

BILL059(23)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 47

BUDGET (BUD)

BUDGET (BUD) Meeting

Meeting Date: Feb 6, 2024 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 47

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name: Chris Lee | Email: chris@chrisleemedia.com | Zip: 96816 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 4, 2024 @ 10:36 AM |
| Name: Taurie Kinoshita | Email: taurie@hawaii.edu | Zip: 96822 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 4, 2024 @ 03:28 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>To the Honorable Committee,</p> <p>I am writing in strong support of Bill 059 (23).</p> <p>A local production and filming facility on O`ahu would provide a crucial benefit to and serve as a staging point for young actors and other local talent interested in pursuing film production careers. Encouraging local film production is just one avenue for both supporting these young creative individuals as well as further diversifying and bolstering the local economy.</p> <p>Supporting a burgeoning film industry would have far-reaching economic, artistic and even social benefits. Our economy needs to be diversified beyond tourism and we have so many incredible local and indigenous actors who deserve the chance to perform without having to leave their home.</p> <p>Please pass this important bill.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Taurie Kinoshita taurie@hawaii.edu Artistic Director, Hawai'i Conservatory of Performing Arts</p> | | |
| Name: Aidan Morrow | Email: aidanmcmorrow04@gmail.com | Zip: 96734 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 4, 2024 @ 03:50 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>To the Honorable Committee,</p> <p>I am writing in strong support of Bill 059 (23).</p> <p>A local production and filming facility on O`ahu would provide a crucial benefit to and serve as a staging point for young actors and other local talent interested in pursuing film production careers. Encouraging local film production is just one avenue for both supporting these young creative individuals as well as further diversifying and bolstering the local economy.</p> <p>Supporting a burgeoning film industry would have far-reaching economic, artistic and even social benefits. Our economy needs to be diversified beyond tourism and we have so many incredible local and indigenous actors who deserve the chance to perform without having to leave their home.</p> <p>Please pass this important bill.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Aidan Morrow</p> | | |

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|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name: Daron Gaskin | Email: dlcross1999@gmail.com | Zip: 96815 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 4, 2024 @ 03:56 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>To the Honorable Committee,</p> <p>I am writing in strong support of Bill 059 (23).</p> <p>A local production and filming facility on O`ahu would provide a crucial benefit to and serve as a staging point for young actors and other local talent interested in pursuing film production careers. Encouraging local film production is just one avenue for both supporting these young creative individuals as well as further diversifying and bolstering the local economy.</p> <p>Supporting a burgeoning film industry would have far-reaching economic, artistic and even social benefits. Our economy needs to be diversified beyond tourism and we have so many incredible local and indigenous actors who deserve the chance to perform without having to leave their home.</p> <p>Please pass this important bill.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Daron L. Gaskin Dlcross1999@gmail.com Honolulu, Hawaii</p> | | |
| Name: Shayla-Ann Santos | Email: sasantos@hawaii.edu | Zip: 96825 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 4, 2024 @ 04:44 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>The islands of Hawaii are known for 3 major things: 1) Tourism, 2) Military, & 3) Beautiful Views. I believe that Hawaii is more than that. The Kingdom of Hawaii is meant to be seen in its' true nature as a tropical paradise gifted to us by the legends & myths of our past and by God, Himself. We should not let tourism and military run rampant as our only source of income. By acknowledging the power of the United States of America with its great deal of influence that social media/entertainment has all over the world; we should take advantage of what our island naturally has to offer by investing more in the Arts, Entertainment, and Cultural aspect(s). By simply taking back what is ours and making profit through what the land has to offer we can seek more benefits through people & the government. Statistically, The Arts is always the first to go and since this is Hawaii, we must let our culture live on. Our dances, musics, & theatre can only go so far with the support of the community and society. In my 24 years of living, I have witnessed first hand how the Arts & Entertainment industry has evolved and taken over. I have to seek and search the island of Oahu just to find there's only a few places that are by the locals, for locals, and about the locals; but these companies and places never get enough audience because they don't have enough money to thrive and it's simply not promoted enough. Art is a reflection of society and it is always the last to be affected. I don't want to see our culture and arts die. I've never gotten a chance to pursue what I've wanted as a young adult and have had to search the mainland for better opportunities because everything got canceled due to low funding. Nowadays, young creative adults seek better opportunities in the mainland where they can be seen, heard, and save money since being a creative isn't realistic/enough to live in the islands anymore. If you were apart of the crowd who didn't invest into entrepreneurial or business goals during the beginning of the pandemic or it didn't work out, then we're stuck between our dreams and reality. By choosing the path of Entertainment, we're able to not only make new jobs, support the arts, and discover new opportunities, but also give back to the land so that one day people in America can view the Kingdom of Hawaii for what it truly is.</p> | | |
| Name: Stuart Featheran | Email: eastsidebeefstu@gmail.com | Zip: 96734 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |

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| Self | Support | Feb 4, 2024 @ 05:36 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>To the Honorable Committee,</p> <p>I am writing in strong support of Bill 059 (23).</p> <p>A local production and filming facility on O`ahu would provide a crucial benefit to and serve as a staging point for young actors and other local talent interested in pursuing film production careers. Encouraging local film production is just one avenue for both supporting these young creative individuals as well as further diversifying and bolstering the local economy.</p> <p>Supporting a burgeoning film industry would have far-reaching economic, artistic and even social benefits. Our economy needs to be diversified beyond tourism and we have so many incredible local and indigenous actors who deserve the chance to perform without having to leave their home.</p> <p>Please pass this important bill.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>(Stuart Featheran Jr, eastsidebeefstu@gmail.com, resident)</p> | | |
| Name: Yasmin Galvis | Email: yasminkgalvis01@gmail.com | Zip: 96706 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 4, 2024 @ 10:10 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am writing in strong support of Bill 059 (23).</p> <p>A local production and filming facility on O`ahu would provide a crucial benefit to and serve as a staging point for young actors and other local talent interested in pursuing film production careers. Encouraging local film production is just one avenue for both supporting these young creative individuals as well as further diversifying and bolstering the local economy.</p> <p>Supporting a burgeoning film industry would have far-reaching economic, artistic and even social benefits. Our economy needs to be diversified beyond tourism and we have so many incredible local and indigenous actors who deserve the chance to perform without having to leave their home. This is a great chance to uplift local artist and benefit our community!</p> <p>Please pass this important bill.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Yasmin Kogake Galvis</p> <p>Email - yasminkgalvis01@gmail.com Resident - Ewa Beach</p> | | |
| Name: Chivalry Butler | Email: chivnatsuki@gmail.com | Zip: 96744 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 4, 2024 @ 10:50 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>To the Honorable Committee,</p> | | |

I am writing in strong support of Bill 059 (23).

A local production and filming facility on O`ahu would provide a crucial benefit to and serve as a staging point for young actors and other local talent interested in pursuing film production careers. Encouraging local film production is just one avenue for both supporting these young creative individuals as well as further diversifying and bolstering the local economy.

Supporting a burgeoning film industry would have far-reaching economic, artistic and even social benefits. Our economy needs to be diversified beyond tourism and we have so many incredible local and indigenous actors who deserve the chance to perform without having to leave their home.

Please pass this important bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chivalry Butler, resident
chivnatsuki@gmail.com

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| Name: Alaka'i Cunningham | Email: cunningham.alakai@gmail.com | Zip: 96744 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 4, 2024 @ 11:06 PM |

Testimony:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Bill 059 (23).

A local production and filming facility on O`ahu would provide a crucial benefit to and serve as a staging point for young actors and other local talent interested in pursuing film production careers. Encouraging local film production is just one avenue for both supporting these young creative individuals as well as further diversifying and bolstering the local economy.

Supporting a burgeoning film industry would have far-reaching economic, artistic and even social benefits. Our economy needs to be diversified beyond tourism and we have so many incredible local and indigenous actors who deserve the chance to perform without having to leave their home.

Please pass this important bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Alaka'i

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| Name: Ken Farm | Email: farmk@hawaii.edu | Zip: 96817 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 07:14 AM |

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| Name: Victorino Santos | Email: victorinojrs2004@gmail.com | Zip: 96819 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 08:07 AM |

Testimony:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Bill 059 (23).

A local production and filming facility on O`ahu would provide a crucial benefit to and serve as a staging point for young actors and other local talent interested in pursuing film production careers. Encouraging local film production is just one avenue for both supporting these young creative individuals as well as further diversifying and bolstering the local economy.

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Please pass this important bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Victorino Santos

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| Name: Sumner La Croix | Email: sumnerlacroix@me.com | Zip: 96826 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 08:54 AM |

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| Name: Kiran Polk | Email: kiranpolk@gmail.com | Zip: 96707 |
| Representing: Kapolei Chamber of Commerce | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 09:01 AM |

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|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name: Eliza Talbot | Email: etalbot@cochawaii.org | Zip: 96813 |
| Representing: Chamber of Commerce Hawaii | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 10:04 AM |

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| Name: Ricardo Galindez | Email: ric@islandfilmgroup.com | Zip: 96701 |
| Representing: Island Film Group | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 10:55 AM |

Testimony:
Government support is an essential component of any film studio facility. The opportunity to build a world-class facility on Oahu is both exciting and necessary for the continued growth of this important economic sector.

We thank the City Council for its support of Bill 59 and the Hawaii film and television industry.

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| Name: jeff soto | Email: jeff_808@hotmail.com | Zip: 96816 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 01:40 PM |

Testimony:
PASS IT

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|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name: Kaipu Seales | Email: pauwalukai@gmail.com | Zip: 96817 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 01:46 PM |

Testimony:
Aloha for hearing this bill,

My name is Kaipu Seales. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing more than 800 technicians and behind the scenes workers in the Film/TV, Live Events, and Tradeshow sectors of the Entertainment Industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support BILL059(23), CD1, relating to incentives for film studio facilities.

As the latest DBEDT figures indicate, in 2021 our Film and Television industry achieved "\$421 million in estimated state and county production expenditures generated an estimated \$728 million of economic direct and induced impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues and total job impacts totaling 4,180" (https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/hawaii-creative-report/HI_Creative_Ind_2022.pdf)

My family and I are grateful for the Council's continued support of our industry upon which thousands of families across the state rely. To maximize the positive economic impact of this industry on the working families of Hawai'i, it is imperative that we empower the creation of film studio facilities. BILL059(23), CD1 will contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the many local businesses that the industry depends on. I humbly request that the committee support BILL059(23), CD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,
Kaipu Seales

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| Name: Allison Seales | Email: allidshu@yahoo.com | Zip: 96817 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 01:49 PM |

Testimony:

Aloha,

My name is Allison Seales. My husband is a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing more than 800 technicians and behind the scenes workers in the Film/TV, Live Events, and Tradeshow sectors of the Entertainment Industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support BILL059(23), CD1, relating to incentives for film studio facilities.

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Our family is grateful for the Council's continued support of our industry upon which thousands of families across the state rely. To maximize the positive economic impact of this industry on the working families of Hawai'i, it is imperative that we empower the creation of film studio facilities. BILL059(23), CD1 will contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the many local businesses that the industry depends on. I humbly request that the committee support BILL059(23), CD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,
Allison Seales

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| Name: Erika Aresta | Email: ekaresta@gmail.com | Zip: 96817 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 01:52 PM |

Testimony:

My name is Erika K Aresta. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing more than 800 technicians and behind the scenes workers in the Film/TV, Live Events, and Tradeshow sectors of the Entertainment Industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support BILL059(23), CD1, relating to incentives for film studio facilities.

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wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the many local businesses that the industry depends on. I humbly request that the committee support BILL059(23), CD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Erika L Aresta

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| Name: Bradley Jackson | Email: bradroc1379@gmail.com | Zip: 96779 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 01:53 PM |

Testimony:

My name is Bradley Jackson. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing more than 800 technicians and behind the scenes workers in the Film/TV, Live Events, and Tradeshow sectors of the Entertainment Industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support BILL059(23), CD1, relating to incentives for film studio facilities.

As the latest DBEDT figures indicate, in 2021 our Film and Television industry achieved "\$421 million in estimated state and county production expenditures generated an estimated \$728 million of economic direct and induced impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues and total job impacts totaling 4,180" (https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/hawaii-creative-report/HI_Creative_Ind_2022.pdf)

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In Solidarity,

Bradley Jackson

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| Name: Irish Barber | Email: alohairish@iatse665.org | Zip: 96817 |
| Representing: IATSE Local 665 | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 02:15 PM |

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| Name: Mufi Hannemann | Email: mhannemann@hawaiilodging.org | Zip: 96815 |
| Representing: Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Association | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 02:38 PM |

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| Name: Tracen Otani | Email: treymuney@yahoo.com | Zip: 96734 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 02:46 PM |

Testimony:

My name is Tracen Otani. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing more than 800 technicians and behind the

scenes workers in the Film/TV, Live Events, and Tradeshow sectors of the Entertainment Industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support BILL059(23), CD1, relating to incentives for film studio facilities.

As the latest DBEDT figures indicate, in 2021 our Film and Television industry achieved “\$421 million in estimated state and county production expenditures generated an estimated \$728 million of economic direct and induced impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues and total job impacts totaling 4,180” (https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/hawaii-creative-report/HI_Creative_Ind_2022.pdf)

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In Solidarity,

Tracen Otani

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|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name: Georja Skinner | Email: georja.skinner@hawaii.gov | Zip: 96761 |
| Representing: Creative Industries, DBEDT | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 02:50 PM |
| Name: Raimar Bylaardt II | Email: Raimar2000@gmail.com | Zip: 96734 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 03:14 PM |

Testimony:
My name is Raimar Bylaardt II. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing more than 800 technicians and behind the scenes workers in the Film/TV, Live Events, and Tradeshow sectors of the Entertainment Industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support BILL059(23), CD1, relating to incentives for film studio facilities.

As the latest DBEDT figures indicate, in 2021 our Film and Television industry achieved “\$421 million in estimated state and county production expenditures generated an estimated \$728 million of economic direct and induced impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues and total job impacts totaling 4,180” (https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/hawaii-creative-report/HI_Creative_Ind_2022.pdf)

I am grateful for the Council's continued support of our industry upon which thousands of families across the state rely. To maximize the positive economic impact of this industry on the working families of Hawai'i, it is imperative that we empower the creation of film studio facilities. BILL059(23), CD1 will contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the many local businesses that the industry depends on. I humbly request that the committee support BILL059(23), CD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Raimar Bylaardt II

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| Name: Y Hills | Email: ish_hills@yahoo.com | Zip: 96797 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 03:44 PM |

Testimony:
I support this Bill.

Thank you

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| Name: Keahi Kuikahi | Email: keahikuikahi@yahoo.com | Zip: 96792 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 04:08 PM |

Testimony:
My name is Keahi S Kuikahi. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing more than 800 technicians and behind the scenes workers in the Film/TV, Live Events, and Tradeshow sectors of the Entertainment Industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support BILL059(23), CD1, relating to incentives for film studio facilities.

As the latest DBEDT figures indicate, in 2021 our Film and Television industry achieved "\$421 million in estimated state and county production expenditures generated an estimated \$728 million of economic direct and induced impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues and total job impacts totaling 4,180" (https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/hawaii-creative-report/HI_Creative_Ind_2022.pdf)

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In Solidarity,

Keahi S Kuikahi

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| Name: Randy Perreira | Email: cope@hawaflcio.org | Zip: 96813 |
| Representing: Hawaii State AFL-CIO | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 04:09 PM |

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| Name: Michael Shibata | Email: shibatam@hawaii.edu | Zip: 96822 |
| Representing: University of Hawaii | Position: I wish to comment | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 04:20 PM |

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| Name: Gerard Elmore | Email: gerard.elmore@gmail.com | Zip: 96744 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 06:14 PM |

Testimony:

Aloha,

My name is Gerard Elmore, VP of Film at NMG Network and Executive Director at 'Ohina, a Hawai'i film collective/incubator for local filmmakers and local stories. We are on the front lines of helping to cultivate and develop above-the-line work for the local community.

It is vital that we support this bill. The incentives the bill provides help to keep local talent home, diversifies our economy, and provides quality opportunities to continue to cultivate and develop our local talent.

This bill is not only good for our members, crew, technicians, and the creative industries, it benefits the whole state by diversifying our economy.

I can't stress the importance of having career opportunities for students graduating from SCA, ACM, and our creative industries programs. This incentive helps to bring outside money into the state and that's an important component of building above-the-line work too.

Through 'Ohina, we have a great track record of helping fellows breaking through in the industry. We have had full time writers on Disney shows, some writing on films that have gone to Sundance, Tribeca, Slamdance, and some are directing TV shows, commercials for the major networks. We've only been at it for 6 years and confident the talent and community will only continue to grow as we continue to provide quality opportunities to local talent.

We are thankful for your time and strongly urge you to support this bill as we continue to build the community of local storytellers, filmmakers, and residents.

Mahalo nui,

Gerard Elmore

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| Name: Patrick Jeppeson | Email: jettsettter22@outlook.com | Zip: 96815 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 07:45 PM |

Testimony:
I wish to support this bill .

| | | |
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| Name: Anela Kealakai | Email: oahucontentcreator@gmail.com | Zip: 96701 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 07:56 PM |

Testimony:
Honorable Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Anela Kealakai, and I am a local elopement and wedding photographer, deeply rooted in the heart of our vibrant community. Today, I stand in full support of Bill 59 (2023), CD1, relating to incentives for film studio facilities, recognizing the tremendous potential it holds for diversifying our economy, supporting local talent, and promoting the cultural and natural beauty of Hawai'i.

As a professional photographer, I have the privilege of capturing the essence of our island's breathtaking landscapes and the spirit of love that it inspires in couples who come here to celebrate their unions. The passage of this bill promises to enrich the canvas upon which I work by fostering a thriving film industry that further highlights Hawai'i's allure on a global stage.

However, as we embark on this promising venture, I urge the Council to consider incorporating measures that ensure the benefits of this bill extend to all sectors of our community, especially the locals and Native Hawaiians who are the custodians of our land and culture. To this end, I propose the following amendments:

* Local Workforce Development: While the bill already proposes incentives for local workforce development, specific provisions

should be made to prioritize employment and training opportunities for locals and Native Hawaiians in both film production and related industries, ensuring they are at the forefront of the industry's growth.

* Cultural Preservation and Representation: As our landscapes and culture draw filmmakers from around the world, it is crucial that projects supported by these incentives respect and accurately represent Hawai'i's rich cultural heritage. Establishing a cultural advisory board consisting of Native Hawaiian leaders and local experts can ensure cultural integrity and sensitivity in film projects.

* Accessibility for Small Businesses: To ensure that the economic benefits of the film industry's expansion are widely distributed, I advocate for additional incentives or support programs for small, locally-owned businesses, including those in creative sectors such as photography, catering, and event planning. This approach can help diversify the economic impact and foster a symbiotic relationship between the film industry and local entrepreneurs.

In conclusion, Bill 59 (2023), CD1, represents a forward-thinking approach to enriching our local economy and cultural landscape. By adopting these amendments, we can ensure that the expansion of the film industry serves as a beacon of sustainable development, cultural integrity, and inclusive economic growth. I look forward to seeing our community flourish as a result of this initiative and thank the Council for considering these suggestions to enhance the bill for the betterment of all Hawai'i's residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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| Name: Ashlee Valeros | Email: aevaleros@gmail.com | Zip: 96762 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 08:04 PM |

Testimony:

My name is Ashlee Valeros. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing more than 800 technicians and behind the scenes workers in the Film/TV, Live Events, and Tradeshow sectors of the Entertainment Industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support BILL059(23), CD1, relating to incentives for film studio facilities.

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In Solidarity,

Ashlee Valeros

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|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name: Bevin Miranda | Email: bevin.vashti@gmail.com | Zip: 96825 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 08:19 PM |

Testimony:

My name is Bevin Miranda. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing more than 800 technicians and behind the scenes workers in the Film/TV, Live Events, and Tradeshow sectors of the Entertainment Industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support BILL059(23), CD1, relating to incentives for film studio facilities.

As the latest DBEDT figures indicate, in 2021 our Film and Television industry achieved "\$421 million in estimated state and county production expenditures generated an estimated \$728 million of economic direct and induced impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues and total job impacts totaling 4,180" (https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/hawaii-creative-report/HI_Creative_Ind_2022.pdf)

I am grateful for the Council's continued support of our industry upon which thousands of families across the state rely. To

maximize the positive economic impact of this industry on the working families of Hawai'i, it is imperative that we empower the creation of film studio facilities. BILL059(23), CD1 will contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the many local businesses that the industry depends on. I humbly request that the committee support BILL059(23), CD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Bevin Miranda

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name: Kaikala Tamanaha | Email: jkaikala@gmail.com | Zip: 96821 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 08:19 PM |

Testimony:

My name is Kaikala Tamanaha. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing more than 800 technicians and behind the scenes workers in the Film/TV, Live Events, and Tradeshow sectors of the Entertainment Industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support BILL059(23), CD1, relating to incentives for film studio facilities.

As the latest DBEDT figures indicate, in 2021 our Film and Television industry achieved "\$421 million in estimated state and county production expenditures generated an estimated \$728 million of economic direct and induced impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues and total job impacts totaling 4,180" (https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/hawaii-creative-report/HI_Creative_Ind_2022.pdf)

I am grateful for the Council's continued support of our industry upon which thousands of families across the state rely. To maximize the positive economic impact of this industry on the working families of Hawai'i, it is imperative that we empower the creation of film studio facilities. BILL059(23), CD1 will contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the many local businesses that the industry depends on. I humbly request that the committee support BILL059(23), CD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Kaikala Tamanaha

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|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name: Andy Bumatai | Email: Andy@Bumatai.com | Zip: 96789-7469 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 08:30 PM |

Testimony:

Aloha,

I would like to express my overwhelming support for Bill 059 (23) the proposed Film Studio Facility. I believe a Film Studio Facility such as this would not only provide a specialized capacity that many entertainment productions either leave the State to buy elsewhere or give up their plans because their budget does not allow for them to leave the State.

I also believe the added benefit of a Film Studio Facility would be its contribution to the much needed diversification of Hawai'i economy.

Lastly, having a Facility such as this would give Hawai'i's young people interested in film making a place to see it happening, on a professional level, first hand. As a part of the 6th grade class of Wai'anae Elementary that visited KGMB TV studios on an "excursion" I personally know the impact this can have.

Please make the Film Studio Facility a reality for our Hawai'i economy and let's inspire tomorrow's young film makers while we're at it.

Mahalo,

Andy Bumatai

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| Name: Kapala Novikoff | Email: kapalanovikoff@gmail.com | Zip: 96713 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 09:09 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>My name is Kapala Novikoff. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing more than 800 technicians and behind the scenes workers in the Film/TV, Live Events, and Tradeshow sectors of the Entertainment Industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support BILL059(23), CD1, relating to incentives for film studio facilities.</p> <p>As the latest DBEDT figures indicate, in 2021 our Film and Television industry achieved "\$421 million in estimated state and county production expenditures generated an estimated \$728 million of economic direct and induced impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues and total job impacts totaling 4,180" (https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/hawaii-creative-report/HI_Creative_Ind_2022.pdf)</p> <p>I am grateful for the Council's continued support of our industry upon which thousands of families across the state rely. To maximize the positive economic impact of this industry on the working families of Hawai'i, it is imperative that we empower the creation of film studio facilities. BILL059(23), CD1 will contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the many local businesses that the industry depends on. I humbly request that the committee support BILL059(23), CD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.</p> <p>In Solidarity,</p> <p>Kapala Novikoff</p> | | |
| Name: Dirk Fukushima | Email: dirkfukushima@yahoo.com | Zip: 96816 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 09:10 PM |
| Name: Ty Sanga | Email: tyronesanga@gmail.com | Zip: 96814-4040 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 10:31 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support this bill</p> | | |
| Name: Angela Melody Young | Email: Alohavinedesign@gmail.com | Zip: 96817 |
| Representing: CARES | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 5, 2024 @ 11:01 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>CARES testifies in strong support.</p> | | |
| Name: Joy Barua | Email: locatejoy@yahoo.com | Zip: 96817 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 6, 2024 @ 01:59 AM |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>I strongly support this Bill as an effort (among others) to diversity our local economy with potential for positive impact. The proposed Bill, if passed and any related initiatives successfully implemented, also has the potential to leverage additional resources and investments to supplement the economic value-proposition.</p> | | |
| <p>Name:</p> <p>Paul Ehman</p> | <p>Email:</p> <p>ehman@maui.n.et</p> | <p>Zip:</p> <p>96708</p> |
| <p>Representing:</p> <p>Ehman Productions</p> | <p>Position:</p> <p>Support</p> | <p>Submitted:</p> <p>Feb 6, 2024 @ 05:34 AM</p> |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>My name is Paul Ehman, owner of Ehman Productions on Maui. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing more than 800 technicians and behind the scenes workers in the Film/TV, Live Events, and Tradeshow sectors of the Entertainment Industry in Hawai'i. We also do many non-union jobs and services to support the non-union part of the industry. I strongly support BILL059(23), CD1, relating to incentives for film studio facilities.</p> <p>As the latest DBEDT figures indicate, in 2021 our Film and Television industry achieved "\$421 million in estimated state and county production expenditures generated an estimated \$728 million of economic direct and induced impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues and total job impacts totaling 4,180". There is an additional layer or two of production projects that follow on those major jobs that may go unreported but are contributed to the initial productions that came here -ie. press junkets, social media campaigns, photo and advertising productions, and guest appearances.</p> <p>I am grateful for the Council's continued support of our industry upon which thousands of families across the state rely. To maximize the positive economic impact of this industry on the working families of Hawai'i, it is imperative that we empower the creation of film studio facilities. BILL059(23), CD1 will contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union and non-union jobs, and bring more revenue to the many local businesses that the industry depends on. I humbly request that the committee support BILL059(23), CD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.</p> <p>Aloha, Paul Ehman</p> | | |
| <p>Name:</p> <p>Carol Fukunaga</p> | <p>Email:</p> <p>senfukunaga@capitol.hawaii.gov</p> | <p>Zip:</p> <p>96813</p> |
| <p>Representing:</p> <p>Self</p> | <p>Position:</p> <p>Support</p> | <p>Submitted:</p> <p>Feb 6, 2024 @ 06:59 AM</p> |
| <p>Name:</p> <p>Michael Fong</p> | <p>Email:</p> <p>djmichaelfong@gmail.com</p> | <p>Zip:</p> <p>96816</p> |
| <p>Representing:</p> <p>Self</p> | <p>Position:</p> <p>Support</p> | <p>Submitted:</p> <p>Feb 6, 2024 @ 07:33 AM</p> |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>My name is Michael Fong. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing more than 800 technicians and behind the scenes workers in the Film/TV, Live Events, and Tradeshow sectors of the Entertainment Industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support BILL059(23), CD1, relating to incentives for film studio facilities.</p> <p>As the latest DBEDT figures indicate, in 2021 our Film and Television industry achieved "\$421 million in estimated state and county production expenditures generated an estimated \$728 million of economic direct and induced impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues and total job impacts totaling 4,180" (https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/hawaii-creative-report/HI_Creative_Ind_2022.pdf)</p> <p>I am grateful for the Council's continued support of our industry upon which thousands of families across the state rely. To maximize the positive economic impact of this industry on the working families of Hawai'i, it is imperative that we empower the creation of film studio facilities. BILL059(23), CD1 will contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the many local businesses that the industry depends on. I humbly request that the committee support BILL059(23), CD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.</p> | | |

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| In Solidarity, | | |
| Harold Michael Fong | | |
| Name: Travis Hoover | Email: travishoover@gmail.com | Zip: 96730 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 6, 2024 @ 07:45 AM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>My name is Travis Hoover. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing more than 800 technicians and behind the scenes workers in the Film/TV, Live Events, and Tradeshow sectors of the Entertainment Industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support BILL059(23), CD1, relating to incentives for film studio facilities.</p> <p>As the latest DBEDT figures indicate, in 2021 our Film and Television industry achieved "\$421 million in estimated state and county production expenditures generated an estimated \$728 million of economic direct and induced impact, \$45.5 million in estimated tax revenues and total job impacts totaling 4,180" (https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/hawaii-creative-report/HI_Creative_Ind_2022.pdf)</p> <p>I am grateful for the Council's continued support of our industry upon which thousands of families across the state rely. To maximize the positive economic impact of this industry on the working families of Hawai'i, it is imperative that we empower the creation of film studio facilities. BILL059(23), CD1 will contribute to the diversification of our local economy, create more thriving wage union jobs, and bring more revenue to the many local businesses that the industry depends on. I humbly request that the committee support BILL059(23), CD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.</p> <p>In Solidarity,</p> <p>Travis Hoover</p> | | |
| Name: Mericia Palma Elmore | Email: mericia.palmaelmore@sagaftra.org | Zip: 96813 |
| Representing: SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 6, 2024 @ 08:06 AM |
| Name: Daniel Rosner | Email: dannyonq@gmail.com | Zip: 96822 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 6, 2024 @ 08:20 AM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha, my name is Daniel Rosner. I have been a member of IATSE Local Union 665, which represents over 800 film production technicians in Hawaii, for 43 years. I STRONGLY SUPPORT BILL059(23), CD1 relating to incentives for film studio facilities.</p> <p>As one of the 10 senior most members of our Union, I can say from personal knowledge that the lack of a bonafide Studio Facility in our state has been a major impediment to the continued growth of this highly important industry to our economy. The facility at Diamondhead is too small, and the navy facility at Kalaeloa is sub-standard. We can entice productions to our shores with tax credits, and that is a very good thing. However they will only come here for the outdoor location portion of their shoots if there is no state-of-the-art studio facility available in the islands. So they come here, spend half of their budgets and then leave; only to spend the other half fostering the enrichment of studios abroad.</p> <p>Everybody knows the economic and job creation benefit that these productions bring to Hawaii. And everybody knows that we need to diversify our economy away from being so tourist centric. These are highly skilled and lucrative technical and above the line positions, and our youth are being well trained to fulfill them right here at the Academy for Creative Media! Please support this initiative which will create opportunities so that our youth can stay home to make a good living. What a waste it is to educate our local brain trust, only to leave them no option to build a meaningful career in Hawaii.</p> <p>Mahalo for your time and attention,</p> | | |

Daniel Rosner

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|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name: Madelyn McKeague | Email: madelyn@hawaiiancouncil.org | Zip: 96707 |
| Representing: Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement | Position: Support | Submitted: Feb 6, 2024 @ 08:45 AM |

Testimony Presented Before the
Honolulu City Council
Committee on Budget
February 6, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

By Chris Lee as a Private Citizen

BILL 59 Proposed FD(2023) – RELATED TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES

Chair Cordero, Vice Chair Weyer, Members of the Committee,

My name is Chris Lee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today as a private citizen. I write today in support for Council Member Augie Tulbas proposed Floor Draft for Bill 59.

I greatly appreciated everyone on this Council in their support for our production industry and their careful consideration and contributions to Bill 59. A major studio complex is an essential component to growing this vital diversification of our economy.

But, as UHERO Economist Sumner LaCroix noted in his previous testimony on Bill 59, "the bottom line is that no large production facility of this magnitude is built in the United States today without significant tax credits being awarded by a state or local government."

Sumner LaCroix and fellow UHERO economist Professor Emeritus James Mak have previously written on the role of the Hawai'i TV/film/digital production tax credit in diversifying the Hawai'i economy. According to their research, "since the passage of the Act 88 film credit in 2006, spending in Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i real gross domestic product over the same period, a modest 17 percent." 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.

In 2022, the latest figures from DBEDT, the total Hawai'i film production direct spend was \$420.04 million (includes qualified tax credit spend and non-tax credit spend). The breakdown by island is as follows:

O'ahu: \$354.88 million

Hawai'i County: \$39.32 million

Kaua'i County: \$12.56 million

Maui County: \$13.28 million

With Hawai'i household income generated at \$168.02 million and tax revenue generation of \$45.36 million, DBEDT estimates the total economic impact from film production on our economy at an impressive \$726.68 million.

As with all industries, growth depends on three factors: workforce development, physical infrastructure and incentives.

Workforce development has been accomplished in part by the statewide expansion of the Academy for Creative Media System (ACM System) which has developed or enhanced educational programs across the entire UH System.

Currently, the state offers various levels of production incentives throughout the islands with an annual cap of \$50 million.

The City and County of Honolulu, as noted above, enjoys the vast majority of revenue driven by the production industry. But Oahu is physically capped by the lack of stage space -- with only one stage at Diamond Head, and the makeshift WW2 hangars at Kalaeloa presently serving only one show, *NCIS*, and the very limited City-leased facility in Kakaako.

The Floor Draft for Bill 59 offers Honolulu our best chance to propel Honolulu into a true production hub. A privately owned studio complex with a minimum of \$100 million investment and on a minimum of ten acres would allow multiple shows to shoot at the same time and for major films like *Jumanji*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Midway*, *Chief of War* and *Jurassic Park* to complete all of their filming here rather than just shooting exteriors then moving to Atlanta, London, Los Angeles or Montreal for their stage work. This is potentially hundreds of millions of dollars in direct spend that we are currently losing.

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

TO THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024
9:00 AM
HEARING: **BILL 59 (2023)**

BILL NO. 59

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

I strongly support the passage of Bill 59, which stands as a pivotal step towards responsible economic growth. The Honolulu City Council, by supporting this measure, shows its commitment to the film and digital media industry and the county's commitment toward doing everything within its powers at the county level to promote and stimulate and signify the importance of this industry.

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. 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.

I support the development of studios and other infrastructure programs that support local filmmakers and creative industries. 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. This will also help with nurturing a creative ecosystem that benefits local architects, contractors, craftsmen, and various businesses connected to the Film and Digital Media sector.

There is also discussion about diversifying the economy of Hawaii. With the passage of Bill 59, we have the potential to grow Hawaii's economy for residents as a whole and encourage individuals to seek work placement in Hawaii and not elsewhere. Additionally, it is the opportunity for the next generation of filmmakers, crew members, and productions to stimulate Hawaii's economic impact and drive community engagement through the reallocated of funds.

I urge this committee to support the passage of Bill 59. The passage of this bill will increase the economic output of Hawaii. Thank you for reading my testimony and allowing me to testify.

Mahalo,

Ken Farm

Chair Emeritus,
Former Chair Neighborhood Board No. 15
Speaking in my personal capacity

Testimony Presented Before the City Council Budget Committee
February 6, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

By

Sumner La Croix, Ph.D. Economics

BILL 59, CD2 – RELATED TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES

Chair Cordero, Vice Chair Weyer, and Members of the Committee:

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 Hawai'i 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.

I testified in favor of Bill 59 at the 24 January 2024 Council hearing.

Since then, Bill 59 has been amended to require that the new studio meet three additional conditions to receive the property tax exemption: (1) a minimum number of employees at the start of business operations; (2) the State of Hawai'i grants a GET exemption for the cost of all construction materials used to build the studio; and (3) the facility must also qualify for a tax incentive from the State, such as a motion picture, digital media, or film production income tax credit.

All three conditions are designed to “raise the bar” for a new film studio to receive a property tax exemption from the City and County of Honolulu. They go against the basic rationale for the property tax exemption: To increase the likelihood that a major film studio will decide to locate in Honolulu.

I urge the Council to remove these three conditions from Bill 59 as they reduce the expected value of the tax exemption to a film studio and decrease the likelihood that a major film studio will locate in Honolulu.

February 6, 2024

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



Working together for Kapolei

Committee on Budget
February 6, 2024, 9:00am, in the City Council Chamber or via video conference

Dear Chair Cordeiro, Vice Chair Weyer, and Members of the Committee on Budget:

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 **strong support** of **Bill 59(2023) CD1, and proposed CD2** which would provide real property tax incentives for the dedication of real property for eligible film studio facilities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

Respectfully,

Kiran Polk
Executive Director



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) CD2 - 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.**

My name is Irish Barber, and I am the Business Representative of IATSE Local 665. 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 is extremely important to Hawai'i's film industry because it incentivizes the building of a full-fledged film facility with stage spaces, offices, warehouse storage and parking. Shows that occupy a film facility use that location as a base to work out of. It is easier to collaborate when all of the workers and equipment are all located on one property rather than have them split up around the island as productions often do when stage space is unavailable.

LONG-TERM INCOME

The film industry typically has sporadic work, making for an unpredictable livelihood for film workers. Shows that stay in Hawai'i for long periods of time, such as television series, can run for nine months out of the year and renew year after year, creating nearly full-time employment for hundreds of workers. Having several shows running simultaneously helps us to train up additional workers and provide reliable income to Hawai'i families.

PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS

Companies that support the film industry also benefit as they typically hire additional W-2 employees, creating jobs in the private sector and providing tax revenue and millions of dollars in economic impact for the city and state. Of course, the Building Trades Union workers would benefit by constructing the facility.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

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.

GLOBAL COMPETITION

Hawai'i is the most remote landmass on the planet and has an extremely high cost of living. Getting here and staying here can be expensive. We have lost many film jobs to other less-expensive locations, so having a strong tax incentive and another film facility would make Hawai'i more competitive with other film locales.

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.

In 2021, a huge town of exterior facades was 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.

CONSISTENT USE OF CURRENT FILM FACILITIES

"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."

Film workers are only employed when the movie occupies the facility. Otherwise, only a few people are needed to manage or maintain the property when it is vacant.

SUPPORTING HAWAI'I'S CURRENT FILM INDUSTRY GROWTH

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. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Irish Barber". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Irish" and last name "Barber" clearly distinguishable.

Irish Barber
Business Representative
Mobile: (808) 479-1770



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

Honolulu City Council, Committee on Budget

Bill 59 (2023), PROPOSED CD2

February 6, 2023

Position: SUPPORT

Chair Cordero and members of the Committee on Budget:

I offer this testimony **in support of Bill 59 (2023) Proposed CD2**, relating to incentives for film studio facilities.

Film and television production has been a cornerstone of our island economy for decades. It has also enjoyed a synergistic relationship with our largest industry: tourism. Film production directly funnels into our visitor industry product. All who are involved in the production process support local businesses by staying in our hotels, shopping at our retail stores, and dining at our restaurants.

In essence, film and television productions not only showcase the timeless beauty and natural allure of our islands, but also do so with minimal or no cost to the public. This approach simultaneously fosters an environment that encourages other productions, including those from Asia, to view Hawai'i as a captivating backdrop for their projects.

Before assuming my role as the Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT), I had already recognized the robust appeal of film production as a clean and dynamic industry for a multitude of reasons. It not only generates employment opportunities for a wide range of professions, including local directors, actors, film crew, and caterers, but also serves as a catalyst for luring people to the islands and driving revenue for local businesses over extended periods. During my tenure at DBEDT, we dedicated substantial efforts to attract television series such as "One West Waikiki" and "Byrds of Paradise" to the state. Upon assuming the role of councilmember and later as the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, my commitment to local productions grew stronger. Local productions offer our residents the chance to showcase their talents and creativity while bolstering the industry's development. During that period, the Teamsters Union reached out to me to work with the State of Hawai'i to bring "Baywatch" to our islands. Throughout my tenure as both councilmember and Mayor, the city's film office actively supported the production of the longstanding hit series, "LOST."

We have always been noted for having talent of the highest caliber in Hawai'i which includes local born filmmakers such as Chris Lee, Edgy Lee, and others. In 2022, Chris noted that the economic benefits

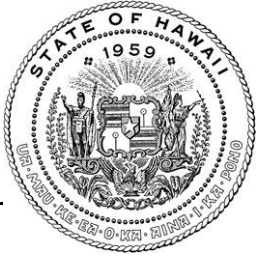
related to film production in Hawai'i amounted to approximately \$482 million, with roughly 70% of that money spent on O'ahu. Consider the substantial growth potential of the industry if we were to establish more than a single film studio.

The State of Hawai'i currently has a sole film studio near Diamond Head; however, the constraints of this facility can pose challenges for productions seeking to work within the state. Offering financial incentives to private developers for constructing film facilities would not only broaden our production infrastructure but also facilitate increased participation of filmmakers and TV productions in Hawai'i.

Furthermore, aligning with our organization's dedication to workforce development, we commend the bill for emphasizing the collaboration between the film studio facility and local colleges, universities, or vocational schools for internship programs. This strategic initiative is indispensable for sustaining our competitiveness and ensuring valuable job opportunities for our kama'āina.

The passage of **Bill 59 (2023) Proposed CD2** would be a significant step forward in letting the film and media world know that we welcome them to the Hawaiian Islands. For these reasons, we urge you to pass this measure through committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony.



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

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
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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**

Tuesday, February 6, 2024
9:00 AM
City and County Council Chambers

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

Honorable Budget Chair Cordero 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), which further refines the scope and requirements for an incentive 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.

We concur with the changes proposed in sections and concur with the requirements to work in concert with the Hawai'i Film Office in Creative Industries to support the workforce development components. DBEDT calls to your attention the new section requirement for the state to exempt the cost of all construction materials used for the development of the film studio facility would be exempt from the State of Hawaii general excise tax.

Please note that Governor Green has introduced [HB 2360](#) and [SB 3049](#) related to Film Industry Development this Legislative session. These measures, along with [SB 3285](#) contain a proposed section for an Infrastructure Credit as part of HRS 235-17, the Motion Picture, Digital Media, Film Production Income Tax Incentive, specifically to incentivize facilities and infrastructure development through an exemption of general excise tax for construction costs associated with any new or retrofit studio development.

These measures compliment Bill 59 (2023) which seek to provide the necessary incentives to drive infrastructure development to grow our film industry. We do caution that the language that requires the state to forgo GET is not necessary as this is already a position the Administration has taken.

We thank the the council for their contirbutions to Bill 59 and support its passage. This measure introduces a City and County of Honolulu mechanism for infrastructure growth and with that, helps to leverage our film tax credit to accelerate our \$400M industry into a billion-dollar film industry for our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Randy Perreira
President

HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

888 Mililani Street, Suite 501 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808) 597-1441
Fax: (808) 593-2149

Honolulu City Council
Committee on Budget

Testimony by
Hawaii State AFL-CIO

February 6, 2024

BILL 59, CD2 - RELATING TO INCENTIVE FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES

Chair Cordeiro, Vice Chair Weyer, and members of the committee:

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO is a federation of 74 affiliate labor organizations who represent over 68,000 union members within the State of Hawaii. The Hawaii State AFL-CIO serves its affiliates by advocating for workers and their families before the state legislature and other branches of state and county government.

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO is in **support** of Bill 59, CD2. We encourage amendments to this bill that will attract a film studio that is willing to invest in Hawaii's economy by fostering long-term employment with competitive wages for local residents.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Perreira", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Randy Perreira
President



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o

Testimony Presented Before the
Honolulu City Council
Committee on Budget
February 6, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

By
Kalbert K. Young
Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer
University of Hawai'i System

BILL 59 Proposed CD2 (2023) – RELATED TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES

Chair Cordero, Vice Chair Weyer, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this issue. The University of Hawai'i (UH) previously provided testimony in support of Bill 59 CD1, which would provide added incentives for eligible film studio facilities. The University has concerns with additional amendments included in Bill 59 Proposed CD2.

There are three amendments in Bill 59 Proposed CD2 that are of particular concern to the University: 1) a requirement to have a minimum of 100 or more full-time employees; 2) a requirement that the cost of all construction materials to build the film studio be exempt from the State's General Excise Tax; and 3) a requirement that the film studio must qualify for a tax incentive from the State, such as a motion picture, digital media, or film production income tax credit.

While the University would not benefit directly from the proposed incentives, the incentives in Bill 59 would create an attractive benefit to eligible private film studio developers or businesses. The three additions that have been added to Bill 59 Proposed CD2 could be more cumbersome or complicated to the point that they may not be implementable. The University is currently in the process of trying to find a developer of vacant UH real estate for a film studio that would benefit the state, and industry. It is not clear whether the above provisions are too onerous or even applicable for the University's particular development. In making University land available for a film studio, the University has supported economic development and business sustainability of film studio facilities in the State. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



Testimony to the Honolulu City Council

Re: Support for Bill 59 - Property Tax Incentives for Film Studios

Honorable Members of the Honolulu City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill 59, which proposes real property tax incentives for film studios willing to make significant investments in Honolulu. This legislation is a forward-thinking initiative, aimed at diversifying our local economy beyond its current heavy reliance on tourism and at fostering the growth of a sustainable, billion-dollar film industry.

Bill 59's requirement for a minimum investment of \$100 million in local improvements is a testament to its commitment to ensuring substantial economic contributions and infrastructure development. Such a strategic move not only bolsters our economy but also enhances our city's appeal as a prime location for film production.

The film industry is widely recognized for providing diverse employment opportunities that offer living wages. By encouraging the development of this sector, Bill 59 holds the potential to reverse the troubling trend of middle-class population exodus from our community. The scope for job creation is vast, extending from on-set roles to intricate post-production work, including visual effects - an area that has, until now, often been outsourced.

Nurturing the film industry within our city presents a unique opportunity to retain local talent and open new career pathways for our workforce, significantly contributing to the economic vitality and resilience of Oahu.

I urge the Honolulu City Council to recognize the transformative potential of Bill 59 and to support its passage. Investing in the film industry is not merely an investment in economic diversification; it is a commitment to the future prosperity and well-being of our community.

Thank you for considering my testimony on this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dirk", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Dirk Fukushima
Executive Producer/Co-Owner
Hawaii Stars Presents, Inc.
dirkfukushima@yahoo.com
808 372-6747
on FB, Insta, Twitter @dirkfukushima



The Senate
Ka 'Aha Kenekoa

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Council Budget Committee
Tuesday, February 6, 2024 • 9:00 AM

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL 59 (2023), CD2
PROPOSED BY COUNCILMEMBER TULBA

Senator Carol Fukunaga
Hawaii State Senate

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for Proposed CD2 to Bill 59, CD1 (OCS2024-013/2/5/2024 2:28 PM).

At a time that Hawaii faces unprecedented economic challenges, it is time to undertake projects with the potential to generate high-quality jobs and fulfill the promise of our decades-long commitment to a home-grown creative media industry within the state.

This year represents the first time that:

- The Honolulu City Council and the Blangiardi administration are supporting the development of modern production and film facilities in West Oahu through real property tax incentives for the development of these production facilities.
- Governor Green's administration is responding to the City Council's call for the State administration to provide general excise tax exemptions for development of production facilities and extending the span of existing film tax credits through the introduction of Senate Bill 3049 and House Bill 2360.
- The University of Hawaii is expected to announce the selection of a private developer to design, build, finance and operate a multimillion-dollar film and production facility planned for construction on the UH-West Oahu campus today, adjacent to the Academy for Creative Media facilities opened in 2022.

Mahalo to Honolulu City Councilmembers for embracing this opportunity to support development of film and production facilities to boost Hawaii's economy!



February 6, 2024

City and County of Honolulu - Committee on Budget
Radiant Cordero, Chair

RE: Bill 59
DATE: Tuesday, February 6, 2024
TIME: 9:00 AM
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
City and County of Honolulu, 96813-3077

Aloha Chair Cordero and Members of the City Council Committee on budget,

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 as amended by a proposed CD2, 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 and defer to the appropriate experts in the field with regard to the details of the construction and operation of the facility.

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

**Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement
91-1270 Kinoiki St., Bldg. 1
Kapolei, HI 96707**

Honolulu City Council Committee on Budget
Bill 59 – Relating to Incentives for Film Studio Facilities

RE: Strong support of Bill 59 (2023), CD1, Proposed CD2 – ATUL1

February 6, 2024

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) writes in **strong support of Bill 59 and Councilmember’s Tulba’s proposed committee draft**. Economic diversification is necessary to improve the resilience of the state and self-determination of Native Hawaiians, and Bill 59 capitalizes on a massively underutilized industry.

For background, CNHA is a member-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a mission to enhance the cultural, economic, political, and community development of Native Hawaiians. Headquartered in Kapolei, CNHA is a Native Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) certified by the U.S. Treasury department and a HUD-Certified Housing Counseling agency. CNHA provides access to capital, financial education and individualized financial counseling services with a focus on low and moderate-income families. In addition, CNHA serves as a National Intermediary, providing grants and loans targeting underserved communities in Hawai’i. We know firsthand the need for economic diversification to benefit our community.

Bill 59 has an enormous amount of potential for the pae ‘āina. Perhaps most pressingly, it helps to diversify our economy. To build resilience, we cannot have all of our eggs in one basket and this piece of legislation can positively impact our economy in a major way. Additionally, Bill 59 creates new and exciting career opportunities for our residents. One of the most cited reasons for local residents leaving the islands is the lack of job prospectives, but this bill helps to remedy the problem by developing the local workforce. Finally, by investing in the film industry, Bill 59 also establishes the foundation for increased and more authentic representation of Hawai’i and Native Hawaiians. If more films and television shows are written, filmed, and produced in Hawai’i, we have many more chances for our stories to be told. Councilmember Tulba’s committee draft creates a polished bill ready for implementation.

For these reasons, we humbly ask that you **PASS** Councilmember Tulba’s committee draft of Bill 59.

Me ka ha’aha’a,


Kūhiō Lewis
Chief Executive Officer, CNHA