Testimony presented before the
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology and
Senate Committee on Education
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SB 1132: RELATING TO DIGITAL MEDIA

Chairs Fukunaga and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Wakai and Kidani and members of the Senate Committees on Economic Development and Technology and Education:

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1132 that establishes a workforce development tax credit for digital media businesses located in digital media enterprise subzones, defined in the bill as geographic areas around a University of Hawai'i campus, and specifically limited to University of Hawai'i (UH) West O'ahu subzones from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013.

The University of Hawai'i intends to extend digital media programs to UH West O'ahu and supports the effort of this bill to assist the campus in its development. While we are not in a position to comment on the implications of the tax credit proposal, we have recognized a need to expand the University's digital media programs to include the establishment of an applied baccalaureate degree in this area at UH West O'ahu. In the past year the UH system and campuses have held a series of systemwide academic planning meetings around the development of program pathways tied to creative media.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.