



# DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of  
**Luis P. Salaveria**  
Director  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, April 4, 2017  
9:45 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of  
**SCR 170 SD1/SR 84 SD1**  
**URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND  
TOURISM TO CREATE A PLAN TO DEVELOP THE WEST OAHU  
CREATIVE LAB, MEDIA/FILM STUDIO COMPLEX AND TO RELOCATE THE  
HAWAII FILM STUDIO TO WEST OAHU AND URGING THE  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS TO APPROVE  
A CERTAIN TRANSFER OF LAND.**

The department **supports SCR 170 SD1/SR 84 SD1** which seeks to develop a plan for West Oahu creative industries infrastructure development and relocation of the Hawaii Film Studio to West Oahu to be located on 30 to 50 acres of land transferred by the University of Hawaii Board of Regents to DBEDT through its High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) as referenced in Act 124, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016.

HTDC and Creative Industries Division (CID) of DBEDT are collaborators on this endeavor. Both agencies work together closely and each brings valuable industry-specific expertise to the project. The department also wants to emphasize that any relocation of the existing Hawaii Film Studio would be after the new facility is completed and operating successfully, in order to ensure uninterrupted services for the industry its serves and the jobs the current studio represents.

CID/DBEDT completed the Market Analysis, Site Recommendations and Business Model Plan for a new Creative Media/Film Studio Complex through funding from the Legislature. Of the three top sites recommended for a new production hub by consultants ProForma Advisors LLC, the West Oahu area was the top ranked. Other recommendations in the study include emphasizing the need for a seasoned operator of such a facility, which would be best developed as a public/private partnership. This plan will be transmitted to Governor and Legislators, shared with stakeholders as well as posted on the DBEDT websites this month.

\$900,000 in funding has been appropriated and encumbered for the site-specific planning and a contractor has been engaged by the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS), who will work with CID and HTDC to develop the master, site-specific plan.

Further, this new multi-stage production facility will foster a pipeline of talent development through a DBEDT education-to-workforce industry cluster initiative. The Creative Lab Media/Film Studio Complex will serve to extend the duration of location-based filming, increase jobs and foster new local development in film and media content for export as well as launch one of a series of co-working Creative Lab Hawaii Spaces, acting as a hub to develop a continuum of creative talent as part of this West Oahu media hub cluster.

It is envisioned that once the Creative Lab Media/Film Studio Complex is in place, the potential to launch connectivity to neighbor island facilities via broadband network would further capacity to grow these industries statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
April 4, 2017 at 9:45 a.m.

By  
Kalbert K. Young  
Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer  
University of Hawai'i System

SCR 170 SD1/SR 84 SD1 – URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO CREATE A PLAN TO  
DEVELOP THE WEST OAHU CREATIVE LAB MEDIA/FILM STUDIO  
COMPLEX AND TO RELOCATE THE HAWAII FILM STUDIO TO THE  
COMPLEX AND URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF  
REGENTS TO APPROVE A CERTAIN TRANSFER OF LAND

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SCR 170 SD1/SR 84 SD1. These resolutions urge the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) to create a plan to develop a West O'ahu Creative Lab and to relocate the Hawai'i Film Studio to West O'ahu. It also urges the University of Hawai'i ("University") Board of Regents to approve a land transfer to High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) to relocate the Hawai'i Film Studio to West O'ahu.

The University supports the development of a West O'ahu Creative Lab and the relocation of the Hawai'i Film Studio to West O'ahu. To that end, it is currently working with DBEDT to identify a site at its West O'ahu campus that can support such facility, while also integrating it with the campus's academic and student success programs.

The University, however, is not in favor of transferring title to HTDC. Transferring title disrupts the contiguous nature of the campus by carving out a parcel in the middle of its property, which can lead to the disruption of campus planning and operations as well as a devaluation of its current land holdings. We strongly believe, however, this Resolution can be successfully accomplished through a long-term lease or other long-term instrument.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.



High Technology Development Corporation

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Written Statement of  
**Robbie Melton**  
Executive Director & CEO  
High Technology Development Corporation  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
Tuesday, April 4, 2017  
9:45 AM  
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In consideration of  
**SCR 170 SD1 / SR 84 SD1**

**URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO  
CREATE A PLAN TO DEVELOP THE WEST OAHU CREATIVE LAB MEDIA/FILM STUDIO  
COMPLEX AND TO RELOCATE THE HAWAII FILM STUDIO TO THE COMPLEX AND URGING  
THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS TO APPROVE A CERTAIN TRANSFER  
OF LAND.**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports SCR 170 SD1 / SR 84 SD1** which seeks to develop a plan for West Oahu creative industries infrastructure development and relocation of the Hawaii Film Studio to West Oahu to be located on 30 to 50 acres of land transferred by the University of Hawaii Board of Regents to DBEDT through its High Tech Development Corporation (HTDC) as referenced in Act 124 Session Laws of Hawaii 2016

As part of HTDC's vision to create 80,000 new innovation jobs in Hawaii earning \$80,000 or more by 2030, HTDC supports initiatives aimed at promoting technology and innovation jobs. HTDC and DBEDT Creative Industries Division (CID) are collaborators on this endeavor. HTDC defers to DBEDT CID on the details of implementation as the subject matter experts and project lead.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.