
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CREATIVE MEDIA.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in 2007, emerging
2 creative media programs at the University of Hawaii academy for
3 creative media, at Waianae high school, or within a broad range
4 of multidisciplinary programs like Project EAST on the neighbor
5 islands have now achieved a specific level of achievements to
6 evaluate their performance in the context of what a globally-
7 integrated economy requires. As pointed out by New York Times
8 columnist Thomas Friedman, in an op-ed commentary endorsing the
9 National Center on Education and the Economy's report: "We need
10 to radically overhaul . . . an education system designed in the
11 1900's for people to do 'routine work' and refocus it on
12 producing people who can imagine things that have never been
13 available before, who can create ingenious marketing and sales
14 campaigns, write books, build furniture, make movies and design
15 software that will capture people's imaginations and become
16 indispensable for millions" (December 13, 2006, *New York Times*).



1 Just as Waianae Searider Productions has demonstrated the
2 transformational power of multi-media literacy to engage our
3 most at-risk students, and Project EAST students have
4 distinguished themselves in national competitions with their
5 homegrown science-technology and multimedia skills, Hawaii has
6 the opportunity to establish itself as a true "crossroads of the
7 Pacific" in the field of creative media.

8 The legislature further finds that since being approved by
9 the University of Hawaii board of regents three years ago, the
10 academy for creative media is the fastest growing new program at
11 the University of Hawaii. For spring 2007, one hundred seventy-
12 six enrolled students (including sixty majors) filled two
13 hundred seventy-five seats in twenty of the thirty-two new
14 courses in film production, screenwriting, indigenous
15 filmmaking, computer animation, critical studies, and video game
16 design. More than three hundred fifty original short films and
17 video games have been written, directed, and produced by
18 students that reflect their unique diversity and backgrounds.
19 Over forty-eight student films were screened at film festivals
20 from Atlanta to Shanghai, including the Hawaii International
21 Film Festival 2004-2006. Students are offered internship
22 opportunities with major motion picture productions (*Superman*



1 Returns) and television shows (*LOST* and local morning news
2 shows), and have opportunities to showcase their work on local
3 television, such as commercials for Toyota/Scion of Hawaii,
4 which were entirely produced by students.

5 Since its inception, the academy for creative media has
6 been responsible for raising and funding all of its own
7 operating expenses outside of faculty salaries and basic office
8 overhead. This has meant providing all of the funding for
9 hardware, software, computers, cameras, sound equipment, editing
10 equipment, etc. In its first three years, the academy for
11 creative media raised over \$1,481,000 to support the students
12 and program.

13 The school also received gifts from generous donors and
14 supporters to build and install the school's animation render
15 farm, a bank of over fifty computers that efficiently converts,
16 assigns, and monitors animation projects. The system is
17 available for all campuses on all islands via the Internet, and
18 is currently being used by the Manoa, Leeward, and Kapiolani
19 campuses, as well as Waianae Seariders Production. Additional
20 funds were also raised from the Kellogg Foundation, to quadruple
21 the capacity of the animation render farm project to provide
22 system-wide animation computing power, via the Internet, to
23 digital media programs on all of the University of Hawaii



1 campuses and Hawaii public schools at all levels. Furthermore,
2 a \$500,000 federal grant was received for the school to produce
3 an original documentary on statehood, which is currently in
4 post-production.

5 In spite of its success, the academy for creative media is
6 without a central facility or permanent home on any campus and
7 does not receive any funding for programmatic needs outside of
8 faculty salaries. Yet it contributes significantly to economic
9 development in the State and a first-rate University of Hawaii
10 system.

11 For the foregoing reasons, the legislature determines that
12 the establishment of an academy for creative media within the
13 University of Hawaii is an issue of statewide concern.

14 The purpose of this Act is to further enhance the growth of
15 the academy for creative media, which is contributing
16 successfully to Hawaii's economic development, as well as
17 providing creative career and business opportunities for students
18 from throughout the State, by:

19 (1) Establishing the academy for creative media at the
20 University of Hawaii west Oahu campus; and



1 (2) Amending Act 11, Special Session of 2007, to delete
2 the provisions relating to a lease of the PBS Hawaii
3 facility.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding a new section to part IV, subpart M, to be
6 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

7 **"§304A- Academy for creative media program; established.**

8 (a) There is established within the University of Hawaii the
9 academy for creative media program, which shall be administered
10 by the University of Hawaii at west Oahu. The mission of the
11 academy for creative media program shall be to emphasize
12 narrative, or story telling, theories, skills, and application
13 across multiple platforms of digital media and within a context
14 of cultural and aesthetic values, by empowering students to tell
15 their own stories of Hawai'i, the Pacific, and Asia, through a
16 unique program in indigenous filmmaking.

17 (b) The academy for creative media program shall
18 coordinate its offerings at University of Hawaii campuses
19 statewide, and shall encourage and support mentor opportunities
20 at all school levels throughout the State."

21 SECTION 3. Act 11, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, is
22 amended by amending part II to read as follows:



1 "PART II

2 SECTION 2. Since being approved by the University of
3 Hawaii board of regents three years ago, the academy for
4 creative media is the fastest growing new program at the
5 University of Hawaii. For spring 2007, [~~with~~] one hundred
6 seventy-six enrolled students (including sixty majors) [~~who~~
7 ~~fill~~] filled two hundred seventy-five seats in twenty of the
8 thirty-two new courses in film production, screenwriting,
9 indigenous filmmaking, computer animation, critical studies, and
10 video game design. More than three hundred fifty original short
11 films and video games have been written, directed, and produced
12 by students that reflect their unique diversity and backgrounds.
13 Over forty-eight student films were screened at film festivals
14 from Atlanta to Shanghai, including the Hawaii International
15 Film Festival 2004-2006. Students are offered internship
16 opportunities with major motion picture productions (*Superman*
17 *Returns*) and television shows (*LOST* and local morning news
18 shows), and have opportunities to showcase their work on local
19 television, such as commercials for Toyota/Scion of Hawaii,
20 which were entirely produced by students.

21 Since its inception, the academy for creative media has
22 been responsible for raising and funding all of its own



1 operating expenses outside of faculty salaries and basic office
2 overhead. This has meant providing all of the funding for
3 hardware, software, computers, cameras, sound equipment, editing
4 equipment, etc. Overall, the academy for creative media has
5 raised over \$1,481,000 to support the students and program.

6 The school recently received a total of \$200,000 that was
7 privately raised or gifts from generous donors and supporters to
8 build and install the school's animation render farm, a bank of
9 over fifty computers that efficiently converts, assigns, and
10 monitors animation projects. The system is available for all
11 campuses on all islands via the Internet, and is currently being
12 used by the Manoa, Leeward, and Kapiolani campuses, as well as
13 Waianae Seariders Production. An additional \$146,500 has been
14 raised from the Kellogg Foundation, to quadruple the capacity of
15 the animation render farm project to provide system-wide
16 animation computing power, via the Internet, to digital media
17 programs on all of the University of Hawaii campuses and Hawaii
18 public schools at all levels. Furthermore, a \$500,000 federal
19 grant was received for the school to produce an original
20 documentary on statehood, which is currently in post-production.

21 In spite of its success, the academy for creative media is
22 without a central facility or permanent home on any campus and



1 does not receive any funding for programmatic needs outside of
2 faculty salaries.

3 The purpose of this part is to[+

4 ~~(1) Authorize the academy for creative media to designate~~
5 ~~the existing public broadcasting system (PBS Hawaii)~~
6 ~~facility and studio located on the University of~~
7 ~~Hawaii at Manoa campus as an interim home; and~~

8 ~~(2) Appropriate] appropriate funds for the [purposes of~~
9 ~~this part.] academy for creative media programs.~~

10 SECTION 3. [~~(a) The existing public broadcasting facility~~
11 ~~and studio located on the University of Hawaii at Manoa campus~~
12 ~~shall be leased to PBS Hawaii for a term of not less than~~
13 ~~thirty five years. The lease agreement shall include the~~
14 ~~following:~~

15 ~~(1) PBS Hawaii shall be responsible for renovation and~~
16 ~~construction of any additional space to the existing~~
17 ~~facility located at 2350 Dole street;~~

18 ~~(2) PBS Hawaii shall provide an interim home for the~~
19 ~~academy for creative media in space equal to forty per~~
20 ~~cent of the net usable square footage of the facility,~~
21 ~~including any newly constructed space; provided that~~
22 ~~the academy for creative media shall occupy an~~



1 ~~exclusive space with no common areas with PBS Hawaii~~
2 ~~and shall be the only subtenant at the facility;~~

3 ~~(3) PBS Hawaii shall be responsible for the annual~~
4 ~~maintenance and operating costs of the building and~~
5 ~~shall continue to pay for the costs attributed to the~~
6 ~~academy for creative media based on current~~
7 ~~allocations of cost to square footage;~~

8 ~~(4) The University of Hawaii shall expend at least~~
9 ~~\$4,870,000, as appropriated in section 3 of this Act,~~
10 ~~for equipment and installation suitable for the~~
11 ~~academy for creative media programs, costs associated~~
12 ~~with handicapped compliance, and common area spaces,~~
13 ~~and~~

14 ~~(5) A written memorandum of understanding of the above~~
15 ~~conditions shall be executed between the University of~~
16 ~~Hawaii at Manoa and PBS Hawaii in 2007.~~

17 ~~(b) PBS Hawaii shall share the long term use of the~~
18 ~~building without cost, apart from the costs under subsection~~
19 ~~(a) (1), (2), and (3); provided that if PBS Hawaii is no longer a~~
20 ~~public broadcasting system affiliate in good standing, or is no~~
21 ~~longer licensed by the Federal Communications Commission as~~



1 ~~either a community or university licensee, the facility shall be~~
2 ~~returned to the University of Hawaii at Manoa.~~

3 ~~SECTION 4.]~~ There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,870,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and
6 \$2,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
7 year 2008-2009 for the [~~equipment and installation suitable for~~
8 ~~the]~~ academy for creative media programs[~~, costs associated with~~
9 ~~handicapped compliance, and common area spaces of the PBS Hawaii~~
10 ~~facility and studio]~~.

11 The appropriation made for the [~~equipment and installation~~
12 ~~for the]~~ academy for creative media programs authorized by this
13 part shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year for which the
14 appropriation is made; provided that all moneys from the
15 appropriation unencumbered as of June 30, 2009, shall lapse as
16 of that date.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
18 Hawaii for the purposes of this part."

19 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

2

INTRODUCED BY:

J. Nik. Karamatos

JAN 23 2008



Report Title:

Academy for Creative Media Program; Established;

Description:

Establishes the academy for creative media program in statute under the University of Hawaii at west Oahu; amends Act 11, special session 2007, to delete all references to a lease agreement with PBS Hawaii.

