

RES26-211
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 409

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Oct 7, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 4

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Johnnie-Mae Perry	waianaenb569@gmail.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Oct 1, 2026 @ 10:09 PM
Testimony: I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, STRONGLY SUPPORT RES26-211 URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS TO EXPEDITIOUSLY ADVANCE THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII- WEST O'AHU FILM AND MEDIA PRODUCTION FACILITY PROJECT. THIS WAS A PROMISE MADE TO THE WESTSIDE RESIDENTS BY THE LATE AND FORMER STATE SENATE SPEAKER, CONGRESSMEMBER AND HART BOARD CHAIR COLLEEN HANABUSA WHILE IN OFFICE!		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Irish Barber	president@hawaiiifilmalliance.org	96734
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaii Film Alliance	Support	Oct 6, 2026 @ 10:41 AM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Lukas Seno	br@iatse665.org	96817-5304
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Oct 6, 2026 @ 04:56 PM
Testimony: Aloha University of Hawai'i Board of Regents, I Lukas Seno respectfully support Resolution 26-211, CD1 and the advancement of the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu Film and Media Production Facility. We appreciate the Board's service and consideration of this important opportunity for Hawai'i's film and media industry, workforce, and future generations. Mahalo, Lukas Seno Business Representative IATSE Local 665		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kiran Polk	kiranpolk@gmail.com	96707
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Kapolei Chamber of Commerce	Support	Oct 6, 2026 @ 10:30 PM
Name: Angela Melody Young	Email: alohadivinedesign@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Cares	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Oct 7, 2026 @ 09:26 AM
Testimony: Refer to live testimony.		

October 6, 2026

The Honorable Augie Tulba, Chair
Committee on Public Safety & Economy
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Re: Testimony in Support of Resolution 26-211 – Urging the UH BOR to Expediently Advance
the UHWO Film and Media Production Facility Project**

Dear Chair Tulba and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Film Alliance (HFA), I write in strong support of Resolution 26-211, Proposed CD1, urging the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents to expediently advance the UH-West O'ahu Film and Media Production Facility Project.

Hawai'i has skilled crews, compelling stories, and students eager to enter the industry. A purpose-built production facility adjacent to UH-West O'ahu's Academy for Creative Media could connect those strengths: giving students hands-on experience alongside working professionals, supporting local productions, and helping retain film and media jobs in Hawai'i.

The Council's support matters at this stage. The project has been under discussion for years, and the Board of Regents has a consequential role in its future. By adopting this resolution, the Council can make clear that advancing the facility is a priority for Honolulu's workforce and creative economy. We urge the Board to give the project timely consideration and move the necessary agreements forward.

HFA also hopes the facility will create lasting opportunities for local crew members, emerging filmmakers, and Native Hawaiian storytellers. As the project advances, we encourage UH and its development partners to work directly with the people who will learn and work there, so its benefits reach our communities.

Please pass Resolution 26-211, Proposed CD1. Mahalo for your consideration and for helping bring this opportunity to the attention of the Board of Regents.

Mahalo Nui,

Irish Ho'omaika'i Barber
President

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

Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
City Council Chamber



RE: Strong Support for Resolution 26-211, CD1 — Urging the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents to Expediently Advance the University of Hawai'i–West O'ahu Film and Media Production Facility Project

Dear Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola and Members of the Honolulu City Council:

My name is Kiran Polk, and I am the Executive Director & CEO of the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce. The Kapolei Chamber represents businesses throughout the Kapolei region, including Waipahu, Kapolei, 'Ewa Beach, Nānākuli, Wai'anae, and Mākaha. We advocate on behalf of our members and the broader business community to support economic vitality and ensure West O'ahu continues to thrive.

The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce is in **strong support of Resolution 26-211, CD1, and urges immediate action to advance this project.** With City and State incentives in place, the time to move forward is now. Further delay puts private investment, local business opportunities and career pathways for Hawai'i residents at risk in a highly competitive global industry. We urge the Council to adopt this resolution and the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents to make the UH West O'ahu Film and Media Production Facility an immediate priority, moving expeditiously to finalize the development and ground lease agreements needed to bring this project to fruition.

Establishing a film studio in West O'ahu has been a longstanding priority for the Chamber. We supported Bill 59 (2023), which established City real property tax incentives for qualifying film studio facilities, and strongly supported SB 2580, signed into law on July 6, 2026, as Act 185. Together, these measures strengthen the foundation for attracting productions, supporting local hiring and growing Hawai'i's creative economy. Advancing this facility is the critical next step in translating that policy support into infrastructure, business opportunities and local jobs.

The proposed project would establish a 34-acre film and media production campus in Kapolei, with \$125 million in private financing planned for Phase 1. This initial phase would include four sound stages totaling 72,000 square feet, production offices, a construction mill and retail/commercial space, with additional production capacity and supporting uses planned for future phases. This represents a significant opportunity to attract private investment while advancing public goals for economic diversification, education and workforce development.

For West O‘ahu, the benefits extend well beyond the studio itself. Film and television productions generate demand for restaurants, caterers, transportation companies, equipment suppliers, construction trades, cleaning services and other local businesses. A purpose-built production campus would strengthen our region’s capacity to support productions and create opportunities across a broad range of occupations, from set construction and costuming to camera operations and post-production.

West O‘ahu’s growth must be accompanied by meaningful employment opportunities. Our residents need access to well-paying careers closer to home, and our small businesses need new sources of sustained economic activity. This project supports the longstanding vision of Kapolei as O‘ahu’s Second City by expanding employment and business opportunities alongside residential growth.

The proposed location across from UH West O‘ahu’s Academy for Creative Media creates an especially compelling connection between education and industry. A working production facility could provide students with internships, hands-on learning, professional mentorship and direct pathways into careers here in Hawai‘i. These opportunities can help our young people build their futures at home and create pathways for skilled Hawai‘i residents to return.

The City and State have taken important steps to support this industry. Continued delay risks losing the investment, workforce opportunities and business activity those efforts were intended to encourage. We respectfully urge the Board of Regents and University leadership to prioritize the remaining agreements and approvals necessary to advance the project without further delay. **That effort should include a clear timeline for resolving outstanding matters and moving the project forward. Our businesses, students and working families need timely action that delivers tangible opportunities.**

For these reasons, the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce strongly supports Resolution 26-211, CD1, and respectfully urges its adoption and prompt action to advance this vital project.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Kiran Polk
Executive Director & CEO