

Bill 59 (2023)  
Testimony



*Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer*

*Gemma G. Weinstein, President*

*Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President*

January 24, 2024

City & County of Honolulu  
530 South King St.  
Honolulu, Hi 96813  
Tommy Waters, Chair  
Members of the Council

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

Chair Waters and Members of the Council,

UNITE HERE Local 5, representing hotel, health care and food service workers across the state, **is in support of Bill 59 (2023)**. Local 5 always support measures that provides good jobs to local people, including the hundreds of residents working in Hawaii's entertainment industry.

We urge the Council to provide the incentives that encourage investment in the building of and maintaining film studios on the island. We support the development of a studio and other infrastructure programs that will provide long-term, sustainable jobs to workers in Hawaii's entertainment industry and other businesses that are adjacent to and/or auxiliary to the creative industries.

The Council can promote and protect good paying jobs that benefit the community and residents instead of standing back and allowing work to go to the mainland. The Council can ensure that more local people have the opportunity to work and be contributors to our community and remain in Hawaii. Please pass Bill 59.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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**From:** Chris Burnett <cope@hawaficio.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 10:40 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Bill 59 Testimony - In Support

CAUTION: Email received from an EXTERNAL sender. Please confirm the content is safe prior to opening attachments or links.

Aloha,

I tried to submit testimony electronically before 10:00am but I repeatedly received an error message. If you could kindly include the following testimony in support of Bill 59 on behalf of the Hawaii State AFL-CIO:

Dear Chair Waters and Members of the City Council,

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO continues to offer unwavering support for Bill 59. We represent a vast array of workers who contribute tirelessly to our local economy and we firmly believe that this bill is a significant catalyst for positive change.

The Film and Digital Media sector possesses immense potential in Hawaii, but its growth remains stymied by the lack of essential infrastructure, particularly studio facilities. Our organization recognizes that addressing these infrastructure gaps not only fuels the creative sector but also bolsters Hawaii's broader economy.

We proudly endorse the initiatives outlined in Bill 59, which promise to diversify our economy, create sustainable employment opportunities backed by unions, and bolster the revenue streams of businesses within the creative sector and its affiliates.

Bill 59 represents a unique opportunity to reinvigorate our local economy, create well-paying union jobs, and revitalize businesses associated with the creative sector. We firmly believe that the development of studio facilities and other infrastructure programs is a vital step towards fostering the growth and prosperity of Hawaii's creative industry.

We sincerely appreciate your attention to this matter and anticipate the positive transformation this bill can bring to our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
President

The supporter would be Randy Perreira on behalf of the Hawaii State AFL-CIO. The contact information is below.

Mahalo,

Chris Burnett  
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