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LATE TESTIMONY

March 17, 2008

Honorable Representatives Ryan Yamane and Kyle Yamashita, Chairs and Members
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS CONCERNS
COMMITTEE TOURISM AND CULTURE
State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Chairs Yamane and Yamashita, and Members of the Committees:

Subject: S.B 3168 SD 1 RELATING TO CREATIVE MEDIA.

I am Dean Uchida, Vice President—Ho'opili, D.R. Horton, Schuler Division. We have been involved in building homes for first time home buyers in Hawaii since the 1980's.

S.B. No. 3168 SD 1 proposes to further enhance the growth of the academy for creative media, which is contributing successfully to Hawaii's economic development, as well as providing creative career and business opportunities for students from throughout the State, by establishing the academy for creative media at the University of Hawaii west Oahu campus.

Over three decades ago, city planners set out to create a "second" or "new" city in West Oahu to provide residents an alternative to living and working in downtown Honolulu. They wisely foresaw early on that if Oahu was going to thrive and compete at a world-class level, a second major primary employment center and supporting harbor system would be vital to its success.

Efforts are now underway to complete this vision of creating a dense urban core within Ewa. The new University of Hawaii at West Oahu campus is being constructed and will serve as one of the major focal points in the region. Establishing the Creative Media Center at the University's West Oahu campus will provided much needed career opportunities to for the next generation, many of whom live in the region and have shown a propensity to excel in this digital media industry.

Finally, having a strong research/education base will surely create opportunities for commercial users and with it, a growth of quality jobs in the region.

We are in strong support of S.B. No. 3168 SD 1.

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to testify on this resolution.