



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology
and
Higher Education
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By
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SB 1191 – RELATING TO FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Chairs Wakai and Kahele, Vice Chairs Taniguchi and Kidani, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 1191. This bill extends the motion picture, digital media, and film production income tax credit sunset date to January 1, 2029. This bill permits productions claiming the credit to contribute to creative media programs within the University of Hawai'i, and the University of Hawai'i to submit annual reports to the legislature on how the contributions are spent.

The University of Hawai'i supports this bill in that funding could be directed to the Academy for Creative Media (ACM) to offset costs for this program that benefits all creative media students across UH's ten campuses. ACM within the UH system of campuses began as a program on a single campus. The program has evolved into a burgeoning multi-campus, systemwide program designed as a catalyst for developing 21st century jobs in the global creative marketplace right here in Hawai'i and a platform for our indigenous stories to be told through cinema, video games and transmedia to the broadest possible audience.

This potential funding would provide UH students in creative media more opportunities to obtain world class instruction, improve their experience while in the program and equip them with the tools and knowledge to become successful in the 21st century environment. Equally important would be the positive effect this funding could provide for the University to develop a strong workforce for a growing industry in our State.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.