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EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, AND
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2747

February 7, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Room 309 and Videoconference

RELATING TO CREATIVE MEDIA

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

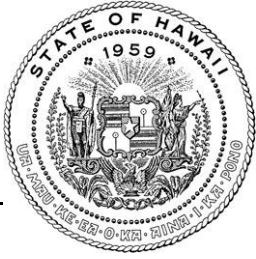
House Bill (H.B.) No. 2747 establishes the Filmmakers Special Fund (FSF) within the Department of Accounting and General Services for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA). Into the FSF shall be deposited appropriations by the Legislature to the special fund, gifts, donations, and grants from public agencies and private persons. Funds from the FSF are to be used by SFCA to award grants for film, media, and creative intellectual property development projects that are created and produced in Hawai'i by Hawai'i resident filmmakers. The measure requires that the grants be awarded in consultation with the Creative Industries Division of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

H.B. No. 2747 appropriates \$1,000,000 in general funds for FY 25 for deposit into the FSF and appropriates \$1,000,000 in special funds for FY 25 in the FSF for the purposes of this measure to SFCA as the designated expending agency. The measure

also declares that the appropriation exceeds the State general fund expenditure ceiling for FY 25. The measure shall be repealed on June 30, 2029.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work, and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding H.B. No. 2747, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed special fund would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Wednesday, February 7, 2024
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309 and Videoconference

In consideration of
HB 2747
RELATING TO CREATIVE MEDIA.

Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) appreciates the intent and offers comments regarding HB 2747, that seeks to establish a new filmmaker's special fund for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) to "award grants for film, media, and creative industries intellectual property development projects" that are created and produced in Hawai'i by Hawai'i resident filmmakers.

DBEDT and its Creative Industries Division (CID) manage HRS 201-113, the Hawai'i Film and Creative Industries Development Special Fund, the purpose of which is to: "Provide seed capital, financial support and finishing funds for film, media, and creative industries intellectual property development projects for export." HB 2747 proposes similar language for a grants program within SFCA, in collaboration with DBEDT / CID. HB2747 appears to be a duplication of the intent of the current statute within DBEDT.

Ongoing access to capital for our Hawai'i resident creatives, from filmmakers, musicians and game designers to playwrights is the foundational purpose of Act 193, SLH 2022. In order to have the funds necessary to issue a call for submissions, the Legislature provided the ability to deposit funds from DBEDT managed facilities for film and media. Funds were transferred in the fall 2023 and the fund now ready to launch its first round of investments in locally developed projects; from short films, online series,

indie features, post and finishing funds. Funding awards will range from \$10,000 to \$30,000. As more contributions, appropriations to the fund are provided, the annual investments goal is \$500,000 for a range of projects.

The department has been in discussion with SFCA and will both work with the introducers of this measure to ensure that we address what is a mutual intent – to fund our Hawai'i based filmmaking and creative IP development through local projects, preferably through the existing Hawai'i Film and Creative Industries Development Fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



No. 1 Capitol District Building
250 South Hotel Street
Second Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

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**TESTIMONY OF
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
February 7, 2024 Conference Room 309 & Videoconference at 10:00AM
H.B. 2747
RELATING TO THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Chair Tam and members of the Committee, I am Karen Ewald, Executive Director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), and we are grateful for the opportunity to testify with **COMMENTS** on H.B.2747.

HB2747 Requires the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to award grants for film, media, and creative industries intellectual property development projects in Hawai'i. Requires consultation with the Creative Industries Division of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT).

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts recognizes the importance of government support of the film industry and the area expertise the Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism provides in support of the industry through various granting programs as funding permits.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts has a history of administering grants since its inception in 1965. SFCA presenting and performing arts grants include media arts to organizations. The SFCA's granting process is outlined in our establishing legislation under HRS [Chapter 9 Part II. Foundation Grant Program sections 9-11 to 9-18.](#)

We appreciate the intent of the measure to fund Hawaii film creatives. We understand this is an economic development measure that is already the responsibility of DBEDT as outlined in [HRS 201-113.](#)

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.



February 7, 2024

Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs
Chair Tam
Vice Chair Martinez

The House of Representatives
The Thirtieth-Second Legislature
Regular Session of 2024

RE: HB 2747 -RELATING TO CREATIVE MEDIA.
DATE: Wednesday, February 7, 2024
TIME: 10:00 am
PLACE: Conference Room 309
VIA Videoconference
State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu HI

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and the Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB 2747 -RELATING TO CREATIVE MEDIA.

SAG-AFTRA represents over 1400 actors, recording artists, and media professionals in our state. We are the professional performers working in front of the camera and behind the microphone.

This bill supports careers in the creative industries and encourages Hawaii grown intellectual property. Speaking specifically to how this affects our members, the immediate effect will provide opportunities for our members, some of whom are filmmakers themselves, to avail themselves of grants to fund their projects. Additionally, the passage of this measure will foster the growth of Hawaii-based intellectual property in the creative industries, strengthening the creative workforce by creating more opportunities for artistic collaboration. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.

Respectfully,

Mericia Palma Elmore

Mericia Palma Elmore, Executive Director SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local

Mericia Palma Elmore, Executive Director
SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local
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SCREEN ACTORS GUILD - AMERICAN
FEDERATION OF
TELEVISION AND RADIO ARTISTS
SAGAFTRA.org
Associated Actors & Artistes of America / AFL-CIO

HB-2747

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:53:28 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
HENRY IAN CUSICK	SAG-AFTRA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and the Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB 2747 -RELATING TO CREATIVE MEDIA.

[SAG-AFTRA](#) represents over 1400 actors, recording artists, and media professionals in our state. We are the professional performers working in front of the camera and behind the microphone.

This bill supports careers in the creative industries and encourages Hawaii grown intellectual property. Speaking specifically to how this affects our members, the immediate effect will provide opportunities for our members, some of whom are filmmakers themselves, to avail themselves of grants to fund their projects. Additionally, the passage of this measure will foster the growth of Hawaii-based intellectual property in the creative industries, strengthening the creative workforce by creating more opportunities for artistic collaboration. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.

Respectfully,

Henry Ian Cusick

SAG-AFTRA Hawai'i National Board member

IATSE LOCAL 665

FILM, TELEVISION, STAGE, PROJECTION AND TRADESHOWS

Since 1937

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES, MOVING PICTURE TECHNICIANS, ARTISTS AND ALLIED CRAFTS
OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS TERRITORIES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO, CLC

Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Regular Session of 2024
House Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs

Testimony by IATSE 665

February 7th, 2024

H.B. 2747 - RELATING TO CREATIVE MEDIA

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and members of the House Committee,

My name is Tuia'ana Scanlan, International Trustee and president of IATSE Local 665, the union representing more than 800 technicians and behind the scenes workers in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **Local 665 supports HB 2747**, relating to creative media.

Storytelling is an essential part of not only Hawai'i, but of who we are as human beings. The sustainability of the film industry depends on not only maintaining the great trees of the forest, but also nurturing the budding flowers at the early stages of their growth. To this end, it is imperative that we invest in Hawai'i's local filmmakers. Smaller budget local film projects are staffed entirely by local residents, allow for the creation of Hawai'i based intellectual property, and provide essential training for the artists and technicians of today and tomorrow.

IATSE 665 humbly asks for your committee's support of HB 2747. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,



Tuia'ana Scanlan
International Trustee
President, IATSE 665 (he/him/his)



INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL



Beckie Stocchetti
Executive Director
Hawai'i International Film Festival (HIFF)
3512 Waialae Ave, Honolulu, HI 96816

February 6, 2024

In consideration of HB 2747 RELATING TO CREATIVE MEDIA

Dear Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez and members of the Committee,

HIFF, as the largest and only statewide independent Film Festival and Film Development Organization in Hawai'i, greatly values and appreciates the intent and many statements made in HB2747. HIFF fundamentally supports increased capital investment to our creative community and the development of IP and creative/film projects from Hawaii-residents. As a 44 year-old, Hawaii-based non-profit film organization, HIFF employs eight year-round Film Industry experts overseen by a 15-member Board of Directors, that have spent decades building filmmaker development programs and raising funds from public and private agencies and investors to support the diverse filmmakers and creative film projects from Hawai'i-residents. It is encouraging to see the State moving forward to support our community.

However, there are some concerns with HB2747 as written and we are thankful for the opportunity to offer comments:

1. As a state with a current fund already set up to support creative projects as outlined in HRS 201-113, HIFF greatly encourages the committee to include language in HB2747 that clarifies that this is a NEW fund that is wholly separate and in no way conflicting with or overtaking the current fund managed by DBEDT and its Creative Industries Division (CID), the Hawai'i Film and Creative Industries Development Special Fund.
2. The SFCA is a remarkable organization, however with very little resources and staff, and no history of commitment, understanding, or work within the greater Film Industry as a whole or connections with filmmakers or film organizations across the state of Hawai'i. HIFF greatly encourages the committee to consider offering an opportunity for a Hawaii-based film non-profit organization, with the expertise and networks already in place, to manage this or any new Fund in partnership with the State. This is a model that has proven successful in Toronto with the Toronto International Film Festival, as well as with the NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) and their work partnering with organizations such as Sundance Film Festival and the Bay Area Video Coalition. This would further instill confidence across the Industry in Hawai'i that the State recognizes, values, supports, and invests in the many individuals and organizations that have been dedicated and already working to develop and invest our industry at home.
3. HIFF additionally greatly encourages the committee to update language in HB2747 to further clarify how many annual projects and at what appropriations the new Fund will be allocating. While all investment to creative projects is encouraged and necessary to support and further build a thriving creative industry in Hawai'i, HB2747 as written is vague around how it intends to grow and develop what already exists in our Hawai'i filmmaking community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Respectfully and with aloha,

Beckie Stocchetti

Executive Director, Hawai'i International Film Festival
beckie@hiff.org | 808-561-4957

HB-2747

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:49:05 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ciara Leinaala Kwock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! As an Emmy-nominated Native Hawaiian filmmaker, the opportunity to create work about our home that is created in our home is vital to my storytelling. The establishment of the Filmmakers Special Fund would provide the type of funds necessary to create high quality work here, work that can speak to the local perspective, knowing that we so often compete with better funded and more notable studios and networks that have their own perspective on Hawaii. Expanding the voices and POV about our home will help to normalize a more grounded view of this place, and help our local creators to elevate, giving them an opportunity to hone their craft and eventually possibly work on the creative side of the same organizations that have historically only hired our local population for below the line crew positions, rather than considering them for positions that have more artistic roles like director or writer. In addition, the type of work that this bill will help support will also provide work and jobs for our up-and-coming filmmakers as well, creating a locally driven industry, rather than being wholly reliant on work derived from outside companies (ie. studios, streamers, etc).

Thank you for your consideration of this incredible bil and opportunity!

Me ke aloha,

Ciara Lacy (aka Ciara Kwock)

www.ciaralacy.com

HB-2747

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:51:36 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SCOTT SWARTZ	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Scott Swartz. I am an actor, a member of SAG-AFTRA, a full time Oahu resident, and I SUPPORT this BILL.

HB-2747

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 12:06:44 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ty Sanga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HB2747

HB-2747

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 12:38:41 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Lau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a local independent film producer and director whose been working in the industry for over a decade now, I have seen the incredible impact that comes from communities being able to own and tell their own stories. For multiple generations, our community, home, and culture has been primarily represented by outside voices and entites. While productions coming in to film has been wonderful for the economy, I do believe we also need to be nurturing home grown talent. If we have a fund in place to support more independent work sprouting up in our community, there will be more opportunites to train new and emerging talent. This not only allows us to take ownership of our own stories and ensures a more authentic representation of who we are, but also avoids a brain drain in our filmmaking community and enables productions to hire more locally versus importing crew.

Thank you for your time!

HB-2747

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:58:40 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Elmore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm writing in strong support of HB2747.

I'm a local filmmaker, VP of Film at NMG Network, and the Executive Director of 'Ohina. 'Ohina is a local collective of producers, directors, crew members, and creative talent on-island to help short film concepts that have been created and written during the 'Ohina Filmmakers Lab intensive. 'Ohina is responsible for bringing to fruition the 'Ohina Greenlight Award-winning film and moving it through the short film festival circuit.

In six years, we have helped close to 20 projects. Filmmaker alumni from the program have had films in Sundance, Slamdance, Austin Film Festival, Tribeca, and many other prestigious film festivals around the world. More films are slated to make the rounds at film festivals this year too.

I have testified before but our ultimate goal is to create more above-the-line work for local talent and we need to keep people home to help diversify our economy and provide more high paying jobs.

We have been able to do this because of robust community support, limited funding and a lot of ingenuity. However, it's not sustainable and we need additional help to grow the community and cultivate our talent. Providing a fund to develop and cultivate local IP, projects, and filmmakers will generate sustainable momentum. Short films will lead to feature films. Break out hits will lead to more opportunities and ultimately lead to our local storytellers bringing in work from outside of the state into our local economy.

I'm lucky enough to have a job that supports our passion to build our filmmaking community. Work supports the mission and I have not personally paid myself on any of our 'Ohina projects. Right now, this is a true labor of love and intense pursuit of helping the community.

This bill is a giant step in helping to make this a sustainable future for our communities.

I think a few years ago, this may have been wishful thinking but I'm here to say, it's happening. We are getting recognition at the Hollywood level and an investment in emerging

home-grown talent, providing work-force opportunities to recent graduates and having a say in how Hawai'i is portrayed on screen is invaluable.

It's time to invest in our community and our collective futures.

Happy to do my part and continue to contribute in any way.

Happy to answer any questions.

Thank you for all your time and thank you for considering this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Gerard Elmore

8082248417

gerard.elmore@gmail.com

HB-2747

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:08:55 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Gianforti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. I would also suggest ensuring there is both a 1) methodology to determine number of award grants versus amount allotted per year, i.e. track funds to project ratio, and 2) a system of balance and checks that ensures funds are being allotted to creative industries projects across the islands--not just Oahu.

HB-2747

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:19:25 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Olderr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, as it would invest in the bubbling film industry on the island.

HB-2747

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:21:59 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shereen Balles	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

My name is Shereen Balles. I am an Actress, Writer and Singer here in the State of Hawai'i. I currently work as a recurring background actress on NCIS Hawai'i, and have had speaking roles on Magnum PI, Hallmark's Aloha Heart, and various other independent short movies filmed here in the State. I have been a member of SAGAFTRA; I am a Member of the local background and outreach committees with SAGAFTRA. The Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists since 2010, a member of HARA; Hawai'i Academy of Recording Arts since 2019. I am a writer and a singer. I am Kanaka Mā'oli, I am an Indigenous Actress of Hawai'i, and I see it only makes sense that we, as Kanaka Mā'oli, original story tellers, deserve the funding for the Hawai'i State Film Industry to be able to have the resources to tell our stories authentically. Hawai'i's beautiful paradise is sought after by so many productions. Please pass BILL HB2747 so that our Film Industry in Hawai'i will provide not only employment for all of us in the Film Industry-Cast, Crew, Actors, Performers of SAGAFTRA, IATSE, DGA, WGA, MGA, etc, but also the Hawai'i State economy-businesses of all kinds will have people patronize them because our Film industry employees need for Hawai'i's resources to survive - eat, drink, stay at hotels, restaurants, etc. Thank you kindly for addressing this Bill. Please pass Bill HB2747 . You have my support. Humbly yours, Shereen Balles Kanaka Mā'oli, Actress, Writer, Singer, Performer, Producer, Composer, Lyricist

HB-2747

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:12:16 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darnell Domingo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure. The tax credits and incentives benefit larger productions. So I support this bill that can potentially benefit smaller-budget independent filmmakers, documentarians, local artists, students/new filmmakers, and the like. As an artist, I support this bill that invests in artists and the arts in Hawaii.

HB-2747

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:56:45 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Glazier	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and the Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of HB 2747 -RELATING TO CREATIVE MEDIA.

I am an independent filmmaker, producer and writer living on Oahu.

This bill supports careers in the creative industries and encourages Hawaii grown intellectual property. Speaking specifically to how this affects people like me, the immediate effect will provide opportunities for the creative workforce, some of whom are also independent filmmakers, to avail themselves of grants to fund their projects. Securing funding is one of the most difficult aspects of filmmaking.

Additionally, the passage of this measure will foster the growth of Hawaii-based intellectual property in the creative industries, strengthening the creative workforce by creating more opportunities for artistic collaboration.

We have an incredible creative workforce in Hawaii that with your help would continue to grow and diversify our economy for generations to come.

Thank you for **supporting** HB 2747.

Respectfully,

Deborah Glazier

Filmmaker

HB-2747

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:00:48 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Yogi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a filmmaker who has been making films in the islands for over two decades, including two critically acclaimed feature films which have screened all over the world, I passionately believe that supporting the emerging and independent filmmaking and arts space is a necessity to the health of the entertainment ecosystem in Hawai'i. Not only does this local, independent work provide to the world a much needed alternative perspective to corporate, studio storytelling, which tends to gloss over nuance and historical complexity, but it also trains the next generation of storytellers who, if given the right support, will build a sustainable local film industry. While I was born and raised in Hawai'i, as a writer and director I had to move to Los Angeles and New York City in order to make a living. I envision a future where talented writers and directors of the following generations are able to live and work in the islands because the infrastructure and the support for locally made work and voices is readily available to them. We shouldn't measure the success of our local film industry by the number of dollars the studios spend here, but instead by how much we are able to give back to our community to create a sustainable future.