovery and a healthy diversification of industry NOT tied directly to tourism.

Filming generates jobs on so many levels; not just for actor's performers, but construction, technical jobs, catering, temporary housing, transportation, etc. etc. etc. Hawaii has a record of successfully producing film industry product, but at this point with the general perception that our state's cost ratio is astronomical compared to other tropical destinations, incentivizing film production through a robust tax restructuring can only benefit our state in positive and economically ramifications statewide.

Mahalo with best wishes for a beneficial outcome to your discussions.

Grant Matthews
Makawao, Maui, Hawaii

Name: JOAN VALENTINE	Email: vedette.joan@gmail.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 22, 2024 @ 04:44 PM

Testimony:

The passing of this bill would be very beneficial to the economy of Hawaii. At the present time, tourism seems to generate the most income. Making it attractive for production companies to come all the way to Hawaii through incentives not only benefits local actors and crews, but hotels, grocery stores etc. This is a definite WIN WIN for Hawaii's economy! If we don't offer these incentives, there are plenty of other places that will and our locals and Hawaii as a whole will be the losers.

Name: Jason Pleski	Email: jasonpleski@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 22, 2024 @ 05:56 PM

Testimony:

Bill 59 CD 1, would contribute to 1) the diversification of our local economy; 2) creating more living wage and union jobs, and 3) bringing more revenue to creative industry-focused businesses, and many other businesses that are adjacent to and/or auxiliary to the creative industries. I'd also like to thank the City Council for supporting our members in Hawaii.

Name: Chris Lee	Email: chris@chrisleemedia.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 22, 2024 @ 06:05 PM

Name: Tuia'ana Scanlan	Email: president@iatse665.org	Zip: 96817
Representing: IATSE Local 665	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 08:15 AM

Name: Scott Lief	Email: scott@thevineproductions.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 09:28 AM

Testimony:

I am in agreement with the Local 665 IATSE Union stance on this matter.

Name: Tara Lauulu	Email: taralauulu@me.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 10:15 AM

Testimony:

I'm here to support the Bill 059(23) to help out the HAWAII Film Industry of HAWAII Nei & open more Studios. And start a HAWAII Film Production so HAWAII people & Crews to have jobs & support their families. And be able to have more shows like MagnumPI, NCIS HAWAII, HAWAII 5-0 & more movies films to be film in our beautiful Paradise Home called HAWAII Nei. Please pass this Bill for our HAWAII. HAWAII has the most beautiful stunningly scenery of all. And people around the World love watching shows that are filmed here HAWAII Nei. More Jobs & leads to more visitors.

Much Aloha .

Tara F.Laulu.

Name: Sonny Ortiz	Email: sonny.ortiz707@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 10:32 AM

Testimony:
Honolulu City Council
City Council Chamber
Tuesday, January 24th, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Re: Bill 59 (2023) CD 1 - RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES
SUBMITTED BY: [INSERT NAME HERE], member, IATSE Local 665

Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Council,

My name is [Sonny Ortiz], member of IATSE Local 665, which represents nearly 800 technicians, artisans, and behind the scenes workers in Hawai'i's entertainment industry. I support Bill 59 CD1.

The Film and Digital Media industry employs hundreds of Hawai'i Local members, sustains thousands of creative sector jobs, and provides millions of dollars in economic impact for the state. The Hawai'i Department of Economic Development, Business, and Tourism reports that, in the 2021 calendar year, the industry spent \$421 million in estimated production expenditures, generated an estimated \$728 million of economic impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues, and total job impacts of 4180 jobs. The film industry is an important part of our economic diversification. It provides a meaningful career with living-wage salaries. The Hawaii Production Tax Credit has been a great industry driver, but we are at a crossroads. There is a great need for a studio complex (not just a stand-alone building large enough to build sets). The measure incentivizes the construction of a minimum of \$100 million facility on at least 10-acres, sizable enough to be able to attract multiple Hollywood and local productions simultaneously. I support incentives that encourage investment in the building and maintenance of film studios in the islands. Bill 59 would contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the creative industry businesses as well as the many small businesses that the industry relies upon.

I support the development of studios and other infrastructure programs that support local filmmakers and the creative industries. I urge the Council to support Bill 59 CD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

[Sonny Ortiz]

Name: William Self	Email: selfmadephoto@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 10:33 AM

Testimony:
Honolulu City Council

City Council Chamber

Tuesday, January 24th, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Re: Bill 59 (2023) CD 1 - RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES

SUBMITTED BY: William A. Self, member, IATSE Local 665

Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Council,

My name is William A. Self, member of IATSE Local 665, which represents nearly 800 technicians, artisans, and behind the scenes workers in Hawai'i's entertainment industry. I support Bill 59 CD1.

The Film and Digital Media industry employs hundreds of Hawai'i Local members, sustains thousands of creative sector jobs, and provides millions of dollars in economic impact for the state. The Hawai'i Department of Economic Development, Business, and Tourism reports that, in the 2021 calendar year, the industry spent \$421 million in estimated production expenditures, generated an estimated \$728 million of economic impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues, and total job impacts of 4180 jobs. The film industry is an important part of our economic diversification. It provides a meaningful career with living-wage salaries. The Hawaii Production Tax Credit has been a great industry driver, but we are at a crossroads. There is a great need for a studio complex (not just a stand-alone building large enough to build sets). The measure incentivizes the construction of a minimum of \$100 million facility on at least 10-acres, sizable enough to be able to attract multiple Hollywood and local productions simultaneously. I support incentives that encourage investment in the building and maintenance of film studios in the islands. Bill 59 would contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the creative industry businesses as well as the many small businesses that the industry relies upon.

I support the development of studios and other infrastructure programs that support local filmmakers and the creative industries. I urge the Council to support Bill 59 CD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,
William A. Self

Name: keaka cleveland	Email: clevelandkeaka7@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 10:35 AM

Testimony:
Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Council,

My name is Keaka Cleveland, member of IATSE Local 665, which represents nearly 800 technicians, artisans, and behind the scenes workers in Hawai'i's entertainment industry. I support Bill 59 CD1.

The Film and Digital Media industry employs hundreds of Hawai'i Local members, sustains thousands of creative sector jobs, and provides millions of dollars in economic impact for the state. The Hawai'i Department of Economic Development, Business, and Tourism reports that, in the 2021 calendar year, the industry spent \$421 million in estimated production expenditures, generated an estimated \$728 million of economic impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues, and total job impacts of 4180 jobs. The film industry is an important part of our economic diversification. It provides a meaningful career with living-wage salaries. The Hawaii Production Tax Credit has been a great industry driver, but we are at a crossroads. There is a great need for a studio complex (not just a stand-alone building large enough to build sets). The measure incentivizes the construction of a minimum of \$100 million facility on at least 10-acres, sizable enough to be able to attract multiple Hollywood and local productions simultaneously. I support incentives that encourage investment in the building and maintenance of film studios in the islands. Bill 59 would contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the creative industry businesses as well as the many small businesses that the industry relies upon.

I support the development of studios and other infrastructure programs that support local filmmakers and the creative industries. I urge the Council to support Bill 59 CD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Keaka Cleveland

Name: Christopher Foster	Email: chrisfoster0089@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 10:36 AM

Testimony:

Re: Bill 59 (2023) CD 1 - RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES

SUBMITTED BY: Christopher Foster, member of IATSE Local 665.

Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Council,

My name is Christopher Foster, a member of IATSE Local 665, which represents nearly 800 technicians, artisans, and behind the scenes workers in Hawai'i's entertainment industry. I support Bill 59 CD1.

The Film and Digital Media industry employs hundreds of Hawai'i Local members, sustains thousands of creative sector jobs, and provides millions of dollars in economic impact for the state. The Hawai'i Department of Economic Development, Business, and Tourism reports that, in the 2021 calendar year, the industry spent \$421 million in estimated production expenditures, generated an estimated \$728 million of economic impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues, and total job impacts of 4180 jobs. The film industry is an important part of our economic diversification. It provides a meaningful career with living-wage salaries. The Hawaii Production Tax Credit has been a great industry driver, but we are at a crossroads. There is a great need for a studio complex (not just a stand-alone building large enough to build sets). The measure incentivizes the construction of a minimum of \$100 million facility on at least 10-acres, sizable enough to be able to attract multiple Hollywood and local productions simultaneously. I support incentives that encourage investment in the building and maintenance of film studios in the islands. Bill 59 would contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the creative industry businesses as well as the many small businesses that the industry relies upon.

I support the development of studios and other infrastructure programs that support local filmmakers and the creative industries. I urge the Council to support Bill 59 CD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Christopher Foster

Name: Dean Des Jarlais	Email: dean@hawaiiimedia.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Hawaii Media Inc.	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 10:39 AM

<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I strongly support this bill to incentivize studio construction on Oahu. This will help to create good paying jobs.</p>		
<p>Name:</p> <p>Geronimo Son</p>	<p>Email:</p> <p>geronimoson@ymail.com</p>	<p>Zip:</p> <p>96779</p>
<p>Representing:</p> <p>Self</p>	<p>Position:</p> <p>Support</p>	<p>Submitted:</p> <p>Jan 23, 2024 @ 10:40 AM</p>
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I would like to thank the City Council for considering and approving this bill that will help support so many of our ohanas. We need more work. It's been a tough year on Maui and improving film incentives will help many families here get back to work and help with the recovery process. Film production is not only an opportunity for jobs, but it's also an opportunity to boost morale and share Hawaii's beautiful culture with the world. I'm a member of SAG-AFTRA and also work as a referral through the Local 665 IATSE. Besides my own household, I personally know many families here that will directly benefit from increased film incentives. Thanks so much for looking out for the welfare of our communities by supporting this important bill! Mahalo,</p> <p>Geronimo Son</p>		
<p>Name:</p> <p>Claudia Barth</p>	<p>Email:</p> <p>cbarth68@googlemail.com</p>	<p>Zip:</p> <p>14437</p>
<p>Representing:</p> <p>Self</p>	<p>Position:</p> <p>Support</p>	<p>Submitted:</p> <p>Jan 23, 2024 @ 10:55 AM</p>
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I want to help to support this bill to bring the incentives to Hawaii for the film industry. The shows and also the films that we get from Hawaii are very important to us but also to the world. Hawaii is a very special place too people around the world and they get to know a little about it by watching movies and shows. the shows give us an escape from the everyday stresses with all the Hawaiian beauty and beautiful nature. Hawaii is very important to many shows that we watch especially Magnum PI. Due to that show Hawaii got even more famous and people learned about the Hawaiian culture. Having a better, bigger show industry with more possibilities on Hawaii could make it easier for more movies and shows to be filmed at this perfect place</p>		
<p>Name:</p> <p>Thomas Penny</p>	<p>Email:</p> <p>gripdogpenny@gmail.com</p>	<p>Zip:</p> <p>96743</p>
<p>Representing:</p> <p>Self</p>	<p>Position:</p> <p>Support</p>	<p>Submitted:</p> <p>Jan 23, 2024 @ 11:32 AM</p>
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>The Film and Digital Media industry employs hundreds of Hawai'i Local members, sustains thousands of creative sector jobs, and provides millions of dollars in economic impact for the state. The Hawai'i Department of Economic Development, Business, and Tourism reports that, in the 2021 calendar year, the industry spent \$421 million in estimated production expenditures, generated an estimated \$728 million of economic impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues, and total job impacts of 4180 jobs. The film industry is an important part of our economic diversification. It provides a meaningful career with living-wage salaries. The Hawaii Production Tax Credit has been a great industry driver, but we are at a crossroads. There is a great need for a studio complex (not just a stand-alone building large enough to build sets). The measure incentivizes the construction of a minimum of \$100 million facility on at least 10-acres, sizable enough to be able to attract multiple Hollywood and local productions simultaneously. I support incentives that encourage investment in the building and maintenance of film studios in the islands. Bill 59 would contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the creative industry businesses as well as the many small businesses that the industry relies upon.</p>		
<p>Name:</p> <p>Alika Leavey</p>	<p>Email:</p> <p>hawaiiprops808@gmail.com</p>	<p>Zip:</p> <p>96785</p>
<p>Representing:</p> <p>Self</p>	<p>Position:</p> <p>Support</p>	<p>Submitted:</p> <p>Jan 23, 2024 @ 12:14 PM</p>
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Honolulu City Council City Council Chamber Wednesday, January 24th, 2024</p>		

10:00 a.m.

Re: Bill 59 (2023) CD 1 - RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES

SUBMITTED BY: 'ALIKA LEAVEY, member, IATSE Local 665

Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Council,

My name is Alika Leavey, member of IATSE Local 665, which represents nearly 800 technicians, artisans, and behind the scenes workers in Hawai'i's entertainment industry. I support Bill 59 CD1.

The Film and Digital Media industry employs hundreds of Hawai'i Local members, sustains thousands of creative sector jobs, and provides millions of dollars in economic impact for the state. The Hawai'i Department of Economic Development, Business, and Tourism reports that, in the 2021 calendar year, the industry spent \$421 million in estimated production expenditures, generated an estimated \$728 million of economic impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues, and total job impacts of 4180 jobs. The film industry is an important part of our economic diversification. It provides a meaningful career with living-wage salaries. The Hawaii Production Tax Credit has been a great industry driver, but we are at a crossroads. There is a great need for a studio complex (not just a stand-alone building large enough to build sets). The measure incentivizes the construction of a minimum of \$100 million facility on at least 10-acres, sizable enough to be able to attract multiple Hollywood and local productions simultaneously. I support incentives that encourage investment in the building and maintenance of film studios in the islands. Bill 59 would contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the creative industry businesses as well as the many small businesses that the industry relies upon.

I support the development of studios and other infrastructure programs that support local filmmakers and the creative industries. I urge the Council to support Bill 59 CD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,
'Alika Leavey

Name: Susan Keiser	Email: ausanckeiser@gmail.com	Zip: 77339
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 01:05 PM

Testimony:

I fully support incentives for the film industry in Hawaii and anything that will help to revive MagnumPI. I am a Kamaaina. I was born and grew up in Hawaii. It is one of the most beautiful places in the world. It is a place that should be filmed and put on screen for all to see. In order to be competitive in the film industry, incentives need to be given. It helps to keep costs down for production which is a major factor in today's economic environment. Georgia has developed a huge film industry for themselves by providing incentives. Canada has also provided incentives as well. Production companies and networks will film in places that are more cost conscious. Given these examples, it would make sense for Hawaii to be competitive as well. Otherwise productions will film elsewhere. And, we will no longer see the beauty of the islands. Please consider providing incentives to the Hawaii film industry. This will improve the economy by providing more jobs and increase tourism as well. Hopefully the incentives in this bill will help to give MagnumPI a season 6. Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Susan Keiser	Email: susanckeiser@gmail.com	Zip: 77339
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 01:17 PM

Testimony:

I fully support incentives for the film industry in Hawaii and anything that will help to revive MagnumPI. I am a Kamaaina. I was born and grew up in Hawaii. It is one of the most beautiful places in the world. It is a place that should be filmed and put on screen for all to see. In order to be competitive in the film industry, incentives need to be given. It helps to keep costs down for production which is a major factor in today's economic environment. Georgia has developed a huge film industry for themselves by providing incentives. Canada has also provided big incentives as well. Production companies and networks will film in places that are more cost conscious. Given these examples, it would make sense for Hawaii to be more

competitive otherwise productions will film elsewhere. And, we will no longer see the beauty of the Islands.
Please consider providing incentives to the Hawaii film industry. This will improve the economy by providing more jobs and help to increase tourism as well. Hopefully the incentives in this bill will help to give MagnumPI a season 6. Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Freddy Eickemeyer	Email: eickemeyerfreddy@gmail.com	Zip: 77329
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 02:01 PM

Testimony:
I think it is important that Hawaii continues to support and give incentives for film and the TV industry.
Having this not only produces employment for locals it also provides a tourism link when films and TV shows are broadcasted intentionally. Shows like NCIS Hawaii and also the reboot of MagnumPI have shown the world what a beautiful part of the world this and also created employment. Incentives will only help grow this industry further thus boosting tourism and the most important, employment!

Name: Karhryn Olson	Email: okathryn44@gmail.com	Zip: 78613
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 02:13 PM

Testimony:
Having lived in Hawaii at one time, I have so enjoyed watching TV series Magnum PI(2018). Takes me back to a special time in my life! This particular series does filming in beautiful locations. Not everyone can be as lucky as I was to live there, but the filming there brings it into where we are and gives us such a peaceful feeling. I also like supporting this important industry to the Island of Oahu giving jobs to locals.

Name: William Nettles	Email: WMNettlesjr@gmail.com	Zip: 33880
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 02:37 PM

Testimony:
Aloha,

I'm writing in support of Bill 59 to provide incentives for the film industry in Honolulu and Hawaii. The incentives will act as an investment for the City and for the film industry. The incentives will foster greater tourism revenues from visitors like myself who will fall in love with Hawaii and its beautiful citizens.

I enjoyed the original Hawaii Five-0 and Magnum PI when I was young. When LOST came along, I really enjoyed seeing the North Shore of Oahu, but I know they also filmed all over the island. When the reboots of Hawaii Five-0 and Magnum PI came along, it inspired my wife and me to visit Oahu six times. We fell in love with Hawaii and its people when we visited and we've returned frequently despite the 14 hour trip from Florida.

I strongly encourage you to pass this bill so you can offer incentives to the film industry in Hawaii. This will not just lead to greater tourism. It will also support Hawaiians working in the film industry. The money they all spend there will provide tax revenues and more than offset the incentives.

Mahalo for your time and attention in this matter. If you have questions of me on this matter, I will gladly take the time to speak with you regarding this important bill.

Aloha,

William Nettles

Name: Sumner La Croix	Email: sumnerlacroix@me.com	Zip: 96826
--------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------

Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 02:52 PM
Name: Tracen Otani	Email: treymuney@yahoo.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 02:57 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Re: Bill 59 (2023) CD 1 - RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: TracenOtani, member, IATSE Local 665</p> <p>Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Council,</p> <p>My name is Tracen Otani, member of IATSE Local 665, which represents nearly 800 technicians, artisans, and behind the scenes workers in Hawai'i's entertainment industry. I support Bill 59 CD1.</p> <p>The Film and Digital Media industry employs hundreds of Hawai'i Local members, sustains thousands of creative sector jobs, and provides millions of dollars in economic impact for the state. The Hawai'i Department of Economic Development, Business, and Tourism reports that, in the 2021 calendar year, the industry spent \$421 million in estimated production expenditures, generated an estimated \$728 million of economic impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues, and total job impacts of 4180 jobs. The film industry is an important part of our economic diversification. It provides a meaningful career with living-wage salaries. The Hawaii Production Tax Credit has been a great industry driver, but we are at a crossroads. There is a great need for a studio complex (not just a stand-alone building large enough to build sets). The measure incentivizes the construction of a minimum of \$100 million facility on at least 10-acres, sizable enough to be able to attract multiple Hollywood and local productions simultaneously. I support incentives that encourage investment in the building and maintenance of film studios in the islands. Bill 59 would contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the creative industry businesses as well as the many small businesses that the industry relies upon.</p> <p>I support the development of studios and other infrastructure programs that support local filmmakers and the creative industries. I urge the Council to support Bill 59 CD1.Thank you for the opportunity to testify.</p> <p>In Solidarity,</p> <p>Tracen Otani</p>		
Name: JAGGER NOVAK	Email: jaggern15@gmail.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 03:10 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Re: Bill 59 (2023) CD 1 - RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Jagger Novak, member, IATSE Local 665</p> <p>Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Council,</p>		

My name is Jagger Novak, member of IATSE Local 665, which represents nearly 800 technicians, artisans, and behind the scenes workers in Hawai'i's entertainment industry. I support Bill 59 CD1.

The Film and Digital Media industry employs hundreds of Hawai'i Local members, sustains thousands of creative sector jobs, and provides millions of dollars in economic impact for the state. The Hawai'i Department of Economic Development, Business, and Tourism reports that, in the 2021 calendar year, the industry spent \$421 million in estimated production expenditures, generated an estimated \$728 million of economic impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues, and total job impacts of 4180 jobs. The film industry is an important part of our economic diversification. It provides a meaningful career with living-wage salaries. The Hawaii Production Tax Credit has been a great industry driver, but we are at a crossroads. There is a great need for a studio complex (not just a stand-alone building large enough to build sets). The measure incentivizes the construction of a minimum of \$100 million facility on at least 10-acres, sizable enough to be able to attract multiple Hollywood and local productions simultaneously. I support incentives that encourage investment in the building and maintenance of film studios in the islands. Bill 59 would contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the creative industry businesses as well as the many small businesses that the industry relies upon.

I support the development of studios and other infrastructure programs that support local filmmakers and the creative industries. I urge the Council to support Bill 59 CD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Jagger Novak

Name: Georgiana Doty	Email: gdoty74@bellsouth.net	Zip: 40014
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 03:39 PM

Testimony:

I am writing in support of tax incentives for film studios to operate and film tv shows and movies in the state of Hawaii. It is so lucrative for the state and its residents.

I live in Kentucky and we have the tax incentive for film and entertainment and it's been a huge success. I live in a small town with a quaint Main Street and we've had two Hallmark movies filmed there with some of our residents as extras. It was awesome and increased our tourism two fold after the movies were released. I know what MagnumPI did for your state. I am a huge fan and I know people that are too And they made plans to go to Hawaii after watching MagnumPI. So anytime you can take advantage of incentives for the entertainment industry you should do it. Thank you

Name: Joseph Barrett	Email: Joeymr@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 03:42 PM

Testimony:

Re: Bill 59 (2023) CD 1 - RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES

SUBMITTED BY: Joseph Barrett, member, IATSE Local 665

Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Council,

My name is Joseph Barrett, member of IATSE Local 665, which represents nearly 800 technicians, artisans, and behind the

scenes workers in Hawai'i's entertainment industry. I support Bill 59 CD1.

The Film and Digital Media industry employs hundreds of Hawai'i Local members, sustains thousands of creative sector jobs, and provides millions of dollars in economic impact for the state. The Hawai'i Department of Economic Development, Business, and Tourism reports that, in the 2021 calendar year, the industry spent \$421 million in estimated production expenditures, generated an estimated \$728 million of economic impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues, and total job impacts of 4180 jobs. The film industry is an important part of our economic diversification. It provides a meaningful career with living-wage salaries. The Hawaii Production Tax Credit has been a great industry driver, but we are at a crossroads. There is a great need for a studio complex (not just a stand-alone building large enough to build sets). The measure incentivizes the construction of a minimum of \$100 million facility on at least 10-acres, sizable enough to be able to attract multiple Hollywood and local productions simultaneously. I support incentives that encourage investment in the building and maintenance of film studios in the islands. Bill 59 would contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the creative industry businesses as well as the many small businesses that the industry relies upon.

I support the development of studios and other infrastructure programs that support local filmmakers and the creative industries. I urge the Council to support Bill 59 CD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In solidarity,
Joseph Barrett

Name: Debra Grey	Email: cristalyse@aol.com	Zip: 70380
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 03:46 PM

Testimony:

I just want to say that giving incentives to the film and TV industry helps the state by creating jobs and promoting travel. Hawaii is known for its beautiful locations, awesome food and culture. It's one of the best places to travel to. This is because the film and TV industry promotes it all the time. It's a huge asset to Hawaii's economy. Giving the industry incentives to stay there, is absorbed back into the economy. For myself, I'm part of the SaveMagnumPI campaign and I want my show back. This incentive might help give the networks a reason to bring it back, which may in turn give back a few hundred jobs, so I am in support of this bill.

Name: Phyllis Bruce	Email: p.bruce@aol.com	Zip: 82009
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 03:57 PM

Testimony:

I strongly support this bill to bring incentives to Hawaii for the film industry for shows & movies, like the great show of Magnum PI. The cast associated with this show are great ambassadors for your beautiful state! This show allowed viewers to escape their everyday life, enjoying the beauty & perhaps plan future trips! A great way to earn revenue & showcase your wonderful people!

Name: Lynn Via	Email: lynnevia@yahoo.com	Zip: 92861
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 04:23 PM

Testimony:

I support film in Hawaii. The backdrop of Hawaii and it's culture helps create family friendly shows for all ages. Filming in Hawaii creates jobs for Hawaii and opportunities to Hawaii's residents. The film students at the University of Hawaii could benefit from internships in the film industry. If this major is not currently available at the University of Hawaii then maybe it should be introduced. Also set design, costume design and more classes like musical scores could be taught. I support film in Hawaii. Lost,

Hawaii Five-0 old and new, Magnum PI old and new are wonderful film creations on location in Hawaii. Thank you Hawaii.

Name: Janay Chapin	Email: k9sbiteme@gmail.com	Zip: 93561
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 05:31 PM

Testimony:

The Hawaiian film industry plays a crucial role in boosting the local economy and providing employment opportunities for many residents on the island. Shows like Magnum P.I. not only showcase the stunning landscapes of Hawaii but also contribute significantly to the state's tourism industry. The presence of such productions attracts visitors interested in experiencing the locations featured in their favorite shows, thereby promoting tourism and local businesses.

Incentivizing the Hawaiian film industry is essential for sustaining this positive economic impact. By offering incentives, the state can attract more film and television productions, leading to increased job opportunities for local talent. Behind the scenes, a diverse range of professionals, from actors to crew members, benefit from the production process. Furthermore, the ripple effect extends to various support services, such as catering, transportation, and accommodations, providing additional income for businesses and individuals.

The importance of these incentives goes beyond immediate economic gains. It fosters a thriving creative community and establishes Hawaii as a sought-after location for filmmakers. As a result, the state becomes a hub for cultural exchange and artistic expression, enriching the local community and contributing to Hawaii's global identity. Supporting the film industry in Hawaii is an investment in both its economic prosperity and cultural vitality. Another reason we need Magnum P.I. back in production!

Name: Patty Ferdinand	Email: pmferd@aol.com	Zip: 96815-3318
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 05:35 PM

Testimony:

This is important to encourage filming in Hawaii and support the working members here.

Name: James Ferdinand	Email: jferd@aol.com	Zip: 96815-3318
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 06:21 PM

Testimony:

I support this bill which should increase the film industry and add additional jobs for island people. Additionally them more films we attract will increase the revenue for the City, County and State.

Name: Erika Aresta	Email: ekaresta@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 06:54 PM

Testimony:

Re: Bill 59 (2023) CD 1 - RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES
SUBMITTED BY: Erika Aresta
member, IATSE Local 665

Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Council,

My name is Erika Kaanoi Aresta, member of IATSE Local 665, which represents nearly 800 technicians, artisans, and behind the scenes workers in Hawai'i's entertainment industry. I support Bill 59 CD1.

The Film and Digital Media industry employs hundreds of Hawai'i Local members, sustains thousands of creative sector jobs, and provides millions of dollars in economic impact for the state. The Hawai'i Department of Economic Development, Business, and

Tourism reports that, in the 2021 calendar year, the industry spent \$421 million in estimated production expenditures, generated an estimated \$728 million of economic impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues, and total job impacts of 4180 jobs. The film industry is an important part of our economic diversification. It provides a meaningful career with living-wage salaries. The Hawaii Production Tax Credit has been a great industry driver, but we are at a crossroads. There is a great need for a studio complex (not just a stand-alone building large enough to build sets). The measure incentivizes the construction of a minimum of \$100 million facility on at least 10-acres, sizable enough to be able to attract multiple Hollywood and local productions simultaneously. I support incentives that encourage investment in the building and maintenance of film studios in the islands. Bill 59 would contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the creative industry businesses as well as the many small businesses that the industry relies upon.

I support the development of studios and other infrastructure programs that support local filmmakers and the creative industries. I urge the Council to support Bill 59 CD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Erika Kaanoi Aresta

Name: Tony Doddair	Email: tonnygd8899@gmail.com	Zip: 96814
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 07:03 PM

Testimony:

I strongly support BILL059 relating to incentives for film studio facilities. Help create more meaningful jobs in Hawaii starts with a strong will to do the right thing. Entertainment world can be seen as glamorous affairs. In reality it is much more than that. They create jobs that put food on our tables, from A to Z there are economic activities that goes above and beyond our common comprehension. Just stop and pause for a moment please, certain iconic shows made in Hawaii are seen worldwide and people keep coming because of our natural beauty and those mesmerizing iconic shows are in our hearts forever. Please by providing incentives for film studio facilities you will carry on the magnificent tradition and become a force multiplier for this industry. Believe. Have faith. Take action. Thousands of future jobs ahead!

Aloha! Mahalo.

Name: Alexander W Gage	Email: alexander.gage1@icloud.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 07:20 PM

Testimony:

Re: Bill 59 (2023) CD 1 - RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES

SUBMITTED BY: Alexander W Gage, member, IATSE Local 665

Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Council,

My name is Alexander W Gage member of IATSE Local 665, which represents nearly 800 technicians, artisans, and behind the scenes workers in Hawai'i's entertainment industry. I support Bill 59 CD1.

The Film and Digital Media industry employs hundreds of Hawai'i Local members, sustains thousands of creative sector jobs, and provides millions of dollars in economic impact for the state. The Hawai'i Department of Economic Development, Business, and Tourism reports that, in the 2021 calendar year, the industry spent \$421 million in estimated production expenditures, generated an estimated \$728 million of economic impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues, and total job impacts of 4180 jobs. The film industry is an important part of our economic diversification. It provides a meaningful career with living-wage salaries. The Hawaii Production Tax Credit has been a great industry driver, but we are at a crossroads. There is a great need for a studio complex (not just a stand-alone building large enough to build sets). The measure incentivizes the construction of a minimum of \$100 million facility on at least 10-acres, sizable enough to be able to attract multiple Hollywood and local productions simultaneously. I support incentives that encourage investment in the building and maintenance of film studios in the islands. Bill 59 would contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the creative industry businesses as well as the many small businesses that the industry relies upon.

I support the development of studios and other infrastructure programs that support local filmmakers and the creative industries. I urge the Council to support Bill 59 CD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

[Alexander W. Gage]

Name: Erin Olivari	Email: erinolivari@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 07:44 PM

Testimony:

I am in support of the expansion of the film industry in Hawaii. The expansion of the film industry with additional studio space will create many more jobs for Hawai'i residents and diversification. It is important for us to have more opportunities for living-wage jobs and non-tourist dependent jobs. I believe this expansion will have a long-lasting positive effect on our islands. Thank you for your time.

Name: Valerie Matsunaga	Email: val.matsunaga@gmail.com	Zip: 96733
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 08:03 PM

Testimony:

Thank you, City Council for supporting our members in Hawaii.

This is in support of Bill 59.

Bill 59 CD 1, would contribute to 1) the diversification of our local economy; 2) creating more living wage and union jobs, and 3) bringing more revenue to creative industry-focused businesses, and many other businesses that are adjacent to and/or auxiliary to the creative industries.

Personally, I am a local actor and active in the local productions on Oahu, Hawaii island and Maui, and active with the Creative Media program at the University and Community Colleges. Having productions here would provide viable occupations for students and alike entering the industry without having to travel or commute out of state.

Examples of the positive impact the local film production industry in Hawaii has had on Maui include: The White Lotus, Paradise City, the local series Moku Moku, Kuleana to name a few. The additional business provided to the food service, hotel, construction crew and medical services (during COVID) were significant with each project.

Name: Kiran Polk	Email: kiranpolk@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Kapolei Chamber of Commerce	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 10:39 PM

Name: Mariah White	Email: mswenterprisesco@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 11:17 PM

Name: Tony Doddair	Email: tonnygd8899@gmail.com	Zip: 96814
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 11:17 PM

Testimony:

I am a member of SAGAFTRA HAWAII and I strongly support BILL059 relating to incentives for film studio facilities. Help create more meaningful jobs in Hawaii starts with a strong will to do the right thing. Entertainment world can be seen as glamorous affairs. In reality it is much more than that. They create jobs that put food on our tables, from A to Z there are economic activities that goes above and beyond our common comprehension. Just stop and pause for a moment please, certain iconic shows made in Hawaii are seen worldwide and people keep coming because of our natural beauty and those mesmerizing iconic shows are in our hearts forever. Please by providing incentives for film studio facilities you will carry on the magnificent tradition and become a

force multiplier for this industry. The BILL059 would contribute to 1) the diversification of our local economy, 2) creating more living wages and union jobs, 3) bringing more revenues to creative industry focused business, and many other business that are adjacent to and/or auxiliary to the creative industries. Above all, jobs are needed to support our Ohana and put food on our tables please by supporting this bill you are doing your job in a positive and meaningful way to helping all of us. Appreciate your support and gratitude every moment. Thanks.

Name: Ellen Kaiser	Email: ellen.a.kaiser@gmail.com	Zip: 51427
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 24, 2024 @ 12:45 AM

Testimony:
Since I was young, I have always wanted to visit Hawaii. Part of my family comes from the US. I felt a strong bond with the US when we moved there to work for 2 years. My relatives were very diverse, and that's another reason to love Hawaii. I also worked in Asia, and as a matter of course, I'm so fascinated by Hawaii because the variety of cultures distinguishes it and makes it so unique. There's an exceptional TV show called Magnum PI (2018) that portrays the aloha state in such a magical way. There's no show like Magnum PI. A show that has such a brilliantly diverse cast, excellent writers, and amazing crew, which characterize veterans with kindred and good souls in the beautiful Aloha state. The Hawaiians sparkle with their aloha spirit and kind hearts toward people and nature. The world needs more shows like Magnum PI. Beyond 12 Million viewers wish that the show continues, and we want to support the Hawaiian film industry with all our hearts.

Name: Fiona Brocklebank	Email: fizz6r@aol.com	Zip: 96719
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Jan 24, 2024 @ 01:46 AM

Testimony:
Hawaii being principally a vacation state needs to provide other opportunities for its people in terms of more varied and better paid careers than just hospitality. The film and TV industry creates good jobs and casts and crew often from the mainland in turn create opportunities for local businesses and more customers. Shows like Magnum PI act like a travel show or advert thus also creating a desire to visit and more tourism. Because Hawaii is expensive without incentives production companies are likely to choose to film elsewhere. The gains are such for the islands that they far outweigh the incentives.

Name: Albert Furuto	Email: al.union.furuto@gmail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 24, 2024 @ 02:06 AM

Testimony:
Hawaii is a wonderful place to make movies and a beautiful place to encourage the creative arts be it painting, writing, or producing movies. I have been involved in the movie industry for most of my life. It has been a most rewarding and satisfying career. Having encouragement for investments and development in this area will provide new high paying occupations to our next generation to help offset the high cost of living in Hawaii. This is absolutely a step in the right direction. Thank you, Albert Furuto
SAG-AFTRA registered actor in good standing and union member of IATSE

Name: fabienne Jankovsky lequertier	Email: fabienne.lequertier.ca@gmail.com	Zip: 92300
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 24, 2024 @ 04:11 AM

Testimony:
I want to help support this bill to bring the incentives to Hawai for the film industry. The shows and movies that we get from Hawaii are very important to us and the rest of the world. They give us an escape from the everyday stresses with all of Hawaii's natural beauty. Hawaii is very important to many shows that we watch, Especially MagnumPI. And we support the SaveMagnumPI campaign

Name: Eliza Talbot	Email: etalbot@cochawaii.org	Zip: 96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Chamber of Commerce Hawaii	Support	Jan 24, 2024 @ 05:04 AM
Name: Katharina Wittkowski	Email: katharina03011971@icloud.com	Zip: 44143
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 24, 2024 @ 05:10 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>It is a credit to the film industry that Hawaii is known and loved all over the world and people all over the world travel there. This creates jobs and stimulates the economy.</p> <p>For myself, I am part of the SaveMagnumPI champange.</p> <p>So I hope it is an incentive for the MagnumPI networks and to bring the island of Hawaii back to people all over the world.</p> <p>So I support the bill.</p>		
Name: Irish Barber	Email: alohairish@iatse665.org	Zip: 96817
Representing: IATSE Local 665	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 24, 2024 @ 06:57 AM
Name: Georja Skinner	Email: Georja.skinner@hawaii.gov	Zip: 96813
Representing: DBEDT, State of Hawai'i Creative Industries	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 24, 2024 @ 08:01 AM
Name: Michael Myers	Email: myersm@me.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 24, 2024 @ 08:18 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Re: Bill 59 (2023) CD 1 - RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Michael Myers, member, IATSE Local 665</p> <p>Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Council,</p> <p>My name is Michael Myers, member of IATSE Local 665, which represents nearly 800 technicians, artisans, and behind the scenes workers in Hawai'i's entertainment industry. I support Bill 59 CD1.</p> <p>The Film and Digital Media industry employs hundreds of Hawai'i Local members, sustains thousands of creative sector jobs, and provides millions of dollars in economic impact for the state. The Hawai'i Department of Economic Development, Business, and Tourism reports that, in the 2021 calendar year, the industry spent \$421 million in estimated production expenditures, generated an estimated \$728 million of economic impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues, and total job impacts of 4180 jobs. The film industry is an important part of our economic diversification. It provides a meaningful career with living-wage salaries. The Hawaii Production Tax Credit has been a great industry driver, but we are at a crossroads. There is a great need for a studio complex (not just a stand-alone building large enough to build sets). The measure incentivizes the construction of a minimum of \$100 million facility on at least 10-acres, sizable enough to be able to attract multiple Hollywood and local productions simultaneously. I support incentives that encourage investment in the building and maintenance of film studios in the islands. Bill 59 would contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the creative industry businesses as well as the many small businesses that the industry relies upon.</p> <p>I support the development of studios and other infrastructure programs that support local filmmakers and the creative industries. I urge the Council to support Bill 59 CD1.Thank you for the opportunity to testify.</p> <p>In Solidarity,</p> <p>Michael Myers</p>		
Name:	Email:	Zip:

Choon James	ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com	96762
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 24, 2024 @ 09:30 AM
<p>Testimony: SUPPORT BILL059(23) RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES.</p> <p>The Republic of South Korea intentionally invested in the human capital of its people through its film and music industry as a national economy. Look at its success. Who has not heard of K-Drama or the Korean pop groups?</p> <p>This direction is one of many options that Hawaii should explore and support. This will help Hawaii be more versatile and not be too dependent on the tourism industry.</p> <p>Choon James ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com</p>		



January 24, 2024

City and County of Honolulu - Tommy Waters, Chair

RE: Bill 59
DATE: Wednesday, January 24, 2024
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
City and County of Honolulu, 96813-3077

Aloha Chair Watters and Members of the City Council,

We **support** this measure. [SAG-AFTRA](#) represents over 1400 actors, recording artists, and media professionals in our state. We are professional performers working in front of the camera and behind the microphone.

The Film and Digital Media industry employs hundreds of Hawaii Local members, sustains thousands of creative sector jobs, and provides millions of dollars in economic impact for the State. The Hawaii Department of Economic Development, Business, and Tourism, reports that in the 2021 calendar year, the industry spent \$421 million in estimated production expenditures, generated an estimated \$728 million of economic impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues, and total job impacts of 4,180 jobs.¹ However, we have hit a plateau, partly because we do not have the infrastructure (studio space) to support substantial further growth.

We support incentives that encourage investment in the building of and maintaining film studios on the island.

SAG-AFTRA supports robust and fair incentive programs. Bill 59 CD 1, would contribute to 1) the diversification of our local economy; 2) creating more living wage and union jobs, and 3) bringing more revenue to creative industry-focused businesses, and many other businesses that are adjacent to and/or auxiliary to the creative industries. We support the development of a studio and other infrastructure programs that support local filmmakers and the creative industries.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Mericia Palma Elmore

Mericia Palma Elmore, Executive Director SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local

¹ https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/hawaii-creative-report/HI_Creative_Ind_2022.pdf



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o

Testimony Presented Before the

Honolulu City Council

January 24, 2024 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 CD1 (2023) – RELATED TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this issue. The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports Bill 59 CD1, 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 CD1 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 CD1.

Honolulu City Council, January 24, 2024

Testimony in Support for Bill 59 **RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES.**

Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kiaāina, and Members of the City Council,

I write today as a private citizen in strong support and with appreciation for Bill 59, which would help to enhance our successful film, television and streaming content production industry.

In 2022, according to DBEDT, the production industry had a qualified direct spend of \$483 million dollars across the state – the vast majority of that being spent in the City and County of Honolulu. Much of that is in the form of living wage jobs for local workers, with DBEDT also reporting that film and television union crews average over 80% residents. According to the Producer of NBCs *Magnum PI*, their cast and crew were 89% local Honolulu residents.

State tax production incentives have been an essential driver of this economic diversification, starting with Act 88 in 2006. Before Act 88, Hawaii never saw more than \$100 million in production per year. Since then, our industry has climbed to a DBEDT reported average of \$396 million dollars in direct spend per annum.

But Hawaii, and especially Oahu with 75 to 90% of annual production spend, is missing out on potentially hundreds of millions of dollars because of our lack of production infrastructure. Currently, the State runs the single stage Diamond Head Studio and the World War 2 era hangers/make shift stages at Kalaeloa – both are occupied by CBSs *NCIS* television series. There is no industry standard studio complex which can accomodate multiple series or large motion pictures in the islands.

So, huge productions and franchises like *Jumanji*, *Jurrassic Park*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Midway*, and *Godzilla* are only able to shoot their location footage here and then move to Los Angeles, Georgia, Montreal, and London where they can access the massive sound stages and post production facilities we do not have here. This move is expensive for them and a huge loss of revenue for us as stage and visual effects work make up the majority of the budget of the typical blockbuster movie.

Even stories about Hawaii or Hawaii adjacent have to go elsewhere to complete the bulk of their \$100 million+ shoots. For example, Apple TVs *Chief of War*, starring Jason Momoa, which is about our island history, is reported to have shot 30 days here in

Hawaii, but 150 days in New Zealand. Disney's upcoming live action version of *Moana*, starring Dwayne Johnson, will shoot briefly on location here, but then move everything to Atlanta to access their studio facilities.

With Bill 59, the City and County of Honolulu has the opportunity to help stop this leakage of economic activity and keep production here in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today in support for Bill 59.

Chris Lee

IATSE LOCAL 665

FILM, TELEVISION, STAGE, PROJECTION AND TRADESHOWS

Since 1937

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES, MOVING PICTURE TECHNICIANS, ARTISTS AND ALLIED CRAFTS
OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS TERRITORIES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO, CLC

Honolulu City Council
City Council Chamber
Tuesday, January 24th, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Re: Bill 59 (2023) CD 1 - RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES
SUBMITTED BY: President Tuia'ana Scanlan, IATSE Local 665

Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Council,

My name is Tuia'ana Scanlan, president of IATSE Local 665, which represents nearly 800 technicians, artisans, and behind the scenes workers in Hawai'i's entertainment industry. Local 665 **supports Bill 59 CD1**.

The Film and Digital Media industry employs hundreds of Hawai'i Local members, sustains thousands of creative sector jobs, and provides millions of dollars in economic impact for the state. The Hawai'i Department of Economic Development, Business, and Tourism reports that, in the 2021 calendar year, the industry spent \$421 million in estimated production expenditures, generated an estimated \$728 million of economic impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues, and total job impacts of 4180 jobs. The film industry is an important part of our economic diversification. It provides a meaningful career with living-wage salaries. The Hawaii Production Tax Credit has been a great industry driver, but we are at a crossroads. There is a great need for a studio complex (not just a stand-alone building large enough to build sets). The measure incentivizes the construction of a minimum of \$100 million facility on at least 10-acres, sizable enough to be able to attract multiple Hollywood and local productions simultaneously. Local 665 supports incentives that encourage investment in the building and maintenance of film studios in the islands. Bill 59 would contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the creative industry businesses as well as the many small businesses that the industry relies upon.

IATSE 665 supports the development of studios and other infrastructure programs that support local filmmakers and the creative industries. We urge the Council to **support Bill 59 CD1**. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Tuia'ana Scanlan, President, IATSE Local 665 (he/him/his)

Testimony Presented Before the City Council
January 24, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

By

Sumner La Croix, Ph.D. Economics

BILL 59 – RELATED TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES

Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kiaʻāina, and Members of the City Council:

My name is Sumner La Croix, and I am Professor Emeritus in the UH-Mānoa Economics Dept and a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Hawaiʻi Economic Research Organization (UHERO). I am testifying today in a private capacity and my views do not necessarily reflect those of UH-Mānoa or UHERO.

Professor Emeritus James Mak and I have previously written on the role of the Hawaiʻi TV/film/digital production tax credit in diversifying the Hawaiʻi economy. See <https://uhero.hawaii.edu/understanding-the-role-of-the-hawaii-film-tv-digital-production-tax-credit-in-diversifying-the-hawaii-economy/>. The State of Hawaiʻi is one of more than 30 states to offer a tax credit to film, TV, and digital productions (hereafter “film credit”). 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.

Why does a production company choose Hawaii as the location to film its project when costs of labor and rented capital are lower in many other locations? The main reason is the access the company gains to natural and cultural capital—Hawaiʻi’s diverse natural landscapes, warm weather with trade winds, the unique urban landscapes of the tropical city of Honolulu, and the mix of people from diverse cultural backgrounds. A production company will also consider the net of tax credit cost of filming a project in Hawaii vis-à-vis another location.

There is more to building a robust film industry in Hawaiʻi than a competitive film tax credit. Two other factors that attract film/TV productions to Hawaiʻi are (1) availability of workers with skills valued by the industry and (2) availability of state-of-the-art production studios.

Expanded undergraduate education programs and facilities dedicated to film/TV/digital production at many UH campuses are providing college students with skills and overall knowledge valued by film/TV/digital production companies. The new UH-West Oahu facilities have the potential to make UH’s Academy for Creative media one of the leading schools for content production in the United States. The Academy’s expansion will make it easier for content production companies filming in Hawaii to staff jobs in their productions with local talent, while other UH program graduates will be encouraged to start their own companies. Learning-by-doing for the many workers involved in the long-running *Hawaii 5-0*, *Magnum PI* and *NCIS: Hawaiʻi* TV series has made them more skilled, more experienced, and more valuable employees. The combination of skilled, experienced local talent and fresh graduates from the Academy for Creative Media will serve as a magnet for production companies to choose Hawaiʻi for future ventures.

Private investment in a film studio(s) for use by Hawai‘i and overseas production companies has potential to attract more film/TV projects to Hawai‘i. In general, U.S. states with thriving film industries are ones where substantial public and private capital investments in production studios and ancillary facilities have taken place. Private investors have, however, not made substantial investments in facilities for the film/TV industry in Hawai‘i. Both existing studios are fully occupied with ongoing productions filming in Hawai‘i. However, an adjacent site on Farrington Highway near the new UH-West Oahu facilities has been identified as a potential site for a private production studio to be developed with private funding on UH land. In Fall 2023 UH solicited bids from film studio companies to develop the property, and is in the process of evaluating them in January 2024.

A new privately-built and privately-operated film studio would bring economic benefits to Hawai‘i and, more specifically, to Honolulu residents.

- **New Jobs.** A new studio would create new construction jobs while it is being built; create new professional jobs in West Oahu when it begins operating; and create “spillover” jobs in the surrounding community via the spending by studio employees and the studio company at Honolulu and Hawai‘i businesses.
- **Additional Enrollment at UH-West Oahu Campus.** The presence of a film studio adjacent to the Academy for Creative Media’s new facilities would raise the value to students of attending the Academy and elevate the Academy’s reputation. This would attract new out-of-state and in-state tuition-paying students to UH-West Oahu and allow the campus both to increase its tuition revenues and to operate more efficiently.
- **New State and County-City Tax Revenues.** The new economic activity generated by a new film studio would yield additional property tax revenues for Honolulu on the studio structures, additional GET revenues for Honolulu and the State of Hawaii, and additional income tax revenues for the State of Hawaii.

Property Tax Waiver on Studio Land. Is it necessary for the City and County of Honolulu to waive property taxes on the land used by the new film studio to attract it to locate in Honolulu? **The bottom line is that no production facility of this size is built in the United States today without significant tax credits being awarded by a state or local government.** While there are significant natural and cultural benefits to a studio from locating in Honolulu, other USA and international cities can also offer substantial natural and cultural benefits to a studio locating in that city. A waiver of property taxes by the City and County of Honolulu would help to attract a new studio to Honolulu which would, in turn generate new economic activity benefitting Honolulu residents.

The UH land surrounding UH West Oahu does not currently generate tax revenue and there are no other businesses currently willing to invest in the neighborhood of \$100 million in this property. Thus, awarding a waiver of property taxes to a large new studio development would not entail a loss of tax revenue for the City and County of Honolulu. Housing is a potential alternative use of this parcel, but there is considerable UH acreage near the UH West Oahu campus and the Skyline transit station (Keone‘ae) that could be utilized for new housing.

January 24, 2024

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



Working together for Kapolei

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

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 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.

1001 Kamokila Boulevard, Campbell Building Suite 250, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

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 dark ink, appearing to read "K. Polk", is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Kiran Polk
Executive Director

Bill 059(23) – Testimony
MS White

I am a SAG-AFTRA member (2004-current) who has worked on many productions, in varied capacities over the years and previously worked for the State of Hawaii in DBEDT / CID managing the day to day on Production Tax Credit program (2018-2023.)

When I am fortunate enough to land on set work, I make a livable wage. I am not only a staunch supporter of this industry but an example of the provable benefits that the TV/ Film industry provides to residents of this state.

I know having a healthy tax credit helps us garner more work and entices more productions to film here, but I also believe we have room to grow our industry and can build on this momentum (creating even more livable wage jobs), if we further invest in production related infrastructure and supporting programs.

I support the development of studios and the infrastructure that will help us stay competitive, both nationally and internationally. I believe this will bring Hawaii more production work, help us RETAIN more productions for the full arch or most all of the production life-cycle and help us diversify our economy. We need large, state of the art studio facilities here to compete, capture and maintain large productions for long term (rather than having productions do piece meal shoots here, then go to other states or countries to utilize their state of the art, large format studios, to complete the rest of their production.)

TV/Film Production – a few key benefit bullets:

- PAYS A LIVING WAGE.
- Provides economic diversification that will increase our resilience.
- Has wider economic impact than merely that of the dollars spent on the set/production by engaging many other auxiliary industries and vendors
- It's very nature promotes the preservation and protection of Hawaii's diverse landscapes and breathtaking views. Productions credo to put things back the way they found it.
- Proved during Covid that it has the potential to keep us working, due to its insular nature and adaptability, even during a time of crisis and stand still in many other sectors.

I am **in support of Bill 59** and urge the Council to also support Bill 59.

Mahalo for your time, consideration and the opportunity to testify.



January 22, 2024

**Honorable Chair Tommy Waters
Vice Chair Esther Kiaaina
City Council Members
City & County of Honolulu
530 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813**

RE: Testimony in Support of Bill 59 (2023), Relating to Incentives for film studios

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") would like to provide comments in support of Bill 59 (2023), which will provide incentives for eligible film studio facilities to grow and expand on Oahu.

This measure requires recipients to invest a minimum of \$100,000,000 to construct the facilities and provide local workforce development opportunities and internships for local students and labor unions.

The expansion of creative industries represents a significant opportunity for Hawaii to enhance its economic diversification and financial resiliency. Hawaii must develop a culture of innovation and build local digital skills to retain a skilled local workforce and ensure economic stability for the future. Investing in infrastructure and increasing opportunities in creative industries is important to Hawaii's future.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing over 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support.



Local 665
HAWAII'S TECHNICIANS
for
FILM, TELEVISION, STAGE AND PROJECTION
Since 1937

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES, MOVING PICTURE TECHNICIANS, ARTISTS AND ALLIED CRAFTS
OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS TERRITORIES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO, CLC

Re: Bill 59 (2023) CD1 - RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES

Aloha Chair Cordero and Members of the Committee,

MAHALO for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT of BILL 59**. The IATSE is the largest entertainment union in the world, and Local 665 represents nearly 800 members and 700 trainees who work behind the scenes in film, television, live events and tradeshow across the Hawaiian Islands.

Bill 59 would incentivize the construction of a full-fledged film studio on O'ahu. This would make Hawai'i more competitive with other film locales, diversify and grow our economy, create small businesses and bring new revenue to the City and County.

"NCIS – Hawai'i" is a large television series and has occupied the Diamond Head Studio (DHS) for the past two years where they are limited to three stages. When "Magnum P.I." was canceled last year, "NCIS- Hawai'i" took over the Kalaeloa Stages, indicating their need for more space. The Kalaeloa Stages were vacant military buildings that have been retrofitted into film stages, but they lack soundproofing and stage space that a proper film studio would provide.

For the past 20 years, the Diamond Head Studio has had a reliable tenant every year, bringing consistent revenue to the State. From 2004 – 2010, the ABC TV series, "Lost" was based there, then CBS's reboot of "Hawai'i Five-O" and "Magnum P.I." moved in, and it is now home to "NCIS – Hawai'i." It seems that once a major studio occupies the DHS, they try very hard to keep it occupied, and I foresee that happening to the new film studio as well. "If you build it, they will come."

In 2021, a huge town of exterior facades were built for a movie, but the company built interior sets on stages on the mainland and shot there for several months after leaving Hawai'i. Had we interior stage space for them to use, there would have been more local film workers hired to build the sets, and the company would have extended their stay by several months, equating to more money spent in the county and state.

The longer a show stays here, the more predictable income becomes and the more stable families become. A long-running television series is as close to full-time employment as one can get in the film industry, lasting as long as nine months out of the year. Multiple concurrent television shows as we have enjoyed recently are ideal for training and growth.

Television series love filming our beautiful scenery and landscapes and need interior stage space to film on rainy days, when locations cannot accommodate the size of the company or the interior location is unsuitable.

In mainland cities where stages have been built, a microcosm of ancillary businesses is often created. For instance, in Atlanta, GA, a hardware store, hotel, eateries, grocery stores and other businesses were built to accommodate the growing film community. We can expect, and should plan for, similar growth near our new film studio.

Of course, the Building Trades Union workers would benefit by constructing the facility.

The economic impact by the film industry is compelling:


- employs several hundred Hawai'i members and residents per show.
- sustains thousands of creative sector jobs
- provides millions of dollars in economic impact for the state.
- In 2021, the industry spent \$421 million in estimated production expenditures, generated an estimated \$728 million of economic impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues, and total job impacts of 4180 jobs.

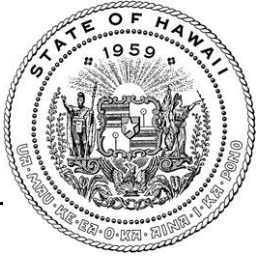
There are many benefits to supporting the building of a new film studio, and the timing of this bill is critical. The State has created educational and training opportunities for the film industry at UH-Manoa and UH-West Oahu, and we need to provide jobs for these new graduates or we will be educating and training someone else's work force because they will need to go where the work is.

I support the development of studios and other infrastructure programs that support local filmmakers and the creative industries. I urge the Council to **SUPPORT BILL 59**.

MAHALO for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

Respectfully,


Irish Barber
Business Representative



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKAI

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

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

Wednesday, January 24, 2024
10:00 AM
City and County Council Chambers

In consideration of
Bill 59 (23) CD 1
A BILL RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES.

Honorable Chair Waters and members of the Honolulu City Council.

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) and its Creative Industries Division (CID) supports Bill 59 (23), CD1, which would establish incentives to develop purpose-built facilities for film production within the City and County of Honolulu on a minimum of 10 acres at a minimum development cost of \$100,000,000.

In 2022, film production expenditures in the state reached an estimated \$420 million, with an economic impact of \$726 million, and 4,000 local jobs. Our film industry can only grow beyond this metric if new facilities are developed, and we increase our skilled workforce.

To move beyond the current talent pool and jobs this industry generates, three key components are required; 1) a reliable film production income tax credit (HRS 235-17), 2) an interconnected education pipeline and entrepreneurial training (Good Jobs HI and Good Jobs Oahu), and 3) purpose-built facilities to drive the industry growth.

The state recognizes the potential of this sector to further diversify our economy. Incentives for facilities expansion are crucial. This Legislative session, the state has introduced amendments to the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit (HRS 235-17) by adding an infrastructure credit to accelerate facilities development and expansion statewide (HB2360 and SB3049).

Vital to the industry expansion is our workforce. DBEDT's work with UH, our community sector partnerships are focused on increasing skills from curriculum to career, building a dynamic workforce in these creative sectors, providing students and residents opportunities to build careers while remaining here at home.

For these reasons, DBEDT supports Bill 59 (CD1) as it provides a foundation for infrastructure growth and with that, the talent pipeline necessary to accelerate our \$400M industry into a billion-dollar film industry for our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.