

LATE TESTIMONY

HAWAII FILM & ENTERTAINMENT BOARD



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Screen Actors Guild*

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*Art Umezu
Kauai Film Commission*

*Randall Young
I.B.E.W., Local 1260*

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION and BUSINESS

February 8, 2010 - 8:00 am -- State Capitol, Conference Room 312

RE: HB 986 -- RELATING TO TELEVISION AND FILM PRODUCTION

Dear Chair McKelvey and Vice-Chair Choy, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Film and Entertainment Board, whose members include all of the film industry labor unions, associations and film commissions, **supports the intent of the measure**, to find monies for the Creative Industries Division and specifically the film program to operate, **but has some concerns** and offers these additional comments.

We support portion of of DBEDT's testimony, which asks to allow the Hawaii Film Office / CID to **collect the monies paid for the Hawaii Film Studio into a special fund to help offset the cost and maintenance of the facility as well as Hawaii Film Office operations**. Additionally, we support the portion of DBEDT's testimony that seeks to **create a nominal application fee for applying for Act 88 and that those monies be placed in the same special fund as the film studio revenues**.

We do have concerns however about a per permit charge being instituted at the **Hawaii Film Office**. State agencies already charge permitting fees for the issuance of a film permit so an additional film permit processing fee, on top of what the agency fees are, would amount to charging the applicant twice for the issuance of a permit. The vast majority of permits issued are to small local companies and we believe that this **double-fee consequence would be a burden**.

We would ask that a cost-benefit analysis be done regarding the individual permit fee charge as we believe it will most likely cost the state more money to create and run than can be anticipated in return, and have another negative consequence:

The main source of data collection for the industry -- where it is headed and how it is growing -- is through the permitting process. The process now is a clean, simple and cost-effective for production so they often file permits to 'cover themselves' even though they might not film on state property. This allows the CID to capture a large amount of data in an efficient manner. If onerous fees were put in place, it would be counterproductive and, in the long run, cost the state more money requiring different and more costly measures to gather data.