
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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, Waianae high school, and a broad range of
4 multidisciplinary programs such as Project EAST on the neighbor
5 islands have achieved a specific level of achievement to
6 evaluate their performance in the context of what a globally-
7 integrated economy requires.

8 As pointed out by *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman
9 in an op-ed commentary endorsing the National Center on
10 Education and the Economy's report: "We need to radically
11 overhaul ... an education system designed in the 1900's for
12 people to do 'routine work' and refocus it on producing people
13 who can imagine things that have never been available before,
14 who can create ingenious marketing and sales campaigns, write
15 books, build furniture, make movies and design software that
16 will capture people's imaginations and become indispensable for
17 millions" (December 13, 2006, *New York Times*).

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

8 The legislature further finds that since being approved by
9 the University of Hawaii board of regents four years ago, the
10 academy for creative media program is the fastest-growing new
11 program at the University of Hawaii. For spring 2007, one
12 hundred seventy-six enrolled students, including sixty majors,
13 filled two hundred seventy-five seats in twenty of the thirty-
14 two new courses in film production, screenwriting, indigenous
15 filmmaking, computer animation, critical studies, and video game
16 design.

17 More than three hundred fifty original short films and
18 video games have been written, directed, and produced by
19 students that reflect their unique diversity and backgrounds.
20 Over forty-eight student films were screened at film festivals
21 from Atlanta to Shanghai, including the Hawaii International
22 Film Festival 2004-2006. Students are also offered internship

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

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

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

1 system-wide animation computing power, via the Internet, to
2 digital media programs on all of the University of Hawaii
3 campuses and Hawaii public schools at all levels. Furthermore,
4 a \$500,000 federal grant was received for the school to produce
5 an original documentary on statehood, which is currently in
6 post-production.

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

13 For these reasons, the legislature finds that the
14 establishment of an academy for creative media program within
15 the University of Hawaii is an issue of statewide concern. The
16 program is an integral component of the State's economic
17 development goals and objectives to support clean industries and
18 to encourage and develop local talent. The program also
19 represents the cornerstone of the State's economic development
20 of the Kapolei-west Oahu region.

21 The purpose of this Act is to enhance the role of the
22 academy for creative media program in the State's economic

1 development plans to develop a skilled workforce to support
2 digital media production sound stages, post-production services,
3 and related businesses in the west Oahu region, as well as
4 providing creative career and business opportunities for
5 students from this State, by:

6 (1) Establishing the academy for creative media program at
7 the University of Hawaii and specifying its management
8 structure; and

9 (2) Amending Act 11, First Special Session of 2007, to
10 delete provisions relating to leasing the Public Broadcasting
11 System Hawaii facility.

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

15 **"§304A- Academy for creative media program;**
16 **established.** (a) There is established within the University of
17 Hawaii the academy for creative media program, which shall be a
18 system-wide, statewide program administered by the University of
19 Hawaii. The academy for creative media program shall offer
20 courses and confer degrees as deemed appropriate and as
21 authorized by the board, including certificate programs, and
22 associate's, bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees. The

1 mission of the academy for creative media program shall be to
2 emphasize narrative or storytelling, theories, skills, and
3 applications across multiple platforms of digital media and
4 within a context of cultural and aesthetic values by empowering
5 students to tell their own stories of Hawaii, the Pacific, and
6 Asia, through a unique program in indigenous filmmaking.

7 (b) The creative director of the academy for creative
8 media program shall have training and experience in creative
9 media, including the film and digital media industry or other
10 related creative fields; knowledge and experience in both the
11 creative and production components of creative media; and
12 international resources and experience in these areas. The
13 creative director shall be responsible for the broad oversight,
14 direction, and management of the academy for creative media
15 program.

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

21 SECTION 3. Act 11, First Special Session Laws of Hawaii

22 2007, is 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 program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa is
5 the fastest growing new program at the University of Hawaii.
6 [~~For spring 2007, with one hundred seventy-six enrolled students~~
7 ~~(including sixty majors) who fill two hundred seventy-five seats~~
8 ~~in twenty of the thirty-two new courses in film production,~~
9 ~~screenwriting, indigenous filmmaking, computer animation,~~
10 ~~critical studies, and video game design. More than three~~
11 ~~hundred fifty original short films and video games have been~~
12 ~~written, directed, and produced by students that reflect their~~
13 ~~unique diversity and backgrounds. Over forty-eight student~~
14 ~~films were screened at film festivals from Atlanta to Shanghai,~~
15 ~~including the Hawaii International Film Festival 2004-2006.~~
16 ~~Students are offered internship opportunities with major motion~~
17 ~~picture productions (*Superman Returns*) and television shows~~
18 ~~(*LOST* and local morning news shows), and have opportunities to~~
19 ~~showcase their work on local television, such as commercials for~~
20 ~~Toyota/Scion of Hawaii, which were entirely produced by~~
21 ~~students.~~

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

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

1 ~~documentary on statehood, which is currently in post-~~
2 ~~production.]~~

3 In spite of its success, the academy for creative media
4 program is without a central facility or permanent home on any
5 campus and does not receive any funding for programmatic needs
6 [~~outside of~~] other than for faculty salaries.

7 The purpose of this part is to[÷

- 8 ~~(1) Authorize the academy for creative media to designate~~
9 ~~the existing public broadcasting system (PBS Hawaii)~~
10 ~~facility and studio located on the University of~~
11 ~~Hawaii at Manoa campus as an interim home; and~~
12 ~~(2) Appropriate] appropriate funds for the [~~purposes of~~~~
13 ~~this part.] academy for creative media program.~~

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

- 19 ~~(1) PBS Hawaii shall be responsible for renovation and~~
20 ~~construction of any additional space to the existing~~
21 ~~facility located at 2350 Dole street;~~

- 1 ~~(2) PBS Hawaii shall provide an interim home for the~~
2 ~~academy for creative media in space equal to forty per~~
3 ~~cent of the net usable square footage of the facility,~~
4 ~~including any newly constructed space; provided that~~
5 ~~the academy for creative media shall occupy an~~
6 ~~exclusive space with no common areas with PBS Hawaii~~
7 ~~and shall be the only subtenant at the facility;~~
- 8 ~~(3) PBS Hawaii shall be responsible for the annual~~
9 ~~maintenance and operating costs of the building and~~
10 ~~shall continue to pay for the costs attributed to the~~
11 ~~academy for creative media based on current~~
12 ~~allocations of cost to square footage;~~
- 13 ~~(4) The University of Hawaii shall expend at least~~
14 ~~\$4,870,000, as appropriated in section 3 of this Act,~~
15 ~~for equipment and installation suitable for the~~
16 ~~academy for creative media programs, costs associated~~
17 ~~with handicapped compliance, and common area spaces;~~
18 ~~and~~
- 19 ~~(5) A written memorandum of understanding of the above~~
20 ~~conditions shall be executed between the University of~~
21 ~~Hawaii at Manoa and PBS Hawaii in 2007.~~

1 ~~(b) PBS Hawaii shall share the long-term use of the~~
2 ~~building without cost, apart from the costs under subsection~~
3 ~~(a) (1), (2), and (3); provided that if PBS Hawaii is no longer a~~
4 ~~public broadcasting system affiliate in good standing, or is no~~
5 ~~longer licensed by the Federal Communications Commission as~~
6 ~~either a community or university licensee, the facility shall be~~
7 ~~returned to the University of Hawaii at Manoa.~~

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

17 The appropriation made for the [~~equipment and installation~~
18 ~~for the]~~ academy for creative media [~~programs]~~ program
19 authorized by this part shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal
20 year for which the appropriation is made; provided that all
21 moneys from the appropriation unencumbered as of June 30, 2011,
22 shall lapse as of that date.

1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
2 Hawaii for the purposes of this part~~[-]~~; provided that funds
3 shall be expended to expand programs and facilities of the
4 academy for creative media program at a system-wide, statewide
5 level administered by the University of Hawaii pursuant to
6 section 304A- , Hawaii Revised Statutes; provided further that
7 the expansion of programs and facilities of the academy for
8 creative media program shall be directed to the University of
9 Hawaii-west Oahu campus."

10 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on June 29, 2009.

13

Report Title:

Economic Development; Academy for Creative Media Program

Description:

Establishes the system-wide, statewide academy for creative media program to support economic development in Hawaii. Deletes all references to a lease agreement with PBS Hawaii, and provides that funds shall be expended to expand the programs and facilities of the academy for creative media program at a system-wide, statewide level directed to UH-West Oahu.