



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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SCR 170/SR 84 – URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO CREATE A PLAN TO DEVELOP THE WEST OAHU CREATIVE LAB AND TO RELOCATE THE HAWAII FILM STUDIO TO WEST OAHU AND URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS TO APPROVE A CERTAIN TRANSFER OF LAND.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SCR 170/SR 84. These resolutions urge the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) to create a plan to develop a West O'ahu Creative Lab and to relocate the Hawai'i Film Studio to West O'ahu. It also urges the University of Hawai'i ("University") Board of Regents to approve a land transfer to High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) to relocate the Hawai'i Film Studio to West O'ahu.

The University supports the development of a West O'ahu Creative Lab and the relocation of the Hawai'i Film Studio to West O'ahu. To that end, it is currently working with DBEDT to identify a site at its West O'ahu campus that can support such facility, while also integrating it with the campus's academic and student success programs.

The University, however, is not in favor of transferring title to HTDC. Transferring title disrupts the contiguous nature of the campus by carving out a parcel in the middle of its property, which can lead to the disruption of campus planning and operations as well as a devaluation of its current land holdings. We strongly believe, however, this Resolution can be successfully accomplished through a long-term lease or other long-term instrument.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.