
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CREATIVE MEDIA DEVELOPMENT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the film and digital
2 media industries in Hawaii are important components of a
3 diversified economy and that their financial impact can be
4 strengthened significantly if existing incentives for the
5 industries are adjusted.

6 The legislature also finds that nearly every country and
7 state has implemented tax incentives to attract film and digital
8 media productions. These jurisdictions have experienced
9 dramatic increases in spending and significant growth in
10 workforce and infrastructure development. More productions in
11 Hawaii would stimulate more direct and indirect tax revenue.

12 The legislature further finds that it is desirable to
13 provide incentives to the film and digital media industries to
14 encourage similar dramatic growth in Hawaii because the film and
15 digital media industries:

16 (1) Infuse significant amounts of new money into the
17 economy, which are dispersed across many communities



1 and businesses and which benefit a wide array of
2 residents;

3 (2) Create skilled, high-paying jobs;

4 (3) Have a natural dynamic synergy with Hawaii's top
5 industry (tourism) and are used as a destination
6 marketing tool for the visitor industry; and

7 (4) Are clean, nonpolluting industries that value the
8 natural beauty of Hawaii and its diverse multicultural
9 population and wide array of architecture.

10 The purpose of this Act is to continue to encourage the
11 film and digital media industries by:

12 (1) Allowing Hawaii to compete with other film production
13 centers in attracting a greater number of significant
14 projects to the islands;

15 (2) Continuing to build the State's local film and digital
16 media industries; and

17 (3) Encouraging the growth of the film and digital media
18 industries by providing enhanced incentives to attract
19 more film and digital media productions to Hawaii,
20 thereby generating increased tax revenues.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 394, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§394- Workforce development training program. (a) The
5 department of labor and industrial relations shall administer a
6 workforce development training program that provides wage
7 reimbursement for on-the-job training to persons who are newly
8 hired by a motion picture, digital media, television, and film
9 production entity whose production has been prequalified by the
10 department of business, economic development, and tourism to
11 receive a tax credit as described in section 235-17(f).

12 (b) A production entity under subsection (a) shall be
13 eligible for a fifty per cent reimbursement of wages, for up to
14 one thousand forty hours per employee who receives on-the-job
15 training and is newly hired in a job that pays a salary or wage
16 for working at least thirty-two hours per week. Wages, fringe
17 benefits, and other benefits paid to the new hire shall be the
18 same as or comparable to others similarly employed by that
19 entity. The production entity shall not be reimbursed for
20 fringe and other benefits.

21 (c) The new hire shall be guaranteed full-time employment
22 of a minimum of thirty-two hours per week with the production



1 entity upon successful completion of the training period or
2 until the termination of the motion picture, digital media,
3 television, or film production.

4 (d) The director of labor and industrial relations may
5 adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to implement the purposes of
6 this section."

7 SECTION 3. Section 235-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended as follows:

9 1. By amending subsection (h) to read:

10 "(h) Every taxpayer claiming a tax credit under this
11 section for a qualified production shall, no later than ninety
12 days following the end of each taxable year in which qualified
13 production costs were expended, submit a written, sworn
14 statement to the department of business, economic development,
15 and tourism, identifying:

16 (1) All qualified production costs as provided by
17 subsection (a), if any, incurred in the previous
18 taxable year;

19 (2) The amount of tax credits claimed pursuant to this
20 section, if any, in the previous taxable year; and

21 (3) The number of total hires versus the number of local
22 hires by category [~~i.e., department~~] and by county."



1 2. By amending subsection (1) to read:

2 "(1) For the purposes of this section:

3 "Commercial":

4 (1) Means an advertising message that is filmed using
5 film, videotape, or digital media, for dissemination
6 via television broadcast or theatrical distribution;

7 (2) Includes a series of advertising messages if all parts
8 are produced at the same time over the course of six
9 consecutive weeks; and

10 (3) Does not include an advertising message with Internet-
11 only distribution.

12 "Digital media" means production methods and platforms
13 directly related to the creation of cinematic imagery and
14 content, specifically using digital means, including but not
15 limited to digital cameras, digital sound equipment, and
16 computers, to be delivered via film, videotape, interactive game
17 platform, or other digital distribution media [~~excluding~~
18 ~~Internet-only distribution~~].

19 [~~"Post-production"~~] "Post-production" means production
20 activities and services conducted after principal photography is
21 completed, including but not limited to editing, film and video
22 transfers, duplication, transcoding, dubbing, subtitling,



1 credits, closed captioning, audio production, special effects
2 (visual and sound), graphics, and animation.

3 "Production" means a series of activities that are directly
4 related to the creation of visual and cinematic imagery to be
5 delivered via film, videotape, or digital media and to be sold,
6 distributed, or displayed as entertainment or the advertisement
7 of products for mass public consumption, including but not
8 limited to scripting, casting, set design and construction,
9 transportation, videography, photography, sound recording,
10 interactive game design, and [~~post-production.~~] post-production.

11 "Qualified production":

12 (1) Means a production, with expenditures in the State,
13 for the total or partial production of a feature-
14 length motion picture, short film, made-for-television
15 movie, commercial, music video, interactive game,
16 television series pilot, single season (up to twenty-
17 two episodes) of a television series regularly filmed
18 in the State (if the number of episodes per single
19 season exceeds twenty-two, additional episodes for the
20 same season shall constitute a separate qualified
21 production), television special, single television
22 episode that is not part of a television series



1 regularly filmed or based in the State, national
2 magazine show, or national talk show. For the
3 purposes of subsections (d) and (j), each of the
4 aforementioned qualified production categories shall
5 constitute separate, individual qualified productions;
6 and

7 (2) Does not include: [~~daily news; public~~]

8 (A) News;

9 (B) Public affairs programs; [~~non-national~~]

10 (C) Non-national magazine or talk shows; [~~televised~~]

11 (D) Televised sporting events or activities;
12 [~~productions~~]

13 (E) Productions that solicit funds; [~~productions~~]

14 (F) Productions produced primarily for industrial,
15 corporate, institutional, or other private
16 purposes; and [~~productions~~]

17 (G) Productions that include any material or
18 performance prohibited by chapter 712.

19 "Qualified production costs" means the costs incurred by a
20 qualified production within the State that are subject to the
21 general excise tax under chapter 237 or income tax under this
22 chapter and that have not been financed by any investments for



1 which a credit was or will be claimed pursuant to section
2 235-110.9. Qualified production costs include but are not
3 limited to:

- 4 (1) Costs incurred during preproduction such as location
5 scouting and related services;
- 6 (2) Costs of set construction and operations, purchases or
7 rentals of wardrobe, props, accessories, food, office
8 supplies, transportation, equipment, and related
9 services;
- 10 (3) Wages or salaries of cast, crew, and musicians;
- 11 (4) Costs of photography, sound synchronization, lighting,
12 and related services;
- 13 (5) Costs of editing, visual effects, music, other post-
14 production, and related services;
- 15 (6) Rentals and fees for use of local facilities and
16 locations~~[?]~~, but excluding state and county facility
17 and location fees that are not subject to the general
18 excise tax under chapter 237 or income tax under this
19 chapter;
- 20 (7) Rentals of vehicles and lodging for cast and crew;
- 21 (8) Airfare for flights to or from Hawaii, and interisland
22 flights;



- 1 (9) Insurance and bonding;
- 2 (10) Shipping of equipment and supplies to or from Hawaii,
- 3 and interisland shipments; and
- 4 (11) Other direct production costs specified by the
- 5 department in consultation with the department of
- 6 business, economic development, and tourism."

7 SECTION 4. Act 88, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, is amended
8 by amending section 4 to read as follows:

9 "SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006;
10 provided that:

- 11 (1) Section 2 of this Act shall apply to qualified
- 12 production costs incurred on or after July 1, 2006,
- 13 and before January 1, [~~2016~~] 2025; and
- 14 (2) This Act shall be repealed on January 1, [~~2016~~] 2025,
- 15 and section 235-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be
- 16 reenacted in the form in which it read on the day
- 17 before the effective date of this Act."

18 SECTION 5. The department of business, economic
19 development, and tourism shall submit an annual report to the
20 legislature twenty days prior to each regular session beginning
21 with the 2014 regular session. The report shall contain a cost
22 benefit analysis of the motion picture, digital media, and film



1 production income tax credit, including but not limited to the
2 following:

- 3 (1) The total number of full-time, part-time, and contract
- 4 personnel on the payroll necessary to administer the
- 5 film production tax credit; and
- 6 (2) The average wage of each of the above personnel groups
- 7 and total earnings for the year.

8 The department of business, economic development, and
9 tourism shall report the data collected under this section along
10 with a cumulative total of tax credits granted for each
11 qualified production. The legislature may use the information
12 to determine whether the tax credits are meeting the objectives
13 of the motion picture, digital media, and film production tax
14 credit and this Act.

15 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and
18 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
19 year 2014-2015 for the implementation of the workforce
20 development training program established by this Act.

21 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
22 of labor and industrial relations for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 8. This Act, upon its approval, shall take effect
4 on July 1, 2030; provided that this Act shall apply to taxable
5 years beginning after December 31, 2012, and before January 1,
6 2025.



Report Title:

Creative Media Development; Tax Credit; Workforce Development
Training Program; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a workforce development training program that provides wage reimbursement for on-the-job training by entities who receive a motion picture, digital media, and film production income tax credit. Amends the motion picture, digital media, and film production income tax credit by: (1) Amending the definition of "digital media" by deleting the Internet-only distribution exclusion; (2) Clarifying the definition of "qualified production costs"; and (3) Extending the sunset date of the tax credit to 01/01/2025. Appropriates funds for the training program. Effective 07/01/2030. (SD2)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

