

# L A T E

**Subject:** Please pass Senate Bill SB2480

I am writing to express strong support for SB2480 - Relating to Technology Workforce and Development.

My name is Charleen Ego, and I have been the digital media teacher at Kawanānakoā Middle School for over 12 years. I teach about 250 students every year, and this year I have an after-school Technology Club with over 30 students. For the past five years, my students have placed first or have been in the top five positions in local and national video contests. This includes the Island Movie Contest, Olelo Youth Xchange Video Contest, HMSA Teen Video Award, Student Television Network Convention, Hawaii Student Film Festival and Scholastic Art Award.

The reason Senate Bill SB2480 is so important to Hawaii is that the legislature has an opportunity to make a positive impact on education. Especially at the middle school level where students have short attention span, are developing the ability to think abstractly and generalize, are beginning to think about their future, and are willing to attached themselves to activities that motivate and interest them, digital media production has become a powerful and effective learning experience for learners of all types and ability. With our digital media program, students have had the opportunity to travel to the Student Television Network Convention held in Anaheim, California. All twelve students who spent countless hours with their teacher fundraising and training after school for the convention's competitions learned very valuable lifelong skills. All of the students said they wanted to come back to the convention to learn more! The same is true for all the other contest projects the students worked on. The students were motivated to do their best work and to put in that extra time and effort.

Unfortunately, the digital media program does come with a price. Every year we are short of computers, camcorders, video cameras, digital cameras, rechargeable batteries, microphones, tripods, printers, toner ink and software. We also lack travel funds for the Student Television Network Convention.

By passing SB2480 to include expanding Creative Digital Media, you can help create a thriving world for our future leaders of tomorrow. I would like to thank all of the committee members for considering this testimony.

Charleen Ego  
Digital Media Teacher  
Kawanānakoā Middle School  
49 Funchal Street  
Honolulu Hawaii 96813  
(808) 587-4430 ext. 285

Good Morning Chairs of the Committees and members,

My name is Glenn Prieto, a Business and Digital Media teacher at Maui High School, and I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 2480 Relating to Technology Workforce and Development.

The Department of Education funding only goes so far and many times does not cover many of the projects and programs that we would like to pursue. Many of the expenditures include travel, equipment and supplies expenses. This bill proposes to add funding support to such creative media initiatives but should include existing media programs such as our program at Maui High School and others across the state.

In recent years there has been much discussion on the need to diversify Hawaii's economy. The creative media programs and initiatives can be another catalyst for the film industry and perhaps help grow the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii, keeping our talented award winning students here in Hawaii.

I dreamed of earning 6-digit salaries as a top business executive but passed that up to work as a public servant at the City Council and here at the Legislature. I once walked the halls here beside you and sat with some of you discussing bills just like this appropriations bill. My life's reality turned out different from what I dreamt. A part of me has a crazy dream to one day be a public servant in a capacity like all of you. For now I am a teacher. That is my story.

We recently returned from the Student Television Network Convention in Anaheim, California; this year's theme was "Tell the Story" and many students represented Hawaii well and brought home awards. Our students tell the story of many people through a very different creative medium, digital media and film. I have a story and I am sure all of you have a story. Our students will be able to continue to tell stories, perhaps their next story will begin with your support and passage of this bill.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Will Espero, Vice-chair  
Committee on Economic Development and Taxation

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice-chair  
Committee on Education

Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice-chair  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Maui High School  
Saturday, February 02, 2008

#### Support of SB 2480, Relating to Technology Workforce and Development

My name is Glenn Prieto, a Business and Digital Media teacher at Maui High School, and I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 2480 (SB2480) Relating to Technology Workforce and Development.

The Department of Education (DOE) funding does not cover many of the projects that we would like to pursue. Many of the expenditures include travel, equipment and supplies expenses. This bill proposes to add funding support for creative media initiatives but should include existing media programs such as our program at Maui High School and others across the state.

It is common knowledge that funding is not endless, therefore our programs are continuously searching for new sources. Fundraising, such as huli-huli chicken, plate lunches, and chili, requires a lot of time and effort, time and effort that can be spent with assisting students and our programs. The appropriations through this bill will relieve teachers of worrying about funding and concentrating on our primary duties.

The teachers of the existing creative media programs work collaboratively towards the common goal of securing funding for the success of our programs. Expansion and other initiatives through creative media will be possible with the funding support from this bill. Our programs can lead into careers in digital media, helping to diversify Hawaii's economy into the film industry and helping to grow higher education programs such as the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii. The existence of a film industry and opportunities in digital media will encourage our very talented students to stay here in Hawaii.

In adding funding support to creative media programs, many existing programs and new initiatives will be able to fund travel, equipment and supplies expenses not covered by the DOE. The creative media programs throughout the state are working collaboratively and diligently towards the success of our programs and students' future in the field of digital media, helping film industry here in Hawaii, keeping them home and contributing to our economy and society. I urge the committees to pass SB2480. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.