BILL059(23)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 558

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Dec 11, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 43

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Mark Anthony Clemente	mclemente@hrcc-hawaii.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters	Support	Dec 9, 2024 @ 09:57 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Chris Lee	chris@chrisleemedia.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 9, 2024 @ 10:28 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Chris Lee	cpl@hawaii.edu	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
University of Hawaii	Support	Dec 9, 2024 @ 02:31 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Keahi S Kuikahi	keahikuikahi@yahoo.com	96792-2981
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 9, 2024 @ 08:42 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and members of the Council,

My name is Keahi S Kuikahi. I am a member of IATSE Local 665, the union behind entertainment. I've been a member of this union since 2019. I strongly support BILL059(23 CD1. BILL059(23) CD1 will encourage job growth, economic diversity, and will address the development of film infrastructure, which we are sorely in need of. By encouraging film infrastructure development, more work will be drawn here for the entertainment workers that utilize the space as well as the building trades workers that construct it. DBEDT's Research and Economic Analysis Division (READ) reported that in 2022, Film Tourism, those influenced by Hawai'i film and TV projects to visit Hawai'I, generated $121.6m in State tax revenue (report: https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/film_impacts_on_tourism_feb_2024.pdf). I urge the council to strongly support BILL059(23) CD1.

Mahalo,

Keahi S Kuikahi

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Raimar Bylaardt II	Raimar2000@gmail.com	96734
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 9, 2024 @ 08:45 PM

Testimony:

Infrastructure for the movie business industry and tax credits are crucial to bring and keep high paying jobs in Hawaii.

Thanks

Raimar

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jeremy Torcuato	jeremykalatorc@gmail.com	96782
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 9, 2024 @ 08:54 PM

Testimony:

I proudly support this bill for myself and many others who depend on this industry for our livelihood.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
charles roberts	robertscg002@gmail.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Iatse 665	Support	Dec 9, 2024 @ 09:08 PM

Testimony:

I am in support of this Bill to provide more jobs for IATSE local 665

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ammon Cabrinha	acabrinha11@gmail.com	96707
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 9, 2024 @ 09:10 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and members of the Council,

My name is Ammon Ho'oululahui Cabrinha. I am a member of IATSE Local 665, the union behind entertainment. I've been a member of this union my whole life. My father Alvin Cabrinha Jr was brought into the union by my grandfather Joseph "Tarzan" Ahuna. My family has been in the film industry here in Hawaii from the beginning. It's how my father and mother raised 8 kids and it is how I am supporting my wife and four kids. I strongly support BILL059(23 CD1. BILL059(23) CD1 will encourage job growth, economic diversity, and will address the development of film infrastructure, which we are sorely in need of. By encouraging film infrastructure development, more work will be drawn here for the entertainment workers that utilize the space as well as the building trades workers that construct it. DBEDT's Research and Economic Analysis Division (READ) reported that in 2022, Film Tourism, those influenced by Hawai'i film and TV projects to visit Hawai'I, generated $121.6m in State tax revenue (report: https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/film_impacts_on_tourism_feb_2024.pdf). I urge the council to strongly support BILL059(23) CD1.

Mahalo,

Ammon Ho’olulahui Cabrinha

Name:	Email:	Zip:
paul perri	pqulperri707@gmail.com	96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
local 665	Support	Dec 9, 2024 @ 09:12 PM

Testimony:

I support the BILL059{23}

Paul Perri

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Chauncy Williams	kekoawilliams@yahoo.com	96795
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
IATSE 665	Support	Dec 9, 2024 @ 09:17 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia’aina, and members of the Council,

My name is Chauncy Williams. I graduated with a Bachelors in Digital Cinema from the Academy of Creative Media (ACM) in December of 2018. I am also a member of IATSE Local 665, the union behind entertainment. I’ve been a member of this union since November 2022. I strongly support BILL059(23 CD1. BILL059(23) CD1 will encourage job growth, economic diversity, and will address the development of film infrastructure, which we are sorely in need of. By encouraging film infrastructure development, more work will be drawn here for the entertainment workers that utilize the space as well as the building trades workers that construct it. DBEDT’s Research and Economic Analysis Division (READ) reported that in 2022, Film Tourism, those influenced by Hawai’i film and TV projects to visit Hawai’I, generated $121.6m in State tax revenue (report: https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/film_impacts_on_tourism_feb_2024.pdf). I urge the Council to strongly support BILL059(23) CD1.

Mahalo,

Chauncy Williams

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Teya Tilley	teyantilley@gmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 9, 2024 @ 09:24 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and members of the Council,

My name is Teya Tilley. I am a member of IATSE Local 665, the union behind entertainment. I've been a member of this union since/for 2023. I strongly support BILL059(23 CD1. BILL059(23) CD1 will encourage job growth, economic diversity, and will address the development of film infrastructure, which we are sorely in need of. By encouraging film infrastructure development, more work will be drawn here for the entertainment workers that utilize the space as well as the building trades workers that construct it. DBEDT's Research and Economic Analysis Division (READ) reported that in 2022, Film Tourism, those influenced by Hawai'i film and TV projects to visit Hawai'I, generated $121.6m in State tax revenue (report: https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/film_impacts_on_tourism_feb_2024.pdf). I urge the Council to strongly support BILL059(23) CD1.

Mahalo,

Teya Tilley

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Patrick Jeppeson	jetttsettter22@outlook.com	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Local 665 and Sag-Aftra	Support	Dec 9, 2024 @ 09:40 PM

Testimony:

I support any and all help with tax incentives bill. It's one of a few industries that gives us an opportunity to survive 60% price increases of past two years .

All the Best

Patrick Jeppeson

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Mericia Palma Elmore	mericia.palmaelmore@sagaftra.org	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
SAG-AFTRA Hawai'i Local	Support	Dec 9, 2024 @ 10:00 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Anthony Daniel	sdhawaii@gmail.com	96826
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 9, 2024 @ 10:34 PM

Testimony:

Any film business has proven smart business everyone wins it's the only way to showcase our beauty of the islands and show aloha to the world plus the financial benefits are priceless keeps on paying back in dividends especially with reruns and utube and any other device people can watch it's not only about moneys it's all about Hawaii and the Aloha spirit

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jodie Yee	actorjodieyee@yahoo.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 9, 2024 @ 10:36 PM

Testimony:

December 11, 2024

City and County of Honolulu - Committee on Budget Tommy Waters, Chair

RE: DATE: TIME: PLACE:

Bill 59

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

10:00 AM

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

City and County of Honolulu, 96813-3077

Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the City Council,

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

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

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

SAG-AFTRA supports robust and fair incentive programs. Bill 59 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.

Best,

Jodie Yee

Sag-Aftra Actor

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Erika Aresta	ekaresta@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 9, 2024 @ 11:02 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and members of the Council,

My name is Erika Aresta, I am a member of IATSE Local 665, the union behind entertainment. I've been a member of this union since 2010. I strongly support BILL059(23 CD1. BILL059(23) CD1 will encourage job growth, economic diversity, and will address the development of film infrastructure, which we are sorely in need of. By encouraging film infrastructure development, more work will be drawn here for the entertainment workers that utilize the space as well as the building trades workers that construct it. DBEDT's Research and Economic Analysis Division (READ) reported that in 2022, Film Tourism, those influenced by Hawai'i film and TV projects to visit Hawai'I, generated $121.6m in State tax revenue (report: https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/film_impacts_on_tourism_feb_2024.pdf). I urge the council to strongly support BILL059(23) CD1.

Mahalo,

Erika Aresta

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Sean Paul Segundo-McKee	seanpaulsegundomckee@gmail.com	96819
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 10, 2024 @ 07:06 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and members of the Council,

My name is Sean Paul Kahuokekai Segundo-McKee. I am a member of IATSE Local 665, the union behind entertainment. I've been a member of this union since 09/27/2021. I strongly support BILL059(23 CD1. BILL059(23) CD1 will encourage job growth, economic diversity, and will address the development of film infrastructure, which we are sorely in need of. By encouraging film infrastructure development, more work will be drawn here for the entertainment workers that utilize the space as well as the building trades workers that construct it. DBEDT's Research and Economic Analysis Division (READ) reported that in 2022, Film Tourism, those influenced by Hawai'i film and TV projects to visit Hawai'I, generated $121.6m in State tax revenue (report: https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/film_impacts_on_tourism_feb_2024.pdf). I urge the Council to strongly support BILL059(23) CD1.

Mahalo,

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kevin Kersting	krkfilm@hawaii.rr.com	96712

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 10, 2024 @ 07:41 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and members of the Council,

My name is Kevin Kersting. I am a member of IATSE Local 665, the union behind entertainment. I've been a member of this union since 1986, 37 yrs. I strongly support BILL059(23 CD1. BILL059(23) CD1 will encourage job growth, economic diversity, and will address the development of film infrastructure, which we are sorely in need of. By encouraging film infrastructure development, more work will be drawn here for the entertainment workers that utilize the space as well as the building trades workers that construct it. DBEDT's Research and Economic Analysis Division (READ) reported that in 2022, Film Tourism, those influenced by Hawai'i film and TV projects to visit Hawai'I, generated $121.6m in State tax revenue (report: https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/film_impacts_on_tourism_feb_2024.pdf). I urge the council to strongly support BILL059(23) CD1.

Mahalo,

Kevin Kersting.

"

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Catharine Incaprera	fletchva@gmail.com	96821

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 10, 2024 @ 08:46 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and members of the Council,

My name is Catharine Incaprera. I am a member of IATSE Local 665, the union behind entertainment. I've been a member of this union for 3years. I strongly support BILL059(23 CD1. BILL059(23) CD1 will encourage job growth, economic diversity, and will address the development of film infrastructure, which we are sorely in need of. By encouraging film infrastructure development, more work will be drawn here for the entertainment workers that utilize the space as well as the building trades workers that construct it. DBEDT's Research and Economic Analysis Division (READ) reported that in 2022, Film Tourism, those influenced by Hawai'i film and TV projects to visit Hawai'I, generated $121.6m in State tax revenue (report: https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/film_impacts_on_tourism_feb_2024.pdf). I urge the council to strongly support BILL059(23) CD1.

Mahalo,

Catharine Incaprera

1507 Ehupua Place

Honolulu, Hi 96821

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Dean Des Jarlais	dean@hawaiimedia.com	96734
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaii Media Inc.	Support	Dec 10, 2024 @ 09:32 AM

Testimony:

I strongly support Bill 59 because it will help promote the development of infrastruture needed for the film and television industry.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jeff soot	Jeff_808@hotmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 10, 2024 @ 09:54 AM

Testimony:

just do it

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Travis Hoover	travishoover@gmail.com	96730
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 10, 2024 @ 10:49 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and members of the Council,

My name is Travis Hoover. I am a member of IATSE Local 665, the union behind entertainment. I've been a member of this union since 2008. I strongly support BILL059(23 CD1. BILL059(23) CD1 will encourage job growth, economic diversity, and will address the development of film infrastructure, which we are sorely in need of. By encouraging film infrastructure development, more work will be drawn here for the entertainment workers that utilize the space as well as the building trades workers that construct it. DBEDT's Research and Economic Analysis Division (READ) reported that in 2022, Film Tourism, those influenced by Hawai'i film and TV projects to visit Hawai'I, generated $121.6m in State tax revenue (report: https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/film_impacts_on_tourism_feb_2024.pdf). I urge the council to strongly support BILL059(23) CD1.

Mahalo,

Travis Hoover

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Joshua Meredith	tornadohouse@hotmail.com	96793
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 10, 2024 @ 10:58 AM

Testimony:

I urge the Honolulu City Council to work towards passage of this bill, to strengthen our local economy, by developing film industry infrastructure. I strongly support BILL059(23) CD1.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Catherine Valdovino	cathievaldovino@me.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 10, 2024 @ 10:59 AM

Testimony:

My name is Catherine Valdovino.

I am a member of IATSE Local 665 since 1995.

I strongly support BILL059(23) CD1 that will encourage job growth, economic diversity and will address the development of film infrastructure which Hawaii sorely needs. By encouraging film infrastructure development, more work will be drawn here for the entertainment workers that utilize the space as well s the building trades workers that construct it.

Mahalo,

Catherine Valdovino

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Mark Anthony Clemente	mclemente@hrcc-hawaii.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters	Support	Dec 10, 2024 @ 12:29 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
James Curtis	rig808jimcurtis@gmail.com	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 10, 2024 @ 12:42 PM

Testimony:

As a 20 year member of iatse 665 I have had the pleasure of working in film and tv industry in Hawaii it has provided me a well paying job which are hard to come by for people like me who are skilled w there hands dispute my never having gone to collage . The film industry final product is tourism add for the state selling Hawaii to the world , please help us to do

what we do best sell Hawaii & aloha to the world mahalo

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jacob Kaupilu Barcenilla	jakes8510@gmail.com	96797
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 10, 2024 @ 12:55 PM

Testimony:

Haven't we already proven that we Brothers and Sisters of IATSE Local 665 are capable in the film industry. With numerous shows filmed here it provided so much work and opportunities for alot of people as well as myself. I placed a side my plumbing carrier to pursue and work in this industry first doing special effects for Magnum then as a propmaker in NCIS Hawaii, this industry saved me from depression dealing with overcoming the death of my Father. It gave me a new out look at life, its not the normal job im accustomed to you know... Its not the just keep the head down and work type of environment, its more then a paycheck for me it also builds character and awareness. Working for the film industry your more then just a worker, you get the chance to step up and use your personal creativity your personal touch and that by itself is powerful, it changed my life. I wonder how it would have been if I had the opportunity to work in the film industry at a younger age the Man I would've become, only great things I can imagine. Now if we had our own private film studios with out the states interference imagine the lives that it could change. Not having the cooperation of the state takes away all future opportunities for us as members as well as the youth. I support building up the film infrastructure in hawaii a place where you can film 365 days without hardly any weather issues now that sounds perfect to a Producer.... Again I support Bill059(23)CD1 Mahalo for your time....

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Michael Tereschuk	mikesylvie@yahoo.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 10, 2024 @ 01:22 PM

Testimony:

Please support this measure to develop infrastructure for the Film Industry here in Hawaii. I have been a member of Local 665 for twenty years . This bill will create so many important jobs for our community and will bring a boost to our economy.

Thank you,

Michael Tereschuk

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Sumner La Croix	sumnerlacroix@me.com	96826
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 10, 2024 @ 01:31 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Phyllis Bruce	p.bruce@aol.com	82009

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Fandom of Magnum PI	Support	Dec 10, 2024 @ 02:15 PM

Testimony:

I strongly support this bill! Not only would this allow for more quality entertainment like we received in the past coming from your beautiful state, it would provide you with revenue, which I'm sure would help your people in many ways! It's a win for most everyone!

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kiran Polk	kiranpolk@gmail.com	96707
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Kapolei Chamber of Commerce	Support	Dec 10, 2024 @ 03:20 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ricardo Galindez	ric@islandfilmgroup.com	96734
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Island Film Group	Support	Dec 10, 2024 @ 04:23 PM

Testimony:

Island Film Group is in support of this measure which will help finance necessary film studio infrastructure.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Sophie Zepf	sophie.zepf@gmail.com	20170
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 10, 2024 @ 04:54 PM

Testimony:

Dear committee,

My name is Sophie, and I am writing in strong support of BILL059(23), which provides incentives for the development and operation of film studio facilities. As a dedicated member of the Magnum P.I. fandom, I have witnessed firsthand how productions filmed in Hawaii not only showcase the islands' natural beauty but also contribute significantly to the local economy and cultural identity.

Magnum P.I., like many other productions, has brought attention to Hawaii's rich landscapes, unique culture, and skilled workforce. Its success has demonstrated the value of investing in infrastructure that attracts filmmakers. Expanding film studio facilities in Hawaii would solidify its position as a premier destination for production and open up new opportunities for local talent, businesses, and communities.

This bill's incentives would create jobs in construction, tourism, and the arts while ensuring that the state remains competitive in a rapidly growing industry. Productions like Magnum P.I. have already had a profound impact, creating a

ripple effect that benefits local vendors, hotels, and restaurants, as well as boosting global recognition of Hawaii as a hub for creativity and storytelling.

Supporting this bill means supporting the vibrant community of professionals and fans who understand the transformative power of film and television. I urge you to pass BILL059(23) to ensure Hawaii's continued growth as a cultural and economic powerhouse in the entertainment industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sophie Zepf
Member of the Magnum P.I. Fandom

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Debra Grey	cristalyse@aol.com	70380
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 10, 2024 @ 06:23 PM

Testimony:
Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and members of the Council,

My name is Debra Grey and I am an Administrator for the Fandom of MagnumPI. I strongly support BILL059(23 CD1. BILL059(23) CD1 will encourage job growth, economic diversity, and will address the development of film infrastructure, which we are sorely in need of. By encouraging film infrastructure development, more work will be drawn here for the entertainment workers that utilize the space as well as the building trades workers that construct it. DBEDT's Research and Economic Analysis Division reported that in 2022, Film Tourism, those influenced by Hawai'i film and TV projects to visit Hawai'I, generated $121.6m in State tax revenue. I urge the Council to strongly support BILL059(23) CD1.

Mahalo,

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Myriam Lheureux	myriamlheureux01@gmail.com	59245
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 10, 2024 @ 11:13 PM

Testimony:
Bonjour à vous tous j'espère que l'on pourra se sauver le casting et la série américaine magnum pi pour renouveler une saison 6 et d'autres saisons à l'avenir.

#SaveMagnumpi #Ohana

Bisous de la France.

Myriam Lheureux.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
fabienne lequertier	fabienne.lequertier@free.fr	92300
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 11, 2024 @ 05:36 AM

Testimony:

I want to participate to this testimony for the bill059.

This is very important for the Island this little paradise need all the help which provides incentives for the development of film studio facilities. As a huge fan of the MagnumPI show I want to tell you how much it means for me and a lot of people around me ! the value of this show is exactly what we feel when we set foot on Hawaiian soil for the first time !

The beauty of the island is one of the reason I wanted to come to see it by myself ! we did it in summer 2023 and we are now packing for our next stay in January 2025 because when you come ! you can't come once because we fall in love immediately, and you need to have a strong tourism industry.

This is why you need to give the opportunities to the local economy to grow and make your wonderful island more attractive by agreeing this bill.

Everything began with MagnumPI and I'm really forward to spending time again on your Island ! Even if coming from France is a big journey but so worthy.

Strong film industry means a lot for tourism industry and strong economy for the Island and the population

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Hailey Bowen-Cole	h.bowen.crew@gmail.com	96782
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 11, 2024 @ 05:51 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia’aina, and members of the Council,

My name is Hailey Bowen Cole. I strongly support BILL059(23 CD1. BILL059(23) CD1 will encourage job growth, economic

diversity, and will address the development of film infrastructure, which we are sorely in need of. By encouraging film infrastructure development, more work will be drawn here for the entertainment workers that utilize the space as well as the building trades workers that construct it. DBEDT's Research and Economic Analysis Division (READ) reported that in 2022, Film Tourism, those influenced by Hawai'i film and TV projects to visit Hawai'I, generated $121.6m in State tax revenue (report: https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/film_impacts_on_tourism_feb_2024.pdf). I urge the Council to strongly support BILL059(23) CD1.

Mahalo,

Hailey E Bowen Cole

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Vincent LEQUERTIER	vincent.lequertier@free.fr	92300
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 11, 2024 @ 05:52 AM

Testimony:

My name is Vincent, and I am writing to passionately advocate for BILL059(23), a critical piece of legislation that promises to revolutionize Hawaii's film industry infrastructure. As a longtime observer of Hawaii's unique contributions to cinema, I've seen firsthand how strategic film incentives can transform an entire state's economic and cultural landscape.

This bill represents more than just a financial mechanism; it's a strategic investment in Hawaii's future. By providing targeted incentives for film studio facility development, Hawaii has an unprecedented opportunity to cement its position as a premier destination for film and television production. The potential impact extends far beyond the immediate film industry, creating a robust ecosystem of economic opportunities.

The success stories are already evident. Productions like "Magnum P.I." have demonstrated how filming in Hawaii does more than capture stunning landscapes—they create substantial economic ripple effects. Local businesses, from catering services to equipment rentals, hotels to transportation providers, all benefit from a thriving film production environment. Each production becomes a catalyst for local economic growth, generating jobs and injecting significant revenue into the state's economy.

Moreover, these incentives will unlock tremendous potential for local talent. By attracting more productions, Hawaii can develop a sophisticated, world-class film infrastructure that provides training, employment, and career advancement opportunities for local creatives. This isn't just about bringing Hollywood to Hawaii—it's about empowering Hawaii's own storytelling capabilities.

The global visibility gained through film productions is equally crucial. Each frame shot in Hawaii serves as a powerful marketing tool, showcasing the islands' breathtaking scenery, rich cultural diversity, and unique spirit to millions

worldwide. This exposure translates into increased tourism, international recognition, and long-term economic benefits. BILL059(23) is more than legislation—it's a vision for Hawaii's future. By creating a supportive environment for film production, the state can diversify its economic portfolio, nurture local talent, and position itself as an innovative hub in the global entertainment industry.

I strongly urge support for this bill, recognizing it as a strategic investment in Hawaii's cultural and economic prosperity.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jason Jarrett	kaponojarrett@gmail.com	96782
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
IATSI 665	Support	Dec 11, 2024 @ 06:00 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and members of the Council,

My name is Jason Kapono Jarrett, known in the industry as LJ. I am a member of IATSE Local 665, the union behind entertainment. I've been a member of this union since October 2022 but in the film industry here in Hawaii for 7 years. I strongly support BILL059(23 CD1. BILL059(23) CD1 will encourage job growth, economic diversity, and will address the development of film infrastructure, which we are sorely in need of. By encouraging film infrastructure development, more work will be drawn here for the entertainment workers that utilize the space as well as the building trades workers that construct it. DBEDT's Research and Economic Analysis Division (READ) reported that in 2022, Film Tourism, those influenced by Hawai'i film and TV projects to visit Hawai'I, generated $121.6m in State tax revenue (report: https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/film_impacts_on_tourism_feb_2024.pdf). I urge the Council to strongly support BILL059(23) CD1.

Mahalo,

Jason "LJ" Kapono Jarrett

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Irish Barberr	alohairish@iatse665.org	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
IATSE 665	Support	Dec 11, 2024 @ 06:59 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:

TARA LAULU	taralaulu@me.com	96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Dec 11, 2024 @ 07:59 AM

Testimony:

Aloha,

My name is TARA F LAULU.

I support this Bill059/23CDI for the HAWAII Film Industry to bring shows/movies to our beautiful HAWAII Nei. HAWAII is the only place in the World with “Aloha”. And give Jobs to People of HAWAII Nei & support their OHANA. We have the most beautiful scenery place in the World & full of Aloha.

We as Fandoms of MagnumPI want shows to come back & film here in HAWAII Nei & HAWAII 5-0. Even RescueHISurf & NCISHAWAII are all great shows.

Please Pass this Bill to take care of our HAWAII Nei.

Much Mahalo Nui Loa

Tara F Laulu

Fandoms of MagnumPI

Name: Keri Davis	Email: keriadavis66@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Dec 11, 2024 @ 08:08 AM

Testimony:

I would like to show my support for Bill059(23)

We live in the most beautiful place in the world, and we are the only place with Aloha. We need more infrastructure so we have more work on the islands.

I have met a lot of people who work for the film industry in some capacity and they are amazing, hardworking people who show much aloha.

Keep the film industry here, make it bigger on our islands, so we have more jobs and and we can spread the beauty of the place we are so blessed to live.

Name: Georja Skinner	Email: georja.skinner@hawaii.gov	Zip: 96813
Representing: DBEDT, State of Hawai'i Creative Industries	Position: Support	Submitted: Dec 11, 2024 @ 11:05 AM

HAWAII REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

December 11, 2024

TO: The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair
The Honorable Esther Kia'āina, Vice-Chair
and Members of the 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

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

My name is Mark Anthony Clemente writing on behalf of the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters in strong support of Bill 59 (2023), CD1.

The State of Hawai'i's Creative Industries Division (CID) in the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) is the lead agency which advocates and expands business opportunities for those sectors which comprise Hawai'i's creative economy. Together, CID/DBEDT is positioning Hawai'i to be a national and global leader in creative sector development as well as a hub for creative media and film production in the Pacific.

According to the March 2024 Hawai'i Creative Industries DBEDT Update Report, Honolulu County accounted for 37,768 of the state's Creative Sector jobs in 2022, a 0.9% average annual increase from 2012. Film, TV, Video Production/Distribution, Cable & Media Streaming was one of the Creative Sector industry groups that was high performing in Honolulu County in the 2012 to 2022 period. This high-performing group not only grew jobs during the period but also increased their competitive share of the activity by exceeding the national growth rate for the industry.

The construction and operation and maintenance of this film studio will boost opportunities for local skilled craftspeople to earn a living wage, and we strongly support the prevailing wage language that was inserted into the bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

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
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KAUAI OFFICE: Kuhio Medical Ctr Bldg., 3-3295 Kuhio Hwy, Suite 201, Lihue, Kauai 96766-1040 • Ph. (808) 245-8511 Fax (808) 245-8911

Honolulu City Council, January 24, 2024

Testimony in Support for Bill 59(23) **RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES.**

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

I write today as a private citizen in strong support for Bill 59 and in appreciation for the hard work of this Council in moving this bill forward. Bill 59 will help to enhance our successful film, television and streaming content production industry and keep our ACM graduates here in Hawaii with living wage jobs.

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

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

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

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

Even stories about Hawaii or Hawaii adjacent have to go elsewhere to complete the bulk of their $100 million+ shoots. For example, Apple TVs *Chief of War*, starring Jason

Momoa, which is about our island history, is reported to have shot 30 days here in Hawaii, but 150 days in New Zealand. Disneys upcoming live action version of *Moana,* starring Dwayne Johnson, shot briefly on location here, but the majority of their production was done on stages in Atlanta.

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

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

Chris Lee

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAIʻI SYSTEM
ʻŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAIʻI

Testimony
Hōʻike Manaʻo

Testimony Presented Before the
Honolulu City Council
Decmber 11, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
By
Kalbert K. Young
Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer
University of Hawaiʻi System

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this issue. The University of Hawaiʻi (UH) supports Bill 59 CD2, which would provide added incentives for eligible film studio facilities.

While the UH would not benefit directly from the incentives in Bill 59 CD2, it 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.

December 11, 2024

City and County of Honolulu - Committee on Budget
Tommy Waters, Chair

RE: Bill 59
DATE: Wednesday, December 11, 2024
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
City and County of Honolulu, 96813-3077

Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the City Council,

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

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

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

SAG-AFTRA supports robust and fair incentive programs. Bill 59 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

HAWAII REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

December 11, 2024

TO: The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair
The Honorable Esther Kia'āina, Vice-Chair
and Members of the 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

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

My name is Mark Anthony Clemente writing on behalf of the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters in strong support of Bill 59 (2023), CD1.

The State of Hawai'i's Creative Industries Division (CID) in the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) is the lead agency which advocates and expands business opportunities for those sectors which comprise Hawai'i's creative economy. Together, CID/DBEDT is positioning Hawai'i to be a national and global leader in creative sector development as well as a hub for creative media and film production in the Pacific.

According to the March 2024 Hawai'i Creative Industries DBEDT Update Report, Honolulu County accounted for 37,768 of the state's Creative Sector jobs in 2022, a 0.9% average annual increase from 2012. Film, TV, Video Production/Distribution, Cable & Media Streaming was one of the Creative Sector industry groups that was high performing in Honolulu County in the 2012 to 2022 period. This high-performing group not only grew jobs during the period but also increased their competitive share of the activity by exceeding the national growth rate for the industry.

The construction and operation and maintenance of this film studio will boost opportunities for local skilled craftspeople to earn a living wage, and we strongly support the prevailing wage language that was inserted into the bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

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Testimony Presented Before the City Council
December 11, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

By

Sumner La Croix, Ph.D. Economics

BILL 59 – RELATED TO INCENTIVES FOR FILM STUDIO FACILITIES

Chair Waters and Members of the City Council:

My name is Sumner La Croix, and I am Professor Emeritus in the UH-Mānoa Economics Dept and a Senior Research Fellow at the University of 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.

Professor Emeritus James Mak and I have previously written on the role of the Hawai‘i TV/film/digital production tax credit in diversifying the Hawai‘i economy. See https://uhero.hawaii.edu/understanding-the-role-of-the-hawaii-film-tv-digital-production-tax-credit-in-diversifying-the-hawaii-economy/. The State of Hawai‘i is one of more than 30 states to offer a tax credit to film, TV, and digital productions (hereafter "film credit"). Since the passage of the film credit in 2006, spending in Hawaii on TV/film productions has soared, with inflation-adjusted spending increasing by 116 percent between 2007 ($164.5 million) and 2019 ($355.6 million). This is much larger than the overall increase in Hawaii real gross domestic product over the same period, a modest 17 percent.

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

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

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

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

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

- **New Jobs**. A new studio would create new construction jobs while it is being built; create new professional jobs in West Oahu when it begins operating; and create "spillover" jobs in the surrounding community via the spending by studio employees and the studio company at Honolulu and Hawai‘i businesses.

- **Additional Enrollment at UH-West Oahu Campus.** The presence of a film studio adjacent to the Academy for Creative Media's new facilities would raise the value to students of attending the Academy and elevate the Academy's reputation. This would attract new out-of-state and in-state tuition-paying students to UH-West Oahu and allow the campus both to increase its tuition revenues and to operate more efficiently.

- **New State and County-City Tax Revenues.** The new economic activity generated by a new film studio would yield additional property tax revenues for Honolulu on the studio structures, additional GET revenues for Honolulu and the State of Hawaii, and additional income tax revenues for the State of Hawaii.

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

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

December 11, 2024

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

KAPOLEI CHAMBER of COMMERCE
Working together for Kapolei

December 11, 2024, 10:00am, in the City Council Chamber or via video conference

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

RE: Bill 59 (2023)

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

The Kapolei Chamber is in **strong support** of **Bill 59(2023) CD2, FD1, RC1** 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 &CEO

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

December 11, 2024

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

Dear Chair Waters and Honolulu City Council Members:

RE: **BILL 59: CD2, Proposed FD1: Relating to Incentives for Film Studio Facilities**
HEARING: **Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 10:00 AM**

Aloha Honorable Chair Waters and members of the Honolulu City Council -

A heartfelt MAHALO from IATSE Local 665 for supporting Bill 59!

Over the past year, the Honolulu City Council has demonstrated strong SUPPORT of Hawai'i's film industry and its workers. We are grateful for all of the hard work and care that was put into Bill 59, and we look forward to our next actionable steps.

Respectfully,

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

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

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

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

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

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, December 11, 2024
Council Chambers

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

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

We appreciate the extensive deliberation the Council committee chairs, their members, the Mayor's office and his leadership team have had to reach this point in the process. The measure before you, in addition to maintaining our Hawai'i Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit (HRS 235-17), works in tandem to provide business certainty, driving much needed facilities and the jobs it creates to accelerate our $400M film industry into a billion-dollar industry for our state.

The department looks forward to continuing its work with the City and County of Honolulu, our State Legislature and our colleagues in the industry to ignite opportunities this valuable creative sector brings as an economic diversification engine for our community and state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.