BILL059(23)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 540

BUDGET (BUD)

BUDGET (BUD) Meeting

Meeting Date: Nov 21, 2024 @ 01:00 PM

Support: 54

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 2

Name:	Email:	Zip:
MARK ANTHONY CLEMENTE	mclemente@hrcc-hawaii.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 11:36 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Dean Des Jarlais	dean@hawaiimedia.com	96701
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaii Media Inc.	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 12:00 PM

Testimony:

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill 59(2023),CD1. Hawaii has always needed more film studios to attract productions. Providing a property tax exemption would help stimulate investment in these facilities. The film industry can provide lucrative employment for local technicians, while helping boost the state's tourism economy.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Tuia'ana Scanlan	president@iatse665.org	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
IATSE 665	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 12:05 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Mericia Palma Elmore	mericia.palmaelmore@sagaftra.org	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
SAG-AFTRA Hawai`i Local	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 01:08 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Henry Ian Cusick	hicusick@gmail.com	96734
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
SAG AFTRA	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 01:17 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Budget Chair Cordero and members of the committee:

I am testifying in strong support of Council Chair Waters amended CD2 which incentivizes the construction of a studio complex and has stronger labor language.

We have incredibly talented people behind and in front of the camera, but not have proper infrastructure is limiting our ability to grow this industry into vibrant part of a diversified economy. We respectfully request you vote yes on this measure that will create jobs and contribute greatly to our local economy.

Mahalo

Henry Ian Cusick

SAG/AFTRA National Board member for Hawai'i

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Scott Swartz	scott.swartz@gmail.com	96744
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 01:45 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Budget Chair Cordero and members of the committee:

I am testifying in strong support of Council Chair Waters amended CD2 which incentivizes the construction of a new studio complex.

Hawai`i is home to a wealth of incredibly talented people, both behind and in front of the camera, but the lack of proper infrastructure is limiting our state's ability to grow this industry into a vibrant part of a diversified economy. As an active member of the SAG-AFTRA Hawai`i Local, I respectfully request that you vote YES on this measure that will create jobs and contribute greatly to our local economy.

Mahalo,

C Scott Swartz

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kimmy Kaaihue	kaaihuek25@gmail.com	96823
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 01:53 PM

Testimony:

I support this bill

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Christopher Lopez	crslopez@gmail.com	96818
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	Nov 19, 2024 @ 02:15 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Budget Chair Cordero and members of the committee:

As a SAG-AFTRA member of our Hawaii Local, I am testifying in strong support of Council Chair Waters amended CD2 which incentivizes the construction of a studio complex and has stronger labor language.

We have incredibly talented people behind and in front of the camera, but not have proper infrastructure is limiting our ability to grow this industry into vibrant part of a diversified economy. We respectfully request you vote yes on this measure that will create jobs and contribute greatly to our local economy.

Respectfully,

Christopher J. Lopez

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Chris Lee	chris@chrisleemedia.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 02:43 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jodie Yee	actorjodieyee@yahoo.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 02:46 PM

Testimony:

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 mediaprofessionals in our state. We are professional performers working in front of the camera and behind themicrophone.The Film and Digital Media industry employs hundreds of Hawaii Local members, sustains thousandsof creative sector jobs, and provides millions of dollars in economic impact for the State. The HawaiiDepartment of Economic Development, Business, and Tourism, reports that in the 2021 calendar year, theindustry spent $421 million in estimated production expenditures, generated an estimated $728 million ofeconomic impact, $45.5 million in estimated tax revenues, and total job impacts of 4,180 jobs.1However, wehave hit a plateau, partly because we do not have the infrastructure (studio space) to support substantialfurther growth.We support incentives that encourage investment in the building of and maintaining film studios onthe 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 areadjacent to and/or auxiliary to the creative industries. We support the development of a studio and otherinfrastructure programs that support local filmmakers and the creative industries and defer to the appropriateexperts in the field with regard to the details of the construction and operation of the facility.Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Jodie Yee

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Chris Lee	cpl@hawaii.edu	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

University of Hawaii	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 03:28 PM
Name: Melvin Mar	Email: chineseguy88@mac.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2024 @ 05:58 PM
Name: Irish Barber	Email: alohairish@iatse665.org	Zip: 96817
Representing: IATSE Local 665	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2024 @ 09:29 PM
Name: Gerard Feeney	Email: gerardfeeney@rocketmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2024 @ 09:52 PM

Testimony:
Mahalo to the council for taking up this important measure , as we learned during the pandemic the film industry has the potential to be a significant part of Hawai'i's economic diversification strategy ,I am strongly in favor of Bill 59 and request your supporting vote. Mahalo.

Name: Chauncy Williams	Email: kekoawilliams@yahoo.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2024 @ 10:10 PM

Testimony:
Mahalo to the council for taking up this important measure and the input of the many voices that have brought us to this point. As we learned during the pandemic, the film industry has the potential to be a significant part of the Hawai'i's economic diversification strategy. Bill 59, specifically proposal CD2-TW1, provides an exemption to incentivize the construction of a studio complex. This legislation will change the trajectory of the industry and Oahu's economic future. We are strongly in favor of this measure and request your supporting vote.

Name: Gary Lee	Email: garydrawsfish@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2024 @ 10:56 PM

Testimony:
Mahalo to the council for taking up this important measure and the input of the many voices that have brought us to this point. As we learned during the pandemic, the film industry has the potential to be a significant part of the Hawai'i's

economic diversification strategy. Bill 59, specifically proposal CD2-TW1, provides an exemption to incentivize the construction of a studio complex. This legislation will change the trajectory of the industry and Oahu's economic future. We are strongly in favor of this measure and request your supporting vote.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Waipakawiwoole Parker	waipaparker@yahoo.com	96821
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 10:59 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Councilmembers,

Mahalo to the Council for taking up this important measure and the input of the many voices that have brought us to this point. As we learned during the pandemic, the film industry has the potential to be a significant part of the Hawai'i's economic diversification strategy. Bill 59, specifically proposal CD2-TW1, provides an exemption to incentivize the construction of a studio complex. This legislation will change the trajectory of the industry and Oahu's economic future. I am strongly in favor of this measure and request your supporting vote.

Thank you for your leadership

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jeffery NihipaliDay	jdolliegrip.now@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 11:33 PM

Testimony:

Mahalo to the council for taking up this important measure and the input of the many voices that have brought us to this point. As we learned during the pandemic, the film industry has the potential to be a significant part of the Hawai'i's economic diversification strategy. Bill 59, specifically proposal CD2-TW1, provides an exemption to incentivize the construction of a studio complex. This legislation will change the trajectory of the industry and Oahu's economic future. We are strongly in favor of this measure and request your supporting vote. No

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Keahi Kuikahi	keahikuikahi@yahoo.com	96792-2981
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 11:36 PM

Testimony:

I support this bill.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Lisa Shozuya	lshozuya@gmail.com	96817

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 12:08 AM

Testimony:

I OPPOSE Bill 46, which proposes an "Empty Homes Tax" on residential properties unoccupied for more than six months annually. While its intent to address housing challenges is clear, this bill brings up more questions that I would like to make sure are being considered.

My Key Concerns:

1. Burdensome and Inequitable Exemptions:

I recently moved my dad from his home to a care facility due to an emergency. While he was in care, I still had to tend to his needs and all his affairs. The furthest thing from my mind was his home which sat vacant for more than a year. Families managing elder care or medical crises often leave homes vacant temporarily. They may not have the time or capacity to address the home until their loved one is settled or to manage the burdensome documentation required for an exemption. Many families plan to keep the home in the family or move back themselves, yet this bill penalizes them during already difficult times.

2. Exacerbating Financial Strains on Residents:

Hawaii residents already face some of the highest costs of living in the nation, with food prices more than 60% higher than the U.S. average and utilities, sewer, water, and insurance costs on its way up by more than inflationary standards. Penalizing homeowners with additional taxes will only deepen financial stress and force even more locals to sell their homes or leave Hawaii.

We have been losing residents for years due to these high costs. In 2022, over 67,000 residents moved to other states, and this outmigration trend will only worsen under measures like Bill 46. Policies should help locals stay in Hawaii, not push them out. This feels like very bad timing.

3. Failure to Address Income and Economic Stability:

This bill does nothing to increase local incomes or develop industries that offer higher wages. Without addressing the root causes of housing unaffordability, such as stagnant incomes and rising costs, Bill 46 will only create more economic strain for families. It becomes one more straw that may just break the camel's back once and for all.

4. Administrative Challenges and Fiscal Burden:

The city currently struggles with an 8,500-permit backlog, creating hardship for residents and businesses alike. The caregiver for my dad has a second home in Kalihi that was supposed to expand her business. It has been under permit and has been for 3 years to date. She's been unable to move residents into the home and has been losing potential income each year plus being burdened by out of pocket expenses to keep up the property with no one in it. Our family are contractors and subcontractors and I can't tell you how many stories I hear of people unable to do home repairs or move back home due to rising costs since Covid and shipping delays and rising prices. We know of homes that are sitting there with no one in it but these are local families that would want to keep their family homes in their family. Adding a new department to oversee this tax raises serious questions about fiscal responsibility. How will the city handle another layer of bureaucracy when it cannot even manage existing responsibilities? What is the general fund being used for if not to address these critical infrastructure issues?

5. Precedent of Legal Challenges to Similar Measures:

In November 2024, the San Francisco Superior Court invalidated its "Empty Homes Tax," citing:

• Property Rights Infringement: Forcing owners to rent out homes or face penalties was deemed unconstitutional and a violation of fundamental property rights.

• Due Process and Equal Protection Violations: Disproportionately penalizing certain property owners without sufficient justification was found to violate these principles.

• Preemption by State Law: The tax conflicted with California's Ellis Act, which protects property owners' rights to withdraw units from the rental market.

Bill 46 risks facing similar legal challenges, which could lead to wasted city resources and legal battles. Its vague criteria and disproportionate impact make it vulnerable to the same constitutional and legal concerns that invalidated San Francisco's law.

Conclusion:

Bill 46, while well-intentioned, seems to create uncertainty in Hawaii's housing and financial sectors, while failing to address the root causes of unaffordability. Locals are already burdened by rising costs and stagnant incomes, and this bill only adds to their hardships. It seems like so much all at once and could be the unnecessary impetus to break us past the point of no return.

If the committee and council could focus on solutions that genuinely help locals thrive and stay in Hawaii, such as addressing rising sewer, water, and insurance costs, supporting higher-wage industries, and streamlining the permitting backlog, it would help us to start where we are so we can create a more certain baseline for a foundation that feels like it's giving way under us. Adding more layers to an already unstable system is neither fair nor fiscally responsible.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Lisa Shozuya

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Lisa Shozuya	lshozuya@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	**Position:**	**Submitted:**
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 12:28 AM

Testimony:

Subject: Support for Bill 59 – Transforming Hawaii's Economic Future

Aloha Chair Cordero and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of Bill 59, which proposes significant tax incentives to develop a film production studio on O'ahu. This measure represents a vital step toward diversifying Hawaii's economy, creating high-quality jobs, and solidifying Hawaii's position as a hub for creative industries.

I recently attended a talk where Chris Lee, the founder and director of the University of Hawaii's Academy for Creative

Media System, highlighted how the film industry is a proven economic driver for Hawaii, contributing $726 million in economic impact in 2022 alone, including $168 million in household income and $45.36 million in state tax revenues. The industry also provides living-wage jobs, with 80% of crew positions filled by local hires, enabling families to thrive without leaving Hawaii.

However, while we can measure what we gain from the industry, we are not adequately measuring what we are losin or stand to lose as better incentives and infrastructure are being promoted in other states and countries. I know of local directors, production companies that are planning their exit from the Hawaii marketplace as they feel the "stuck" and "same old same old" ways here. Which is too bad! Productions like Young Rock and Chief of War conducted partial filming in Hawaii but completed most of their work elsewhere, where labor, equipment, and incentives were more competitive. These productions should have been done and finished here! Especially because they are OUR stories to tell. Without decisive action, we risk losing this industry entirely.

This is about more than individual productions. Film and television affect everything from above-the-line jobs like writers and directors to below-the-line crew, all of whom earn a living wage and contribute to our economy. By embracing the film industry as an "other income stream," Hawaii can reduce its reliance on tourism and build a more stable and diversified economic future.

Investing in the creative industries goes beyond job creation. Films shot in Hawaii serve as global marketing campaigns, showcasing our state’s unique culture and beauty while boosting our economy. With institutions like the University of Hawaii’s Academy for Creative Media and other groups training local talent, we have the chance to retain and nurture Hawaii’s best and brightest, instead of continually building a bridge for more people to migrate OUT of Hawaii to where the work or better paying jobs and opportunities are.

Supporting Bill 59 is an investment in Hawaii’s future. It leverages our natural strengths, creates sustainable jobs, opens up so many more new opportunities, and positions Hawaii as a global leader in creativity and production. With AI, gaming, and creative media a necessity in this day and age by every sector of business and our community, this is something we can grow into an affluent industry. We have the talent, the heart, the vision and the desire. All we need is the support. Having only 1 studio has been a kink in Hawaii for far too long It is time for this to happen. I urge the council to pass this critical measure and help Hawaii realize its potential as more than a tourist destination.

Thank you for your consideration,

LIsa Shozuya

Name: Ronda Ching Day	Email: aloharonda@live.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 20, 2024 @ 12:41 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Cordero and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of Bill 59, which proposes significant tax incentives to develop a film production studio on O'ahu. This measure represents a vital step toward diversifying Hawaii's economy, creating high-quality jobs, and solidifying Hawaii's position as a hub for creative industries.

As Chris Lee, the founder and director of the University of Hawaii's Academy for Creative Media System, highlighted in a recent talk I heard, the film industry is a proven economic driver for Hawaii, contributing $726 million in economic impact in 2022 alone, including $168 million in household income and $45.36 million in state tax revenues. The industry also provides living-wage jobs, with 80% of crew positions filled by local hires, enabling families to thrive without leaving Hawaii.

However, while we can measure what we gain from the industry, we are not adequately measuring what we are losing—or stand to lose—as better incentives and infrastructure are being promoted in other states and countries. Productions like Young Rock and Chief of War conducted partial filming in Hawaii but completed most of their work elsewhere, where labor, equipment, and incentives were more competitive. Without decisive action, we risk losing this industry entirely.

This is about more than individual productions. Film and television affect everything—from above-the-line jobs like writers and directors to below-the-line crew, all of whom earn a living wage and contribute to our economy. By embracing the film industry as an "other income stream," Hawaii can reduce its reliance on tourism and build a more stable and diversified economic future.

Investing in the creative industries goes beyond job creation. Films shot in Hawaii serve as global marketing campaigns, showcasing our state's unique culture and beauty while boosting our economy. With institutions like the University of Hawaii's Academy for Creative Media and other groups training local talent, we have the chance to retain and nurture Hawaii's best and brightest, instead of continually building a bridge for more people to migrate OUT of Hawaii to where the work or better paying jobs and opportunities are.

Supporting Bill 59 is an investment in Hawaii's future. It leverages our natural strengths, creates sustainable jobs, and positions Hawaii as a global leader in creativity and production. I urge the council to pass this critical measure and help Hawaii realize its potential as more than a tourist destination.

Mahalo nui loa for your thoughtful consideration.

Warm regards,

Ronda Ching Day

Name:	Email:	Zip:

Ty Sanga	tyronesanga@gmail.com	96814
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 20, 2024 @ 04:11 AM

Testimony:

Testimony Presented Before the

Honolulu City Council

Committee on Budget

By Ty Sanga 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 Ty Sanga and I write today in support for Council Member Augie Tulba's proposed Floor Draft for Bill 59. I am a Native Hawaiian filmmaker and a proud product of the Academy for Creative Media program. I have working in the industry for the past 10 years and I've witnessed productions leave our islands because of insufficient infrastructure and lack of government support. It's disheartening to see Hawai'i lose out on the opportunity to major production hubs like Atlanta, New Mexico, and Toronto. But I firmly believe that with a large studio complex and robust government backing, we can not only compete with these other locations but thrive.

I am deeply grateful to this Council for supporting our local production industry and for your thoughtful work on Bill 59. A major studio complex is not just an idea—it is a necessary step toward diversifying and strengthening Hawai'i's economy.

This would allow multiple productions to film simultaneously and keep major projects in Hawai'i from start to finish. This investment will solidify Hawai'i as a global production hub, create new jobs, and keep our creative talent here at home.

Let's ensure Hawai'i remains a leader in storytelling and innovation.

Me ke ha'aha'a,

Ty Sanga

Name: Mark Petritz	Email: markpetritz@gmail.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 20, 2024 @ 04:26 AM

Testimony:

Please support the film industry as it drives emplyment for a wide variety of jobs.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Mark Petritz	markpetritz@gmail.com	96795
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Waimanalo Rentals	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 04:35 AM

Testimony:

Film industry in Hawaii provides jobs and income for wide variety of people and businesses

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jeannie Barber	treschicbella@aol.com	96744
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 04:42 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Budget Chair Cordero and members of the committee:

I am testifying in strong support of Council Chair Waters amended CD2 which incentivizes the construction of a studio complex and has stronger labor language.

We have incredibly talented people behind and in front of the camera, but not have proper infrastructure is limiting our ability to grow this industry into vibrant part of a diversified economy. We respectfully request you vote yes on this measure that will create jobs and contribute greatly to our local economy.

Jeannie Barber

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Shane White	hidollygrip@gmail.com	96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 05:08 AM

Testimony:

Mahalo to the council for taking up this important measure and the input of the many voices that have brought us to this point. As we learned during the pandemic, the film industry has the potential to be a significant part of the Hawai'i's economic diversification strategy. Bill 59, specifically proposal CD2-TW1, provides an exemption to incentivize the construction of a studio complex. This legislation will change the trajectory of the industry and Oahu's economic future. We are strongly in favor of this measure and request your supporting vote.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Nori Hubbs	norihubbs@mac.com	96708
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 06:49 AM

Testimony:

I strongly support thus bill

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kevin Turner	klpgroup@aol.com	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
IATSE Local 665 Hawai`i & IATSE Local 728 Hollywood	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 07:39 AM

Testimony:

Aloha, I appreciate your time and service to the Community. I want to show strong support for Bill 59. Truth is, in order to be competitive, all states need to offer tax breaks and incentives for Film, TV and Stage. We need more jobs for the working class. Make productions follow fair bargaining and prefereably all union rules which provide professionals that are highly trained and well deserving of work. Mahalo nui, Kevin

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Raimar Bylaardt II	Raimar2000@gmail.com	96734
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 07:49 AM

Testimony:

Aloha!

My name is Raimar Bylaardt II. I have been working on production for 20 years and I appreciate your attention to this very important matter because it has a huge impact on our economy and affects thousands of people on the islands.

Movies and episodic shows can last months or even years, providing work, stability and lots of money for many local families. It boosts hotel stays, car rentals and the food/restaurant industry to mention a few when production companies bring some of their crew as well. Millions of dollars are injected in our economy, directly and also indirectly when promoting our beautiful islands to the world, solidifying it as a "must visit" vacation destination.

Tax credits and recording facilities are super important to attract companies looking for a place to film. We have a very skilled workforce, represented by our strong unions (IATSE 665, Teamsters, IBEW, SAG...). We must invest in the infrastructure that is missing, so this industry can thrive.

Thank you

Ray

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Judith Cunningham	judith@hmhawaii.com	96740
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 08:35 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Stanley Keliiholokai	stanleykeliiholokai808@gmail.com	96826

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
I.A.T.S.E Local 665	I wish to comment	Nov 20, 2024 @ 10:16 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Joseph McDaniel	joegogetta@gmail.com	96816

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 10:26 AM

Testimony:

Mahalo to the council for addressing this important measure and to everyone whose voices have contributed to bringing us to this point. The pandemic showed us that the film industry has immense potential to play a key role in diversifying Hawai'i's economy. Bill 59, specifically proposal CD2-TW1, introduces an exemption to encourage the development of a studio complex. This legislation has the power to transform the future of the industry and Oahu's economic landscape. We strongly support this measure and respectfully ask for your vote in favor.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
JOANNE MIYATA	rougejojo@msn.com	96734

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 11:32 AM

Testimony:

To have a another film stage promotes long term productions to come to Hawaii. We have been experiencing many projects that film for a short duration just for exterior shots and film elsewhere for in studio work. Having more than one proper film studio can entice longer running shows here which in turn generates hundreds of film industry jobs and affect many local businesses that productions utilize.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Noah Hamilton	noahhamiltonphoto@mac.com	96754

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 11:38 AM

Testimony:

Mahalo to the council for taking up this important measure and the film industry is so important. I've been able to make this my full time job for over 10years. 2021 and 2022 where my best years ever. But since then the economy has taken a hit. As we learned during the pandemic, the film industry has the potential to be a significant part of the Hawai'i's economic diversification strategy.

Hawaii can't compete with the other states like New Mexico and Georgia who have both competitive tax breaks and multiple studios. Hawaii is getting left behind and we loose a lot of work when big productions leave to shoot in sound stages of studio lots.

Bill 59, specifically proposal CD2-TW1, provides an exemption to incentivize the construction of a studio complex. This legislation will change the trajectory of the industry and Oahu's economic future. We are strongly in favor of this measure and request your supporting vote.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Luke Thompson	hundredpercenthi@gmail.com	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 12:31 PM

Testimony:

I work in Film and TV. Member of Local #665 since 2008. This would contribute to our Local Economy and Support Family all over our Islands.. We could all benefit greatly if This passes- Thanks.. - Luke Thompson .

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ron Evans	Aixdakine@aol.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 01:06 PM

Testimony:

Please support any and all infrastructure investments for Hawaii's film industry. It creates numerous jobs that support families across the state. Mahalo.

Ron Evans

IATSE Local 665

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ashleigh Domangue	ashleighdomangue@gmail.com	96821
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 02:45 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Honorable Members of the Budgeting Committee,

As a proud member of Hawaii Local SAG-AFTRA and our film industry, I am writing to express my strong support for this measure.

This bill has the potential to significantly contribute to our local economy and create a wide range of job opportunities. In addition to the jobs directly created on set — including positions in production, sound, lighting, costuming, performances, and set design — the economic impact would extend to support services such as Hawaiian cultural advisors, catering, transportation, hospitality, and local businesses. The creation of these positions would promote skills training and give residents access to new, well-paying careers. This measure also contributes to growing Hawaii's voice and cultural

awareness on a global scale — establishing Honolulu as a hub for eco-friendly, culturally conscious film production.

I encourage you to pass this bill and to recognize the importance of the Film and Digital Media Industry in creating diverse job opportunities and fostering long-term economic prosperity. Supporting these incentives will help ensure our region remains competitive in the rapidly growing entertainment sector.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ashleigh Domangue

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Darlene Wong	darleneylwong@gmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 03:49 PM

Testimony:

We need utilize our paradise state to promote businesses to come in with incentives.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Shanda Lee	shandalee44@gmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 03:57 PM

Testimony:

We need to increase film industry to have young people have jobs.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Amira Soliman	amira.soliman@gmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 04:01 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Cordero, members of the Budget Committee and the City Council:

Thank you for your support of Hawaii's film industry. I am testifying in strong support for Chair Waters CD2 which has input from many in our industry to create an incentive to build a film studio facility.

I was fortunate to work during the pandemic and through 2022 on the Disney+ television series DOOGIE KAMEALOHA and saw first hand how this industry can uplift our community by providing jobs and creating opportunities for local businesses. We were able to keep many people working through very tough times and help so many in the community during this time as well. Ours was one of the first shows that was written by a kamaaina who shared so much about

Hawaii, our traditions and values through her writing.

But it almost didn't happen because we had such a difficult time finding a space that could be used for production including a stage, mill, offices and basecamp for our transportation needs. We are constantly challenged with meeting the basic needs of a production which drives up the cost of doing business in Hawaii and affects our competitiveness in the industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and thank you for supporting this measure.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Dan Garab	dgarab@hawaiiantel.net	968154906
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 04:42 PM

Testimony:

The film industry contributes a great deal towards the local economy. It provides employment, vendor income and visibility for tourism. Any encouragement would be helpful for the State. I support Bill 059 (23) and hope the Council will too.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
MARC PORTERFIELD	porterfield.marc@gmail.com	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 05:47 PM

Testimony:

My name is Marc Porterfield and I am in support of Bill 59.

My friend Chris Ursiti had the vision to take over the former Unoncal 76 headquarters in a rundown part of LA and develop 7 state of the art sound stages back in the 90's. Today LOS ANGELES CENTER STUDIOS is a premiere production facility and it has continually thrived and helped its surrounding community.

Currently here on Oahu we have 1 sound stage at Diamond Head Studios and the aircraft warehouses at Kalaeloa. Jason Mamoa's CHIEF OF WAR was supposed to be shot all in Hawaii but then moved to New Zealand due to the lack of stages (to build a volume stage) and also because of the tax incentives. I was on RESCUE HI SURF and our "stage" was the main cabin at the YMCA CAMP ERDMAN (not idle but manageable for this type of show). We really needed a "cover set" in case of bad weather. Jason's next film is WRECKING CREW and despite Jason offering Amazon to cut his salary to have the project stay in Hawaii, unfortunately that project is also shooting in New Zealand, and will be here on Oahu for only for a couple of weeks in January. And finally, I'm on the CANON project (MOANA) currently filming. Friday will mark the 80th shoot day when we wrap. Out of the 80 days, they shot only 8 days here on Oahu (with DJ shooting only 2 scenes out of the entire film here in 2 days). Back in Atlanta the production was spread out across 9 sound stages and locations. If we

had more sound stages in place, there could have been some dialogue about some stage work to Oahu.

This point needs to be stated again: we have 2 of our biggest Hollywood actors representing Hawaii and despite their efforts and wishes to have their projects shot here in Hawaii, their shows get shot elsewhere with a couple of days or weeks maybe in Hawaii. And the main two factors for this trend: Stages and Tax Incentives.

Currently the studios and streamers are looking to bring down production costs (especially after last year's strike). And one way a lot of shows are doing that is by Volume Stages. Basically, it's a huge screen on a sound stage where you can build a world around the actors (e.g.MANDALORIAN). And if we were able to offer productions a volume stage or two, that could off set their travel costs, we could certainly be viable to keep these big productions here in Hawaii. I understand that the city mainly gets its revenue from property tax. But when productions come to Hawaii, it benefits everyone in the community. Our show RESCUE HI SURF was a $40 Million boost to the economy (https://www.khon2.com/local-news/rescue-hi-surf-estimated-to-give-40-million-boost-to-economy/)

Over the years a lot of emphasis has been put on the travel industry to make sure it thrives (e.g. trips to Japan to attract people back to Hawaii). Remember that during COVID, the entertainment industry kept going while the travel industry was shutdown. Periodically people like me will ask for assistance from city and state requesting that we need assistance with our industry. And today is one of those times where we are asking for help. We need these stage to be competitive in the marketplace.

At this time we are still waiting for word about Season 2 of RESCUE HI SURF. If we don't get picked up, then it will be the first time in decades that there isn't a television show shooting on Oahu. Let's be proactive in making sure projects come to Hawaii, shall we?

Thank you for your time.

Marc Porterfield

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ricardo Galindez	ric@islandfilmgroup.com	96701
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaii Studio Group	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 06:09 PM

Testimony:

I am the manager of Hawaii Studio Group, the company that was chosen by the University of Hawaii to develop the production facility at UH West Oahu.

Bill 059(23) CD1 is critical to the development of this world-class studio and we appreciate the City Council's support of the film and television industry of Hawaii.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Leanne Teves	leasummer9181@gmail.com	96706
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 07:25 PM

Testimony:

Aloha,

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to to submit my position in favor of this bill. I am in support of providing incentives to build and maintain infrastructure in the way of a film studio. This would bring productions to our state in addition to jobs on a continued basis with a functional studio. Jobs in this market would be benficial not only to me but the entire acting community; those that work behind and in front of the camera.

Thank you all for your service to our island and its communities.

Mahalo

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kala Crowell	crowellkala@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 07:44 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Cordero, members of the Budget Committee and the City Council:

Thank you for your support of Hawaii's film industry. I am testifying in strong support for Chair Waters CD2 which has input from many in our industry to create an incentive to build a film studio facility.

I have been fortunate to work during the pandemic and through 2022 on televisions series like MAGNUM PI and I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER as well as movies like SONIC 2 and MURDER MYSTERY 2. Fortunately we were considered as essential workers and one of the first to go back to work. We were able to keep many people working through very tough times and help so many in the community during this time as well.

For especially movie productions, because they are usually short term projects and most long term projects like TV series are already utilizing the couple of Stages / Studio spaces on Oahu, we are forced to spread ourselves between a few different locations. We usually have an office building (sometimes spread between 1-2 floors), and 1-2 warehouse spaces (for construction mill, wardrobe, set dec storage areas) because we can't find a big enough location to fit everyone. This increases the cost of Productions to operate and decreases productivity because we spend so much time travelling from one place to the other. Which affects our competitiveness in the industry. So I am in strong support to create an incentive to build a film studio facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and thank you for supporting this measure.

Mahalo,

Kala Crowell

Key Assistant Location Manager

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kristin Sifton	kcox1364@gmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 08:45 PM

Testimony:

I personally have been working in the film industry for about 18 years. It has provided financial stability for my family and I've made this my career . The film industry also brings in quite a bit of money to our state as well as promoting tourism. We need to make this happen and keep people working in the career that they've chosen.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kiran Polk	kiranpolk@gmail.com	96707
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Kapolei Chamber of Commerce	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 10:18 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Diane Elizabeth (Lizby) Logsdon	lizbylou@yahoo.com	96728
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 21, 2024 @ 01:02 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Council Members,

As an Oahu born and raised Hawaii resident and a 25 year IATSE Local 665 member in good standing, I fully support Bill 59, along with proposal CD2-TW1. Film and related industries are an awesome business that provides people from many diverse employment backgrounds the opportunity to work together in a creative and dynamic environment. Many people come from all over the world to tell their stories in Hawaii. And we get to help them.

Film companies hire us - folks who live, raise families and work here. They support our local economy while being here - everything from places to stay to restaurants, hardware stores, bars, shops, spending lots of money and then they go home.

Having a state of the art Film Studio Facility in Honolulu would greatly enhance and support our Hawaii film makers and it would encourage more production work in Hawaii. Please do yourselves, Oahu and our Hawaii film industry workers the honor of providing the opportunity that will take us to the next level in our local film industry by making the Film Studio Facility a reality. Please vote yes to support this measure.

With deepest gratitude, Lizby

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Terri Ewton	terri.ewton@gmail.com	96722
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 21, 2024 @ 04:41 AM

Testimony:

Mahalo to the council for taking up this important measure and the input of the many voices that have brought us to this point. As we learned during the pandemic, the film industry has the potential to be a significant part of the Hawai'i's economic diversification strategy. Bill 59, specifically proposal CD2-TW1, provides an exemption to incentivize the construction of a studio complex. This legislation will change the trajectory of the industry and Oahu's economic future. We are strongly in favor of this measure and request your supporting vote.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Joshua Meredith	tornadohouse@hotmail.com	96779
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 21, 2024 @ 08:54 AM

Testimony:

Bring film and television production to Hawaii.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Danny Cochran	dcochran024@icloud.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 21, 2024 @ 08:54 AM

Testimony:

We film crews need this tax incentive.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Nicholas Vollert	kalakahui@gmail.com	96744
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 21, 2024 @ 08:58 AM

Testimony:

Much mahalo for taking the time to look over this important bill regarding the filming of motion pictures in the state of Hawaii. I support this bill as I work in the industry and hundreds others, also all the related businesses that receive finical support from filming here in Hawaii.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Richard Ribuca	nufs3drr@gmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 21, 2024 @ 09:06 AM

Testimony: This is our way of life.		
Name: Georja Skinner	Email: georja.skinner@hawaii.gov	Zip: 96813
Representing: DBEDT, State of Hawai'i Creative Industries	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 21, 2024 @ 12:53 PM
Name: Senator Sharon Moriwaki	Email: c.izumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov	Zip: 96813
Representing: Senate District 12	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 21, 2024 @ 12:58 PM
Testimony: Creative media is important to our economy and will provide jobs and therefore should be incentivized. Please consider lowering the $100M threshold. Mahalo.		

HAWAII REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

November 21, 2024

TO: The Honorable Radiant Cordero, Chair
The Honorable Matt Weyer, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Committee on Budget
Honolulu City Council

FROM: Mark Anthony Clemente
Government Relations
Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters

SUBJECT: BILL 59 (2023), CD1 – RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES. Providing incentives for eligible film studio facilities.

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

My name is Mark Anthony Clemente writing on behalf of the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters in strong support of Bill 59, specifically with respect amendments presented by Council Chair Waters:

1) Addition of a new ROH § 8-10.A(b)(6) to require that the construction of the film studio facility and all appurtenant buildings, facilities, and grounds within the film studio facility be performed in accordance with land use and labor statutes, ordinances, rules, and regulations, as applicable, including the payment of wages that are not less than the rates for classifications stated in the wage rate schedule bulletin posted on the State department of labor and industrial relations website, or if a classification is not set forth in the wage rate schedule bulletin, then the prevailing local area standard wage; provided that if specialty construction is involved, a project labor agreement for the specialty construction work must be negotiated and executed between the construction unions holding the applicable jurisdiction over the scope of work and the specialty construction contractors or subcontractors.

2) Addition of a new ROH § 8-10.B(b)(6) to require that to the extent permitted by law, throughout the exemption period, all employees responsible for the maintenance and operations of the film studio facility building and grounds must be paid prevailing wages that are not less than:

STATE HEADQUARTERS & BUSINESS OFFICES
OAHU: 1311 Houghtailing Street, Honolulu Hawaii 96817-2712 • Ph. (808) 847-5761 Fax (808) 440-9188
HILO OFFICE: 525 Kilauea Avenue, Room 205, Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3050 • Ph. (808) 935-8575 Fax (808) 935-8576
KONA OFFICE: 75-126 Lunapule Road, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740-2106 • Ph. (808) 329-7355 Fax (808) 326-9376
MAUI OFFICE: 330 Hookahi Street, Wailuku, Maui 96793-1449 • Ph. (808) 242-6891 Fax (808) 242-5961
KAUAI OFFICE: Kuhio Medical Ctr Bldg., 3-3295 Kuhio Hwy, Suite 201, Lihue, Kauai 96766-1040 • Ph. (808) 245-8511 Fax (808) 245-8911

i. The prevailing wage rates set forth in the current wage rate schedule bulletin posted on the State department of labor and industrial relations website if a wage classification exists for a particular scope of work; or

ii. If a prevailing wage rate classification is not listed on the State department of labor and industrial relations wage rate schedule bulletin, in accordance with the local area standard wage if a standard wage exists for a particular scope of work,

unless a prevailing wage rate under a collective bargaining agreement applies.

Further we support this project as the work falls under a "covered project" as defined in the Community Workforce Agreement (CWA), and we support projects that employ skilled local craftspeople and pay a living wage.

For the above reasons, we strongly support Bill 59. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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
Committee on Budget
Special Meeting

Testimony by IATSE 665
November 21st, 2024

BILL 059 (23) CD2 - RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES

Aloha Chair Cordero, Vice Chair Weyer, and members of the City Council Committee on Budget,

My name is Tuia'ana Scanlan, International Trustee and President 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. **Local 665 strongly supports BILL059(23), CD2**, relating to incentives for film studio facilities.

As the latest DBEDT figures indicate, in 2022, Film and television industry had significant impacts on tourism, accounting for 4.5 million visitor days, $1 billion in visitor spending, $1,163.5 million in GDP, and $543.6 million in earnings. The vast majority of these figures pertain to the City and County of Honolulu.
(https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/film_impacts_on_tourism_feb_2024.pdf)

We are grateful for the council's continued support of our industry upon which thousands of families across the state rely. In order 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. The proposed amendments in BILL059(23), CD2 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. **We humbly request that the committee support BILL059(23), CD2**. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
In Solidarity,

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

501 SUMNER STREET ♦ SUITE #610 ♦ HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817 ♦ (808) 596-0227 ♦ FAX (808) 591-8213

November 21, 2024

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

RE: Bill 59
DATE: Thursday, November 21, 2024
TIME: 1:00 PM
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

Mericia Palma Elmore, Executive Director
SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local
mericia.palmaelmore@sagaftra.org
Ph: 808-596-0388 • Fax: 808-593-2636
201 Merchant Street Suite 2301, Honolulu, HI 96813

Testimony Presented Before the
Honolulu City Council
Committee on Budget
November 21, 2024 at 1:00pm

By Chris Lee as a Private Citizen in Strong Support

BILL 59 Proposed CD2-TW1 – 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 strong support for Proposed CD2-TW1 for Bill 59.

I greatly appreciate everyone on this Council for their support for our vital production industry and their careful consideration and contributions to Bill 59. Hawaii's first major studio complex is an essential component to growing the successful diversification of our economy with living wage jobs.

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, per 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:

Oʻahu: $354.88 million
Hawaiʻi County: $39.32 million
Kauaʻi County: $12.56 million
Maui County: $13.28 million

With Hawaiʻi 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.

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."

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, the makeshift WW2 hangars at Kalaeloa, and the very limited City-leased facility in Kakaako. None of these facilities are able to accommodate more than one series at a time or the bulk of the stage shooting for a Hollywood blockbuster.

The Proposed CD2-TW1 for Bill 59 offers our best chance to propel Honolulu into a true production hub. A privately owned and operated studio complex with a minimum of $100 million investment on a minimum of ten acres would allow multiple shows to shoot at the same time and for major films like *Moana*, *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 New Zealand, 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. A studio lot will also offer internships and job placement for our talented students and graduates that currently do not exist.

Mahalo again for your support for the production industry and for the opportunity to testify. I am happy to answer any questions.

Chris Lee

Testimony Presented Before the
Honolulu City Council
Committee on Budget
November 21, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.
By
Kalbert K. Young
Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer
University of Hawaiʻi 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 Hawaiʻi (UH) supports Bill 59 and the proposed CD2, which would provide added incentives for eligible film studio facilities.

While the UH would not benefit directly from the proposed incentives, the incentives in Bill 59, Proposed CD2, would create an attractive benefit to eligible private film studio developers or businesses. The UH is currently in negotiations with a developer that would develop vacant UH real estate for a film studio that would benefit the State and industry. In making UH land available for a film studio, the UH has supported economic development and business sustainability of film studio facilities in the State.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Testimony Presented Before the
Honolulu City Council
Committee on Budget
November 21, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

By Melvin Mar as a Private Citizen

BILL 59 2023, CD1, Proposed CD2– RELATED TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES

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

My name is Melvin Mar. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of Bill 59. I'm what you would call "a real lucky mainlander". I've vacationed here with my family like the rest of the world, but I also have gotten to work here.

I produce Film and Television and I've had the privilege of shooting films like Sony's JUMANJI: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE, JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL, Amazon MGM's RED ONE (now in theaters) and Disney's Doogie Kamealoha for two seasons all here on Oahu.

My Producing Partner and Director of these productions, Jake Kasdan and I make it a point to steer all our films and shows here. The locale, the beauty, is all something we want to put in our productions. In addition to that, the crews. We love the crews. The people you have working on this island in a production capacity are honestly the jewels of the industry you have here, the aloha spirit among the crew is something we really value.

But let me tell you what you are missing.

This proposed Studio Complex.

I like to think I come to this conclusion with some first hand knowledge by making these movies and shows here in Oahu.

Here's an example from the JUMANJI movies. We shot JUMANJI: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE here in 2016, a majority of the film was shot here in Oahu, save for a week in Atlanta, GA. Why? Because we need stages big enough to do some interior builds and to house what we needed to do in visual effects and with the Tax Credit in the state of Georgia, it became well worth it to make the move across an ocean and the country to shoot a week there. With JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL, we did the opposite because of the stage space and Tax Credit, we shot a majority of the movie in Atlanta and saved a few weeks for Oahu. As a side note…There are many example… my friend Justin Chon's show with Jason Momoa, Chief Of War…and of course, MOANA. I'm not involved in this movie, but my partners on Jumanji Movies are… Dwayne Johnson and

Hiram Garcia. But they did the same thing we did, a majority of the movie in Atlanta and a week here.

Now let me give you an example of what could be with this proposed complex.

In 2020, deep in the pandemic lockdown, I received a call from my good friend Chris Lee. We talked about the state of the economy in Hawaii and the effect of lockdown on the islands. It was a hard time for us all. Born out of that conversation and many others with Disney, we made two seasons of Doogie Kamealoha for Disney+. Honolulu has a couple of stages for TV— Diamond Head for Magnum… you've housed shows here before. But when we showed up, there was no space do any of the interior work of the hospital. With the Covid lockdown raging, it wasn't that easy to move around and this was basically, the safest place in the country. We wanted to stay here, and with a little ingenuity and generosity from the UH Medical School, we were able to build our hospital set in some unfinished floors of the medical school building. Yes, we kind of built a fake hospital in a real one. We were able to do two seasons a show that we shot completely here in Oahu.

But my point is this. What if we didn't have to build a set on unfinished floors of a medical school building? What if there was just stages that we can move into and shoot our interiors? What if we didn't have to go to Atlanta anymore when a movie clearly belongs here in Oahu from beginning to end?

…I think it's pretty clear. With everything that is here, that comes with living here, Hawaii's proximity to Asia as well as the Mainland, this studio complex will help Oahu realize it's potential of being a production hub for not only the US and Hollywood, but the world.

Thank you for taking the time to listen.

IATSE 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

November 19, 2024

Honolulu City Council
Committee on Budget
530 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Cordero and Members of the City Budget Committee:

RE: **BILL 59 (CD2-TW1) Relating to Incentives for Film Studio Facilities**
HEARING: **Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 1:00 PM**

Aloha Honorable Budget Chair Cordero and members of the Honolulu City Council -

IATSE Local 665 stands in strong **SUPPORT** of the proposed language submitted by Council Chair Tommy Waters under CD2. We appreciate the hard work that has gone into Bill 59 over the past several months and the many voices that have helped to make the bill better.

The building of a new studio complex, offering long-term tax incentives, and adding prevailing wage language will generate revenue for the County and create jobs for local workers.

MAHALO to all of the City Council members who continue to support Hawai'i's film industry. We recognize your hard work and dedication, and request that you vote for Bill 59.

Respectfully,

Irish Barber
Business Representative
(808) 479-1770 Mobile
alohairish@iatse665.org

Judith Cunningham
73-1514 Apela Place
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
(310)880-6682
judith@hmhawaii.com

20 November 2014

Dear Councilmembers,

A studio complex that incentivizes long-term use of the facility, adds prevailing wage language, creates at least 100 full-time equivalent film industry jobs annually, and the possibility of public tours as a revenue generator and job creator can be a win for our local community. Living and working in Hawaii can be a challenge so any bill that allows more opportunities for our local families to thrive is a plus.

As a member of the local IATSE 665, I am grateful for all they do to help bring jobs to this state. However, we need help from local government to make way for more resources for those projects to thrive while they are here. The fact that a Hawaiian historical film, produced by Apple TV is being shot mainly in New Zealand because of cost and lack of film infrastructure in this state takes those jobs away from our local workers.

Please allow Bill 59 to pass and show all your constituents your commitment to them.

Thank you for your help

Sincerely,

Judith Cunningham

Subject: Testimony in Support of Bill 59 and Hawaii's Film Industry

Dear Council Members,

My name is Stanley Keliiholokai, and I am writing to express my strong support for Bill 59, which focuses on creating incentives for the development and maintenance of film studio facilities in Hawaii.

Hawaii's film and digital media industry has long been a vital contributor to our state's economy, generating millions in production expenditures, creating thousands of jobs, and showcasing the beauty and culture of our islands to global audiences. According to the Hawaii Department of Economic Development, Business, and Tourism, the industry spent over $421 million in production in a single year, with a broader economic impact estimated at $728 million. This revenue supports not only direct film-related jobs but also benefits countless local businesses, from catering companies to transportation providers.

However, the industry faces a critical plateau due to a lack of sufficient studio infrastructure to meet growing demand. Bill 59 provides an essential opportunity to invest in this infrastructure, enabling Hawaii to remain competitive as a production destination. By improving facilities and resources, we can attract more high-profile projects and retain our talented workforce, who might otherwise seek opportunities elsewhere.

This bill represents an investment in a diversified economy for Hawaii—one that creates high-quality jobs, fosters local talent, and brings sustainable growth to our communities. By supporting Bill 59, the council will play a pivotal role in ensuring that Hawaii continues to thrive as a hub for creativity and innovation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to vote in favor of Bill 59 and to prioritize the long-term growth of our film and digital media industries.

Sincerely,
Stanley Keliiholokai

November 21, 2024

KAPOLEI CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Working together for Kapolei

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

Committee on Budget
November 21, 2024, 1:00pm, 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-TW1** 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. 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 4,130 jobs in the State, which includes more than $262.6 million in wages statewide. https://www.motionpictures.org/advocacy/driving-local-economies/

According to DBEDT's Cost-Benefit and Fiscal Impact Analysis of Hawai'i's Film Tax Credit (2022), local hires are at 91%.

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 few 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 incentives for job growth, especially in West O`ahu are warranted and needed. We also specifically support job growth in digital media and 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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
KA ʻOIHANA HOʻOMOHALA PĀʻOIHANA, ʻIMI WAIWAI A HOʻOMĀKAʻIKAʻI

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

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, November 21, 2024
1:00 PM
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 Committee on Budget.

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) and its Creative Industries Division (CID) supports Bill 59 (23), CD1, which further refines prior versions, establishing 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.

This incentive provides a valuable tool to accelerate growth of this crucial industry for our state. Increasing production stages to house major features, series and new virtual stage productions are key to keeping the state competitive globally. Coupled with Motion Picture, Digital Media and Film Production Income Tax Credit, our education and workforce development programs, Bill 59 (23) CD1 will elevate the opportunities for residents to remain home and launch their careers.

Bill 59 (23) CD1 strengthens the value proposition and provides a foundation for the growth to accelerate our $400M industry into a billion-dollar film industry for our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.