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RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 3168

My name is Benjamin Leong, I am a co-owner of BlueWater Multimedia, a visual effects company based in Honolulu, and a product of the Academy of Creative Media program. I am here today to testify on behalf of ACM both as a former student as well as an employer in this marketplace.

UH's ACM program has given me the tools and knowledge to develop my creative abilities in working with digital technology. ACM has provided me a foundation I would have otherwise been unable to cultivate with the current resources available in Hawai'i. The set of technical, storytelling, and networking skills I have learned from ACM, has enable me to head multimedia projects for a number of local and national companies. You may have seen some of the commercials we have participated in producing for HECO, AIG, Taco Bell, Bank of Hawaii, and the list continues to grow.

ACM provides the knowledge to keep these projects within Hawaii.

As an owner of a company in this industry, I know the dilemma employers have in hiring qualified applicants with the technical skills required to work within this environment. Continued and additional funding for this program will help to assure that this industry can strive and grow. We need to provide our local and creative minds with the tools to develop their skills. Thank You for your time.

Ben Leong
Ben C.Y. Leong
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LATE TESTIMONY

R. Scott Belford
P.O. Box 2644
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Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Committee on Education
Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229
Saturday, February 2, 2008

Re: 3168 – Relating to Creative Media

Esteemed Chairs

I am in support of SB 3168. Our blossoming Creative Media academy needs a permanent home, and I encourage your support of this and any initiative that facilitates this.

I will observe for you that the 'render farms' referred to in this legislation can be easily constituted with previously discarded but still functional computers to form the needed cluster. This is nearly Free.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Scott Belford", written in a cursive style.

R. Scott Belford