



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committees on
Higher Education

And

Economic Revitalization & Business

April 19, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

by

John Morton

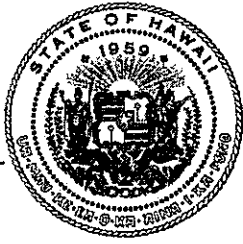
Vice President for Community Colleges, University of Hawai'i

SCR 36, SD2 REQUESTING DEVELOPMENT OF A PLAN TO EXAMINE THE LONG-TERM USES OF THE HAWAII FILM STUDIO DIAMOND HEAD CAMPUS

Chairs Nishimoto and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Nakashima and Choy and Members of the Committees:

Kapi'olani Community College supports SCR36, SD2 to develop, in collaboration with the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism and the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, a plan for the expansion of the Hawai'i Film Studio to accommodate increased studio capacity. As part of its mission, i.e., to use human, physical, technological and financial resources effectively and efficiently to achieve ambitious educational goals and generate a solid return on the public's investment for a sustainable future; and to build partnerships within the University and with other educational, governmental, business, and non-profit organizations to support improved lifelong learning, the college is well positioned to participate in offering alternatives for expansion in this area.

The College supports the efforts of DBEDT to increase the economic stability of the State's economy by increasing its capacity to promote the film and television industry on O'ahu and Kapi'olani Community College is a willing partner to develop a plan that complements the College's LRDP and promotes synergies with our academic programs.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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GOVERNOR

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Statement of
RICHARD C. LIM
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AND BUSINESS**

Thursday, April 19, 2012

3 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

in consideration of

SCR 36, SD 2

**REQUESTING DEVELOPMENT OF A PLAN TO EXAMINE THE LONG-TERM USES OF
THE HAWAII FILM STUDIO DIAMOND HEAD CAMPUS.**

Chairs Nishimoto and McKelvey, and Members of the Committees.

The Department **supports SCR 36, SD 2**, which requests DBEDT to work collaboratively with industry, the University of Hawaii, Kapiolani Community College, the Hawaii Tourism Authority, and community groups, to develop a plan to examine the long-term uses of the Hawaii Film Studio Diamond Head campus.

We appreciate the efforts of the Legislature to insert language that calls for the protection of the State's significant investment in this important facility--\$17 million to date. We also appreciate the request to include in the 2013 supplemental budget the full CIP request of \$3.45 million to protect that investment which will allow DBEDT to provide much-needed repairs, general maintenance and basic improvements to this aging facility.

The Hawaii Film Studio Diamond Head campus will continue to serve as an ideal location for television and commercial productions taking place in the State. Taking into consideration the concerns of community interests in the surrounding neighborhood, the plan will help us better understand the limitations of the current site for feature film productions and potentially identify other possible locations where a much larger, comprehensive facility would be more appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**House Committee on Higher Education
House Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Joint Hearing**

**April 19, 2012
3:00 PM**

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 36
“Requesting Development of a Plan to
Examine the Long-Term Uses of the
Hawaii Film Studio Diamond Head Campus”**

Aloha Chairs Nishimoto and McKelvey, and Joint Committee Members:

This testimony provides comments of concern respecting to SCR 36:

The present film studio's limited campus was originally a taking of the Kapi'olani Community College campus for unrelated industrial purposes. This film studio is a huge warehouse structure blighting a significant view plane of the Diamond Head State Monument and National Natural Landmark. Should the present film studio be “expanded to accommodate increased studio activity,” this will necessitate a further and conceivably larger taking of the KCC campus that is vitally needed for educating and fulfilling the needs of a vast range of our community college student population.

It is important to point out that during an informational briefing in January, Senator Espero inquired about the progress of establishing a state-of-the-art film and media complex in the vicinity of West Oahu, where there is adequate space and open topography suitable for such a complex. This expanded commercial film and media complex is best suited for West Oahu, where adequate space and increased accessibility can be provided for it to grow as a physical plant and prosperously flourish. Further, with the advent of the Aulani Disney resort the film industry may find a key ally and well-suited accommodations.

The Hawaii film studio has outgrown its limited area adjacent to the KCC campus. Caution must be exercised to avoid carelessly rekindling and compounding the mistakes of the past in the vicinity of Diamond Head without consideration of existing constraints or appropriate solutions for the future.

SCR 36, SD2 allows for consideration a more appropriate location for an expanded stat-of-the-are film and media complex by recognizing “the impacts of continued production activity or proposed alternative uses on adjacent neighborhoods,” and requests interested and affected entities to “examine the long-term uses of the Hawaii Film Studio Diamond Head campus.” Toward that objective, included with the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; the University of Hawaii, Kapiolani Community College; and the Hawaii Tourism Authority should also be representatives of the Division of State Parks and the Diamond Head Citizens Advisory Committee. In addition, please include the Diamond Head Citizens Advisory Committee and the Diamond Head State Monument Foundation with the list of recipients receiving copies of the subject Resolution in its final form.

Respectfully,
Michelle Spalding Matson, Founding Board Member
Diamond Head State Monument Foundation