



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

By
Jan Gouveia, Vice President for Administration
University of Hawai'i System

SB 1317 – RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the interest by the legislature in SB 1317 to fund \$3 million or so in general revenues of the State of Hawai'i for renovations of soundstages and studio spaces at 2530 Dole Street. As more fully explained below, we respectfully oppose this measure as it does not consider the long-term strategic plans for the site nor the entire condition of the facility.

After over twenty (20) years of occupying 2530 Dole Street, PBS Hawai'i discontinued its long term lease with the University and vacated the facility in the summer of 2016. Given its current condition, the University has secured the services of a third-party consultant to assess the facility's compliance with health and safety codes and regulations. Additionally, there are many basic improvements to mechanical systems of the building that have reached the end of its useful life, as well as other investments in the roof and electrical systems.

The Mānoa campus is in the process of evaluating all of the programs and spaces on its campus to determine whether management and utilization of space aligns with program priorities and operational efficiencies. To this end, part of this evaluation will consider the pros and cons to consolidating all core programs on the main campus and repurposing the ancillary areas for possible third party development and/or monetization.

This measure seeks to make a specific investment in the soundstages and studio space of 2530 Dole Street. However, there is still an open and ongoing assessment on the condition of the entire facility. Additionally, there is also an open and ongoing evaluation of whether relocation of the Communication and Academy for Creative Media presence in 2530 Dole Street better serves students and contributes to an interdisciplinary program model, in accordance with the University's 6-Year CIP Plan approved by the Board.

Finally, as part of its FY 2018-2019 CIP budget approval process, the facility needs on the Mānoa campus were assessed and a capital program was developed accordingly. To that end, investments in improving 2530 Dole Street were not included in the

campus's budget request and, therefore, were not included in the Board of Regents approved CIP and operating budgets.

In closing, the University appreciates the interest of the Legislature in SB 1317 to improve studio space for UH Mānoa's ACM Program. However, we respectfully oppose this measure as it does not consider the long-term strategic plans for the site nor the entire condition of the facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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MĀNOA

Academy for Creative Media

February 5, 2017

The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. UH currently has no plan for any other use for this property or this facility. ACM Mānoa has a documented 13 year history of planning to move into this building. Why squander this opportunity and destroy the possibility of UHM ever having a facility of this quality and scale?

Please accept the ACM Narrative Addendum below as my testimony. This Addendum describes our unique history within the ACM System, our current crisis, and why ACM Mānoa specifically needs to move into the former KHET/PBS building.

In addition, below the Addendum is a list of 260 supporters (133 letters, and 127 petition signatures), who have formally endorsed the following statement:

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

I declare my support for the University of Hawai'i Mānoa (UHM) honoring its commitment to fully move the Academy for Creative Media (ACM) into 2350 Dole Street. Since 2006, UHM has consistently supported the ACM's intent to move into this facility. This formal support is evidenced in ACM's BA proposal (specifically calling for ACM to move into 2350 Dole Street), which was approved by UHM Interim Chancellor Bley-Vroman. Since its formation in 2004, the ACM has developed into a robust and successful program. Yet since its inception, the ACM has been hampered and constrained by temporary and inadequate facilities spread throughout the UHM campus. The ACM has consistently articulated the need for vital facilities to maintain its program, as is evidenced by ACM's 2011 ACM Assessment Report. Towards solving this issue, the ACM has consistently articulated the intent to move into this facility as is evidenced by the ACM Visioning Plan. With full support, the Academy of Creative Media Student Association (ACMSA) hopes that ACM will gain an adequate facility for students to collaborate. This will provide a betterment towards creative work and Hawai'i's unique voices of artists.

I ask President Lassner to honor the institutional memory of UHM's support and agreement to move the ACM into the KHET facility, which clearly fits student, faculty and program needs.

Copies of the letters of support and petition signatures will be submitted during oral testimony.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Joel Moffett.

Joel Moffett
Associate Professor
Academy for Creative Media
University of Hawaii, Mānoa

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ACM Narrative Addendum

ACM Mānoa Accomplishments

Although the Academy for Creative Media (ACM) at Mānoa is a stand-alone department within the College of Arts and Humanities at the University of Hawaii Mānoa (UHM), the ACM perfectly fits the nomenclature of what constitutes a true "film school". When ACM Mānoa was initially proposed, part of our mandate was to create a synthesis between the university community and the local entertainment industry. As a result, over the last 13 years we have nurtured job placement programs and internships with Hawaii 5-0, LOST, many of the visiting feature films, and many smaller local production companies, advertising agencies, and TV networks. And because of this unique relationship with local industry, our alumni are working for these companies. In addition, given the high level of Research 1 educational opportunities we provide, our students go on to attend some of the most prestigious graduate schools in the world. ACM students have made films that have screened and won awards in notable international film festivals (Sundance, Berlin, Toronto and Tribeca), and most recently, one of our alumni Alexander Bocchiere, just shot his first feature film "Go For Broke", (about the 442nd) as a co-production with the ACM.

ACM Mānoa's History of Not Having a Home

Since its formation in 2004, ACM Mānoa has developed into one of the most robust and successful programs at UHM. Yet from the beginning, the ACM has been deeply hampered and constrained by residing in temporary and inadequate facilities across the UHM campus. The ACM has consistently articulated the need for vital facilities to maintain its program, as is evidenced by ACM's 2011 ACM Assessment Report. Towards solving this issue, the ACM has consistently articulated the intent to move into the old KHET / PBS building at the corner of University and Dole, as is evidenced by the ACM Visioning Plan. UHM's formal support for our move into this facility is evidenced by the approval of this plan by the UHM Campus Facilities and Planning Board. In addition, our Space Plan and our BA proposal (specifically calling for ACM Mānoa to move into 2350 Dole Street), was approved by UHM Interim Chancellor Bley-Vroman.

Last year, control of Mānoa's Facilities Office was moved from UHM to UH System because of criticism of Mānoa's management style. As a result, ACM Mānoa suddenly turned into a political pawn in the struggle for control between UHM and UH System, and our move into KHET was halted without consultation. It should be noted that we have repeatedly asked to meet with President Lassner to discuss this issue, but have received no response. In the future we sincerely look forward to collaborating with him on this issue.

ACM System

ACM System is a single office that distributes designated funds to a wide variety of different departments on specific campuses throughout the UH system. These funded programs include Engineering, Information and Computer Science, as well as some media programs. To be clear, these funded departments are not called "ACM" programs- they are specific departments that receive designated funds from the entity called ACM System. As of this date, the overwhelming bulk ACM System support has gone to the Creative Media program at UH West O'ahu.

Please Note: there is some confusion regarding the current name of the Creative Media program at UH West O'ahu. At times this program has been referred to as "ACM West O'ahu". For the sake of clarity, and with no disrespect intended, we refer to this program as the "Creative Media program at UH West O'ahu" in this document.

The Relationship of ACM Mānoa to ACM System

The ACM System was an experimental project created 13 years ago by the legislature to support media programs on all of the different UH campuses throughout the state. ACM Mānoa was the first flagship media program created under the umbrella of ACM System. Our mandate was to specifically focus on developing our program into a "film school". Unfortunately, soon after its creation, there was a conflict in leadership

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between ACM System and the UHM administration, and as a result ACM Mānoa separated from ACM System. Since then, ACM Mānoa has flourished as a stand-alone program in the College of Arts and Humanities - fully funded by UH Mānoa, with very modest support from ACM System. The ACM System has never controlled, overseen or significantly funded ACM Mānoa.

As ACM Mānoa has flourished, ACM System has understandably used our success to rationalize its own growth. Indeed, the legislation that justified the initial funding for faculty hires in the Creative Media program at UH West O'ahu was based largely on the success of ACM Mānoa's resume. So the ACM System has continued to grow and succeed *because* of ACM Mānoa's accomplishments. As the flagship ACM department, we turned a theory of a program into a reality.

We celebrate the continued success of other media programs within the UH System- *especially* the Creative Media program at UH West O'ahu, which we sincerely support. In the future we hope to develop a more cohesive and mutually beneficial relationship with media programs throughout the UH system. And towards this end, we urge the immediate creation of an **ACM System Board of Directors**, composed of media representatives from each UH campus, so that decisions of funding may be more equally distributed across the entire UH System in the future.

Our Crisis

In seeking to gain a permanent home in the old KHET building and leave our temporary quarters (scattered across the UHM campus), we have consistently cooperated and provided the administration with exactly what has been asked of us. During this period our department has repeatedly been used and manipulated as a political pawn by members of the legislature and the UH System. The confusion behind our relationship with ACM System and the conflict between the UHM administration and the leadership of ACM system has been used to marginalize our program, and more importantly – our students.

Most recently, when the legislature passed last year's bill to fund a 35 million dollar media center at UH West O'ahu, the threat to our program increased dramatically. Gossip and innuendo spread the false narrative that ACM Mānoa would somehow move to UH West O'ahu. The Administration at UHM has assured us that such a move defies logic and will never happen. Our program has been too successful to dismantle - there will always be an ACM film school at UHM. Nevertheless, because our move into KHET coincided with this development at West O'ahu, funding our move suddenly dried up, and now the future of the KHET building is in question.

Why does UH need two media buildings? Are we duplicating programs?

1) ACM Mānoa focuses on producing narrative, documentary and animated films to be released and projected in large theatres. **Theatrical distribution is always the end destination for all of our products.** UH West O'ahu focuses on producing a wide variety of content that is often created for the web and mobile devices. One of their focuses is video game development. Of course they create other content as well, but as was mandated by UH when their program was launched, the Creative Media program at UH West O'ahu does not duplicate the focus of ACM Mānoa, which is the designated UH film school.

So because ACM Mānoa creates films specifically aimed at theatrical distribution (films that screen in large theatres), we need very specific facilities to produce such content. For example, we need a large industry standard 5.1 theatrical mixing and recording stage and a large high resolution color correction stage- both created to replicate the theatrical exhibition experience. Facilities such as these, which are standard in modern film schools, will never exist in the Media Center at UH West O'ahu because they don't need them. In other words, although there will be some overlap, the most significant facilities in the ACM Mānoa film school building will be fundamentally different than those in the Media Center at UH West O'ahu.

2) The most significant similarity between the media center at UH West O'ahu and the film school building at ACM Mānoa (KHET) is that they will both house a large sound stage. Yet it is very important to understand that the uses for these two spaces could not be more different. The Media Center sound stage at UH West O'ahu is being created as a **commercial rental facility** for outside non-educational productions to shoot in. Thus this mixed use facility- to be shared with commercial industry- has a radically different purpose than the film school sound stage at ACM Mānoa. The ACM Mānoa film school sound stage will serve purely as an

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educational resource. There will be no commercial component. The reason for this is because our students NEED a sound stage to complete their work. We will be actively building our sets, shooting our films and holding our classes in our sound stage on a daily basis. *A sound stage is as necessary for a film school to exist as a theatre is for a theatre department to exist.*

Why does ACM Mānoa specifically need the KHET Building?

The KHET building is a highly unique structure that already provides us with the **exact facility our program calls for:** a sound stage (fully equipped with a light grid and dimmer system), a computer lab, an animation lab, editing suites, color correction suite, sound mixing stage- its all there waiting for us.

Similar facilities constructed on North American university campuses such as UNLV, Chapman University and Colorado College have cost between 40-60 million dollars to construct. Given UH's strained finances, it is unrealistic to expect such an expenditure of this magnitude in the future on the UHM campus. Thus it is clear that **if we don't move into KHET, we will be permanently passing up the opportunity to have a facility of this kind.**

The unique facilities in this building can be shared by multiple departments- including Communications, Theatre and Dance, Art, Music – as well as the various Student Media Board organizations such as UH Productions and KTUH. Passing up on the opportunity to bring so many programs together is not logical.

Most importantly: given the fact that **UH has NO PLAN for this facility**, and given our very obvious need, **why squander this opportunity?**

To be clear: ACM Mānoa can fully move into the KHET facility without expending **any funds**- tomorrow. Of course, modest renovations will eventually be necessary, but when compared to how much a new facility would cost, such expenses are reasonable (between 3-7 million dollars).

And if it is a long-term desire to construct a more stately and commercially viable building at the KHET location (to serve as more of a grand entryway to the University campus), our ACM Visioning Plan addresses this point perfectly. As a long-term objective, we strongly recommend the construction of a state of the art surround-sound motion picture theatre directly in front of the KHET facility. If desired, appropriate commercial enterprises can accompany this theatre. *Because no such screening facility currently exists within the entire UH system*, this would immediately fill a major hole by nourishing both the UHM and Honolulu communities at large. In addition, the theatre's proximity to the various media programs housed within the KHET building would be an obvious instructional benefit. Our media program would be housed behind this new theatre in a similar configuration as the Theatre and Dance department is housed behind Kennedy Theatre (but with more room!).

What makes ACM Mānoa unique in relationship to other UH media programs?

WE PRODUCE LOCAL FILMMAKERS

Because ACM Mānoa is based within a Research 1 Liberal Arts based university, we focus on developing our student's *above-the-line* skills. ACM Mānoa teaches students how to be directors, screenwriters and producers. Thus we teach all levels of screenwriting, directing, cinematography, producing, editing and filmmaking – all within a firm critical studies foundation. Our students depend on making their films in collaboration with graduate students from other departments on our campus- including Theatre, Communications, Art, English, Computer Science and Music. We impart this knowledge within the specific context of nurturing local and indigenous storytelling with the aim of turning Hawaii's entertainment industry into an **export-based economy** (creating locally produced stories that play on the world stage) as opposed to stagnating as an import-based industry (hosting Hollywood productions made by folks who don't live here).

WE COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL INDUSTRY

Leading educational institutions that specialize in specific industries are often based in the geographic locations that inspire innovation within those same industries. That's why ACM Mānoa, as the state's only film school, fits perfectly in urban Honolulu, where the center of the local entertainment industry resides. Similarly, highly regarded film schools like UCLA, USC and AFI, are located in Los Angeles and not more

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regional areas. The leading film schools are in LA *because* the film industry is in LA. This is not to say that regional media programs are not absolutely necessary as well - but there is a difference.

O'ahu's entertainment industry will always be based in urban Honolulu because of the value of urban Honolulu as a *shooting location*. Why did the producers of Hawaii 5-O and The Descendants choose to build their sound stages in urban Honolulu when they couldn't get the Diamond Head Studio? Both of these productions could have leased warehouse space on the West side for a much cheaper price. But they chose not to – because geography is money. Paying your crew overtime to commute to work is money. Waiting for approaching airplanes to clear the skies to continue shooting (on the West side) is money. And most significantly, transporting an entire production company (“a company move”) is **BIG** money if the production is based in a sound stage an hours drive from urban Honolulu locations. Producers don't only shoot on O'ahu for its exotic beaches and rainforests- they shoot here because of **the breadth and diversity of locations that are created by our urban core** and its proximity to other locations. To be sure, urban Honolulu will always be the center of the film industry.

ACM Mānoa has taken great advantage of residing in our urban core by creating a robust relationship with the local film community. Because our internships, job placement programs, union collaborations and guest lecturers from the professional industry are all based in town, it takes our students less than ten minutes to access these opportunities from the Mānoa campus.

Bullet Points

For 13 years, ACM Mānoa has empowered local students to tell their own Hawaii-based stories by teaching cinematic narrative theories, skills and application across multiple platforms of digital media and within a context of cultural and aesthetic values, while at the same time nurturing robust job placement programs and internships.

- Our alumni occupy key positions globally in the creative industries
- Our alumni are highly sought after by top graduate film schools including USC, NYU, AFI, CalArts, and Chapman
- We have placed over 90 interns on Hawaii 5-0, more than 40 on LOST, and more on numerous feature films, such as THE DESCENDANTS, and in production companies, advertising agencies, and TV networks
- Our programs have global reach-- In its 12th year, the biannual ACM Mānoa SMART Exchange program with Shanghai University has promoted the exchange of more than 120 students from both schools to produce film co-productions in Shanghai and Honolulu and participate in the Shanghai and Hawaii International Film Festivals
- Since 2004, ACM Mānoa has produced more than 150 student short films a year, and is also producing feature films, including the award-winning feature documentary STATE OF ALOHA and the work in progress dramatic feature GO FOR BROKE, a co-production with the 442 Foundation, directed by alumnus Alexander Bocchieri
- ACM Mānoa students, alumni, and faculty have made films that have garnered attention and awards at top international film festivals such as Sundance, Berlin, Toronto, and Tribeca, and have won numerous grants and accolades, including the recent feature-length film production agreement for \$2.5M to bring a Marshall Islands story “Until the Dolphin Flies” to the big screen
- CILECT, (The International Association of Film and Television Schools), the most prestigious and discriminating film school consortium, recently inducted ACM Mānoa into its very selective ranks

ACM Mānoa Promo Video: <https://vimeo.com/182842354/a91001380e>

ACM Student Film Reel: <https://vimeo.com/182842565/ec35a2e679>

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127 PETITION SIGNATURES

Dylan Kobayashi- ACM Current Student
Eric Wu- ACM Current Student
Ise Tonghon- ACM Current Student
Jack Sy- ACM Current Student
Ryan Theriot- ACM Current Student
Noel Kawano- ACM Current Student
Terry Polomari- ACM Current Student
Jonathan Robelto- ACM Current Student
Brain Mayershiro- ACM Current Student
Tyson Sexorrod- ACM Current Student
Anson Yu- ACM Current Student
Brandon Gouvia- ACM Current Student
Patrick Karjala- ACM Current Student
Cory Mutnik- ACM Current Student
Dean Lodes- ACM Current Student
Casey Teeters- ACM Current Student
David Wang- ACM Current Student
Nick Izawa- ACM Current Student
Anna Silkirk- ACM Current Student
Mariam Doliashib- ACM Current Student
Sage Araeso- ACM Current Student
Maile Duffy- ACM Current Student
Ashley Gomez- ACM Current Student
Charles Rafael- ACM Current Student
Ki Songeuan- ACM Current Student
Kelli White- ACM Current Student
Olivia Marek- ACM Current Student
Stuart Hilton- ACM Current Student
Nathaniel Chantaswan- ACM Current Student
Yong Cong Li- ACM Current Student
Cliff Bailey- ACM Current Student
Lorene Hashida- ACM Current Student
Travis Cundiff- ACM Current Student
Joshua Kerins- ACM Current Student
Julian Kim- ACM Current Student
Jeremy Sanders Lewis- ACM Current Student
Jay Rivera- ACM Current Student
Rusty Vincent- ACM Current Student
Gavin Shigesaro- ACM Current Student
Claudia Pummer- ACM Adjunct Professor
Carly Kennedy- ACM Current Student
Chloe Ma- ACM Current Student
Madeline Metzger- ACM Current Student
Celina Ma- ACM Current Student
Charles Dote- ACM Current Student
Tauaese Segi- ACM Current Student
Conrad Kohrs- ACM Current Student
Nainoa Andrade- ACM Current Student
Alex Stoffa- ACM Current Student
Maku Freitas- ACM Current Student
Brittani Taka- ACM Current Student
Antonette Gontanilla- ACM Current Student

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Joshua Lee- ACM Current Student
Dustin Clisbee- ACM Current Student
Ariel Ushijima- ACM Current Student
Aiden Pike- ACM Current Student
Devon Ahuna- ACM Current Student
Jayoi Robbins- ACM Current Student
Jazmyn Thomas- ACM Current Student
Leoned Suela- ACM Current Student
Kristine Richardson- ACM Current Student
Stephanie Tao- ACM Current Student
Lisette Flanary- ACM Associate Professor
Tina Li- ACM Current Student
Caleb Blatensperger- ACM Current Student
Haley Murayama- ACM Current Student
Jeani Tija- ACM Current Student
Dillon Dawley- ACM Current Student
Leiana Nituro- ACM Current Student
Kayla Abalos- ACM Current Student
Ho Chan- ACM Current Student
Marc Nagai- ACM Current Student
Lindsay Rees- ACM Current Student
Jarmyn Tomas- ACM Current Student
Dymond Cabildo- ACM Current Student
Tim Lwonid- ACM Current Student
Noah Domingo- ACM Current Student
Adam Kenner- ACM Current Student
Fongjia Zhou- ACM Current Student
Jacqueline Bensaid- ACM Current Student
Alisa Waiamau- ACM Current Student
Brittani Taka- ACM Current Student
Bredgett Cordero- ACM Current Student
Kayla Matson- ACM Current Student
John Yabes- ACM Current Student
Jonathan Hanki- ACM Current Student
Jenise Lam- ACM Current Student
Maya Oshio- ACM Current Student
Cory Gehr- ACM Current Student
Rena Iriyoshi- ACM Current Student
Keith Taylor- ACM Current Student
Shaneika Aguilar- ACM Current Student
George Wang- ACM Associate Professor
Tony Demars- ACM Current Student
Lily Ching- ACM Administrative Secretary
Dan Boulos- ACM Chair, Associate Professor
Joel Moffett- ACM Associate Professor
Wimal Dissnaayake- ACM Adjunct Professor
Delilah Hernandez - ACM Current Student
Lauren Fujimoto- ACM Current Student
Kilani Villiaros- ACM Current Student
John Gilmore- ACM Current Student
Joshua Masai- ACM Current Student
Jennie Rice- ACM Current Student
Anela Ling- ACM Current Student
Sawyer Chestnut-Pinto- ACM Current Student
Gabrielle Daviega- ACM Current Student
Roman Wyche- ACM Current Student
Horace Vu- ACM Current Student

Melissa Hamm- ACM Current Student
Elyse Chai- ACM Current Student
Kaylan Loung- ACM Current Student
Resemary Kulhavy-Sutherland- ACM Current Student
Lauren Richardson- ACM Current Student
Olicia K Zizzi- ACM Current Student
Yewon Lee- ACM Current Student
Alfred J Chun- ACM Current Student
Taylor Oishi- ACM Current Student
Sam Peavey- ACM Current Student
Cayla Chevy- ACM Current Student
Airi Yoshioka- ACM Current Student
Andrew Guaglio- ACM Current Student
Kari Noe- ACM Current Student
James Hunter Hughes- ACM Current Student
Joel Shibata- ACM Current Student
Kurt Noe- ACM Current Student
Laura Margulies- ACM Adjunct Professor

132 STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT

Jay Hanamura - ACM MANOA Alumni
J. Anthony Czumalowski - ACM MANOA Alumni
Jeremy R Sanders- Lewis- ACM MANOA Alumni
Brent Morita - ACM MANOA Alumni
Michael Angelo Pangilnan- ACM MANOA Alumni
Austin Weihmiller- ACM MANOA Alumni
Jamie Ku- ACM MANOA Alumni
Sean Silva- ACM MANOA Alumni
Laurie Arakaki - ACM MANOA Alumni
Alfred Chan
Leah Kaina
Airi Yoshioka - ACM MANOA Alumni
Ty Sanga- ACM MANOA Alumni
David Farmer- SAG AFTRA President
Samantha Duncan- ACM MANOA Alumni
Chris Beymer- ACM MANOA Alumni
Jina Boyd- ACM MANOA Alumni
Cassie Favreau-Chung - ACM MANOA Alumni
Drew Snyder- ACM MANOA Alumni
Jeffrey Leong- ACM MANOA Alumni
Kristle Richardson- ACM MANOA Current Student
Fa'afetai Tele Lava, Gabrielle Fa'ai'uaso- ACM MANOA Alumni
Sabrina Young- ACM MANOA Alumni
Paula Albaneze- ACM MANOA Alumni
Shelby Harper
Trenton Rask-Knox - ACM MANOA Alumni
Henry Mochida- ACM MANOA Alumni
Bryan Ruiz- ACM MANOA Alumni
James Joshua Goodson- ACM MANOA Alumni
Brandon Garcia
Chris Rohrer
Sam Bui- ACM MANOA Alumni
Erin Lau- ACM MANOA Alumni
Stephanie Tao- ACM MANOA Alumni
Alexander Bocchieri- ACM MANOA Alumni
Mikhail Christmann- ACM MANOA Current student

Markus Wessendorf - Professor, Theatre and Dance
Lorene Hashida
Kyle C. Twogood- ACM MANOA Alumni
Pua Auyong- UHM Administration
Lauren Yee- ACM MANOA Alumni
Sasha Broniola- ACM MANOA Alumni
Alyssa Donovan
Kalyn Bowen
Kelsey Kato- ACM MANOA Alumni
Angela Iguchi
Anthony Gallo- ACM MANOA Alumni
Jose Gonxalex- KTUH General Manager
Mary Pascual- ACM MANOA Alumni
Reynolds Barney- ACM MANOA Alumni
Lisa Chong- ACM MANOA Alumni
Garret Gagne- ACM MANOA Current Student
Paulina Bugembe- ACM MANOA Alumni
Maia Goel
Shayne Hayama- ACM MANOA Current Student
Justin Kaneshiro- ACM MANOA Alumni
Deveney Kelly- Donor to UH Foundation
Kristle Richardson- ACM MANOA Alumni
Kali Kasashima- ACM MANOA Alumni
Yulia Popova- ACM MANOA Alumni
Chloe Ma- ACM MANOA Current Student
Sawyer Chesnut-Pinto - ACM MANOA Current Student
Kelsie Greene- ACM MANOA Current Student
Londy Tong-Lee
Jade Carion- ACM MANOA Alumni
Andrea Fiegle
Steven A. Johnson- ACM MANOA Alumni
Richard Valasek
Alison Bruce-Maldonado- ACM MANOA Alumni
Peggy Etra
Mia Adams- SAG AFTRA Actor
Lisa Barnes- SAG AFTRA Actor
Jeremy Johnson- ACM MANOA Alumni
Beth E. Barry- SAG AFTRA Actor
Kyle Kosaki- ACM MANOA Alumni
Makena Duffy- ACM MANOA Alumni
Chris Howard- ACM MANOA Alumni
Chloe Kagesa
Keiko Sugihara
Amy Quintal-Rudman- ACM MANOA Current Student
Denny Hironaga
Jonas Gutzat- ACM MANOA Current Student
Samantha Meno- ACM MANOA Alumni
Matt Matches- ACM MANOA Alumni
Kala Crowell- ACM MANOA Alumni
Jamie Peak- ACM MANOA Alumni
Russell Blanchard- ACM MANOA Alumni
Benjamin Menor- ACM MANOA Alumni
Akane Kashiwazaki- ACM MANOA Alumni
Charli Ann Knight- ACM MANOA Alumni
Toni Pasion- UHM Theatre and Dance MA Student
Kelsey Duvauchelle- ACM MANOA Current Student
Jamie Hee

Shaun Oliquiano- ACM MANOA Current Student
Krystal Javier- ACM MANOA Alumni
Michelle Laurin
Aaron Bush- ACM MANOA Alumni
Marshall Chu-Jen Wu- ACM MANOA Alumni
Paulo Sadao Kobayashi- ACM MANOA Alumni
Christine Okamoto
Kanani Chang-Humphreys
Oscar Galvan- ACM MANOA Alumni
Brain Watanabe
Pomaikai Gutierrez- ACM MANOA Alumni
Shaneika G Aguilar
Nai Ross- Instructor, Kapiolani Community College
Amber Tyndzik- ACM MANOA Alumni
Linda Castro- SAG AFTRA Actor
Eriko Okada
Scott Amona- ACM MANOA Alumni
Blossom Lam Hoffman
Cliff Bailey- ACM MANOA Current Student
Zackery Harris
Larry Wiss
Britany Ann Dodson- SAG AFTRA Actor
Paul Clink- SAG AFTRA Actor
Tira Akina- ACM MANOA Alumni
Jeaneen Tang- ACM MANOA Alumni
Shiro Kawai- SAG AFTRA Actor
Charissa Duff- SAG AFTRA Actor
Nancy Arnstein- SAG AFTRA Actor
Robert Chuck- ACM MANOA Alumni
Kyle Kosaki- ACM MANOA Alumni
Justin Omori- ACM MANOA Alumni
Laura Clark- UHM Theatre Graduate Student
Rona Jung- ACM MANOA Alumni
Donna "Sweetie" Kuehu- ACM MANOA Alumni
Jake Nowicki- ACM MANOA Alumni
Kristin Kouke - ACM MANOA Alumni
Lana Quindica- ACM MANOA Alumni
John Signor- Assistant Professor, Leeward Community College
Gerard Elmore- Adjunct Professor, ACM MANOA
Avree Ito-fujita- ACM MANOA Current Student

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: SB 1317, HB1560

(Appropriates moneys for renovations of the future home of UHM's Academy
for Creative Media)

Aloha Senators Kahele and Kidani and Members of the Committee on Higher
Education:

My name is David C. Farmer. I am a board member and the current President of the
Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, Hawaii
Local.

Over the years, we have worked closely and collaboratively with Associate Professor
Joel Moffett and the programs of the Academy for Creative Media (ACM). I have
personally participated in table readings for Professor's Moffett's excellent and
extraordinary classes. We have also given informational presentations to students
regarding what is entailed in becoming a union member and attaining the highest
levels of professionalism. We look forward to many more years of this mutually
productive and unique town/gown relationship.

In submitting this testimony, I declare my support for the University of Hawai'i
Mānoa (UHM) honoring its commitment to fully move the into 2350 Dole Street.
Since 2006, UHM has consistently supported the ACM's intent to move into this
facility. This formal support is evidenced in ACM's BA proposal (specifically
calling for ACM to move into 2350 Dole Street), which was approved by UHM
Interim Chancellor Bley-Vroman.

Since its formation in 2004, the ACM has developed into one of the most robust
and successful programs at UHM. Yet from the beginning, the ACM has been deeply
hampered and constrained by residing in temporary and inadequate facilities across
the UHM campus. The ACM has consistently articulated the need for vital facilities
to maintain its program, as is evidenced by ACM's 2011 ACM Assessment Report.
Towards solving this issue, the ACM has consistently articulated the intent to move
into this facility as is evidenced by the ACM Visioning Plan.

With full support, the Academy of Creative Media Student Association (ACMSA) hopes that ACM will gain an adequate facility for students to collaborate. This will provide a betterment towards creative work and Hawai`i's unique voices of artists.

I ask the Senate to pass this measure to honor the institutional memory of UHM's support and agreement to move the ACM into the KHET facility, which clearly fits student, faculty and program needs.

David C. Farmer

President
SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local

949 Kapiolani Blvd., #106
Honolulu, HI 96814

Cell: (808) 222-3133

Tel: (808) 596-0388

Fax: (866) 559-2922

Hawaii.President@sagaftra.org

farmerd001@gmail.com



SAG·AFTRA®



The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 414

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

We are the representatives of the film and entertainment industry unions, Brenda Ching, SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local, Irish Barber, I.A.T.S.E. Local 665, Steve Pearson, American Federation of Musicians (AFM) Local 677 and Wayne Kaululaau, Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Local 996. Collectively, we represent over 1700 members who work in film, television and new media productions as performers, crew, musicians and drivers in Hawaii.

We *support* SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa.

ACM Mānoa was established in 2004 and continues to be the flagship and film school of the University of Hawaii. ACM focuses on teaching students about directing, screenwriting, producing and other aspects of the industry. In the business, this is referred to as *above-the-line* crafts.

ACM has a proven track record with numerous accomplishments and awards by students and faculty. It has demonstrated its value to our industry and the community.

We request that the Legislature continue to support its investment in Hawaii's film and entertainment industry by appropriating the funds necessary for ACM Mānoa so that they can continue to provide the best film education and experiences to its students and the community. ACM students are the future filmmakers and entrepreneurs that are vital to our economy and State.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to offer testimony on this measure.

Brenda Ching
SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local

Irish Barber
I.A.T.S.E. Local 665

Steve Pearson
A.F.M. Local 677

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Teamsters Local 996



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The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
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Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 414

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

From: Roy Tjioe and Ricardo Galindez
Island Film Group
POB 3261
Honolulu, HI 96801
Ph: 808-536-7955

February 7, 2017

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

We support SB 1317, which seeks to appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and home for the Academy for Creative Media (“ACM”) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (“UHM”). Your favorable consideration of SB1317 (and HB1560) would greatly benefit ACM, a vital resource for the development and growth of emerging talent in our local film and television industry.

We have been working in Hawaii's film and television industry since 2001, starting as attorneys at the Hawaii law firm of Goodsell Anderson Quinn & Stifel where we represented local, independent and studio clients alike (including the hit ABC series “Lost” and the Fox series “North Shore”). Since our formation of Island Film Group in 2007, we have been working full-time as producers of feature films such as “Princess Kaiulani” and “Soul Surfer”, network and cable television shows such as “Beyond the Break” for the N Network, as well as local, national and international commercial productions. As industry professionals, we are very aware that ACM plays a vital role in nurturing home grown talent, and it is imperative that we provide ACM with the appropriate infrastructure in order to succeed.

As ACM is housed in close proximity to the Honolulu urban core, its students have direct access to feature film and television production and equipment company internships. We are partners with Hawaii Media Inc., the largest grip, electric and camera providers in Hawaii, and we have worked with ACM students during their internships at HMI for the past several years. We see their hard work and dedication and they fully deserve to be supported by the State of Hawaii during their education at ACM as they prepare to transition from student to professional.

It is our understanding that ACM continues to be hampered by the lack of committed and centralized production facilities (for both film and animation) that could be considered standard facilities for any film school. They need a centralized space that includes teaching spaces, a media center with equipment accessibility, a production studio where students can be visited by filmmakers and explore top level production techniques in a dedicated film production studio, as well as a screening facility with first rate technology. These bills are small but positive steps toward those goals.

We support ACM's aim to become a nationally recognized program, which will elevate the visibility of local filmmakers on a national and international level. This would not only facilitate the preservation and perpetuation of Hawaii's unique history and culture, but also make our local film and television production resources more attractive to our co-production partners on the mainland and internationally.

Me ke aloha,

Roy Tjioe and Ricardo Galindez
Co-Founders
Island Film Group
Honolulu, Hawaii

The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
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Honolulu, HI 96801
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Roy Tjioe and Ricardo Galindez
Co-Founders
Island Film Group
Honolulu, Hawaii

The Senate

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature

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RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

As a mother of a ACM major student and a note taker, I Messaouda Dawley have seen the hardship that the students and faculty face to meet the 21 century

standards of the film industry.

They are, and ACM Manoa program, in dire need of a permanent home where they can learn and thrive. ACM Manoa with the former PBS building, will be able to offer a mixing and sound stage that can only help their creativity and talents shine in the industry.

Thank you for your consideration,

With all my support,

Messaouda Dawley

The Senate

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature

Regular Session of 2017

Committee on Higher Education

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa

I am, Dylan Dawley a Major student at ACM at University of Hawaii at Manoa, can attest that our department will considerably benefit from a permanent home for the

State's first film school, in the former PBS building located at 2350 Dole Street,
Honolulu. To be in par with the industry, ACM needs theatrical mixing and recording
stage.

Please help us, ACM , to have a permanent 21st century facility that can allow us the
students to be properly taught .

Thank you for your consideration,

Dylan Dawley

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 9:42 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: stacyray@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM

SB1317

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for HRE on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacy Ray	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The Senate The Twenty-Ninth Legislature Regular Session of 2017 Committee on Higher Education Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017 Time: 2:00 PM Conference Room 224 State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee, I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The Academy for Creative provides an invaluable training ground for students in all areas of the field of media: television, film, and the art of animation. This highly competitive field demands rigorous training. Students need the training ground of a true sound stage and recording studio to move successfully into the highly competitive national and international marketplace. The field of media and entertainment is growing in the islands and with the planning for Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson to build a world class sound stage on Oahu, our students deserve to be considered first when that studio begins to hire. Our students of Hawaii deserve to be fully trained to WORK in their native land and not have to leave for the Mainland or Asia to make a living in the field of creative media. Excellent training supplies excellent workers who remain in high demand. ACM provides that A-list training with it's outstanding faculty and curriculum. The students of Hawaii deserve an A-list training FACILITY to prepare themselves to be working/contributing adults. ACM needs to be fully supported in it's request to renovate the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Mahalo for your time, Stacy Ray

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

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I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media (ACM) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM).

My name is Jean S. Simon. I am a board member and the current Secretary of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA), Hawaii Local.

I have personally participated in table readings for Associate Professor Joel Moffett's excellent and extraordinary classes. The film students are an amazing group!

In submitting this testimony, I declare my support for the University of Hawai'i Mānoa honoring its commitment to fully move into the 2350 Dole Street facility (formerly the KHET facility). Since 2006, UHM has consistently supported the ACM's intent to move into this facility. This formal support is evidenced in ACM's BA proposal (specifically calling for ACM to move into 2350 Dole Street), which was approved by UHM Interim Chancellor Bley-Vroman.

Since its formation in 2004, the ACM has developed into one of the most robust and successful programs at UHM. Yet from the beginning, the ACM has been deeply hampered and constrained by residing in temporary and inadequate facilities across the UHM campus. The ACM has consistently articulated the need for vital facilities to maintain its program, as is evidenced by ACM's 2011 ACM Assessment Report. Towards solving this issue, the ACM has consistently articulated the intent to move into this facility as is evidenced by the ACM Visioning Plan.

With full support, the Academy of Creative Media Student Association (ACMSA) hopes that ACM will gain an adequate facility for students to collaborate. This will provide a better environment towards creative work and Hawai'i's unique voices of artists.

I ask the Senate to **pass** this measure to honor the institutional memory of UHM's support and agreement to move the ACM into the KHET facility, which clearly fits student, faculty and program needs.

Mahalo,

Jean S. Simon

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
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As a graduate of the Academy for Creative Media program, the lack of facilities made it difficult to receive proper skills and knowledge required of people working in the film and TV industry. For example, I had only a few hours of experience in a sound stage (fully equipped with a light grid and dimmer system), the most common shooting space in the world. I had to buy my own \$2500 computer and \$1000 video editing software because they didn't have a computer lab. I received little experience on a professional editing suite. I could not learn how to properly color correct my films or mix sound because of the lack a color correction suite and sound mixing stage. All of these things are available in the former KHET facilities.

I graduated in 2009 and it saddens me to hear that after 13 years of trying to build up this program, the Academy for Creative Media may NEVER have the proper facilities to properly educate students with the knowledge and experience REQUIRED of people in this industry. I say never because building a new facility could cost the University around \$60,000,000.

Please take this into consideration.

Wayde Toyama

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

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My name is Jeremy Johnson and I graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2012 with a degree in creative media. Throughout my time in the Academy for Creative Media I benefitted from the program in many ways.

I believe what I benefitted from most while part of ACM was the programs exceptional faculty who deeply care about their students and the curriculum taught. The curriculum and opportunities to learn about film and television were highly professional and I learned a great deal yet I feel I could have had a well-rounded education if a couple more facilities had been in place.

While I was a student I feel ACM students suffered as a result of inadequate facilities. We were never taught how to work in the most common shooting space in the film and television world (a sound stage). We were never taught how to properly mix sound because we didn't have a mixing stage, never taught how to properly color correct our films because we didn't have a color correction studio.

As a current professional in the industry I believe it is important to have such facilities to properly educate the students so they are prepared for job placement in the industry once they graduate.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Johnson
ACM Alumni

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
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I, Mikhail S. Christman 2nd have been greatly impacted by the ACM program held at the University of Hawaii at Manoa campus. Giving us a facility, allows us to understand the fundamentals of video editing, sound mixing as well as how to properly stage lights, sound, and cameras on a set for filming purposes. Every program that is provided at the University of Hawaii at Manoa campus, has a facility that accompanies it. Film is my life. Telling a story is a gift that has years and years of history, in all societies. The power of film tells a visual, synchronous, and diegetic story that capsules our attention in a way that many of us all remember, even as children. Everyone has a favorite movie regardless of their demographical background. I ask of you, I beg of you, allow the future generations of pioneers to have a facility where we can inspire and grow as film students. Investing in a facility that will supply us with all the essentials needed to learn about what it means to tell a story through film, will not be an investment in vain.

Mikhail S. Christman 2nd

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT:

I declare my support for the University of Hawai‘i Mānoa (UHM) honoring its commitment to fully move the Academy for Creative Media (ACM) into 2350 Dole Street. Since 2006, UHM has consistently supported the ACM's intent to move into this facility. This formal support is evidenced in ACM’s BA proposal (specifically calling for ACM to move into 2350 Dole Street), which was approved by UHM Interim Chancellor Bley-Vroman.

Since it’s formation in 2004, the ACM has developed into one of the most robust and successful programs at UHM. Yet from the beginning, the ACM has been deeply hampered and constrained by residing in temporary and inadequate facilities across the UHM campus. The ACM has consistently articulated the need for vital facilities to maintain its program, as is evidenced by ACM’s 2011 ACM Assessment Report. Towards solving this issue, the ACM has consistently articulated the intent to move into this facility as is evidenced by the ACM Visioning Plan.

With full support, the Academy of Creative Media Student Association (ACMSA) hopes that ACM will gain an adequate facility for students to collaborate. This will provide a betterment towards creative work and Hawai'i’s unique voices of artists.

I ask the President to honor the institutional memory of UHM’s support and agreement to move the ACM into the KHET facility, which clearly fits student, faculty and program needs.

**-Sawyer Chesnut-Pinto
sawyerpcp@hawaii.edu**

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

As an ACM alumni, I can testify that the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa is in desperate need of a facility in order to take this program to the level it needs to be. The Academy for Creative Media has such great potential of becoming one of the most notable film schools in the Pacific. The caliber of the professors I was privileged to learn from during my time at ACM is comparable to that of the nation's top films schools such as the USC, AFI and NYU. The only thing this school lacks is proper facilities for the students to get the full breadth of education they deserve.

Having limited resources hindered me as a student from getting real life, hands on experience needed to become a professional in the field of film and television. Without a studio and proper equipment, we could only learn theoretically but never practically. After I graduated I went on to work for a successful production company here in Hawaii where I quickly learned that not having these practical skills held me back from doing the work I was expected to do. I eventually had the privilege of working as a colorist on a feature film which went on to get picked up by Lakeshore Entertainment (a division of Sony Pictures). However my journey to get to that point was a hardship having no prior hands-on experience in working in a professional color-correction studio.

I strongly believe that investing into the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa is investing into the future of Hawaii's film industry. We should be producing individuals who have the skills necessary to compete with the leading professionals in the local film and television industry. As of now the film industry in Hawaii is limited to a very small group of individuals. The reason for this I believe is due to that fact that students are enticed to seek education elsewhere, most likely on the mainland, which inevitably leads them to landing work on the mainland. Students should not need to seek education elsewhere in order to learn the skills that could be taught within the already well established ACM program.

Mahalo,
Lana Quindica

Phone: 808-286-4187

Email: lanadang07@gmail.com

Tuesday 7 February, 2017

The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I am a student from the Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand and was an exchange student at UHM for both Spring and Fall semesters of 2016. During that time, I had the privilege of joining the ACM department and took several courses offered throughout the year. Regardless of my temporary standing, I was offered an incredible amount of support by the entire ACM department who made sure that I got the most out of my time at UHM.

The dedication to the work and their students by the ACM faculty that I witnessed during my time as a student, demonstrated a passion and commitment to the study of film that I am extremely lucky to have experienced. The sense of community amongst both faculty and student body, allowed me to excel in my studies, and also led me to the opportunity to network with local filmmakers in Hawai'i, including ACM alumni.

My enthusiasm for the effectiveness of the ACM program is important to note as I am a Pacific woman, and thus, a minority in the field of film. The significance of diversity in this industry is now more crucial than ever, and the ACM program is the first place I have truly seen a commitment to the education and production of indigenous and Pacific storytelling, even as a New Zealander. This is evident in the work of present and past students (and faculty), and gives me great hope for the future of filmmaking, especially in the Pacific.

Tuesday 7 February, 2017

Despite the advantageous courses on offer and the strength of the teaching, the ACM ultimately falls short of being a comprehensive film school due to its inadequacy of facilities. Unfortunately, there was no opportunity to learn about or use a soundstage, which is crucial to understanding production since it's used in almost every prominent film made today. We also didn't have access to sound or color correction studios, which significantly affected the quality of content we could create. Because I was involved in the production of numerous films throughout the year, it became clear that the lack of access to such amenities not only limited our ability to make certain types of films, but also made the process so much more difficult for our crews, which tended to have an extremely discouraging affect within the ACM student body.

To provide a dedicated facility to this department is critical to the growth of the ACM and its students. As a Theatre major as well, I know firsthand the importance of having a dedicated space for creative collaboration. The benefit of specifically-designed theatre spaces, the accessibility to all technical and production resources, and the proximity to faculty and other theatre students all within the Kennedy Theatre building, provided an immediacy to our creative work within the Theatre department at UHM. Our access to spaces, resources, and each other, meant that our work was only limited by our imagination, and I believe that this is key to ACM's future.

My experience at the University of Hawai'i, particularly within the Academy of Creative Media, has been invaluable to my education, and I am confident that my career in filmmaking has been advanced as a result of my time there. I am hopeful that future ACM students, including exchange students like myself, will greatly benefit from this program, especially with the facilities and resources of an official film school. I urge you to honor UHM's agreement of the movement into the old KHET building in order to support the growth of the ACM and the future of artistic expression.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nāku iti noa, nā,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maiya Thompson', written in a cursive style.

Maiya Thompson

Kurt Noe
P.O. Box 962
Kalaheo, HI 96741 (808) 634-0564

Testimony of the Academy for Creative Media
IN SUPPORT OF SB 1317 and HB 1560,

My name is Kurt Noe, I am a senior student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and am currently double majoring in the Academy for Creative Media Animation Track and Information and Computer Sciences. I am in support of the movement to help fund and provide a better equipped home for the Academy for Creative Media. Currently the department is divided around the campus leading to a separation between the members of the animation and digital cinema majors as well as a lack of necessary facilities for use by the students. Provided this bill passes students will hopefully be able to be provided with more professional grade equipment and instruction on how to operate them to better prepare them for working at professional level.

With the current set up, we are mainly equipped to work on 2D animations with the means through the Cintiq tablets and light boards in the animation lab. However some of the more important tools for a animated production are missing such as a sound stage which is needed to record high quality audio for a production to give it a more respectful level of polish. Due to lacking this resource students usually have defer to their own means if there are any for them. Options like recording the audio on their phones is a very weak substitute as the sound is of substandard quality and would not be up to par for use in a film one would expect to premiere at a film festival or further than that. Other alternatives would be for the students to purchase their own microphones but this still lacks the utility of a sound stage to allow for clean recordings and high end microphones are fairly expensive. In addition to that, the absence of further audio equipment like a mixing board means we mainly have to resort to audio mixing in Audacity and Premiere, however these are used out of out circumstance rather than a more thorough solution to prepare students for working with all aspects of filmmaking. Also with the prevalence of 3D animation in big budget films having access to 3D modeling software such as Mudbox and ZBrush would allow our animation students to develop their skills in both 3D animation and modeling for the purposes of filmmaking as well as game development in association with the ICS department.

With the current setup of the different parts of the Academy for Creative Media being scattered across the campus also means that there is currently a substantial separation between the students of the animation and digital cinema majors where outside of a few classes their paths do not cross often due to their base of operations being located in different parts of the UHM campus. Allowing there to be a centralized workplace for the ACM department within the KHET building means that there is a more encouraged environment for possible collaborations and communication between the students which can also open more opportunities for projects. With the ease that it would take move into the KHET as opposed to creating a new facility this is an opportunity that would be difficult to pass up.

For the sake of allowing ACM to continue to grow as a field we need these resources available to the students so that they can become much more well rounded in their skill set and produce higher quality productions that would both help boost the personal endeavors of the students as well as help add to the prestige of the program. Having a more skilled student base

would also allow for students to be able to develop their own studios here in Hawaii and possibly attract more work to Hawaii as well. Currently there has been interest in the possibility of an established game developer establishing a game development studio here that would work on a game based on Native Hawaiian culture and mythology. Allowing students to better develop their skills at animation, sound mixing, and 3D modeling among other skills would allow there to be a qualified and ready student and post-grad base to possibly work on projects such as this, rather than the studio bringing people from out of state to fill the positions. In addition last semester we received a visit from representatives from Pixar looking to recruit people into their internship program, we want to be able to equip the students with the skills to better make the cut and open many more opportunities for them. Some of first steps to achieving this is through establishing this base of operations and providing the students with better equipment and facilities and I hope to see it go through not just for the students that are currently enrolled in the major but for the future students as well.

Therefore, I hope that the committee would be willing provide support for SB 1317 and help ensure the future development of the Academy for Creative Media at UH Manoa.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kurt Noe

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Hello, my name is Alfred Chan and I am a senior at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa who is majoring in the ACM: Animation Track. I have been part of ACM for about 3 years and I can say that the mentors who teach the many students who apply to the program are knowledgeable, kind, and helpful. Surely, great mentors like these can create great filmmakers for the future of Hawaii and the filmmaking industry.

I would love to say that my experience with ACM has been the best years of my life but I am sad to say it is not. The reason for this is inadequate resources available to the students and teachers alike. There are not a lot of lab hours for the students to use the facilities to work on projects. Most of the time we are busy taking classes during those hours and when we do have time, there are only about 1 or 2 hours left before they have to close the lab. There is no real headquarter for the department. In fact, the department is literally scattered around the campus. The last thing to address about the resource problem are the facilities. 3 years ago the animation lab was so small that the maximum capacity was about 12 or 13 people. Often times, it will be well over that limit with students waiting to get their turn at the computers. Now, it's slightly better because we got a much bigger lab that holds about 25 or 30 people. Although, the animation department is attracting more and more students each year that it is starting to reach the max capacity again, this does not even include the live action students who need the computers to do editing.

When I heard that the department will be taking over the KHET building across Dole Street I was elated. The KHET facility is definitely large enough to house the increasing population of the ACM department and big enough to hold more advanced equipment and space for the students and teachers alike. Unfortunately, President Lassner of UH Manoa, who is our main support for the move in, has recently reneged from his commitment. Therefore, the future of the department that has taught me to become the filmmaker I am today, is at risk. The funding that you can provide is pivotal in getting the ACM department back on its feet.

Not only will the funding be beneficial to all students and teachers who are part of the department, it will help benefit UH Manoa and Hawaii as a whole. Funding will allow future alumni to be equipped with better knowledge to make great motion films that can potentially attract even more people to the University of Hawaii at Manoa. It can also be a strong incentive for people to start local studios that will keep our talented creative force in Hawaii instead of losing them to the mainland. I hope that you give the funding to make this ambition a reality. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to give my testimony on the current situation of the ACM department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Sincerely,
Alfred Chan

The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

My name is Stuart Hilton and I am currently a first year student in the Academy of Creative Media (ACM) program at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. In my short time here so far I have been continually impressed and inspired by the staff of teachers and assistants, as well as my fellow students. I believe that all of us involved in the program are trying to create and share their unique perspectives of creativity with not only each other, but with the people of Hawai'i and abroad as well.

With the approval of renovation for the KHET building, I believe that it will give current and future students something to look forward to working with. At the moment, we do not have a sound stage or a mixing stage and these are the most optimal requirements necessary to achieve the quality of work that the ACM program is known for. Without these facilities, we are hampering the quality of work that is coming out of the program. This saddens me, as those of us in the program know what kinds of great talent we are surrounded by; both teachers and peers alike. So we implore you to please help the program take the step forward it needs to achieve greatness. With the addition of these facilities, students both current and future can strive to produce work that is reflective of what the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is capable of.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 6:58 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM*

SB1317

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for HRE on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Deveney Kelly
1165 N. Howard St., Glendale, CA 91207
(818) 956-1852
dkelly8@earthlink.net

February 7, 2017

Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'I Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, vice Chair

RE: SB 1317 Relating to the Academy for Creative Media

Thursday, February 9, 2017

2:00pm

Conference Room 224

State Capitol

15 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee;

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

My name is Deveney Kelly. I am a television director and have for the past 28 years worked on the dramatic serial **The Bold and the Beautiful** for CBS. I have been employed in television production since 1978, I have been a member of the Directors Guild of America for 38 years and the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for over 25 years. My directing team and I are the recipients of three Emmys for Outstanding Directing in a Daytime Serial and I have been nominated individually by the Directors Guild of America for Outstanding Achievement for Directing in a Daytime Serial. All this is merely to say that I bring some experience to the table with respect to the need for well-trained students in the area of the creative arts – specifically film and television production.

My son is a junior at UHM in the ACM program. I have visited the campus many times, sat in as a guest during regular classes and have been invited to host two lectures this April in a 'Masterclass' format for the Screenwriting and Directing classes. My experience on campus has been one of total delight and excitement. I have met so many talented young adults brimming with energy as they move into their various fields in the creative arts. The ACM program is one that should be and needs to be fully supported by UHM and, in this case, the legislature.

My reason for writing to you today is quite simple – I believe that the legislature would serve the community, the faculty, the students and the entire UHM program tremendously (cont.)

Deveney Kelly
1165 N. Howard St., Glendale, CA 91207
(818) 956-1852
dkelly8@earthlink.net

by funding the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and making it the *permanent* home for the Academy for Creative Media. The ACM program is currently spread out across the UHM campus in temporary and inadequate facilities. The students in the ACM program are at a distinct disadvantage and suffer by not having a permanent location for their program or the necessary facilities to excel in their studies. The beauty of this KHET/PBS facility is that it already provides the ACM with exactly what the program calls for – a fully equipped sound stage with a light grid and dimmer system, a computer lab, an animation lab, editing suites, color correction suite and sound mixing stage. The unique facilities in the building can be shared by multiple departments including Communications, Theatre and Dance, Art, Music as well as the Student Media Board organizations such as UH Productions and KTUH. Similar facilities constructed on university campuses such as UNLV, Chapman University and Colorado College have cost between 40-60 million dollars. This is a huge expenditure for even the most well-endowed school. Passing up the opportunity to have a facility that is so perfectly in-tune with the needs of the ACM program would be a terrible waste and a blow to what is already a vibrant, robust and successful program. Preparing students to compete in the world of film production means they need a sound stage to work on, editing rooms to bring their raw footage to a final cut and a sound mixing studio to complete their audio tracks. This facility would not only provide a permanent home for the film school program but it would be a valuable recruiting tool for prospective, new UH film school students. It would be a jewel in the crown for both the ACM program and the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in general.

Mahalo for your serious consideration and, hopefully, your agreement that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the ACM program, the UHM campus, the students, the community and the people of Hawai'i.

Best regards,

Deveney Kelly
Parent, Director and supporter of the ACM program and UH Foundation

The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

The ACM program at Manoa needs these funds to provide the students with better facilities because it would allow us more opportunities. The students of ACM Manoa have consistently shown their ability to create and produce successful films by winning many awards and receiving several nominations for their work. Considering that this was done without the facilities that students in schools like AFI, UCLA, NYU have, I can confidently say that our work would only improve given the chance. Our lack of facilities hinders our ability to produce the work we have the potential to create. If we were given editing suites, color correction suite, an animation lab, or a sound mixing studio, we could present films that are even better than they are now.

Being a film student in Hawai'i gives me a very unique advantage in my abilities to tell stories because I can set them in Hawai'i. Other filmmakers in Los Angeles or New York, for example, can only tell stories about Hollywood or "The Big City," which have been exhausted. Films set in Hawai'i gives viewers a newer perspective and a refreshing film-watching experience. To provide audiences with this, the students at ACM Manoa need to be given the resources to make feature films for theater distribution, because that is, after all, our school's goal. Making successful films in Hawai'i can allow for the production business to become export-based rather than import-based like it is now. This is a new and very exciting way to boost our economy and diversify it rather than relying heavily on tourism.

I am a huge supporter of this bill and I do want to see it pass. Being provided the proper facilities and resources to allow our school to compete with "big name" universities can really improve our students' chances at receiving theatrical distribution and can change the way the rest of the

country sees us. University of Hawaii at Manoa could become the next top film school, but only if we are given the chance.

Thank you,

Kelli White

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

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Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

The Academy for Creative Media, otherwise known as ACM, is a very unique and valuable department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. As an animation major in the academy, I am not only a student learning my trade but I have already become an animator, entering short films in film festivals across the U.S. ACM has not only been preparing me for the obstacles of a burgeoning animator but has already gotten me started on the path, guiding me towards success while under their tutelage. My dream of becoming an animator is no longer just a dream; I am one. I believe this statement to be true as well for the cinematographers, video editors, and scriptwriters in ACM, who are also already producing works of art to be viewed by large-scale audiences. None of this would have been possible without the guidance and instruction of ACM's phenomenal instructors. I can assuredly say that I have not had one professor in the ACM who has not displayed an insane passion for their job or pure joy in being able to share it and pass it on to future generations. The ACM student body is so incredibly fortunate to have professors that are willing to go to bat for us and, quite literally, fight to give us the best education that they can. They have been doing just that with what has been provided thus far and so we have all been patiently waiting with high expectations of a suitable, comfortable, permanent home for the ACM with the much needed specialized equipment, such as, a sound stage, mixing stage, color correcting studio, and animation studio, only to learn that it may not be possible after all. I beseech you, how does a painter paint without paints? The answer is simple; they do not.

ACM has slowly been gaining recognition from well-known film schools as well as animation studios throughout the U.S. We just recently had a visitation from the head of animation of PIXAR studios. This has been a hard earned achievement. To ensure that we continue such progress and influential relationships, it is essential that the proper, up-to-date equipment and a suitable facility be accessible to us. Without these, the future of

ACM is murky at best and it would be a true shame to lose a department like this one, which nourishes inherent gifts and creativity.

Assisting ACM's future development can only help Hawaii. We are taught to use our personal experiences and unique environment within our films because, how we feel about a place carries through to our work and makes those unfamiliar with this beautiful, one-of-a-kind place interested in both our films and what life is like here. Many of us have even gone on to help in nationally acclaimed TV shows that have garnered Hawaii a great deal of attention, such as, *Lost* or *Hawaii 5-0*. More Hawaii based filmmakers will, more likely than not, amount to more Hawaii based films being produced, which will hopefully cause a ripple effect and lead to more people seeing the films being made here and wanting to see the magical location for themselves. For all we know, the next equivalent to the *Lord of the Ring's* shire is just waiting to be found right here in Hawaii. Not to mention, should some of us gain a solid foot through the big Hollywood doors, this academy will gain insurmountable recognition and attention for the filmmakers they are producing, which could then in turn gain the University of Hawaii at Manoa an influx of students wanting to learn from some of the best and brightest the film industry has seen. Therefore, on a long-term scale, it is undoubtedly beneficial to ACM, the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and Hawaii to help provide the funds for ACM to relocate and renovate the KHET facility.

In closing, I'd like to say that you hold many futures in your hand because, by providing these necessary funds you will be providing futures to many, so I passionately encourage you all to provide the Academy of Creative Media's Ohana a permanent, bright future. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Haley Murayama

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 6:06 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: jg38@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM

SB1317

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for HRE on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Giles	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha! Im an older student originally from Philadelphia and I got involved in the UH system through KCC's New Media Arts and once I finished that I decided to take to next step and try for a BA. I grew up poor in a rough situation and didn't have the opportunity to further my education but I always knew how important it is. So this I do not take for granted! I teach film, animation, and sound production to 'troubled teens' at the Youth Challenge Program and I promote UHM for ACM and it would be a real shame to see no proper facilities for ACM program because it would shut it down, I see first hand how this creative outlet effects the youth in the most positive way. Film allows for life lessons. PLEASE don't let Hawaii, UHM, ACM fall behind the world in the creative technology! James Giles (Ambesa)

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

**RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017
Time: 2:00 PM
Conference Room 224
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI**

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

My name is Casey Lapidus and I am in my third year at UH Manoa's Academy for Creative Media (ACM). I come from a background that has absolutely nothing to do with filmmaking yet my passion is creating films out of unique stories of Hawai'i, which are most often overshadowed by mainstream creative media. ACM has given me the best resources to create innovative ideas that maintain the meaning and truth embodied in our special island.

I've personally progressed tremendously in the last year by getting involved in understanding the professional level filmmaking in which ACM wishes to provide for us. We are a classroom full of eager students who are learning about equipment and facilities that we do not have which is unfair to our learning potential. The people involved with ACM are creative problem solvers who are passionate about creating high quality films that appear in film festivals across the world and compete with the other top university film programs.

However, in my experience, the lack of a proper sound stage and sound mixing studio has impacted the quality of my film as well as forced our production to have to compensate for non-university students to sound mix rather than teach one of our own ACM students what it's like to use professional equipment. It's not fair that we are going to be forced out into the professional world and not know the current equipment to perfect the proper techniques in which college is supposed to prepare us for.

I wish to work as a producer in feature films and I want to be able to graduate on a professional level and enter the work sphere as a confident, capable producer. I have made some great friends in ACM in which are connections who I hope to be my colleagues, and I know we all need this facility for ACM.

Mahalo,

- Casey Lapidus

Jay Hanamura

3456A Keanu Street
Honolulu, HI 96816
808-927-3117
jayhanamura@gmail.com

February 7, 2017

The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

As a 2009 UHM ACM graduate, current video/film professional here on Oahu, and Hawaii's 2016 Young Advertising Person of the Year, I must stress enough how important these modern facilities are to today's learning environment. I am one of the few graduates during the time I was in ACM to stay here in Hawaii and contribute back to the community as a video/film professional. I know for a fact that the vast majority of my colleagues, who have since left the video/film industry were not properly trained with the needed equipment and facilities to make video/film into a viable career option.

If this is my chance to change this from happening to other local students, than I will do my part. I have worked in Hawaii's video/film industry my entire adult life and I have seen way too many of our local talent leave the islands and never come back because the ACM program wasn't up to the basic standards. This is our chance to keep our best and brightest here. Please help.

Sincerely yours,

Jay Hanamura
Kinetic Productions, Inc.
Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 5:32 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: chloema@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM*

SB1317

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for HRE on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chloe ma	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

It's very important that we get the funds to renovate our facilities. We have been unable to be properly trained. I feel that without the proper equipment, I will not be ready for the "real world" sets and sound stages because we have not been able to experiment and learn how to use such things. Without this, I fear that I will be competing against others with much more experience because I was not taught to use the right equipment in the proper facilities. So please consider all of the students at this school trying to become a producer, director, sound engineer, cinematographer, etc. before you deny us the funds for proper facilities and equipment. We need these funds to succeed as a group at this school.

Thank you,
Maia Goel

The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 414

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

I am a graduate of the Academy for Creative Media and have been working in the film industry for nearly 10 years. Right now the Academy for Creative Media is operating in multiple building across the Mānoa campus. That is difficult for a media and arts program where majority, if not all, of the projects rely on the collaboration of students. Film is a kākou process. There are many hands involved in order for a project to succeed.

I understood this first hand after graduating from UH and attending Chapman University for my master's degree. It was a film school that contained sound stages, studios, editing bays, classrooms and a theater all in one facility. It modeled many studios and was a perfect way students to practice industry standards. Not only that, it allowed for collaboration. The film building became the hub for production meetings, workshops, and social functions. It created a community. I forged lifelong relationship with every single one of my classmates from that school. At the current ACM, you barely see your classmates outside of class because of the lack of a shared space. It is missing that home to build a community.

The Academy for Creative Media offers a unique education that is not offered anywhere else on O'ahu, and I truly believe that. It prepares students for a growing film and television industry that

has been predominantly run by people outside of Hawai'i. The ACM prepared me those managerial roles, or "above the line" as what we call it in the industry. But there is still a small number of us in those above the line positions. Education is a way for us to transcend through those barriers. Equipping the Academy for Creative Media with the appropriate facilities is one way to get it started.

Best,

Ty Sanga

tyronesanga@gmail.com

February 8, 2017

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I have been an Animation lecturer in the Academy for Creative Media for two years. Previously I was a full time Animation teacher at New York University for thirteen years. I am also a professional animator. I have found that the animation students here at ACM Manoa are highly motivated, talented and committed to their art form. They compare positively to my former students at NYU. However, the ACM students are at a disadvantage not because of their own shortcomings but because our program facilities do not support them in the same way. Animation takes many long hours of labor and our students do not have the access to the equipment and facilities that they need. ACM students shuttle around campus to complete their work in various far flung locations. I urge you to support the committed and talented filmmakers that the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa cultivates. Please give these students, faculty and staff a permanent home base in which learning and creativity can flourish and the program itself can keep up with other world class filmmaking institutions.

Aloha,
Laura Margulies

ATTN: The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee,

I write this letter to make clear my position of support for SB-1317 and the ACM program at UH Mānoa. This will effectively give my program, faculty, and all students a permanent home at the KHET/PBS building. A home that was promised to us I might add.

I am a senior in the program, and it is with great regret that I declare that I have been short-changed on my education at UHM because of a lack of proper facilities for my major. These facilities would teach us filmmaking principles that are at the fundamental level in the industry. We would actually acquire experience in an environment that is at the industry standard. Ladies and Gentlemen, right now we are far below that line.

I'd like to point out that UH West O'ahu recently received 35 million dollars. We received nothing. Why is UH Mānoa being overlooked when you consider the immense success rate of our program, and the fact that it's the only film school in the state? Its politics – plain and simple - and politics over hurt feelings has absolutely no place in Academia. It is an absolute shame on those responsible for the crisis that our program is currently in. Students should not be suffering because of this and it must stop now.

I plead to you to pass this bill so that our students can enjoy the facilities that I was denied while attending this wonderful school and program.

This is about helping students succeed, and it's about upholding what is ethically and morally right. We were promised these facilities and its time that they get made.

My sincerest thanks for your consideration,

Aloha,

Keith Taylor
Senior – ACM, UHM
Ktaylor2@hawaii.edu
208-866-1550

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

The ACM program has given me purpose in college. Before I declared into the animation branch of ACM, I was a lost soul not knowing where my life would go. Almost immediately after joining the program, I was enjoying each coming day as it was filled with the joys of the animation process. The lab in which I work is very well equipped, but unfortunately, it's not in any specific building. Just a random scattered room, one of many across the UH campus. It's not always open, and even when it is, still at very specific times of day. The only other option for working on projects would be all the way at the ACM Media Center. Unfortunately, I cannot make it to the center most days to due restricted location and time conflicts with other classes. I would love to see the funding needed for the ACM department here at UH go into the required areas of improvement. By granting us the funds, you grant us our ambitions, our goals and dreams that must be achieved through the Academy for Creative Media. Please think of the individuals fighting for the department to stay at UH who really put passion into the works they create, all in part to the ACM department on campus. Thank you for reading this testimony, and I hope you remember our voices when deciding the fate of ACM at University of Hawaii, Manoa.

To whom this may concern,

On behalf of the ACM community at UH Mānoa, I (an undergrad student) Lorene Hashida would like to share the importance of giving ACM a home. This is my second semester at UH Mānoa and my first semester being in the ACM Mānoa program. I've had nothing but good experiences in my year here, until hearing this news. It gives me great sorrow to know that the place I've known to be the home of ACM, and all of its equipment will possibly not exist any longer. The ACM Mānoa community was under the impression that we would be moving into the old KHET building on the corner of University and Dole, as was promised by UHM Interim Chancellor Bley-Vroman. Until recently this didn't seem to be a problem.

I walk around campus and see many buildings, a lot of them assigned to one specific designated program such as sciences, or hawaiian studies. When meeting with any of my ACM professors I go to their offices in Crawford, although that building is not specifically for ACM Mānoa. When I need to edit a video I must go to Keller where the computer stations are. Why is it that ACM Mānoa does not deserve a home? Are we not important too?

The old KHET building, one crosswalk away from campus is a perfect location to be our home. It comes equipped with the things we need, and will most definitely make use of. The sound stage, is one of its best attributes. Along with editing suites, a sound-mixing stage, an animation lab, a color correction suite, and a computer lab (these things literally come with the building, no extra fees added.) If UH decides to give up the KHET building and relocate the ACM Mānoa program, at some point in the future UH would have to spend even more money to build this work studio in another building on campus. As a UH student I learned that the University of Hawai'i is a wonderful school with incredible amounts of intelligent people. For UH to make the decision of not investing in the KHET building would be a very unintelligent decision to make.

I am trying to pursue a career in the film industry, and that is why I am in the ACM Mānoa program. If we do not have the old KHET building as our home and base, this will make it much more difficult for not only myself but all of my classmates that share the same dream. I don't even know what will happen, as of right now I know that building to be our media center. Where will I go to rent out equipment? Or edit my videos in a private sound proof room? Or where could I go to demonstrate a stage with the proper three-point-lighting setup. I don't know what will become of ACM Mānoa if we cannot move into the building we have been promised many years ago.

Grant ACM Mānoa the old KHET building and we will surely use it to its maximum capability, and produce films that the University of Hawai'i will be proud of. We've already made it to film festivals, and this is just the beginning. With this building we can continue to strive towards our dreams and continue to create a good name for the University of Hawai'i Mānoa.

Lorene Hashida

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

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Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

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Conference Room 414

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

As a student of the very first class of the Academy for Creative Media, I'd like to briefly say just how important this program was to the development of myself as a filmmaker, and to the development of the film community in Hawaii. Since graduating from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I have gone on to receive a MFA in Film Production from the University of Southern California, and gone on to a successful career in the independent film industry. I first learned documentary editing at the Academy for Creative Media and my documentary editing work has since been nominated for a daytime Emmy, a GLAAD award, and has received a student Academy Award. As a writer and director, my work has received fellowships from the Sundance Institute, Time Warner, the Jerome Foundation, and Visual Communications. All of this sprung from very humble origins of the ACM, in spite of the school having a proper home, studio space or equipment. I was lucky in that I later went on to learn the necessary technical skills at USC in Los Angeles, but have no doubt that if the ACM had the facilities proposed, I would have more rapidly blossomed into a full grown filmmaker. Which means I would have been more readily able to begin working on my own independent projects at home -- which is something I do now (I am shooting a feature film on Oahu this year.)

The passion for local stories that I learned from the ACM made it possible for independent film projects like mine to manifest. Now all that's missing are proper facilities. Please support the continued expansion and development of this program by providing the ACM with a homebase and the facilities and equipment to continue to operate at the high level it does and continue to grow to Hawaii's creative industries.

Christopher Makoto Yogi
christopher.yogi@gmail.com
808-561-0820

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

I graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with a BA in Creative Media in Spring 2012. As proud ACM alumni, I am saddened to hear that UHM may decline to honor ACM's move into the KHET building. During my time as an ACM student, it was hard to know where "our" home was. Most of the other UHM colleges have their own place on campus. But, ACM never had a place to call home. ACM'ers also never had permanent access to proper facilities, outsourcing help from the Communications Department, through the KHET facilities, and various computer labs scattered around campus.

I had a student job working for the ACM Media Center, which occupied a small portion of the 2nd floor of the KHET building. I taught ACM Students how to use the camera/lighting/grip equipment, as well as assist in checking in/out the same equipment as the ACM'ers began production on their film projects. Space for equipment was very, very limited. "It's like squeezing 5-lb into a 10-lb bag," my supervisor, ACM Production Manager Gregg Ambrosius would tell me. As I was the person doing the squeezing and moving equipment around, his statement was quite relevant. ACM needs a proper space to support the basic equipment requirements of the ACM film students.

I also had a concurrent student job working for Don Kozono for the UH Communications Lab downstairs in Studio B. Again, I taught students how to use similar film production equipment, while also teaching them how to use Studio B's facilities, like the lighting grid. As Studio B, was mainly used to assist the Communications students, ACM students were welcomed but usually not priority.

I am now employed at the CBS Television Show, Hawaii Five-0. Thanks to 2 semesters of Hawaii Five-0 internships supported by ACM, I got my foot in the door of the industry that I've always dreamed of being a part of. I have now worked for Hawaii Five-0 for almost 5 years. First, hired as the Art Department PA for seasons 3, 4 and 5. Then promoted to the Legal Clearance Coordinator in season 6. Five-0 is currently in its 7th season. Hawaii Five-0 employs dozens of ACM alumni like me. All thanks to ACM.

I fought to make the best of what facilities we were offered. But, we want incoming ACM students to have it better than we did. ACM needs a home to grow more alumni like my friends and colleagues. The KHET building is the perfect location. Please do not deny ACM the opportunity to help Hawaii's filmmaking industry grow further.

Sincerely,
Jamie Ku

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

My name is Alex Vetter. I'm a student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, and as the president of the Academy of Creative Media Student Association (ACMSA), I have appropriated countless hours to students, in hopes for them to gain a better understanding of the digital and film industry. The club works alongside the Academy of Creative Media (ACM) to develop students and give them an understanding of telling a unique story, lighting in a scene, editing on a digital and film format, working in collaborative environments and gaining experience to become professionals in the movie industry. We strive to grow students within ACMSA and ACM to provide a foundation that can be used throughout their professional and personal lives. However, due to the inadequate facilities that the Academy of Creative Media has access to, the students within the Academy of Creative Media have suffered, halting students' growth and understanding of basic needs within our industry.

The facilities at the Academy of Creative Media lack a collaborative space open for students within the Creative Media major, a common sound studio for filming, a color correction and editing studio.

When I joined the Creative Media major in the Fall of 2014, the students and teachers were stowed away in the upper floor of the Public Broadcasting Service building (KHET). When walking into the PBS building, students would be pushed upstairs where the Academy's "media center" would be located. The media center was huddled into a cubby hole, in a hallway where if there was more than one student in the hallway at the time, it would be crowded. As a student at

the University I thought that all majors had this kind of space - enough for one person at a time, and less than four feet in every direction for student workers to operate. Students need space to learn in a safe environment and collaborate with their classmates. The Academy does have a common space for students to learn together and grow into professionals that can be respected within the industry.

Less than a semester later, I joined an upper class within the major, Cinematic Narrative Production, where we had access to rent out better equipment, but had no space to use this equipment. One of the first classes, our class met at the Public Broadcasting Service building (KHET) and were shuffled into a singular line down an unfamiliar hallway on the first floor. The class was introduced to the communication department's studio, a space bigger than the Academy of Creative Media has ever operated in, let alone had access to. For a film major to thrive, a sound stage is needed, not only for students to learn equipment in a safe environment, but also because students need an area that has space, in order to operate equipment. The Academy of Creative Media has equipment that ranges from two to fifteen feet, taking five to fifty feet to operate and almost every day, students check out and test equipment at the same time, meaning at the least, students would need a space where they would be able to operate the equipment the Academy owns, giving the students reason for wanting a sound studio to operate equipment and film with. If the academy had access to a space similar to the communication department's studio, we would be given access to learning the equipment in a safe space and being able to operate some of the equipment for the first time. Many of the students within the major have yet to touch half of the equipment as much of it is too big to learn in an environment like a hallway, unless we start setting up a fifteen foot crane in the middle of a walkway for students and staff at the KHET building.

For this past semester, I was involved in a production where the film required color correction (changing how the film looks so it is viewable by the audience) and editing. One of the students within the class wanted access to a studio or even a computer that would be able to handle footage, to where she would not be using her own equipment that does not load the footage properly and hinders her ability to be able to make the footage viewable for the audience. The Academy of Creative media does not have an editing or color correction studio, forcing the student to use her own equipment, which ultimately freezes, crashes, does not have the resources needed to finish the project and causes a loss of efficiency and time for her to operate with. It was an inadequate display of what is available to the students and caused the students to pay for equipment in order to finish the job.

The Academy of Creative Media needs a collaborative space for students, a place to operate, a space for students to learn equipment and gain the tools necessary to understand the basics of filmmaking. From the Academy of Creative Media Student Association, we hope that students will be able to learn and understand in order to grow both professionally and personally.

Thank you.

Contact:

Alexander Jordan Vetter

(818) 458 - 2704

avetter@hawaii.edu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 8:29 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: vijaya.tummala@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM*

SB1317

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for HRE on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vijaya	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha kakou Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

My name is Henry Mochida and because of my education through ACM I have worked on over 100 film productions, screened films at dozens of film festivals, traveled internationally, founded a community media organization for under-represented communities, produced media for entertainment facilities, managed media labs, innovated the use of filmmaking for social research, and worked for major media organizations.

I have been able to consistently tap into this knowledge base and skill-set in seeking gainful employment and meaningful community while living on the mainland. I am writing in support of SB-1317 that appropriates funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I attended ACM while it was in its fledgling stages. We were a tight knit community with a passion for storytelling and only basic tools to make the magic come to the screen. We scrapped equipment together and stretched resources between students often relying on personal finances to improve production value. We trucked and lugged our gear from the KHET/PBS building to classroom spaces scattered across campus and provided students with limited access to studio environments on rented time.

Despite these early on restrictions ACM has consistently grown to be a key figure in the film industry in Hawaii, the Pacific, and beyond. Yet, through our partnerships we are often working with peers and colleagues in other universities who have access to state-of-the-art facilities including sound stages, green screen studios, color correction suites, film processing and projection houses, as well as film archives. In fact, it would surprise many of our partners to know that we do not have a permanent facility on campus in Honolulu.

An investment in such a space for our department is the necessary next step to meet our hard earned reputation. Our world class faculty require the security of a facility to teach without one arm tied behind their backs. Such a facility would allow ACM and the University of Hawaii to better foster the future leaders and talent in storytelling, media technology, and the film industry. The passage of this bill will be a game changer for our students. I applaud your astute and steadfast efforts to pass it.

Mahalo nui loa,

Henry I. Mochida

Anagram Pictures
A Hawaii production company, (808)383-7383

SB1317

RELATING TO THE ACADEMY OF CREATIVE MEDIA
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Public Hearing, February 9, 2017
2:00 PM, conference room 224
by Robert A. Bates, director, Anagram Pictures

SB 1317 makes an appropriation to the University of Hawaii at Manoa for renovation of the former PBS Hawaii offices and production facilities so they may be used by the Academy of Creative Media, Manoa (ACM UHM).

I support the intent of this bill. And I strongly support the Academy and its mission.

As a filmmaker, I have based my business in Hawaii for over 25 years. Our business has grown exponentially in the last ten years due to the State's refundable tax credits and the concurrent growth of the local labor pool graduating from ACM.

Recently I had the experience of working with graduates and students of ACM on the film, Go For Broke. The present and former students of ACM worked tirelessly alongside established industry veterans, exhibiting a level of professionalism on par with any crew I've worked with.

The level of commitment across this entire group can be attributed to their training at ACM UHM.

The former stages and offices of KEHT/PBS Hawaii are well suited to the advancement of the Academy. The building was designed ground-up as a production facility. I worked there many times on TV shows, documentaries and commercials. It's a facility worth preserving for many reasons besides its location next to U.H. Manoa.

2.

The facility has enough space for instructor offices to be adjacent to the learning environment where planning, shooting and editing productions would occur.

With its size and acoustic isolation, Studio A is one of the best in the state. While it lacks the scale required for most movie shoots, it is an appropriate size for many productions. Outside productions utilizing Studio A can both provide revenue for ACM UHM, and a fertile training ground.

Please support an effort to keep this facility in production, and please support ACM UHM and its mission to train our fine young people for an industry that promotes Hawaii as a destination while providing good paying jobs.

Robert A. Bates

1970 Mott Smith Dr

Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Shangri La
A Museum of Islamic Art, Culture & Design
4055 Papu Circle
Honolulu, HI 96816

February 6, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express wholehearted support for the following congressional bills SB1317 and HB1560, which will greatly advance the important work of Hawaii's flagship film program, the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa.

My institution, Shangri La, a museum of Islamic art, culture and design, has an extensive and fruitful relationship with ACM Mānoa. The museum, which creates bold and innovative exhibitions, guided tours, public programs and digital initiatives, supports several world-class artist and scholar residencies each year. ACM's collaboration and support have proved integral to many notable artists and scholars at Shangri La, such as the world renowned filmmaker Garin Nugroho and award-winning hip hop artist Omar Offendum.

As an leading institution of film education and innovation, ACM Mānoa is an unique contributor to the cultural growth and success of Honolulu. The robust program, produces more than 150 student short films a year, including the award-winning feature documentary "State of Aloha." ACM Mānoa students, alumni, and faculty have made films that have garnered attention and awards at top international film festivals such as Sundance, Berlin, Toronto, and Tribeca, and have won numerous grants and accolades, including the recent feature-length film production agreement for \$2.5 million to bring a Marshall Islands story "Until the Dolphin Flies" to the big screen.

Despite all their success, the program continues to be handicapped by their temporary and inadequate facilities. The current bills under review to renovate and expand ACM Mānoa's main building would not only positively impact the program's capacity, but it would greatly benefit the community at large. ACM Mānoa positions Hawai'i as a thriving center for film and the arts. Adequate facilities are imperative for ACM Mānoa's continued success.

In sum, ACM Mānoa is a vital contributor to the local community, economy and culture. Their growth and continued success hinges on the renovation and expansion of their facilities, and we appeal to you to pass the two bills under review. Please contact me at (808) 792-5503 if you have any questions or wish to discuss further.

Kind regards,



Paige Donnelly
Assoc. Curator of Programs

I support SB1317.

Through December and into January we were filming Stacey Hayashi's feature film, "Go For Broke, The Origins of the 442nd". The director, Alex Bocchieri, the director of photography, Jeremy Snell, and most of the crew were graduates and students of the University of Hawaii's Academy for Creative Media. Their expertise, enthusiasm and talent were remarkable. The footage they produced looks gorgeous. I have seldom ever worked with a such at tightly knit team of professionals in more than 30 years in the mass-media business.

It's amazing what ACM has done over the years to create a cadre of talented filmmakers.

What the ACM needs is a centralized home for its various programs, administrators, instructors and students, as well as much-needed studio space for training. The former PBS building on Dole Street is perfectly suited for that purpose.

Getting that building up to code is going to be expensive. However, it's an important and necessary investment toward the future of our filmmaking industry. ACM has proven itself time and again of producing skilled professionals who are well qualified to join the ranks of the movie-making business.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,
Dean Sensui, producer
"Go For Broke, The Origins of the 442nd"

Through the support and guidance offered to me by the University of Hawaii's Academy for Creative Media's faculty, I've been able to receive amazing opportunities from interning on the hit television show *Modern Family* to shooting a film on domestic violence in Rarotonga, Cook Islands. My professors repeatedly encouraged me to bring my Hawaiian culture and values to the screen and in doing so, helped me to define my voice as a filmmaker. Thanks to the portfolio of work they helped me to create, I was blessed with a full-ride merit scholarship from Chapman University, where I am currently working on my masters in film directing. The UH Academy for Creative Media program and faculty are greatly responsible for who I am and where I am today. To support the program and their needs would help them to further serve and enrich the lives and futures of many more students to come.

From: [Dean Des Jarlais](#)
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Subject: SB-1317
Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 2:59:06 PM

The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Hahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: SB-1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY OF CREATIVE MEDIA
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017
Time: 2 PM
Conference Room 224
State Capitol, 415 Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and home for the Academy of Creative Media. As Master's Degree graduate in Communications from the University of Hawaii in 1975, I can testify that the film and television production facilities at UH have always been lacking. Refurbishing the former KHET facility would provide the Academy with a state of the art facility that could not be built from the ground up. It also makes sense to utilize existing resources in a time of fiscal restraint. Please consider creating this opportunity for the ACM students and faculty.

Aloha,
Dean Des Jarlais
Hawaii Media Inc.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 10:28 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: popova@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM

SB1317

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for HRE on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
yulia popova	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: The Senate The Twenty-Ninth Legislature Regular Session of 2017 I was never taught how to work in the most common shooting space in the world (a sound stage),how to properly mix your sound because of no mixing stage,how to properly color correct your films because we have no color correction studio Committee on Higher Education Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017 Time: 2:00 PM Conference Room 224 State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee, I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

RE: SB - 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317, which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I was a former student at the Academy for Creative Media who eventually attended graduate school in California for Film Production. Although I learned many things regarding storytelling and directing from the amazing faculty at the ACM, I did find upon moving to the next level of my education that I was far behind in technical aptitude and skills I could have learned with proper facilities at the ACM. For example, I did not understand proper sound mixing, because we had no mixing facilities at ACM, proper procedure when shooting on a soundstage, or color mixing pipelines due to lack of a mixing studio.

All of these elements are equally as important to producing professional quality films and to better prepare students to be competitive in the industry. The KHET/PBS facilities have these elements and would create an environment that takes the Academy for Creative Media to the next level allowing it to compete with film programs across the country.

Thank you,

Paulina Bugembe
Class of 2012 (December)

paulina.bugembe@gmail.com

The Senate

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature

Regular Session of 2017

Committee on Higher Education

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Next semester I will be a senior majoring in Creative Media. During my past two years in the program, I have experienced many different types of classes: analytical, production, and post production. While I have learned an enormous amount about film making from highly accomplished professors, there's so much that I, and my fellow students, have missed out on by

not having a permanent home base. Right now, our department is scattered; something that doesn't seem right considering how much we pay in tuition costs each year (roughly \$1300/class, not including the \$200 fee for production courses). All we ask for is a building dedicated to our needs.

As it stands, the ACM program has no way of fully preparing students for the real world. Without a soundstage and access to a sound mixer, students aren't getting exposed to how traditional filmmakers do business. This puts us at a severe disadvantage when applying to jobs after graduation. Without any practical experience under our belts, it seems unlikely that any studio would take a chance on us, nor would we have the confidence to even try for the position in the first place. ACM is currently Hawaii's only film school, and if the program is not adequately preparing students to work in natural studio settings after graduation, then students are going to find other, off island universities that can.

The purpose of ACM is to train Hawaii filmmakers, and empower them to find their voice. ACM has done their best with what they've been given, but it's time that the promise for a future home be fulfilled.

Thank you for your time,

Amy Quintal-Rudman

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

As a senior in the program I have immensely enjoyed my time and education in the Academy of Creative Media Animation Track. However, this does not mean that I do not recognize the facilities are lacking. Specific to the Animation Track, it was only this past year that the Animation students got access to what could be considered as an Animation lab. Before students were given a tiny conference room in Crawford Hall that could not fit all of the tools used in Animation along with Animation students. Our new Animation lab is in Keller Hall, but the lab still lacks space, furniture, and tools that are needed by the students. An important example of this is that we do not have a proper sound booth that is easily accessible to record audio or foley sounds. This lab also separates us from our Live-Action Track counterparts who, because the program has no central home, we tend not to be able to interact with as much.

The Academy of Creative Media desperately needs a centralized location and support to improve its programs. The program has been doing a great job at providing outside opportunity for students. Live-Action students often get successful and rewarding internships on productions such as Hawai'i 5-0 and so on. Personally, as an animation student, the faculty at the Academy of Creative Media encouraged me to submit a script I wrote in my screenwriting class to the Sundance Native Lab that took place last summer. I was successfully accepted and I am currently in production of the film with the support of both the Academy of Creative Media and the mentors from the Sundance Native Lab. However, although they provide us with great outside opportunity the facilities that we need to use to learn here at school could be a lot better.

Overall, the Academy of Creative Media has so much potential, and although I am happy about my experience in the program, I can see that the program can do so much better for students if it gets the support and facilities that is needed for a art such as filmmaking. A centralized location where both Live-Action and Animation students can interact and have accessibility to equipment and facilities will raise the quality of the films that we produce. For Animation students, those who do not have access to computers, a cintiq, scanners, and so on will have an easier time keeping up with class. The program could have space to try to teach things that there was not quite enough room to teach such as creating foley sound or stop-motion animation. Basically, I am trying to get the point across that with a centralized facility like the KHET/PBS building the program will have room to grow into something I know the University can be proud of and that will support Hawaii's film industry by providing it with filmmakers who highly skilled and are familiar with the culture of the islands.

Thank you for the consideration,
Kari Noe

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

**RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017
Time: 2:00 PM
Conference Room 224
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI**

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I am writing in support of keeping the ACM program at the UH Manoa Campus and opening the former PBS Studio to ACM faculty and students.

I am an ACM alumni that has produced film content for President Obama, The Emperor of Japan, The US Navy, The American Red Cross, The LA Fire Department, Governor Neil Abercrombie, The University of Hawaii, Tower Cancer Research Foundation, Muslims For Progressive Values, and others.

I am based now in LA producing social impact films and episodic content with talented filmmakers who are national emmy winners and Golden Globe Winners. I wouldn't have had these opportunities if it weren't for the ACM learning experience. At the same time, upon reflection, I now know I SUFFERED greatly as a result of not having a studio to work and learn from. I was never taught to work in a sound stage, how to properly mix audio because of no mixing stage, never taught how to properly color correct, and all the fundamental necessities of what a sound stage provides and is expected industry standard. I had to go out and learn this independently without the support of the school I paid for and worked hard for.

The ACM NEEDS this studio and they need it in an area that is close to campus. Otherwise, it would be like putting USC Film School in Bakersfield – in an irrelevant location no one would attend. It would not provide the opportunity to be in the film and campus community which is critical.

Please support the ACM and keep them on UH Manoa Campus and with the studio on campus.

Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 9:36 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: christopher.t.howard@outlook.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM

SB1317

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for HRE on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Howard	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I realize that it is standard practice for the people in charge to go back on a deal and to change the rules in their favor, but it has to stop. The entire time I was a student at UH Manoa we were told that we will be getting a facility of our own, that soon we won't have to sneak, beg, and borrow for a space to learn and work. But, like always the little guy is getting stepped on. The students and faculty of the ACM deserve to have their own facility because I believe they've earned it and need it. The heart of filmmaking is collaboration and I know from first hand experience that without a place of their own, the students of ACM feel a bit of a disconnect among themselves. They all feel adrift. What's more, the students who choose to go through the ACM program are some of the most dedicated and passionate students of any program. They subject themselves to dozens of hours of pre production, several days of filming and another several dozen hours of post production with each film costing, on average, thousands of dollars. And they do go through all of that just for a grade. The least you could do is let them have their space.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 414

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani, & Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET & PBS facilities and home for the Academy for Creative Media (ACM) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

I graduated with an ACM degree in 2014 and am so thankful for my experience there. I walked away with friends, a network, and professors turned mentors, but most importantly, a voice. Today, I work in Los Angeles in the writers' room of a network television show.

However, despite the good that emerged from my ACM education, there is no denying the inefficiency of the program as a whole, due to the absence of a home building or central hub. This not only minimizes the simple value and importance of practical storage and workspace needs. It has also been a longstanding frustration to instructors and students who understand that the process of filmmaking 100 percent collaborative. Yet, by lacking a central space, our learning environment was never fully conducive to this need.

By supporting this bill, you are not only saying 'yes' to providing necessary facilities to students for an effective learning environment. You are also investing in a growing, rising, generation of homegrown filmmakers (who are) and will influence landscape of films and television with stories the world is eager and has yet to see.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Keiko Sugihara

Gaining a film degree through ACM has shaped me into a filmmaker with broader ideas and open eyes to projects that stray away from the typical rigid formulaic Hollywood approach. It has shown me the importance in giving the platform to voices that are overlooked or ignored. The ACM program has struggled over the years to give us adequate rooms that allow us to have our full filmmaking/ animation potential but we always knew once PBS left we would finally have a home. We wouldn't have to lug heavy and expensive equipment from the random class rooms we were assigned to and then back to the secluded PBS building. We would also be able to fully see the screen in dark rooms and see the minute color changes that in the end make a significant difference. More than once I had a class in which the rooms were not equipped for viewing or teaching the curriculum so we had to have our classroom changed. I can only imagine the difference it would make to have the future ACM students get the full film making experience in a place that is so central to the film industry, Hawaii.

Without ACM I would not be where I am today. They helped me gain a full time job in both an LA TV show as well as here, with the show Hawaii 5-0. There were/are so many talented filmmakers that pushed through the barrier of not enough space/equipment and excelled with fantastic films. I can't imagine what they could have made with the proper setting. Giving ACM an actual foundation to grow on will excel the program and students to unseen potentials which in turn will only help UH grow and draw new attention to itself. Hawaii draws so many films/commercials/TV shows here that give great opportunities for the people who know the island best and can represent it in the way it was meant to be seen. Getting this close to ACM's dream of an actual studio is unreal but to have that taken away right as we have reached the precipice would be devastating and undermine all in which the staff and students have worked so hard to see come to fruition. We really hope you will reconsider and allow ACM's Hawaii Filmmakers a fighting chance to create new future for UH's Academy of Creative Media.

Thank you for your consideration and time,
Shelby Harper

My name is Ishay Craig and I am supporting Bill SB 1317. As a UH Manoa ACM alumni I understand how imperative it is for ACM to update their facilities to allow students to further their learning experience by closely replicating industry standard equipment. During my time in ACM, I was able to learn a lot and use the equipment we had to put together short films. However, with improvement in our equipment, facilities, and resources in general, the quality of our work would be drastically improved--which would not only help ourselves as individual filmmakers, but as a UH Manoa major entirely. ACM has the potential to be an incredible program--it has allowed to me to work with other students on meaningful films, travel to Asia twice and work with international filmmakers, screen films in the Hawai'i theater, and intern on big budget films as well as local film companies. ACM has also helped myself and other students to get full time jobs in the industry immediately after graduating on visiting movies as well as television shows like Hawai'i 5-0. With more students becoming interested in the entertainment industry every day, it would be a long term investment to update the ACM facilities. The future of these students are at stake, please help us pass this bill SB 1317. Thank you.

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

**RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017
Time: 2:00 PM
Conference Room 224
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI**

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

As an alumni of the program, I know that there were many pieces of my education in Creative Media that were missing. Much of that include access to the appropriate equipment required to fully understand and master my major. This equipment includes sound stages, cameras, workspaces, these are all things that could have been provided. The Program and students truly suffered, some without even realizing what they were missing out on.

As a Creative Media Alumni, I should have got to experience real sounds stages and studios where I can learn the skills (color correction, editing, sound mixing) that other students at different Universities with the same degree had access to. Keeping this program alive and striving in the proper environment will do nothing but encourage more students to follow their dream with the help of the University of Hawaii and its beautiful campus and city.

Many Mahalos,

Samantha Duncan
University of Hawaii at Manoa Alumni and Supporter
(714) 928-7197
saduncan63@gmail.com

Kali Kasashima
kalikasashima@gmail.com

The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017
Time: 2:00 PM
Conference Room 224
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I write this letter in support of The ACM as a proud graduate of it's program. I've always had an interest in film, and the faculty and curriculum at The ACM has provided me with an education and network to pursue my dreams here in Los Angeles.

I graduated from The ACM in the Fall of 2014, and moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in the film industry on January 2016. Since my move, I've been able to work on two major Hollywood feature films, *Kong: Skull Island*, and *The Fate of The Furious*. Having grown up in Hawaii with no prior connections to Los Angeles, my career wouldn't be possible if I hadn't graduated from The ACM.

I received a great education from a wonderful faculty at The ACM, where the only thing holding us back from being a top-tier film school was our facilities. We never had a dedicated studio space to shoot in, and all of the editing, coloring, and sound mixing in post-production had to be done on our personal laptops. After seeing what kind of facilities are available here at film schools in California, it's evident in order to have competitive graduates of the program, we are in dire need of an upgrade.

Throughout my years at The ACM, I would talk to the faculty about our future plans to move into the PBS building, and what kind of learning opportunities that would provide for future students. It's incredibly disappointing to hear that the administration at the University is not following through on their promise to provide the new facilities to the students.

I ask for your support for the program that has provided so much for me, and many other students.

Sincerely,
Kali Kasashima

State of Hawaii Senate Twenty-Ninth Legislature Regular Session of 2017
Testimony in Support for SB 1317: Relating to the Academy for Creative Media

Date: February 9, 2017, 2:00PM Scheduled Hearing

To: Committee on Higher Education
Hon. Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Hon. Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair

From: Donna "Sweetie" Kuehu
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Graduate Student
Alumni of UHM ACM

Re: SB 1317, Relating to the Academy for Creative Media
HB 1560, University of Hawai'i; Academy for Creative Media; Appropriation

Aloha Honorable Senate Committee Members,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. These funds are necessary to secure Hawai'i's place in the global film industry, and will be used to establish a permanent location for the Academy. The investment in this area of academic discipline will bring future returns that may be unimaginable today, but necessary as a medium for creating a platform of understanding among cultures through film.

As a student of the Academy, we suffered from inadequate facilities, being bounced around every semester to any open classroom across campus where instructors could hold teaching classes. We were never taught to work in the most common shooting space in the world (a sound stage), or how to properly mix sound because we don't have a mixing stage. We were never taught how to properly color correct our films because we have no color correction studio.

Although the Academy has made great strides in the past 13 years, we are only in the beginning of Hawai'i's potential in this industry. It is imperative that we as a community support the education programs and the promises made by the administration to provide for the transition of the KHET/PBS facilities located at 2350 Dole Street, Honolulu, Hawaii to the Academy of Creative Media (ACM), as a permanent home. Imagine if we were able to produce movies like "Moana" from the Academy. We have the talent, we need your support of this bill and the ACM program at UHM. Mahalo!

Sincerely,
Sweetie Kuehu
UHM Graduate Student
Molecular Biosciences & Bioengineering
ACM Alumni 2014

The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017
Time: 2:00 PM
Conference Room 224
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

I was fortunate to be able to complete the Academy for Creative Media Program before I was accepted to the MFA program in film at the Univ. of Southern California. (I received my MFA in May of 2016.) I have been in higher education for more than 20 years, as a student and as a full-time faculty member, and I fully believe the ACM has the potential to be a world-class film school - if it can find the facilities it needs to continue to grow and develop.

While the faculty gave excellent instruction and experience to their students in writing, directing, and shooting, the education we got in post-production was extremely limited due to an absolute lack of facilities. There is no screening room, no editing facilities, no color correction equipment or software, no sound mixing facilities and notably, no soundstage and no theater - These are not items that are "nice to have" in a fully developed film program they are a necessity for film production. Much of, perhaps most of, what makes a film successful, occurs during post-production in dedicated facilities after the film has been shot. Post-production is also where the majority of jobs in film and television are found - ACM students are currently unable to be competitive for those jobs because of a lack of proper facilities.

In addition to preparing students to work in the film industry, the ACM program also has a clear goal of encouraging, supporting and nurturing local filmmakers to tell local stories. Stories that have a local outlook and perspective, and as a result, promote, preserve and continue to develop the unique local culture of Hawai'i - in all it's diversity, splendor, and yes, sometimes ugliness.

The success of the ACM so far has been achieved in spite of its lack of adequate facilities, and it is due to the hard work and dedication of ACM's faculty, staff and students. If the program receives adequate support (and facilities), then there is a real opportunity for UH Manoa, and the State of Hawai'i to have a world-class film program that welcomes and trains students from all over the world while maintaining an emphasis on local storytelling and filmmaking.

I hope the committee can support the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,



Aaron Bush
ACM Alumni
808.389.8494
abush357@gmail.com

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

**RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017
Time: 2:00 PM
Conference Room 224
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI**

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I am an alumna of the ACM program under the Animation focus. The ACM program is full of passionate professors who love the art, but it was very sparse and lacking in many essential tools necessary for creating quality films. These include a sound booth, foley art, a sound stage, color correcting facilities, and sound mixing. Because of this, student films suffered in quality and we struggled to produce films we did not feel proud enough to include in our portfolio.

With the space promised us, we would do the university proud with our creations and UH Manoa would see more student films entered into the Hawaii International Film Festival, which would draw more attention to the university and garner more students interested in film. Especially in as unique a place as Hawaii, we need more local voices expressing what life here is truly like, and not coloring it strictly for Mainland consumption. This can be accomplished at ACM.

I am part of a proud group of alumni who have benefitted from this program and the fervor of its teachers. I have seen my colleagues go on to graduate school to become successful, but we are few and far in between. When I graduated from UH Manoa, I had no portfolio because we did not have the facilities to create anything that would keep up with other universities. Students wishing to study film will avoid UH Manoa and the university will lose money if we cannot supply our students with the appropriate facilities. Furthermore, this space was promised to ACM thirteen years prior. In a changing political climate, it is more important now than ever before to keep the Arts alive, and especially in a medium as expressive as film.

Thank you for your time.

Paula Albaneze
(808) 383-5748
Squonk.hunter@gmail.com
1617 E Jefferson St. Apt 21
Seattle, WA 98122

The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media (ACM) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

My name is Kristle Kaye Richardson. I am an ACM student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a former technical assistant at their Media Center, currently stationed in the PBS/KHET building. We were ecstatic to have been promised a home there until it was taken back without negotiation. As a result of inadequate facilities, we ask that President Lassner to please hear that this matter is important to us. It's not just a written agreement for location or some criticism of how our academy is being managed, but it's the belief that our school doesn't take the ACM *student's* issues to heart.

Just like many students in our school, our goal in life is to find happiness, stability, and purpose in the things we dedicate our hard work to. This is why our program is in urgent need for facilities that provide for students who are trying to make a career in order to use their talents for the community, to screen well made films, and to share our knowledge. Unlike many prestigious schools, ACM is relatively small in students but it offers opportunities to make our own decisions as filmmakers and those choices should not be limited by the lack of facilities, connections, and tools.

We have had enough trying to make the most of inadequate shooting spaces, mixing stages, and theatrical sound systems, especially for the additional rates we pay our academy for. I've taken a post-sound production course concentrating on the proper standard 5.1 sound mixing that requires a theater, but there was no such theater to work in so we were taught virtually. In the same way, we have no color correction studio to truly know how to color correct our

films. Ultimately, when it's time for final edits on our independent films for renowned film festivals or our first job of our career, there is no doubt that we could have been better if we had learned to actually perform and practice these tasks.

I hope to graduate with good preparation and high education that helped build the confidence that I can do well in life or even start my own business and proudly say that *my school did that*. Therefore, I take this opportunity for civil action to amend ACM's history and stand up for the Academy's future in support of the S.B. NO. 1317.

Sincerely,
Kristle Kaye Richardson

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 414

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Currently, I am an undergraduate student at the Academy for Creative Media program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. This program means a lot to me. Coming to UHM to study animation has done so much for me in the past couple of years. I have met so many amazing, diverse, and creative people through this program at UHM. I want to continue learning about film and media through the ACM program at UHM. There is something special about having the program here at this institution, and I never want to leave it. However, I feel that we, the students in ACM, are struggling in this program. We are not struggling because of poor curriculum, but we are struggling because ACM does not have a proper home for the students and its classes. ACM has been in temporary locations at the University for some time now, and I now believe this program deserves a permanent home. Not only do we need a permanent space, but we need proper equipment and a proper environment. This lack of these things needed for the program reduces the potential in the students. It is like telling someone in the medical field that you won't give them equipment for them to do surgery, it should never be like that. I joined ACM because I love to act, tell stories, and create thrilling adventures. But, I have a hard time in my courses because my classes don't have the necessary tools to teach skills we will need in the future. If we are never learning important skills, then we may never be able to reach our full potential. I know that media has such a big impact in this world because of things

like social media, news, and movies. So, I as a creator/filmmaker want to do my job in society by inspiring people and delivering the truth in the way that I know best. The reason this matter is so important to me and everyone else at ACM is because this program at UHM is developing increasingly each year. I please ask you to help out the Academy of Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, so we can continue to grow as a program, as individuals, and especially as a family. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Shayne Hayama

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 12:34 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: mpoppler@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM*

SB1317

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for HRE on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Poppler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I am writing in regards to the future of the ACM program at the University of Hawaii Manoa. I am a senior, graduating this Spring and I can not be more concerned with the program than now. This program has given me opportunities I thought I would never be able to receive and I am forever grateful for that. Not only is the program filled with passionate, veteran filmmakers but also has a large group of students that are just as driven and motivated as the people teaching them.

I am a veteran of the U.S. Navy and when I left the service in 2014 I decided to stay here on Hawaii merely due to the fact that I was accepted into this program. Transitioning from a fast paced organization such as the Navy to this program proved to be beneficial due to the fact that I was working just as hard. The classes and programs offered in ACM are fun, challenging, and in the end very rewarding and educational.

The work and study ethic this program instills in its students is astoundingly exceptional and shows in the products that these students create with what they are given. The best thing I have seen come from this program is undeterred confidence these kids have when it comes to telling stories about this island. There is no other place I have been where I have seen the youth so passionately infused with representing, very respectfully, the stories of this great place.

There have been setbacks though. Since I have started, there has been no central building or location for our program. The KHET building is the best hope we have when it comes to having the institution needed to further our progress and understanding of how filmmaking process works. With this, we will be able to better tell the stories that need to be told.

The University of Hawaii Manoa needs this program. Our contributions to the local film business is evident with alumni working on films and TV shows, such as Hawaii 5-0. They have contributed to numerous local film festivals like the Hawaii International Film Festival and 'Ohina Film Festival as well as taking internships at a lot of these businesses.

Hopefully, this program will be saved, because a lot of potential exists within this program. A lot of driven, passionate young people are waiting to have the opportunity to tell the beautiful

stories of this island and hopefully spread it further out in the world. Please help us keep this program, I have not regretted one day of being in it. It's truly exceptional, thank you.

Sincerely,

John Yabes

My name is Thomas Takemoto-Chock, I am an Academy for Creative Media (ACM) alumnus. After graduating from ACM in 2009, I attended the American Film Institute (AFI) in Los Angeles as a Directing Fellow, receiving my MFA in 2012. AFI is located in the heart of Hollywood, and for very good reason: film production requires access. Access to working professionals who split their time between production and teaching. Access to actors and technicians who participate in student films for little to no pay. Access to resources ranging from production gear to props. Film productions are unique endeavors in that they require such a diverse range of expertise and tools. It makes perfect sense in that regard why the best film schools are located at the very center of cultural hubs.

The best film schools are also enormously challenging for their students. Drama is an artform that dates back thousands of years. Film students are expected to absorb and apply its lessons within several years of study. This was a very daunting task for me, but my access to the right people and the right resources during my years of study meant that I didn't have to worry about their availability. Instead, I was allowed to focus on how to work best with those people and those resources to make the most of my films. My ability was the only limitation, and that's how it should be at a film school. I felt that at AFI.

Moving ACM to UH West Oahu would strain access for film students to the point where quality work becomes unrealistic to achieve. Many skilled instructors will not be willing to relocate out of Honolulu where their professional lives are based. Few Honolulu-based actors and technicians would be willing to commute to West Oahu unless they are paid, which film students would be unable to do. Supply runs, which could take minutes in Honolulu, would take hours in West Oahu. As a result, film students will not be given the opportunity to make good creative choices - they would be forced to settle with whatever resources they have realistic access to. The quality of their work, the quality of their education, and their perception of filmmaking, would suffer.

I would not have attended either ACM or AFI had they been located outside of their respective city centers, and I presume many prospective students and faculty feel the same way.

Hawaii's young film industry is already thousands of miles away from the rest of the world. To take its only film school and move it out of Honolulu - out of the cultural center of this already secluded place - would be condemning our local film industry to a supportive role for other filmmakers who treat Hawaii as nothing more than a picturesque shooting destination for their own stories.

I declare my support for funding the renovation of the old KHET building at 2350 Dole Street so that this facility may serve as the permanent home for ACM at UH Manoa. Moving to the KHET building will vastly improve the educational potential of the program. Students can be taught how to shoot on sound stages, which are the most common shooting spaces in the world. Students can be taught how to properly edit sound on a real mixing stage. Students can be taught first hand how to color correct their films in a color correction studio. I learned all of these crucial processes at AFI facilities, which made palpably clear how disadvantaged the current

ACM program is. ACM facilities today amount to general use classrooms shared by other departments spread throughout the UH Manoa campus. Moving to the KHET building will not only consolidate the program in one location, but it will provide space to improve the program with the technical facilities found at any other film school. ACM the opportunity to compete toe-to-toe with the best film schools in the world - it just needs the space to do so.

Most importantly, in my opinion, moving to the KHET building will permanently situate ACM at the very center of the best instructors, collaborators, and resources that Hawaii has to offer. Moving ACM to West Oahu would not only deprive ACM of its competitive future, it would take a huge step backwards by jeopardizing the fundamental levels of access required by students to have any realistic chance at creating notable work. I want a robust, self-sustaining film industry in Hawaii, and that will only be possible if young local talent is supported with the access they need to tell stories of Hawaii that respect its people, its culture, and its history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Takemoto-Chock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Thomas Takemoto-Chock

2/4/2017

808-937-0787

tommychock@gmail.com

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

I grew up in Hawaii and have been working in our state's film and television industry for thirty-six years. Prior to starting my career, I had to go to a mainland college to receive my training. I was fortunate enough to be accepted into the USC School of Cinematics Arts. After graduating, I decided to return to the islands to make films and television shows about the place I love. Upon my return, it soon became clear to me that the University of Hawaii needed to offer a four-year undergraduate degree program in cinema if we were ever going to build a film industry here of creators rather support services for outside productions. After twenty years, the dream finally came true and the Academy for Creative Media program was launched at UH Manoa. Since then the faculty and students have made tremendous strides. The quality of the students' work is now on par with any film school in the country. ACM is training the next generation of great visual storytellers, and the demand for young people with this unique set of skills is growing exponentially. But to complete the picture, ACM at UH Manoa needs a proper home. They need a studio where students can develop their skills in studio lighting, cinematography, set-design, sound recording, and directing. They need a place to congregate, collaborate, and feed off of the energy of their peers and mentors. They have the perfect place in the recently vacated PBS Hawaii building. But the building needs renovations in order to get the production aspects of the facility up-to-speed, to the point at which it can meet the needs of this innovative, technically demanding field of study. It is with a great compassion for and duty towards Hawaii's next generation of story tellers and media entrepreneurs that I humbly ask you to support H.B. NO 1560.

Respectfully,

Robert Pennybacker
Hawaii-based Writer, Producer, Director
rrp@hawaii.rr.com

Elyse Chai

331 Ilimalia Loop

Kailua, Hawaii 96734

Phone: (808) 254-4563

Aloha Member of the Committee,

I am an animation student in the ACM department, writing in support of SB1317. By having a designated facility for the ACM department, it will help promote the professional, as well as artistic, growth of future film makers of Hawai'i.

Historically, the old KHET building housed PBS Hawai'i for nearly 50 years before moving to their new facility. PBS Hawai'i has always showcased the unique history and art of Hawai'i's community, promoting the growth and talents of its people. What better way to honor their years of dedication to art, broadcasting, and education than by having their former building be the home for aspiring young filmmakers?

Although I focus specifically on 2-D animation, I am not alone in emphasizing how important it is for film makers to have the proper equipment for their work. Currently, the facilities used for ACM are small and scattered, and ACM students from digital cinema and animation are required to share the same computer labs, which leads to sharing lab hours along with potentially losing files. By having different facilities for specific purposes, the student's workload is more clear and organized. Having a proper animation lab to work in ensures animation students will have the tools needed for completing their films. The same idea also applies to digital cinema students, who can film scenes on a professional sound stage, then take their footage to an editing lab to put their numerous cuts together. For post-production, the best way to view a film is by seeing and hearing it in a large room with 5.1 surround sound, just as one would see it in a movie theatre. As the old KHET building already has these facilities built into it already, the funds needed for repairing them is monumentally cheaper than it would be creating them from scratch.

Collaboration is a key part of the film industry, and the old KHET building can house not only the ACM department but also other departments such as communications, music, theatre, and art. It will help prepare ACM students for life in the film industry by experiencing the same collaborative environment that comes with working with different types of people. By working together, we promote a local community of unity and creative growth.

Thus, by securing the old KHET building for ACM, it reaffirms the legacy of local film making in Hawai'i by supporting its aspiring film makers, giving them the tools needed to bring their unique creative outlook to life.

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I am a graduating senior at University of Hawai'i in the Academy of Creative Media and for the past 2 years that I have been in the program, I have had many opportunities to grow as a person and as a filmmaker. This being said, I have also been denied the opportunity to learn key fundamentals, like color correction and sound mixing, because we do not have the proper facilities to teach in. When I graduate in May, I hope to enter the entertainment industry with the confidence that I am at an equal standing point as the other professionals, from the mainland, entering the field, but deep down I know that I am at a disadvantage. My main concern is that I have not been able to learn to use a sound stage, which is prevalent in the film industry, as one of the most popular areas to shoot a scene. I have no experience with the equipment found there, I do not know how to use a light grid or a dimmer system, and will be completely lost on a real warehouse style set, unable to deal with the lights or sound at a professional level. If we had access to studio A in the KHET building while I was in the program, I feel that I would be much more confident in my abilities and ready to stand out in the industry.

Hawai'i is coming up in film, in a big way. There is always some big movie shoot going on, and just today, February 7th, I had the chance to be an extra on a TV show, filming at Anna O'Briens. They brought their own crew from LA, this hurt. I would love for crews to be sourced locally, so that when a big production needs to find workers for their sets, they can be confident that the industry in Hawai'i has ready, able, and skilled filmmakers that they can

hire. I plan to stay in Hawai'i after my graduation, and want to be proud of my abilities, but there are times where I know that I will be behind. Because ACM does not have the facilities to properly teach color correcting, I will leave the program with out this foundation. Color correcting is a huge part of filmmaking today, and occurs in the editing process for every TV show, short film, and movie that hits the market. If ACM had a color correcting studio, I would have been prepared, and an asset on any set. ACM has no sound mixing stage either, so for sound, I might as well be clueless, except for the fact that I can use a boom. It is very important to be skilled in sound mixing, another key part of the editing process, and I feel there is a huge hole in my education, and those from mainland schools with the proper facilities, will be ahead of me because of it.

I chose University of Hawai'i at Manoa for it's film program, specifically because it claims it produces industry professionals who go on to create cinema for the masses. This is my dream, to tell stories out of this place, my home, stories in which the entire world can relate. The Manoa campus is a Research 1 University, a huge factor in my decision to attend here, and I am disappointed that I will leave the ACM program with out the proper foundation to be considered a working professional.

In conclusion, I ask you all to please consider giving ACM access to the full benefits the former KHET/PBS building has to offer. It is sitting right there, and will provide film students in the future with immeasurable opportunities, to benefit Hawai'i state and the growing film industry that it has been nurturing.

Mahalo for reading,

Kelsie Greene

greenekelsie@gmail.com

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The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appreciate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I remember the when I was in high school, a girl that went to University of Hawaii at Manoa at that time asked if I wanted to be an extra on her short film movie that she's making for school. At this time, I had no idea what Academy of Creative Media was and didn't know anything about the film industry. This girl ended up completing her film and having it screen at HIFF that year. I would have never imagined that I would become an ACM student myself but looking back, maybe seeing her as a director somehow impacted my life's course and steered me toward this major.

I have always dreamed of having a passion to chase, so when I decided to become a film major and found out that University of Hawaii at Manoa had a film school, I was extremely eager to start. To know that the program may have to move to West Oahu would be a burden to myself and many other students aspiring to be filmmakers in town.

Just last semester, I heard about the news that ACM will soon have a home at the KHET Building and was devastated when hearing the news that it may be postponed or declined. As an ACM student, I can clearly see how all the lecturers and students would benefit from having a studio at the UH Manoa campus.

I am currently enrolled in a sound production class and there are many problems and limitations that come with having a lab class in the current classroom we are using. There are loud vents that distract us from the sounds we should be paying attention to and the speaker used with the television is horrible leading to a delay in our learning. It is crucial for a class such as sound production that require a proper facility to help aid our learning as aspiring filmmakers here in Hawai'i. It would also be amazing if we had a fully equipped sound stage in order to work on Foley sounds and ADR instead of using footage from other sources. As ACM students we have been very limited to sources such

as sound stages and editing labs that are required for us to learn color correction and sound mixing. I believe that having sound stages will increase the interest in the program and will also give current students a wider range of knowledge and experience to bring into the field when applying for jobs. Without the appropriate equipment, the ACM students at Hawai'i will be less educated in the skills needed after college and will have not gotten what they have paid for.

I believe that the ACM program has potential to grow and continue to grow in the future to be a place where amazing filmmakers and animators will be born. With the rise of technology and students aspiring to be filmmakers/animators, it would be crucial for a larger campus such as University of Hawaii at Manoa to provide a facility with appropriate equipment in order to assist future students to reach their full potential.

So we plead to let us keep our amazing ACM program stay at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa for the future of filmmakers and animators of Hawai'i.

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I am here on behalf of my fellow students and professors of the Academy for Creative Media to talk about SB1317 and what it would mean for future media students here in Hawaii. My name is Josh Lee and currently I am a junior here at University of Hawaii at Manoa. I was born and raised in Colorado, I came to Hawaii looking to find a career in engineering. However, it was clear after one semester that this not where my talent and future would go. I was introduced into ACM by a fellow fraternity brother who was then a senior in ACM. He brought me onto various senior thesis in which I saw stories that students had created being told and articulated and then taken into higher levels of distribution including film festivals and winning awards. I have always had a passion for film but I was always told that you could never make money; you could never follow that passion because there were too many hopeless people and not enough jobs; yet I persevered through it. Coming into my senior year, I have now taken almost every single ACM class that has been available to me, everything from the basics of understanding film terminology, through now producing my own senior thesis, I have gone through an unsurmountable amount of change and growth through the steadfast dedication and drive of my professors and colleagues.

I am proud to be an ACM student because I truly feel like I am on the cutting edge of a growing major that continues to be a highlight to many students that hold on to the fact that telling our stories is important. More than anything being in the middle of the Pacific Ocean we are the perfect breeding ground to tell unique and different stories that incorporate so many different parts of culture, tradition and people, that after graduating from ACM we become future story tellers which has held true from the very beginning.

If you were to invest into our program and allow us to renovate and move into the old PBS building, you would usher in a new generation of story tellers that will bring pride to the

Pacific and to the world. I can tell you firsthand as a filmmaker here in Hawaii we are valuable; we have stories that nobody else can tell. Recently, I applied for Cannes International Film and Business Program through a presentation in my Cinematography class taught by Professor Anne Misawa. Cannes International Film Festival is one of the largest and most prestigious film festivals in the world. The one question that the director of the program asked me during our phone interview is why Hawai'i? I answered, 'Hawai'i is the melting pot for all people and a place in which unique stories can be told.' Fortunately, through the steadfast dedication of my professor's I was chosen for the program. But more than anything I am proud I can represent ACM, UHM and Hawaii while in France.

What this money would allow us to do would be to give students the space that we need to innovate to create and tell stories and continue on our pathway to success. It is rather difficult to properly prepare for our professions without a sound stage. With a sound stage, we would have the opportunity to work on industry standard equipment and areas which are arguably the most common area in professional productions. To properly color correct films for distribution a proper color correcting station would allow our films to be on par with industry professionals. Having a full mixing stage will not only enrich our films with powerful dialogue but it will enhance the visuals. Film is not solely based around stunning visuals; without proper mixing and post-production sound we will always fall below the standard. All of this is designed to create environments, to better student's ability to tell stories, and have first-hand experience with the equipment and protocols they will face every day in the movie making industry.

This building is not just a place for students to tell stories but a home in which education can take place. I can tell you that throughout my career here at UHM in ACM I have classes in six different buildings, sometimes completely across campus. Having all your classes in one place is a better learning environment for students and faculty. In such a way, this building can be a flagship very similar to the Sakamaki creative learning spaces, or engineering labs. Students and faculty mutually benefit, both constructively and cognitively if there is one location in which learning and workshops are experienced. Being that this is the flagship program not only for UH, but also in a broader sense the Pacific Ocean, having the PBS space would also help put momentum towards bringing more students into the program and being a contender and example of what media means to future generations. This isn't just a renovation process but rather a stepping stone to creating a flagship home for future students and film makers. I will not likely have the chance to see the building before it is completed, but I believe that the future is bold and our stories are worth being told; and by creating this space, you are only helping fulfill future media professionals with the facilities necessary to be successful. From one of the most prestigious directors of the last ten years, Alejandro González Iñárritu, director of *Birdman and the Revenant*, "cinema is universal, beyond flags borders and passports."

Mahalo for your time,

Josh Lee

303-495-4039

Jlee47@hawaii.edu

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

**RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA
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I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

The University of Hawaii at Manoa has failed me. By not providing me with an adequate chance for proper education, UHM has stopped me short of what is standard for my studies, and has given me what is "good enough." Throughout my entire undergrad education, ACM courses had been split over almost the entire campus, changing each semester. Without a set location, we were forced to adapt to the space and figure out ways to best practice the technical and skill based needs of the courses, but at the same time were limited to the fact that we were not practicing in adequate stages or studios. This did not properly train us for a professional setting.

It didn't make sense, a sound design course, taught in a computer lab instead of a sound stage. While we were able to discuss the theory and ideas of sound design, we were never able to really engage the process and were robbed of precious hands on experience. We were limited to watching videos of other people in a sound stage working foley.

Currently, the only way students are able to gain hands on experience and technical training is through the internship program. However that is limited to only a handful of students each semester and with a growing program, that simply does not cut it and does not provide a fair chance for higher education to every student. The KHET building would be able to provide all ACM students, and other students of similar majors/student activities, an equipped facility that specifically meets their needs.

Had I been trained in a proper setting, perhaps I would have graduated with more confidence in the education that the University of Hawaii at Manoa had provided me. I strongly urge you to support SB 1317 and allow the future of media programs at UHM a chance to help their students keep up with the rest of the professional world.

Sincerely,

Jina Boyd
ACM Alumni

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

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I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I graduated from the ACM Manoa program in 2010 and believe that this project at KHET is what can really transform the ACM Manoa program into a respected and imaginative major for future students. When I attended the program I believe our work would have gone above and beyond the content we produced with that facility as our home. The opportunity for a practically turn-key sound stage, editing labs and more is just too good to pass up and would be a great location for future film makers to come of age. I eminently support SB1317 as do my fellow alumni that have graduated from this program!

Mahalo,

James Joshua Goodson

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 10:30 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: avree@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM

SB1317

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for HRE on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Avree Ito-Fujita	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a 2015 graduate of the Academy for Creative Media (ACM) program's animation track as well as a current graduate assistant and M.A candidate in the English Department at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). I am writing to express my strong support of SB 1317, which will provide what is long overdue to the ACM program and its students: a permanent home at UHM. Cultivating spaces for learning and creative invention is imperative to student growth and agency. Investing in renovations to the former PBS building is a step in the right direction, for it not only shows that the state supports the ACM program, but it also conveys the message that the stories and futures of ACM students matter. The accomplishments of the ACM program, faculty, current students, and alumni speak for themselves. SB 1317 will help the ACM program continue to make a positive impact on the lives of students, local entertainment industry, and beyond. Mahalo for your consideration.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

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Conference Room 414

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

From: Anne Misawa

Via: 2550 Campus Rd., Crawford 210, Honolulu, HI 96822

Office: 808-956-7736

Email: amisawa@hawaii.edu

February 7, 2017

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

I request your consideration for the SB1317 bill which would greatly facilitate Hawaii's flagship film program, the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, to more fully manifest UHM's Research 1 mission and be able to serve as a hub for creative media initiatives across multiple disciplines at UHM and the community at large. The bill would assist to fund the inspection and renovation of the spaces, and namely the production studio (Studio A) at 2350 Dole St, (formerly the "KHET building") that have been vacated by PBS Hawaii last year.

I have taught digital cinema at the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa since 2004 as the first film production faculty hire at ACM; and was ACM Mānoa department chair, 2013-2016. As an industry professional as well for over 18 years, I have also worked with many of the film industry professionals and organizations here and abroad and have witnessed the growth of the local media industry and the rising talents of ACM students and alumni over the years. My more recent professional work includes crewing alongside many ACM Mānoa alumni, (such as with the 442 GO FOR BROKE dramatic feature film funded by a state grant in aid), who are now immersed in the field.

What blossoms so well at ACM Mānoa is what appropriately can only happen at a Research 1 campus, couched in a liberal studies program with a strong critical (media) studies foundation—our aim is to nurture cultural producers, (above the line media-makers, leaders of departments in film & animation), with informed and inspired critical, creative and technical expertise, who can seed the local industry with innovative productions that have an accurate and authentic sense of

place and voice.

As we are housed in close proximity to the Honolulu urban core, our students have direct access to TV, feature film, production and equipment company internships that ready them to interface professionally. During each of the past 13 years, the students at ACM Mānoa have produced more than 150 student short dramatic narrative and documentary films a year. We have had two key feature films in production—The 442 GO FOR BROKE co-production with the 442 Foundation mentioned previously, and the GSA funded, award-winning STATE OF ALOHA documentary feature. ACM Mānoa students, alumni, and faculty have produced films in a variety of capacities that have garnered accolades at top international film festivals such as Hawaii, Sundance, Berlin, and Toronto International Film Festivals, and participated in prestigious competitive programs such as the Cannes American Pavilion and the Emmy Foundation Internship program. Recently, after a rigorous selection process, ACM Mānoa was officially admitted as a full member to CILECT, (The International Association of Film and Television Schools/ Centre International de Liaison des Ecoles de Cinéma et de Télévision,) an international organization comprised of the top films schools in the world.

Even with all our successes, the ACM Mānoa program continues to be hampered by the lack of committed and centralized production facilities (for both film and animation) at Mānoa that could be considered standard facilities for any filmschool. Imagine what we could do if we had a centralized space in Mānoa which included teaching spaces, a media center with equipment accessibility, a production studio where students could be visited by filmmakers and explore production techniques only doable in a dedicated film production studio, and with additional funding-- a potential screening facility with cutting edge technology. (Currently, there is no screening facility at UHM that is technically capable to screen and monitor current standards of theatrical projection.)

For the last 13 years, our ACM faculty offices and teaching classrooms have been spread out on the UHM campus while the ACM Media Center where students get trained, certified and check-out their equipment has been housed at the “KHET building.” We have waited for a centralized, permanent home which has finally become possible last year with the vacancy of the building’s main tenant, PBS Hawaii. ACM, (along with COMM dept. with its Studio B and its media center), currently occupy a portion of the building while “fresh” **spaces designated to ACM by the vacancy of PBS Hawaii, such as the vital Studio A and the majority of rooms upstairs, remain unused and unavailable to students pending funding for inspection and potential renovation. Your support for funding could change that for the better.**

We all aim for the future film industry here to be a viable and thriving one, and one that is populated with voices cultured and informed locally so that the unique vision of Hawai’i can be perpetuated authentically. This bill can assist to pave the way for that future. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Me ke aloha, Anne Misawa
Associate Professor, ACM Mānoa, UHM
Producer, Director, Cinematographer

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 1:42 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: dannyonq@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM

SB1317

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for HRE on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Rosner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The Senate The Twenty-Ninth Legislature Regular Session of 2017 Committee n Higher Education Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair RE: SB-1317 Relation to the Academy for Creative Media Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017 Time: 2:00PM Conference Room 414 State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee, I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. My name is Danny Rosner, and I am the President of Hawaii Media Inc., a camera, grip and lighting vendor here in Honolulu. Few programs have had the demonstrable impact on an important sector of the local economy as the Academy of Creative Media has had on the local television and film industry in Hawaii. On almost every production set, from Hawaii 5-0 to local, national and international commercials, you will find former students working in paid positions and/or current student interns in training for future well-paying and creative jobs. As an example, my company hired three former interns from the ACM for full time positions after graduation from the program. The ACM needs a place to be. The former KHET/PBS facility is currently woefully underutilized, right across the street from the university, and purpose built (complete with production studio) for TV and film production. Please support this bill. It is a win, win, and win for the students, the community, and the economy as a whole. Mahalo and Aloha, Danny Rosner, President Hawaii Media Inc.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

As an ACM Manoa graduate and a current graduate student at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts who was born and raised in Hawaii, I hope you will find my perspective valuable. ACM Manoa cultivates filmmakers, in essence, storytellers. Students who believe they have something to say and are developing their voices to express themselves. With our diverse culture, those voices tend to be generally underrepresented outside of Hawaii. In today's society, there are many who are trying to silence differing perspectives and opinions. It is evident that storytelling is a powerful tool.

With all the successes ACM Manoa has had, it still has the potential for growth. By funding the renovations, you will be investing in the future of a program that plays an important role in of our Island community, not just the university and its students, but all of Hawaii. As these students will grow into storytellers and filmmakers who will represent and speak for us, Hawaii.

Filmmaking is a multifaceted art. Students must learn different areas of the filmmaking process in order to reach or even understand their full potential. Facilities such as a sound stage, editing stations, sound booths are necessities to filmmaking. Depriving students such facilities cripples their learning. I have first hand experience of this as I never learned how to work in a sound stage and was never properly taught how to mix sound or color correct, all because we had no such facilities. Yet, these are vital aspects to filmmaking.

Approving the funding would give ACM a permanent 'home' and would benefit the students by leaps and bounds. Not only would it provide them with the much-needed technical facilities in which to learn their craft, it would bring together students, faculty and staff under one roof, thus encouraging collaboration, the sharing of ideas and support. Isn't that what universities should be nurturing?

Please give that to our ACM Manoa students. It will benefit all of us in the long run.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,



Laurie M. Arakaki

To: The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

From: Kirsten Whisenant
kwhisenh@hawaii.edu

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317, which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Film matters because film is a testimony of our lives. It is our voice, an expression of what we are passionate about in life, of compassion, and creativity. Films are visual narratives of socially relevant stories. They investigate economics, political, historical, and social change. They have the power to influence change and educate. Film connects us to those around us in a global way that is accomplished by no other means. Watching a movie at home with your loved ones, children, or friends is a phenomenon that allows us to understand cultures and people, giving us a glimpse into humanities struggles and dreams, propelling us to value the gifts we have been given, the motivation to press on, the determination to work hard, and comfort during struggles. Film offers us a language to speak to one another across all possible barriers, whether socioeconomic or cultural. It can influence the audience to rethink their purpose in life and their place in the world.

The Academy of Creative Media has never had a permanent home. Students have been denied inadequate facilities. Because of this, students are being denied a full quality education in filmmaking. Students are denied the opportunity and vital education on how to work in the most common shooting space, a sound stage. Students are denied the education in how to properly mix sound and color correct films.

The Academy of Creative Media is a vital film school for educating and training students to prepare to work professionally in the industry. I urge you to please support the program by taking favor of appropriating money for the renovations of the future home for the Academy of Creative Media.

Sincerely,
Kirsten Whisenant

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

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Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

As the daughter of a single mother living in a middleclass family on the island I was born and raised on, I consider myself lucky. I am lucky to have a loving family who supports my love for storytelling, lucky to have good-humored friends willing to act in my school projects, and lucky to have an academic program at the university that provides educational services from outstanding professors, many of whom are active professionals in their field.

Unfortunately, it turns out that the Academy for Creative Media is not lucky enough. It is alarming to hear that ACM is in danger of losing access to the KHET/PBS building and its facilities when there is no doubt that students of ACM can *only* benefit from the use of KHET's sound stage, mixing stage, and studio space. Speaking as a student who is currently interning at a film equipment rental house, I must advocate that these types of facilities are exceptionally

common in the industry and require extensive hands-on experience to fully learn and master. And in an industry where competition is *fierce* for even the lowest of production jobs, students of the university will need all the knowledge and experience that ACM can spare—including the knowledge and experience that comes with having a home-base that houses the very industry-standard facilities we need.

To deny ACM and all its passionate, devoted, and spirited faculty and students the right to a permanent home in the KHET/PBS building is to hinder the creative efforts they are trying so hard to transform into beautiful, thought-provoking, and spectacular works of art. During a socially and politically malleable time where media has a huge hand in determining public views and social thinking. The media that comes from ACM has the power to do this and more, many with a specific focus on Hawai'i and its reputation as a home to a plethora of cultures, ethnicities, and beliefs.

We have awesome ideas. And we have awesome people. All we need now is an awesome facility that will alleviate the unforgivable gaps in our education to provide students with the opportunity for future success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dymond Cabildo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dymond Cabildo

ACM Student

808-277-8677

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 1:13 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: aguaglia@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM

SB1317

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for HRE on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Guagliardo	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: As a student at the Academy for Creative Media, I have learned a great deal about the animation and film industry. The faculty are amazing as are my fellow students. Because of the support of this program I have had the good fortune to be able to collaborate with other students at ACM on a variety of projects. I've also collaborated with others outside of the program, using the skills I have developed through my classes. However, I strongly feel that ACM needs its own space, with professional grade facilities in order to continue to grow, and in order to nurture the unique stories and perspectives of people who live in Hawaii. The students at ACM produce live action and animated films every year, many of these films go on to be shown in festivals, but they do this without access to things like a sound stage, or equipment to properly mix their sound or do more advanced modifications like color correction. For animators in particular, sound design is extremely important for us because, it is all added separately. We have no sound from shooting as you would from live action. I know first hand the difficulty of creating sound effects and post production sound without access to a sound stage, it is not easy. By giving ACM at UH Manoa a home in 2350 Dole, the program will be able to supply professional facilities that are desperately needed. The goal of ACM's program is to produce professional grade films, and students deserve professional grade facilities to reach that goal. Thank you, Andrew Guagliardo

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

My name is Layla Hanohano-Tripp and I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

As an ACM Mānoa alumnus, I was ecstatic to hear that the future of ACM would find its permanent home in the KHET/PBS building. Since entering the program there had been talk about moving there, which is a facility that would provide the tools necessary for the program to thrive. I am appalled to now learn that this move is in jeopardy.

For the first year or two, I was not exposed to any hands-on training necessary in a media program. In my advanced courses our time spent at the KHET/PBS building was limited. We visited maybe two times throughout the semester, which is insufficient when in a hands-on program. Beyond our restricted visits, I lacked further experience with a sound stage, video editing studio, a mixing stage, etc. This facility houses all of this and more, which are completely necessary in nurturing our future filmmakers.

ACM has provided job opportunities to many alumni, myself included. I am in my second season of working full-time on *Hawaii Five-0* and that is in large part due to the internship program through ACM. Interning for *Hawaii Five-0* revealed the lack of on-set knowledge that I had. Stepping on to that sound stage for the first time felt like entering a whole new world. It was filled with unfamiliar faces, language and equipment. The KHET/PBS building was the only space in which I experienced anything relatively close to this, but even that lacked the proper amount of time necessary to be prepared. A lot of what I experienced throughout the internship felt foreign to me, but I learned so much being consumed in this hands-on environment.

The KHET/PBS building was also home to our Media Center, which also lacked the proper space and supplies. ACM was given a cramped space in which meeting multiple needs were an exhausting task. There would be people taking a camera test while another person was trying to rent out equipment. With the limited space it was potentially costly

to the student testing with all these distractions. Equipment rental was limited and many of us needed to share equipment, which could put your grade in jeopardy as well as restrict any desire to learn advanced equipment already checked out to another student. An efficient Media Center is among the many tools that the program currently lacks.

Moving into the KHET/PBS building would offer so much to what felt foreign to me the first day I stepped on set at *Hawaii Five-0*. To have a space that provides a sound stage, editing suites, sound mixing stage, etc. would change this program tremendously for the better. It could finally provide ACM Mānoa students and beyond with the necessary tools to nurture their creativity. This program has birthed some of the most amazing storytellers thus far. Imagine what could be possible when provided with the necessary facility that allows that creativity to flourish.

Please consider passing this bill. Thank you.

Layla Hanohano-Tripp
laylatripp@yahoo.com

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

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State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

In my opinion as a student, the ACM as a program has suffered from not having a permanent home/studio space to work in. As a result we never really got the chance to learn how to work in a sound stage, and we haven't really had a steady, permanent space to work from. Up until recently we only really had the Keller labs to use to edit our films or animations unless we had laptops with the necessary software installed. It also seems like UH Manoa going back on the longstanding commitment of giving the ACM use of the old PBS building makes it seem as though the school is not committed to supporting this program, and I hope that the committee can help us with this issue.

Thank you for your time

-Tressa Hoppe

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

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State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

As local independent film producers, we have had the privilege to collaborate with ACM students and Staff for the past seven years through our TalkStory Productions internship program and various other short film productions. Through these programs, ACM has provided students access to real world situations in film and television production. Allowing ACM to have its own campus with a production studio is a logical fit for the facility located at 2350 Dole Street. Rather than building a new facility for the growing ACM program, it makes economic sense to renovate and upgrade the former PBS studio site for an ACM campus. ACM needs a full production facility with classrooms in order to compete with USC, NYU and UCLA. As Hawai'i seeks alternative industries for future generations, the establishment of a permanent production facility at UH Mānoa would be a huge step forward in providing training and experience for future Hawai'i filmmakers.

Mahalo,



John Ching
Vice President
TalkStory Productions
841 Bishop Street, ste. 1515
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 447-9333
(866) 646-6959 FAX

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017
Time: 2:00 PM
Conference Room 224
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI**
Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,
I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I believe in this program, it is essential to both the continued success of Hawaii's film industry and also the cultural heritage of our islands. Ours is a land unlike any other with vibrant stories that express the diversity of its residents and the many places they come from, and the Academy for Creative Media helps to foster those narratives. It celebrates the ethnic, religious, and cultural roots that make us unique while also bringing together peoples from all professions and walks of life to for the common goal of storytelling. Growing up I knew my destiny was to be storyteller. When i was a child I would make stop motion video with my toys, as I got older I would make my own home movies with friends using diy special effects and the family camcorder. Regular school work never interested me, and I was often bored in class dreaming of the kinds of movies I could one day make. Thanks to the ACM I have learned more useful, practical information in the few short years I've spent at Manoa than in all my primary school days.

However the program Me and my fellow students adore is threatened due to lack of funds and a run down building we are unable to fully access despite it having been allocated to us. Due to this we have never been allowed to work on a soundstage, which is an integral part of working in this industry. We are also given barely enough money to purchase new equipment and are working with limited facilities. If the state of Hawaii truly cares about what kind of stories it do the right thing and provide us the money we need to keep producing great content that represents the true people of Hawaii.

Good afternoon Members of the Committee,

My name is Anela Ling and I am a fourth year Academy for Creative Media student at University of Hawai'i at Manoa writing to you in support of the SB 1317 bill. This bill, as it has come to be known, will grant ACM a home at the KHET/PBS building and guarantee a place of continued learning, educating, and creating.

Over my time of being a film student at the University, the ACM program has become very important to me. But I did not realize the full potential of the program and its facilities until I utilized the space temporarily granted to us at the KHET/PBS building. It was a small glimpse into the opportunities that having a permanent residence for the ACM program would offer such as a soundstage, computer lab, animation lab, editing and color correction suites, and more. As any student will tell you, the main goal and purpose of even attending University is to grow our education and knowledge as individuals. Without the KHET building, the ACM program will lose these opportunities, and by effect, the many students wishing to learn will suffer those consequences. This is something I would consider a great disservice to the students of Hawai'i when the solution is so easily and readily attainable.

There is so much good that can come out of properly educating and providing space for film students within the ACM program. The program itself has provided tremendous opportunities for students to expand their reach beyond the borders of the nation. Just last year, I was involved in the SMART Exchange, giving me the chance to travel to Shanghai University and collaborate with the film students there as well as participate in the Shanghai International Film Festival. Never in my life had I imagined I would be able to travel outside of the country into such a vastly different part of the world. Collaborating with the students there was an eye-opening look into another culture; a completely different creative attitude towards film that made me appreciate the unique qualities that come from every single individual and what they have to offer each other as students and as people. Without the ACM program, and the education and opportunities it has provided me, I might never have left the island.

Hawai'i is a small place. It is often overlooked in the film industry and taken for granted. What every student is attempting to do when they work for hours upon hours to create something unique to their home, it is to provide a voice for themselves and the people around them. To take that away in a wholly unnecessary manner would be to silence the people that work tirelessly to be heard. The KHET/PBS building as a home for the ACM program is not JUST a building, but a place for pure expression, collaboration with others, education towards a future career, a hub for welcoming outside filmmakers, and so much more. And Hawai'i, being a small place, needs every chance it can get to prove its seriousness.

In the end, the SB 1317 bill is a stepping stone that will provide a platform for the voices of Hawai'i. My education, and the future education of the students of the ACM program are dependent on the opportunities that utilizing the KHET/PBS building will grant us all. Thank you

for your time.

Aloha,

I'm a lecturer at both the University of Hawaii at Manoa and University of Hawaii, West Oahu. So, I bounce around in the two different programs for the Academy for Creative Media teaching an assortment of classes. Editing, VFX film making, Production, Short film making, etc. Working at Manoa for almost 4 years and West Oahu for the past year.

Currently, I also have a full time job as a Writer/Producer/Director/Editor at Hawaii News Now and continue to do freelance projects/commercials/films for my company WWMD? Productions (wwmdpro.com). I also am the Executive Producer for the short film festival called the `Ohina Short Film Showcase (ohina.org) that happens at the Hawaii Theatre each year.

Our students have continue to find fame, full time work and meaningful careers.

Before I taught at ACM, a young student, named Dana Ledoux Miller was one of the first students in the program joined the set of my feature film, All For Melissa as a PA. She was eager, a go-getter, and hungry to learn. She was a star on set and you could tell she was going places.

We kept tabs on her as she continued to grow and land bigger jobs until eventually she became a head writer on the hit HBO show, "The Newsroom", "Narcos" on Netflix and now "Designated Survivor"...and that's just one ACM success story out of many.

Over the years, I've been very proud to see many ACM alumni get jobs, go on to higher education and create their own work.

The new facility has been the talk of ACM, Manoa for many, many years. Students, faculty and supporters have hoped that the new space would help spur more innovation and also help give students a place to create their stories. Sound stages to build sets and shoot their work, suites for post production work, a place where faculty and students could collaborate. The faculty has been scattered throughout campus and frankly, it's made it harder on both students and faculty.

Despite all the awards and success, it's almost as if the program has been sort of tossed to the side. Which is really sad to me because we have a vibrant film industry in Hawaii. Feature films, music videos, commercials, regularly come here and we also have unique opportunities to create our own intellectual property as well. We have lacked the proper space to take the program to the next level since the inception of the program. It's been an ongoing, epic struggle.

I strongly urge to support this bill as the future of ACM depends on it.

Without it, growth, will almost certainly stop and the program will float on into limbo as it's left without a space to innovate, educate, and produce content.

Our students futures depend on it.

With aloha,

Gerard Elmore

I started at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 2010 as a marine bio major. When I found out about ACM I immediately signed up for the intro to film class the following semester. Through the help, pushing and mentorship of the teachers involved with ACM I switched my major and graduated in 2015.

I loved and am still proud of all the accomplishments of my fellow ACM students past, present and future. One question I got a lot while attending was "oh which building is that?" and it was a little difficult to explain that, It was kind of every building, because although we are a department, we didn't have our own place. Every time I told someone I went to film school, they would ask what type of amenities we had available to us, it was weird to say we had camera equipment, but that was about it. Anytime I told people I wanted to go into television, it was awkward telling them I had had no studio experience.

With the advancement of both film and television it's about time ACM have the facilities to keep up with that movement. The program needs a place where students can go and have the use and tools to create and be taught the tools of the trade efficiently, rather than worrying if they will make it from one side of the campus to the next in time for their next film class. They need classes and studios that are available to use for the purpose of filmmaking rather than trying to figure out and schedule around the other hundreds of other classes and students trying to use the same room.

As much as I loved ACM, there are times where I feel a little under prepared for the type of work that I want to do, solely due to the fact that there were things that were unable to be taught because we didn't have the appropriate setting to teach them in.

As a department of the University there is absolutely no reason as to why they shouldn't have their own building. And really, what other building is more fit? Although there are renovations that need to be made, the old PBS building is prime and set to be a student media building. The cost of building another building, which would be the only other option, because the campus buildings are full and, again ACM is one of the only departments without a dedicated space, is far more expensive. So why not renovate the building the department was already promised years ago.

The ACM is a vital part of the UH Mānoa campus, from the classes they teach to the students that work for the school. It's about time they are treated as such.

-Leah Naka'ahiki, ACM graduate 2015

9515821261

Leahnakaahiki@gmail.com

**The Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017**

**Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

RE: SB – 1317 RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 1317 which would appropriate funds for the renovation of the former KHET/PBS facilities and future home for the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Hello, my name is Jonathan Hanki. I'm a senior at UH Manoa and my major is ACM (Academy Creative Media). I believe that his program should not be closed down. This program has provided a lot of education of understanding the art of film and nurture students becoming filmmakers. ACM will help potential students working in Hollywood or in the entertainment business. Classes like editing class, directing the actor, independent producer, and others have helped me learn. It will be a shame to have ACM being shut down. In addition, ACM have wonderful professors and staff to help make program a great one.

I would be nice to have the ACM moved into the old PBS building. By moving into the building, it will be more beneficial for the students having a space where they can learn and work. Instead of having the students go to random places for their classes, they can go to the old PBS building. I hope that you will reconsider of keeping ACM alive at UH Manoa. It will be hard for students from the mainland to make them change their major or have them go to West Oahu instead. This program gives the student an opportunity to learn to a filmmaker. I hope that ACM lives on forever and shape students becoming filmmakers.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Hanki