

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. **26 - 211**

RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS TO EXPEDITIOUSLY ADVANCE THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII–WEST O’AHU FILM AND MEDIA PRODUCTION FACILITY PROJECT.

WHEREAS, while tourism is one of the main drivers of the local economy, there is a need and a growing call for other industries, including the film industry, to increase their contribution to Hawai'i's economy; and

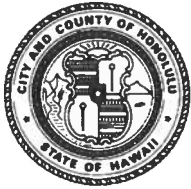
WHEREAS, on December 11, 2024, the City Council ("Council") adopted Bill 53 (2023), CD2, FD1 (enacted as Ordinance 25-1), which provides City and County of Honolulu ("City") real property tax incentives for the construction and operation of a qualifying film studio facility; and

WHEREAS, on July 6, 2026, the Governor signed Act 185, Session Laws of Hawaii 2026, which amended the State of Hawai'i ("State") Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit ("Hawai'i Film Tax Credit") to provide additional incentives for the film industry, including incentives for local hiring and increased program caps; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism reported that in 2023, 25 film productions claimed \$37.3 million of the Hawai'i Film Tax Credit, and qualified film production expenditures amounted to \$168.7 million, generating \$58.9 million in spending on goods and services in Hawai'i and \$56.5 million in wages and salaries to Hawai'i workers; and

WHEREAS, however, film production can have a much wider impact on the local economy than merely the dollars spent locally on individual film productions, as it has the potential to provide community members with valuable and innovative applied learning opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a state-of-the-art film studio facility, as envisioned in the University of Hawai'i–West O’ahu Film and Media Production Facility ("Facility") project, presents a significant opportunity for Hawai'i to strengthen its position in the highly competitive film and media production industry; and



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WHEREAS, with a proposed location adjacent to the University of Hawai'i–West O'ahu ("UHWO") Academy for Creative Media, the Facility can also provide UHWO students with meaningful internships, hands-on learning experiences, workforce training, and direct pathways into well-paying and fulfilling careers; and

WHEREAS, the Facility is being developed through a public-private partnership utilizing private investment, which presents a unique opportunity to leverage private capital while advancing key public policy initiatives such as increasing educational opportunities, fostering workforce development, and diversifying the economy; and

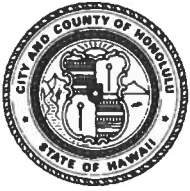
WHEREAS, in September 2024, the University of Hawai'i System entered into an Exclusive Negotiations Agreement ("ENA") with Island Productions (dba Island Film Group) for the development of the Facility; and

WHEREAS, in September 2025, the ENA term ended, and the University of Hawai'i System continues its negotiations with Island Film Group regarding the Facility's development and ground lease agreements; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that the establishment of the Facility will accelerate the growth of the creative industry in Hawai'i, strengthen the State and the City's economic resilience through diversification, and provide lasting benefits to Hawai'i's current and future workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Council further finds that it is critical for the Facility to be established without delay so that the people of Hawai'i can begin to reap the direct and indirect benefits of the Facility; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents to expeditiously advance the University of Hawai'i–West O'ahu Film and Media Production Facility project; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents, Office of the Board of Regents, 2444 Dole Street, Bachman Hall, Room 209, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822; the President of the University of Hawai'i System, Office of the President, 2444 Dole Street, Room 202, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822; and the Interim Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i--West O'ahu, Office of the Chancellor, 91-1001 Farrington Highway, Kapolei, Hawai'i 96707.

INTRODUCED BY:

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

SEP 17 2026

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

Report Title:

University of Hawai'i ("UH"); Board of Regents; University of Hawai'i–West O'ahu ("UHWO"); Film and Media Production Facility Project; Economic Diversification; Workforce Training and Development; Development Agreement; Ground Lease Agreement

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.