



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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Tuesday, February 4, 2025
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room #229

In consideration of
SB732
RELATING TO THE FILM INDUSTRY

Chair Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair Glenn Wakai and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SB732 which reinstates the requirement for an independent, third-party certified public accountant for any production with qualified expenses that exceed \$1,000,000, increases the total annual cap allowable in any given year from \$50,000,000 to \$60,000,000, including additional language to define streaming series productions which qualify for the credit, and extends the sunset date for the tax credit to January 1, 2039.

With the current caps on both per project and the overall \$50,000,000 cap, coupled with additional impacts related to the GET on entertainment payroll companies, the state is losing its competitive edge to other states and countries. At this juncture, many of our film industry professionals, labor unions and small businesses which support the film production industry ecosystem are negatively impacted as no series or major feature film productions are confirmed to date for calendar 2025.

DBEDT has worked closely with DoTAX and DLNR to help mitigate issues faced by series such as “Rescue HI Surf,” their studio Warner Bros. and Fox Television to work through solutions for some of the challenges from Season 1, which is critical to solidifying the opportunity for Oahu to welcome back this series for Season 2. The same is relevant to the potential of the Apple and Fifth Season series “Chief of War” and its Season 2 to keep more production days in the islands vs. New Zealand.

In 2024, the United States, including Hawai'i, experienced a drastic downturn in production across the country, with studios and film companies taking the majority of their business to foreign countries. The cumulative effects of the pandemic, guild protracted negotiations with AMPTP and then the uncertainty of potential labor strikes has resulted in the development rosters for feature films, television and streaming series greatly reduced by 45-50% of their normal deal flow. This has negatively impacted our state and others across the nation.

In light of this, DBEDT respectfully requests the committee's consideration in support of this measure, as well as additional proposed amendments listed below to drive business attraction and restore local jobs :

- Requiring all filers exceeding \$1,000,000 in spend to be certified by an independent third-party certified public accountant (CPA) is a great way to ensure the accuracy of qualified expenditures while maintaining transparency and integrity. It helps reduce potential fraud or misreporting and gives Hawaii taxpayers confidence that the reported figures are legitimate.
 - Additionally, streamlining the review process through this mechanism could save time and resources. With an independent third party verifying the numbers, it could expedite the review process.

- Raising the annual tax credit cap to \$60,000,000 canentice and draw in film production while also providing room for additional incentives including:
 - **Implementation of a 5% uplift for productions with 80% or more local hires**, supporting the growth and development of various job sectors within the production industry.
 - Local hires to be tracked by payroll documentation and vendor GET.
 - **A 5% uplift for local producers** could serve as a strong incentive for productions to partner with them. It would not only encourage support for the local economy but also foster collaboration, which can lead to cost savings, unique creative opportunities, and local expertise. This kind of incentive can be especially appealing in industries like film, TV, or even manufacturing, where specialized skills, and local resources can add significant value.
 - Acceptable levels of producers to include associate producer, line producer, co-producer, and producer.

DBEDT and its Creative Industries Division are dedicated to building Hawaii's film industry to achieve independence and ensure a robust pool of accessible local professionals to meet the industry's needs, while providing workforce opportunities to grow our own Hawai'i based content production industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau

P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540

FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**TESTIMONY OF
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. No. 732 Relating to the Film Industry.

BEFORE THE:

Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

DATE: Tuesday, February 4, 2025

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 229

Chair DeCoite, Vice-Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Taxation (DOTAX) offers the following comments regarding S.B. 732 for your consideration.

S.B. 732 amends section 235-17(h), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to require taxpayers with claims of qualified production costs exceeding \$1,000,000 in a taxable year to have an independent third-party certified public accountant verify all representations made for the purpose of claiming the film credit, including the required sworn statement and submissions to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) and DOTAX. DBEDT and DOTAX are to prescribe the standards for the submission of the certificate.

The bill also amends section 235-17(n) to increase the total amount of tax film credits allowed from \$50,000,000 to \$60,000,000 per year and extending the sunset date of the credit from December 31, 2032 to December 31, 2038.

The bill also amends section 235-17(o) to include films for broadcast and streaming platforms within the definition of a "qualified production." Broadcast series with up to 22 episodes will constitute a single qualified production. Streaming platform series with up to 8 episodes will constitute a single qualified production.

The measure applies to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025. DOTAX can administer the measure as written while deferring to DBEDT on its ability to

Department of Taxation Testimony
S.B. 732
February 4, 2024
Page 2 of 2

administer changes regarding certification of the credit and administration of the aggregate cap.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

by

Christopher Lee, Founder/Director, Academy for Creative Media, UH System
on behalf of

Vassilis L. Syrmos, Vice President for Research and Innovation
University of Hawai'i System

SB 732 – RELATING TO FILM INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of SB 732 to enhance and sustain the state's existing production tax credits which are essential for workforce development, a diversified economy, and to ensure jobs for our many graduates in the production industry.

The third-party CPA requirement for productions over \$1 million is a common sense approach for addressing any concerns about tax credit abuse. Increasing the overall tax credit cap to \$60 million is warranted by the inflation rate alone, as the current cap of \$50 million set in 2019, restricts the number of projects considering coming to Hawai'i with our inherently higher production costs.

Defining "streaming platform" is essential given the changes in technology and how shows and films are delivered directly to the consumer. By recognizing that most streaming shows have six, eight or 10 episodes per season and much higher production budgets than the outdated 20-episode season definition -- means that \$100 million blockbusters like *Chief of War*, might have had a better chance of staying in Hawai'i instead of shooting primarily in New Zealand.

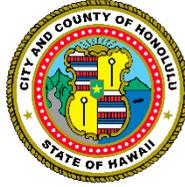
As Hollywood has moved more and more shows overseas where the incentives exceed our own and the currency exchange rates make us far less competitive than we were five years ago, it is important for the state to continue to support this vital industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

HONOLULU FILM OFFICE
KE KE'ENA LĪPINE O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

530 SOUTH KING ST, ROOM 306 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-6100 • FAX: (808) 768-6102 • INTERNET: www.honolulu.gov/film-office

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



WALEA L. CONSTANTINOU
FILM COMMISSIONER
KOMININA LĪPINE

Testimony of Walea Constantinou,
Film Commissioner, Honolulu Film Office
City and County of Honolulu

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

February 4, 2025
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and via Videoconference

RE: SB 732 RELATING TO FILM INDUSTRY -- Testimony strongly supporting the intent

Dear Chair DeCoite, Vice-chair Wakai and members of the committees:

The Honolulu Film Office would like to thank the Legislature for its long-standing support of Hawaii's Film Industry. The collaboration between the Legislature and the film industry is a great success story:

- Growing an industry that is a revenue-generator that diversifies our economy by attracting millions of dollars into our state and,
- Creating living-wage jobs all while building-up our local filmmakers and bolstering their ability to elevate within the industry.

The updates to the proposed measure would help modernize the credit to:

- address fundamental changes relating to the growth of streaming platforms
- facilitate the professional and timely submission of tax credit information
- increase the aggregate annual cap to start to 'right size' the credit to match its activity
- extend the sunset date to foster confidence in infrastructure development

The above are all necessary and important steps. Additional important initiatives that will drive growth by making the credit more competitive are:

- Create targeted uplifts within the credit to strategically drive workforce development
- Reinstate the definition of the industry as 'manufacturing,' to conform with industry norms
- Remove the per-production cap, a remnant of the measure prior to having an overall cap

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

HONOLULU. PRODUCTION CENTER OF THE TROPICS



February 4, 2025

Committee on Energy, Economic
Development and Tourism
Sen. DeCoite, Chair
Sen. Wakai, Vice Chair

The Senate
The Thirtieth-Third Legislature
Regular Session of 2025

[RE: SB 732 - RELATING TO THE FILM INDUSTRY](#)

DATE: Tuesday, February 4, 2025

TIME: 1:00 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 229

VIA Videoconference

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu HI

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and the Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of SB 732 - RELATING TO THE FILM INDUSTRY.

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. The SAG-AFTRA Hawai'i Local has a long-standing history of protecting performers in all areas of the entertainment, advertising, and media industries.

One way the union advocates for members is by supporting and championing incentives to encourage filming in Hawai'i. Our talented performers want to work here at home. However, if there are no productions, many are forced to seek employment elsewhere. This not only means people leaving Hawai'i and decreased income tax to the state, it also diminishes our creative community.

In addition to contributing to the vibrancy of our creative community, this industry also pumps money into our economy. As the latest DBEDT figures indicate, in 2024 our film and television industry generated \$324,150,100 in sales or economic activity, \$20,235,960 in estimated tax

Mericia Palma Elmore, Executive Director
SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local
mericia.palmaelmore@sagaftra.org
201 Merchant St. Suite 2301
Honolulu, HI 96813
Ph: 808-596-0388 Fax: 808-593-2636

SCREEN ACTORS GUILD - AMERICAN FEDERATION
OF
TELEVISION AND RADIO ARTISTS
SAGAFTRA.org
Associated Actors & Artistes of America / AFL-CIO



revenues, and \$74,948,000 in Hawaii household income generated because of the qualified productions.¹ The film/tv/streaming industry also accounted for 2,247 jobs for 2023².

We are grateful for the legislature's continued support of our industry. Specifically, with this measure, we appreciate the willingness to raise the cap, extend the credit to 2038, and provide for the inclusion of "streaming" in the definition of the incentive.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to our offices for more information on how this measure impacts our members, your constituents.

Respectfully,

Mericia Palma Elmore

Mericia Palma Elmore, Executive Director SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local

¹ <https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/annuals/2024/2024-cid-act217.pdf>

² https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/hawaii-creative-report/HI_Creative_Ind_2024.pdf

Mericia Palma Elmore, Executive Director
SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local
mericia.palmaelmore@sagaftra.org
201 Merchant St. Suite 2301
Honolulu, HI 96813
Ph: 808-596-0388 Fax: 808-593-2636

SCREEN ACTORS GUILD - AMERICAN FEDERATION
OF
TELEVISION AND RADIO ARTISTS
SAGAFTRA.org
Associated Actors & Artistes of America / AFL-CIO



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-Third Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Regular Session of 2025
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
Testimony by IATSE 665
February 4th, 2025

SB732 - RELATING TO THE FILM INDUSTRY

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Tuia'ana Scanlan, IATSE International Trustee and President of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **IATSE 665 strongly supports SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are inimitable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry contributes significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. This industry offers unique support to regenerative tourism and the diversification of our economy. According to a study released February 2024 by DBEDT's Research & Economic Analysis Division (READ), in 2022:

- 4.5 million visitor days were attributed to visitors who traveled here due to TV programs and movies filmed in HI
- \$1.0 billion was the total visitor spending attributed to visitors who traveled here due to TV programs and movies filmed in HI
- \$1.163 billion in GDP, \$543.6 million in earnings, and \$121.6 million in state tax revenue was generated by visitors who traveled here due to TV programs and movies filmed in HI
- 14% of visitors from Japan, 8.6% from Korea, and 7.5% from Oceania stated television/movies filmed in HI as the only motivating factor for their trip

(https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/film_impacts_on_tourism_feb_2024.pdf)

When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65 - NZ\$1.79 to the US\$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. Without a robust film tax incentive to offset these factors, we will continue to lose work, immediate state economic benefit, and visitors to international locations.

501 SUMNER STREET ♦ SUITE #610 ♦ HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817 ♦ (808) 596-0227 ♦ FAX (808) 591-8213

To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

IATSE 665 strongly supports SB732. We urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tuia'ana Scanlan', written in a cursive style.

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

LATE

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:12:53 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Rosner	Testifying for Hawaii Media Inc.	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Daniel Rosner. I am the President of Hawaii Media Inc., the largest provider of Camera, Lighting, Grip and Production equipment services in Hawaii since 1992. Also, I have been a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawaii; working as a Key Grip on local sets for over 40 years.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB732 relating to the film industry.

There has been much focus on workforce development in our industry locally, and rightfully so. These are well paying career oriented jobs which serve to both diversify and support our historically tourism centric economy. Unfortunately, workforce development is meaningless in an environment in which there is no underlying industry. And we now know that we have no viable industry without a strong and reliable tax credit incentive.

To illustrate this point, let me tell a story about an investment that I made years ago that I will never do again, absent a change in attitude of the state with respect to the film tax credit. In 2019, my company invested \$100,000 to a local production company, to back a locally written film, about a local story, directed by a local person who was educated at the University of Hawaii Academy for Creative Media, and shot entirely locally. That was 6 years ago, and we still have not received our tax credit refund. As a result, for our investment we are currently out \$100,000 plus interest!

And we are nothing special, because our biggest client, CBS, hasn't received their's either. Why would they keep shooting Magnum PI, and NCIS Hawaii, or anything else in Hawaii if they are to be denied the very incentive that was promised to them for doing so?

Well they don't! Studios can produce content anywhere in the world, and they do! Only they choose to go to locales that follow through on their promises. Namely Canada, UK, Central Europe, Australia, and New Zealand.

As a result, Hawaii Media Inc. is struggling to survive, and our staff, those that we haven't laid off yet, are suffering pay cuts. We need a show so that we can start hiring staff again! That's real workforce development. Without a show we are developing a workforce to nowhere.

SB732, by increasing the cap, broadening the definition of a "Qualified Production" and extending the sunset date of our Production Tax Credit, is broadcasting loud and clear to Studio executives that Hawaii is serious about the film industry and wants them to come back; and they will be listening.

Again, I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** SB732. I urge your committee to do the same.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Daniel Rosner



LATE

The Senate
The Thirty-Third Legislature
Regular Session of 2025

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

RE: SB732 RELATING TO THE FILM INDUSTRY

Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2025
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

February 3, 2025

From: Roy Tjioe and Ricardo Galindez
Island Film Group
99-1245 Halawa Valley St.
Aiea, HI 96701
808-536-7955

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

Our Background

Island Film Group is the largest locally owned and operated production company. We began working in Hawaii's film and television industry in 2004 as attorneys at Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel, where we represented mainland studios, local filmmakers and other production companies.

We **SUPPORT** SB732 with the following comments and suggested changes:

- **Independent Third-Party Certificate:** We support the requirement of the Independent Third-Party Certificate but only if the certificates are recognized by DBEDT/Hawaii Film Office and the Department of Taxation (DoTax). Both DBEDT/Hawaii Film Office and DoTax have disregarded these certificates and have proceeded with their own internal audits of every tax credit claim irrespective of any evidence of non-compliance with the statute.
- **Total Credit Amount:** The total tax credit cap should be increased to \$100,000,000. The 2025 DBEDT/READ study “The Impacts of the Film Industry on 2022 Tourism in Hawaii” shows over \$540 million in wages and more than \$121 million in tax revenue from the visitor industry alone. This is in addition to the wages and tax revenue generated from the actual productions.
- **Qualified Productions:** Each episode of series (broadcast or otherwise) should be considered a separate production. Television series are critical to the health of our local industry. Having a tax credit program that favors movies over series is short-sighted.
- **Streaming Platform:** The classification of the various platforms is a relic of the past. It should not matter how/where a production is distributed provided that the requisite amount of expenditures are made. And now that AVOD (Ad supported Video on Demand) is making a comeback, a number of the largest streaming services do not require paid subscriptions (YouTube, Tubi, Amazon Prime Video, etc.).

We **PROPOSE** that the following language be added to the bill:

- **Distribution of Credit:** The distribution of the tax credit is currently determined by administrative rule and requires that the tax credit can only be claimed by an investor in an amount related to its investment. For example, if three investors each invest \$100,000 in a film project, each investor can only claim a tax credit on its \$100,000 investment (for Oahu, that would be \$22,000). In some situations, however, the investors may have different appetites for risk and wish to reallocate the tax credits that may be claimed. For example, investors 1 and 2 may agree to allocate their tax credits (\$44,000) to investor 3, reducing investor 3’s investment risk to \$34,000 (\$100,000 less \$66,000 in tax credits), in exchange for investor 3 giving up some of its upside in the film project should it be financially successful.

Allowing investors to reallocate tax credits does not increase the cost to the state but makes it easier to attract a wider range of film investors.

Proposed Language:

Distributions of the tax credit shall be made in accordance with subchapter J, K, or S, or any other relevant pass-through entity allocation provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, to which the State conforms, except that section 704(b)(2) shall not apply.

- **Tax Credit Increase:** Given the amount of tax revenue generated by film and television, and the increasingly competitive production landscape we propose increasing the tax credit to 25% for Oahu and 30% for the neighbor islands.
- **Studios:** We propose adding to the definition of “Qualified Production” studio projects that are located on state of county property. By definition, such studios are a public/private partnerships and allow for large projects that currently leave Hawaii to complete production on sound stages, while at the same time providing infrastructure for local productions.

Me ke aloha,



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

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

735 Bishop Street, Suite 417

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: NET INCOME, TAX; Add Broadcast and Streaming Platforms to Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit

BILL NUMBER: SB 732

INTRODUCED BY: DECOITE by request

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Requires qualified production costs of a taxpayer that exceed \$1,000,000 to be certified by an independent third-party certified public accountant to qualify for the tax credit. Increases the total amount of tax credits allowed in any given year from \$50,000,000 to \$60,000,000. Includes broadcast and streaming platform productions under the tax credit. Defines "streaming platform". Extends the sunset date for the tax credit to 1/1/2039.

SYNOPSIS: Amends HRS section 235-17(h), to require an independent third-party certification performed by a qualified certified public accountant if qualified production costs of a taxpayer exceed \$1,000,000 in a taxable year. The certification is to be submitted to DBEDT with the section 235-17(h) identification statement and shall verify all representations made for purposes of claiming the credit.

Amends HRS section 237-17(n) to increase the tax credits allowed in any particular year from \$50 million to \$60 million and extends the availability of credits from 12-31-2032 to 12-31-2038.

Amends HRS section 237-17(o) definition of "Qualified production" to include broadcast television and streaming platforms.

Defines "streaming platform" as an online provider of media content that delivers the content via internet connection to the subscriber's computer, television, or mobile device through a paid subscription.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval, shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

STAFF COMMENTS: The production credit in HRS section 235-17 was enacted as Act 107, SLH 1997, as a percentage of the costs incurred in the State in the production of motion picture or television films. As enacted, the credit was 4% of regular production costs plus 6% of transient accommodations, mirroring the GET and TAT rates at the time. Act 156, SLH 1988, raised the TAT credit to 7.25% while also raising the TAT rate to 7.25%.

After a period where this credit took a back seat to the qualified high tech business program enacted by Act 221, SLH 2001, this credit was next amended by Act 88, SLH 2006, which added

credits for digital media and replaced the GET and TAT bifurcation with a unified credit of 15% of qualified production costs incurred in the C&C of Honolulu and 20% in any other county. The act added a per-production cap of \$8 million and sunset the credit on Jan. 1, 2016.

Act 89, SLH 2013, changed the credit percentages to 20% in Honolulu and 25% in any other county; raised the per-production limit to \$15 million; and extended the sunset date to Jan. 1, 2019.

Act 143, SLH 2017, extended the sunset date for the credit to Jan. 1, 2026, and first imposed an aggregate cap of \$35 million. Act 275, SLH 2019, raised the aggregate cap to \$50 million.

Act 217, SLH 2022, increased the credit percentages to 22% in Honolulu and 27% in any other county and extended the sunset date to January 1, 2033.

This bill yet again is proposing an increase to the aggregate credit cap from \$50 million to \$60 million and extending the sunset date for another 5 years to January 1, 2039.

We in Hawaii have had our production credit since 1997, so it's been more than twenty years. Have there been any studies about what the program has done for Hawaii's economy or Hawaii's tax revenue? None were cited to the Legislature when the Hawaii production tax credit was increased in 2013. Maybe we don't care as much about the hard dollars as we do about other intangible effects like local jobs, the development of a skilled workforce, or robust media education programs that simply weren't around at the turn of the century. Even if so, lawmakers should have data on these intangibles, and other cost-benefit information, so they can make rational decisions on this matter.

Certainly, the film industry promises increased opportunities. Some of them certainly have materialized. But chasing these opportunities needs to be balanced against the cold hard reality of solving the problems at hand. Lawmakers need to ask whether production tax credits create sustainable economic development. It's well known that most productions shoot for a while and then wrap; the crew that supports the production then jumps to the next one. A case may be made for the production credits if they keep the productions rolling in and contributing to the economy. But the people need to see that case to justify continued redirection of resources to these credits while those resources could instead lower the overall tax burden not only for families but for the businesses that provide long-term employment for Hawaii's people.

Digested: 1/30/2025



Randy Perreira
President

HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

888 Mililani Street, Suite 501 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808) 597-1441

Fax: (808) 593-2149

The Thirty-Second Legislature
The Senate
Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Testimony by
Hawaii State AFL-CIO

February 4, 2025

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB732 - RELATING TO THE FILM INDUSTRY

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the committee:

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO is a state federation of 74 affiliate labor organizations representing over 68,000 union members across Hawaii in industries including healthcare, construction, hospitality, entertainment, transportation, and government. The Hawaii State AFL-CIO serves its affiliates by advocating for the rights of working families, promoting fair wages, safe working conditions, and policies that strengthen Hawaii's workforce.

We are in support of SB732 because it strengthens job opportunities and economic stability for local workers. A strong film and digital media industry benefits a wide range of workers, including actors and production crews. Productions that choose Hawaii generate employment and economic activity that extends to small businesses and other industries that support film production.

Providing long-term certainty for this industry helps sustain well-paying jobs and ensures Hawaii remains a competitive location for productions. The Hawaii State AFL-CIO urges the committee to pass this measure to support workers and economic growth.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Perreira".

Randy Perreira
President

SB-732

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 11:02:11 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Uyehara	Testifying for SAG-AFTRA Hawaii, The Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB732

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB732, which strengthens Hawaii’s film industry by increasing the tax credit cap, extending its availability, and ensuring accountability through third-party certification. These measures will attract more productions, create local jobs, and stimulate our economy while ensuring responsible use of state resources. Including streaming platforms reflects industry shifts, keeping Hawaii competitive in the global market. I urge your support to secure long-term growth for our creative sector.

Mahalo,
Charles Uyehara
Vice President, SAG-AFTRA Hawaii

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 8:37:37 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Wallace	Testifying for IATSE 665	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I've made a living in the film industry for 18 years now. My father was in the industry for 40 years and put me through Iolani High School and UH Manoa. I hope I can do the same for my daughters. As of right now, I'm just concerned about surviving and not becoming homeless with already being priced out of the place I call home. Please pass this bill so I have a chance to make a living here in Hawaii. Mahalo.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 5:11:51 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean-Joseph Takeo Kahaokalani Choo	Testifying for Kamamo House	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senators of the EDT Committee,

My name is Sean-Joseph Takeo Kahāokalani Choo, a theater artist and arts advocate based here in Honolulu. My company, Kamamo House, is a new work development theater, focused on education, performing arts labs, and advocacy. It's a small operation, but we do important work fostering local artistic voices here in Hawai'i (let me know if you or someone you know has a play you want to develop--I would more than happy to kōkua). I hope your legislat-ing is going well this session!

Today I am writing as someone who has dipped their toe once or twice here and dea in film to say I stand in support of SB732. This measure, as you know, aims to increase tax credits, expand incentives for streaming productions, and boost local jobs. This is a game-changer for keeping productions in Hawai'i and growing our economy. As an actor who stay learning more about how for act on camera and interested in growing as a cinematic artist (and helping other local people do the same), anything that helps to create environments that allow productions to carry out their work and thus get more local people working in creative industries is excellent in my book. As a proud alum of the Creative Lab Hawai'i's Playwright immersive program, I know the importance of honing ones gifts as an artist in tandem with sharpening ones skills as an entrepreneur to be successful in the entertainment industry.

Mahalo for being a partner in making more opportunities for industry to produce possible, and therefore, more opportunities for artists like myself to be able to create and work!

--

Mālama pono,

Sean-Joseph Takeo Kahāokalani Choo

Lead Jester + Head Steward + Primary Arts Advocate

Kamamo House

#mo'olelomoments

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:37:53 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara LauLu	Testifying for Fandoms of MagnumPI—HAWAII Film industry	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha ---

My name is TARA LAULU, I belong to Fandoms of MagnumPI & Support of HAWAII Film industry . And my OHANA work on the HAWAII Film Industry. I Wholeheartedly support the Bill SB 723 --HB456 & encourage your Committee to take actions in Favor of this important legislation.

The Bad part --- HAWAII people won't have jobs to support their OHANA. Already HAWAII is so expensive to begin with. Filming outside of HAWAII to make it look like HAWAII is not a good thing. Pretty Sad if I say so myself.

The Good part-- Jobs, OHANA, money for HAWAII & businesses . HAWAII People won't have to move out of HAWAII. We all need support our own people & making sure they exciting out off island 🏠 to live somewhere else . Especially this is their Heart ❤️/Home.

The visitors from all over the World comes here to HAWAII to see "Aloha " State, due to what they see Shows that films here. HAWAII is a spiritual island & it's people. The most beautiful place & scenery is what makes HAWAII Nei & it's people. God gave us this place to be shown to the eyes of the World. A lot of visitors can't afford to come to HAWAII so watching shows like 👍 HAWAII 5-0, Lost, MagnumPI, NCISHAWAII, & etc. They get to see HAWAII through these shows what our beauty is about. I for one always love ❤️ seeing the beauty of HAWAII every morning, Thank God for that. Rain or Sunny it's still beautiful & it's people.

Please pass & support BILL SB732.

MAHALO NUI LOA FOR ALLOWING ME TO SHARE MY TESTIMONY.

TARA F LAULU.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 1:44:08 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shereen Balles	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Senator Decoite and members of the Committee,

Mahālo piha Senator Decoite for introducing SB 732 and the Legislature for supporting our local union members in Hawaii.

I SUPPORT BILL SB732.

It is imperative that a stable incentive program is implemented in order to make sure that our talented pool of union members, crew, technicians and the creative industries are employed. I feel that it benefits the whole state by creating living wage jobs and diversifying our economy.

My 'ohana and I directly benefit from this incentive program because it will keep me employed. I have made this industry my career not only as an actress, but as an indigenous Kanaka Mā'oli Film Maker, Storyteller, Writer, Director, Producer, Caterer, Props builder, Set Dresser, Production Assistant and any other role that finds me. This career is my passion and helps to keep my 'ohana thriving residents of the State of Hawai'i.

I believe that making the incentive valuable to potential future productions will help out local vendors, shops, restaurants and our State of Hawai'i's economy. Our state's incentive needs to compete with other places that productions have recently turned to in place of Hawai'i talent.

Please support our many 1000's of workers in our local industry who are unemployed and on the verge of houselessness or hunger. I truly hope that you hear our request and bring this bill to fruition.

Mahalo nūnui for hearing my plea to pass SB 732 forward to the House.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana Pau'ole,

Shereen Balles

Indigenous Kanaka Mā'oli Cultural Practitioner, Songwriter, Writer, Producer, Director, Actress, SAGAFTRA Member, SAGAFTRA Outreach and Background Committee Member, HIFF Industry Member, Hawai'i Academy of Recording Arts Member, Member and Student of International Cultural Arts Network (ICAN)

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 2:52:35 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sally "Kalei" Davis	Testifying for SAG/AFTRA	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm Sally "Kalei" Davis.

I have been a SAG/AFTRA member since 1979.

I am a local board member of SAG/AFTRA Hawaii.

I have worked in the film business here in Hawaii

since the 1980. I have worked as an actor or stunt performer or stand in on many film and tv shows filmed here, including Baywatch Hawaii, LOST, Hawaii Five 0, Magum PI. I have doubled actors Cheryl Ladd and Carol Burnett. I most recently worked on Rescue: HI Surf, currently airing on FOX and Hulu. We do not know if it will be coming back.

There are currently NO shows filming here. This is the worst it has ever been. The Productions "Wrecking Crew" and "Chief of War" are about Hawaii but filmed in New Zealand! They shot only a small percentage here. Why??? It's cheaper?!

There are many affected by this lack of work- IATSE, DGA, Teamsters as well as actors, stunts, background.

This hurts all local businesses that the crews patron

We MUST make bold Tax Incentives right away!

Mahalo nui loa, Sally Kalei Davis

Testimony in Support of SB732

Dear Members of the Legislature,

I want to extend my sincere gratitude for your continued support of our members in Hawai'i. Your recognition of the vital role that the creative industries play in our state's economic and cultural landscape is deeply appreciated. Today, I write in strong support of **SB732**, a measure that will strengthen Hawai'i's film incentive program, ensuring its long-term sustainability and effectiveness.

A **robust and stable incentive program** is essential not only for the talented crew, technicians, and creative professionals who make up this industry but for the entire state. This program generates **living-wage jobs**, attracts investment, and promotes economic diversification—an urgent priority for Hawai'i. The film industry fuels local businesses, from hospitality and transportation to small vendors supplying set materials, catering, and accommodations. By strengthening SB732, we are investing in a **resilient, future-focused economy** that provides opportunities across multiple sectors.

As a film industry professional, I have personally benefited from Hawai'i's incentive programs. The projects that come to our islands because of these incentives have allowed me to **work and thrive here at home** rather than seeking opportunities elsewhere. They have provided not just jobs but careers—careers that support families, keep skilled workers in Hawai'i, and inspire the next generation of local talent to pursue creative paths.

Beyond my own experience, the positive impact of this program is evident throughout my community. For example, productions filmed in Hawai'i have provided stable employment for **hundreds of local workers**, many of whom would otherwise struggle to find opportunities in our high-cost state. Local businesses—whether it's a mom-and-pop hardware store supplying materials for set construction or a restaurant catering meals for cast and crew—directly benefit from film productions choosing Hawai'i. Furthermore, these productions showcase our islands on a global stage, **boosting tourism and local pride** while telling stories that celebrate our unique culture and landscapes.

For these reasons, I **strongly support SB732** and urge you to continue backing policies that sustain and expand Hawai'i's film industry. Your leadership in fostering this sector ensures that our workforce remains strong, our economy continues to diversify, and our local communities reap the benefits of a thriving creative industry.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and steadfast support.

Sincerely,

Marie Hathaway

SAG-Aftra Member

mariesvoicework@gmail.com

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 8:22:04 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jalem Correia	Testifying for SAG- AFTRA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator DeCoite & Senator Wakai,

Aloha, a robust and stable incentive program is not only good for our members, crews, technicians and the creative industries — it benefits the whole state by creating living wage jobs and diversifying our economy. Mahalo nui loa!

Respectfully,

Jalem Correia

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 2:07:21 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Becky Maltby	Testifying for SAG- AFTRA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is not just actors, but hundreds and hundreds of technicians, accountants, location scouts, etc. etc. who would suffer greatly if we lose more film production in Hawaii. There needs to be an incentive to film here or we will lose production to overseas locations. The film industry creates so many fulfilling jobs and has the added benefit of showcasing the beauty of our state. Thank you for supporting this bill.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 4:58:00 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Bernardy	Testifying for SAG AFTRA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As media consumption increasingly shifts to streaming platforms, it is essential to position Hawaii as an attractive destination for production.

I support this bill as an individual and as a member of SAG AFTRA, the labor union that represents media professionals. Bring production jobs to Hawai'i!

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:35:27 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Glazier	Testifying for SAG-AFTRA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you members of the Legislature for supporting SAG-AFTRA members in Hawaii.

I am a filmmaker and a SAG-AFTRA member supporting SB732.

SB732 will benefit the entire state by creating living wage jobs and diversifying our economy. We have a huge community of professional crew, technicians, and actors chomping at the bit for work! This incentive would attract more film and media productions to Hawaii which in turn would boost local businesses, put thousands of our industry professionals back to work and grow the State's economy. Help our industry get back on its feet and stay there!

PLEASE PASS THIS BILL. Thank you for your consideration.

SB-732

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 1:07:05 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celia Kenney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A robust and stable Film tax incentive program benefits the whole state by creating living wage jobs and diversifying our economy.

Mahalo,

Celia

SB-732

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 1:09:42 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please approve this bill because tourism is just not cutting it and is too unstable for Hawaii's economy. We need a third leg to our economy and obviously a multimillion to billion dollar film and tv projects in Hawaii, is that missing piece to our economy. My own family has benefite to the tune of a hundred thousand dollars plus, for biannual work, over the past few years.

Mahalo

SB-732

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 1:47:34 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jess lundgren	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha !

Supporting the film industry in every way possible is really a gimme for the state. The industry provides not only jobs, literally lives for numerous residents & their families, adds life to the state thru advertisement & world representation as well as spirit to our communities & lastly shares our spirit of aloha w the planet.

My opinion is to not only support, to BE a significant impact of film production in the world. To create a permanent film infrastructure here. It only makes sense. Since the beginning of film Hawaii has been a popular destination for film makers & the shows here have been some of the most impactful ever made. Time for the state to capitalize on all the industry has to offer & be a real part in the process having Hawaii film makers & communities be a voice in what's made here & how that presents our state to the rest of the world.

thank you & best of everything in this new year !

SB-732

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 2:37:59 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Salanoa	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is John Salanoa and I am writing testimony on SB732. I am for this bill as to bring streaming services into the film tax incentive program. I would only say the cap of \$50 million to \$60 million is most likely too small and would limit the amount of productions Hawaii would capture.

In all this bill will boost our film industry in Hawaii

Mahalo Nui,

John Salanoa

SB-732

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 4:06:10 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Soraya-Elena Perez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support the local film industry

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:10:34 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Adams	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a member of the Hawaii Film Industry and Screen Actors Guild member, I implore the committee to review and revise any bill that is hindering film work from coming to Hawaii. The film industry gives so much wealth and prosperity to local businesses ranging from lumber supply to grocers to actors to union workers to film equipment and soundstage owners to transportations companies. When the film community is supported the film community in turn supports local industry. I am a local actress and have been lucky to work all five seasons of Magnum PI. I have been on island 14 years I worked on Hawaii Five-0, Magnum PI, The Naked Director, The Wrong Missy, Big Eyes and Rescue Hi Surf as an actress; Magnum PI, Lilo & Stitch, Hawaii Five O, Rock The Troops as a stand-in and countless other movies and shows (Jurassic World, Snowden, Snatched...) as a background artist as well as numerous independent films. Our community is rich, vibrant, diverse and well oiled. Cuts and blockades to Hawaii inviting film to come here causes financial pain not only to the film communities but to all the other film adjacent businesses that thrive when film and tv visits. Plus, it is free advertising for our beautiful state. With advent of CGI and AI Hawaii can no longer rely on only the beauty of place to lure the industry. Any soundstage anywhere can now look like paradise. So we must support local suppliers to build soundstages here and support incentives to the film industry to win the contracts to keep shows and movies coming and offset the tremendous expense of filming in the middle of the ocean in one of the most remote places on earth. Please listen to the local film community and advance bills that support our outstanding workforce who is ready to serve and excellent at what we do. If you do not the incredible work force and teamwork built over the last two decades will be lost as more and more local film professionals will have to choose to move away to work elsewhere to support themselves. It is always amazing on set to see so many local and native Hawaiian members of the community including women moving up the ranks and gaining professional prowess with each new project. Without support from the state we will stagnate.

The local film industry deeply appreciates any and all help for us to thrive. Top production companies love to come to Hawaii and our reputation for excellent work only grows with each success. I personally implore you to support moves that make choosing Hawaii over our location competitors. I personally have been blessed to be supported by the film industry here and I fo to great legths to support local small businesses in turn, in my professional and personal expenditures. Helo me help us. .

SB-732

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 5:03:34 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Pallett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my enthusiastic support for SB732.

SB732 enables the State of Hawaii to compete with a wide variety of competing jurisdictions, all incentivized by grants and credits in favor of the film business.

The film industry in Hawaii is relatively low impact and compatible with both environmental considerations and the tourist industry. Every time a show airs in Japan or on the US mainland travellers are reminded of the beauty of the Hawaiian islands. Thank you for your attention, Jim Pallett..

SB-732

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 5:40:35 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and the Members of the Committee,

I am an actor, a member of SAG-AFTRA, and a full-time resident of Oahu.

**I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 732 - RELATING TO THE
FILM INDUSTRY.**

Mahalo,

C Scott Swartz

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 9:29:19 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pono Cummings	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe SB732 WOULD ATTRACT MORE FILM AND MEDIA PRODUCTIONS TO HAWAI BY INCREASING TAX CREDIT BENEFITS, EXTENDING THE PROGRAM, AND INCLUDING STREAMING PROJECTS, WHICH WOULD CREATE JOBS, BOOST LOCAL BUSINESSES, AND GROW THE STATE'S ECONOMY.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 9:40:50 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Lasko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

First I'd like to thank the Legislature for supporting our members in Hawaii. As a professional actor, I support SB732 and believe that a strong incentive program not only will be a massive benefit to our members, crews, technicians, and creatives, but it also benefits the state of Hawaii by providing quality jobs and adding diversity to our economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sarah Lasko

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 10:25:58 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lailatul Lopez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The film industry plays a crucial role in our state's economy. It not only creates jobs across many unions but also generates significant revenue that benefits all residents of Hawai'i. It is essential that we all continue to support and advocate for the growth of this industry. By attracting more film and television opportunities to our state, we can boost our economy and create more employment opportunities for everyone.

Working in the film industry has been a vital part of my life, and my ohana's, as taxpaying residents of Hawai'i. The opportunities we have had over the past two decades have allowed us to earn incomes and benefits, and contribute back to our local economy. Our industry's future growth could provide financial stability and open even more doors for all of us.

It helps put food on our table.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 10:48:08 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristi Lundell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting members in Hawaii, especially young actors like my son. I am in support of SB732. A more robust incentive program is good for actors who are still in high school and want to live in Hawaii until they graduate. This bill may provide more opportunities for students like him. Thank you for your consideration.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 11:28:01 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meredith Bechirian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it will allow more streaming projects which will allow for more jobs for our local people here on the islands. It will also boost local businesses and grow our states economy.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 11:31:26 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teshya Alo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Thanking the Legislature for supporting our members in Hawaii. I am Stating that I am supporting SB732. A robust and stable incentive program is not only good for our members, crew, technicians and the creative industries — it benefits the whole state by creating living wage jobs and diversifying our economy. Mahalo

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 11:45:19 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaliko Fase	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support. We need a better film industry in the state. It gives more jobs for crews. And it is a great industry to have thriving here. Other than relying solely on tourism

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 12:29:01 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey Sugai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I am in support of SB732. As a young actor and filmmaker, having a viable and sustainable film industry supported and not hindered by the local government could help up-and-coming artists to create a thriving industry, and therefore a more diverse job market for youth coming out of school. Hawai'i's current job market is very limited to hardworking artists so without this bill they are taking their talents to other states. By creating positive incentives for productions to be made here in Hawai'i, we are creating more gainful employment for seasoned professionals as well as aspiring filmmakers, and supporting Hawai'i's economy as a whole. Mahalo!

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 12:58:23 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Porter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Morning. As a stunt performer, and a member of SAG/AFTRA since 2009, I strongly support of SB732.

In order for Hawaii to continue to bring movies and tv into the islands, we MUST have a stable incentive program. not only is it good for our members, crew, technicians and the creative industries — it benefits the whole state by creating living wage jobs and diversifying our economy.

My husband and I both work in the film industry. He is born and raised on Oahu. He began work on the TV show Lost and is now representing Hawaii as one of our best Assistant Directors on the island. The majority of his work comes from locally filmed Tv & Movies. The film industry makes up 100% of his income to support our family. And he is currently bouncing between work and unemployment.

Coming from the stunt industry, my employment had been steady enough that we are able to live and raise our children in Hawaii without having to search for work in other states. I have friends who have created rental businesses, training businesses for upcoming talent...etc

All of this takes a halt every time we have a drought in employment. In order to remain competitive and show production that we have a large talent pool, we need to keep film and television consistently coming into our Islands.

With utmost respect, I ask you all to support this bill too.

mahalo,

Bonnie Porter

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 1:15:26 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Whitley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting the many union members that create the Film Making industry here. I personally am a proud Teamster and whole heartedly support SB732. The Film industry could be a billion dollar industry in our islands (Toronto has a simiar land space and population.. they do about a billion a year) providing union jobs for our residents as well as pumping millions into our local economy thur set contrsution costs, wardrobe, location rentals, restraunts, props, and housing. To be competitive with other states and countries we must provide a film credit to ensure productions can come here and shoot. I have been Casting actors here in Hawaii for 20 years, i have intimate knowledge of how important these creidts are and i am hopeful you will see that a credit is the only way we will survive the changing film economy. New Zealnd has made over 200 million in just the last few years on projects that were supposed to film here but left becuase the credit was not competitive. NCIS left becuase they simply could not ballance the budget with out the credit. another 75 million a year gone. Many of us are hanging on by our savings and will be forced to move if the credit isn't passed. More people leaving the state and millions of dollars lost... PLEASE pass this bill. Its good for the people of Hawaii, it's good for Buisness, and it's good for Hawaii! Thank you for your time.

Rachel Whitley

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 2:24:04 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jorin Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 732, which aims to create tax incentives for streaming platforms in the film and television industry. This bill is an essential step toward not only revitalizing our state's economy but also providing meaningful job opportunities for Hawai'i residents.

As it stands, Hawai'i is facing a challenging reality: the lack of competitive tax incentives has caused us to fall behind other popular filming destinations, such as New Zealand, which offers significantly lower production costs. Major streaming companies like Netflix, Apple TV+, and others have increasingly chosen locations with more attractive tax structures and more extensive incentives. As a result, Hawai'i has seen a dramatic decline in large-scale productions, which means our local talent, workers, and businesses are missing out on vital opportunities.

SB732 directly addresses this issue by increasing tax credits and expanding incentives for streaming productions in Hawai'i. By making Hawai'i a more competitive destination for these high-budget productions, we can attract major players in the entertainment industry to our shores, keeping those critical jobs and revenues here at home.

Beyond the economic boost, the film industry offers a wealth of opportunities for local residents. From actors and crew members to vendors and hospitality workers, the ripple effects of a thriving film production are felt across many sectors of our economy. Our local workforce is highly skilled, and with the right incentives, we can help nurture Hawai'i's growing film industry and ensure that our people benefit directly from this growth, without having to move away to chase after such opportunities elsewhere.

This bill has the potential to turn Hawai'i into a hub for streaming productions once again, which would not only strengthen our economy but also ensure that our state's unique culture, talent, and landscapes are showcased appropriately to a global audience. With the right support, we can ensure that the film industry remains a vibrant, sustainable part of Hawai'i's future.

I respectfully urge you to support SB732 and help create a bright future for Hawai'i's film and television industry.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 2:32:12 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Akemi N Bischoff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

State of Hawaii will benefit greatly by passing this bill. We are losing too many productions to others due to lack of tax incentives. Please help bring back productions to our state.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 2:36:43 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Genova	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I support the extension of and increase to the Film Industry tax credit. I work in this industry and support all efforts made by the State/City to increase business and work here for local people.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 2:50:58 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katelyn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a aspiring TV writer from Kane'ohe finishing my senior year of college, I hope to one day be able to persue my dreams of being in the film industry while simultaneously being able to be home in Hawai'i. This bill would help support my dreams as well as thousands of others to persue their careers in our home of Hawai'i to hopefully represent our home and our people as best as we can to the world.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 5:51:33 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamuela Chandler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an independent filmmaker born and raised in Hawaii, I fully support SB 732 and its efforts to strengthen film tax incentives. The creative industry in Hawaii faces unique challenges, including limited resources and rising production costs, which often drive filmmakers to seek opportunities elsewhere. Investing in robust incentives will not only attract outside productions but also foster a thriving local film community. It's time to rebuild trust in Hawaii's creative industry and support the homegrown talent striving to share authentic stories from these islands.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 7:26:42 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Soriano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is an opportunity for diversity and inclusion in the Hollywood film industry. Where many growing in this upcoming generation can see those on screen that look just like them to inspire them to dream for more.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 5:52:19 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keilaisha Lyles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of this bill because we have too many creatives in this state to not be able to give them the support they need and deserve. We already struggle in an economy and environment that seems to want to continue to knock us down, do not let it take away one the thing that gives hope to us as a society. This will allow more opportunities for those in this beautiful craft. Keep the arts alive and pass this bill.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 7:34:43 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelani Montas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB732 and the positive effects it will have on Hawai'i film talent.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 8:41:37 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Scalpone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am very much in support of SB732. I have witnessed friends and peers go from being able to work full-time in Hawai'i's once robust film industry, to now having to seek work in other fields or move away from the islands completely to continue their film careers elsewhere. It is not just those within the film community affected, but also local restaurants and businesses. When a project films here, they use our local businesses to purchase costumes, set dressing, provide shooting locations, and catering for cast and crew. The net of how having projects film here consistently affects Hawai'i expands much further than one may initially suspect. Please help us rebuild the film industry and boost the local economy in Hawai'i as soon as possible by supporting SB732. Mahalo!

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 7:51:31 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Uyeda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB732

Aloha, my name is Eric Uyeda, and I am a proud craft service worker in Hawai'i s film industry. I have spent 16 years providing for cast and crew on set, ensuring that productions run smoothly while also supporting local farmers, mom-and-pop stores, and small businesses across the islands. But in the last few years, my work has nearly disappeared.

I used to work nine months out of the year enough to sustain my business, pay my bills, and support my family. Now, I'm lucky if I work two months a year. Meanwhile,I'm still paying for storage, maintenance, and upkeep on my craft service trucks and equipment, hoping that one day the work will return. But hope alone doesn't pay the bills.

Hawaii's film industry isnt about just about actors, directors, or big studios it's about all of us. It's I about the local businesses that provide the fresh ingredients I use every day. It's about the ripple effect that happens when productions come to our islands, hiring crew, renting gear, booking hotels, eating at local restaurants, and keeping thousands of people employed.

I often think about the film industry like throwing a pebble into a still pond the impact spreads far beyond just one person or business. Without that pebble, there are no ripples. Right now, we are watching the water go still, and effects are devastating.

SB732 is the lifeline we need. By strengthening Hawai'i Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Tax Credit, this bill will bring productions back, create jobs, and revitalize our local economy. It will allow people like our dedicated, hardworking crew members to get back to work and continue supporting the community that we love.

I urge you to pass SB732 and invest in a future where Hawai'i film industry can thrive, not just for those of us working on set but for everyone who feels the ripples it creates.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 9:56:58 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randall Yokota	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

First, I want to thank all of the legislature for supporting the SAG-AFTRA union members and the local film industry for all these years.

I would like to mention that I am in support of the SB732.

And, mention that a robust and stable incentive program is not only good for our members, crew, technicians and the creative industries — it benefits the whole state by creating living wage jobs and diversifying our economy.

Many local businesses also will benefit from a robust local film industry. Because the film industry needs to make purchases every day for its needs of supplies. Whether it's with the electrical, carpentry, wardrobe, art department, hair and makeup, or catering and greens department. So, it's also supporting other local businesses. That is a huge amount of money going back into our local economy.

Mahalo for your time.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 9:28:45 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raymond John Ramiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Hawaii State Legislature
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in Support of SB732 – Strengthening Hawaii’s Film Industry

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB732, a critical measure that will enhance Hawaii’s film industry by providing competitive incentives to attract Hollywood and international productions to our islands. As a Hawaii-based artist, actor, musician, and writer, I have witnessed firsthand both the struggles and the resilience of our creative community. The implementation of robust incentives for film and television production is essential to revitalizing an industry that has been severely impacted in recent years.

The recent strikes within the industry have brought many artists and industry professionals, including myself, to a standstill. The livelihoods of actors, writers, crew members, and all those who contribute to the rich tapestry of storytelling in Hawaii have suffered immensely. However, despite these challenges, the passion to create and share our stories remains steadfast. With the state’s support through SB732, we have the opportunity to build a stable foundation that will allow our local film industry to not only recover but thrive.

Hawaii is uniquely positioned as an ideal location for film production. Beyond our breathtaking landscapes, we have a wealth of talent—both in front of and behind the camera—that deserves investment and opportunity. By offering attractive incentives, Hawaii can compete with other states and countries that have successfully drawn major productions, bringing jobs, economic growth, and cultural representation to their regions.

A thriving film industry in Hawaii means more than just an influx of productions; it means sustainable careers for local artists, a strengthened economy, and an increased global presence for our stories. The passage of SB732 would demonstrate a commitment to nurturing the creative professionals who contribute so much to Hawaii’s cultural and economic landscape.

I urge you to pass SB732 and stand with Hawaii's artists, filmmakers, and industry workers. With your support, we can ensure that our creative community not only survives but flourishes for generations to come.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Raymond John Ramiro, BSPH.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 10:21:29 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandra Fernandes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I am writing testimony in support of 732 SB RELATING TO THE FILM INDUSTRY. I'm born and raised on Oahu and found my dream job by working as a Graphic Designer in the Film and Television industry here locally on Oahu.

My husband and I have both worked in the industry for the last 15 years and have made a good living and we're able to purchase a home. We recently had a baby girl and all of a sudden our work, which had been so steady has dried up. These past two years have been a bit scary for us. We're afraid of not being able to pay our bills. Afraid to lose the home we've worked so hard to purchase and hoped our daughter would get to grow up in.

So many productions written for Hawai'i are filming elsewhere and leaving us with little to no work. We need to incentivize them to come here. To bring their money and their jobs to Hawai'i rather than taking it to New Zealand or elsewhere.

Please pass this bill to give us at least a fighting chance to compete with all the other filming locations who have competitive incentives. Please pass this bill so our family, and hundreds like ours, can go back to work full time and pay our bills, keep our homes and keep our kids in good schools.

Thank you for listening, we appreciate your time. Aloha.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 11:19:32 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jean Simon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The film industry brings in a lot of money to Hawaii. It pays a lot of salaries, which pays taxes, it pays fees, it uses local resources and pays for them. In addition, it's advertising for Hawaii!

This isn't money spent. This is a small fraction of the money Hawaii takes in from the film industry.

Please pass this bill. We need a strong film industry here in Hawaii!

Mahalo,

Jean Simon

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 12:39:00 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laine Hamamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

My name is Laine Hamamura and I am a voting resident of Oahu in the city of Honolulu. Thank you for your service to the people of Hawaii and for listening to our testimony with open minds and hearts. I fully support SB732 because I am an active member of the local film community and industry and upon reading this bill, I believe it will positively impact the economy here in Hawaii.

My testimony for supporting this bill is that as a local actor, there is hardly paid work because most production companies receive tax incentives elsewhere. Hawaii has a wealth of talent, beauty, and skills, but every actor knows that if they want to get paid for their craft, they need to move to New York or California. This has caused a lot of talented actors to leave our beloved home. If this bill were to pass, we would not only be keeping the best and brightest here in Hawaii, but we would get the best and brightest to come here to make excellent productions.

This tax incentive, would create so many jobs and inject our economy with the boost it needs to keep the people of Hawaii from living at the poverty level. Hawaii has all the outdoor diversity that any production company could ever dream of! We have mountains, beaches, farmland, business districts and so much more! Think of the iconic backdrop of Kualoa in “Jurassic Park”; it has stayed with the audience all these years and keeps tourists coming back for photo opportunities and souvenirs.

This SB732 bill has accountability built into it and so it will not be abused by low budget con-men. The bill requires an independent third-party certified public accountant to certify that the production indeed qualifies for the tax credit. I am also thrilled that the bill includes clear, definitive language regarding broadcast and streaming platform productions under the tax credit.

Stories must be told, and there will always be a need for storytellers to tell those stories. Supporting this bill, SB732, will not only incentivize local talent to stay in Hawaii, but it will incentivize legitimate production companies to bring their big budget movies here which will grow the health of our economy through more jobs.

Mahalo again for your consideration and faithful service to the people of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Laine Hamamura

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 3:12:44 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Nakano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm a graphic designer and business owner who's been working in the film industry in Hawaii for the past 20+ years. I'd like to submit my testimony in support of this bill SB732. I know first hand how important this tax credit is. I've personally talked to producers, 3 in the last couple months, who have wanted to film in Hawaii, but because of the lack of tax credit had to move to another state and/or country. This not only effects me but all of the other companies/contractors I deal with personally. Print shops, screen printers, wood workers, prop houses, freelance artists, and the list goes on. We desperately need this bill to pass. We have an amazing film infrastructure and thousands of amazing craftspeople that are, at the moment, dead in the water. Please help revitalize our industry so we can continue to bring great stories to the world showcasing what Hawaii has to offer.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 6:09:39 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucinda Tarrant	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- The film industry is in such a bad way right now due to ineffective leadership and management.
- this bill will start the process of making Hawaii a competitor for productions to look at coming to film here.
- right now we are not competitive and the industry and the people are suffering.
- i have spoken to so many of the film workers and they are having to leave Hawaii to work. To even be considered at having a job this year.
- we need shows coming here it is a massive industry. And huge for the economy. (See NCIS Hawaii economic report)
- this bill must pass or you are letting down a whole industry and all the unions, what will they do if we don't fix this?

- mahalo for your time

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 7:47:40 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Kraynek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Kelly Kraynek, have been in the film industry for 20 years. I am a sag member as well as Iaste local 665 member. This is my livelihood . I strongly feel the need to give the tax credit so all of us in the entertainment business can continue to work and provide for our families. It's not only people who work on the set it's the dry, cleaners, florists, caterers, security officers and many more, Tourism is not our only business here we have a beautiful island to share and bring revenue. Please pass the bill, or we will be faced with yet more and more homeless.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 8:21:48 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Hall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Grace Hall, and I am writing in strong support of SB732. I have worked in the film industry for over five years, most notably as a full-time stand-in on NCIS: Hawai'i for all three seasons until its cancellation. I am also trained as a script supervisor, but without enough productions in Hawai'i, I have struggled to gain the necessary experience to build my resume. Currently, I am enrolled in a Good Jobs Hawaii program for Accounting in Media Production, further deepening my commitment to this industry and my belief in its potential for our state.

Hawai'i has invested in training individuals like myself to build careers in film, yet we continue to see productions leave due to financial limitations. If the state is funding education for industry jobs, it should also be doing everything possible to ensure those jobs exist. Increasing the annual tax credit cap from \$50 million to \$60 million is a step in the right direction, but we could be doing even more to make Hawai'i truly competitive.

In my coursework, I've learned that states like Georgia and New York offer more substantial incentives. Georgia provides a 20% transferable tax credit, with an additional 10% uplift for productions that prominently feature the state's branding, and most importantly, it does not have an annual cap on these credits. New York offers a fully refundable tax credit with an annual cap of \$700 million, which is significantly higher than Hawai'i's current cap. These robust incentives have led to thriving film industries in those states, attracting numerous productions and providing ample job opportunities for local professionals.

The impact of film and television production extends far beyond those working directly on set. It stimulates tourism, supports local vendors, and creates opportunities in sectors like hospitality, retail, and transportation. A stable, well-supported film industry benefits our entire state, and SB732 is an opportunity to make meaningful progress.

I urge you to pass this bill and continue investing in Hawai'i's creative workforce. Our industry needs stability and room to grow, and an increased tax credit cap is an essential step in that direction.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Grace Hall

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:07:07 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Woodrow M Bell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

First, I would like to thank the legislature for supporting the film industry in Hawaii. I support SB732 because of the jobs and opportunities it will provide to actors, crew, and local businesses in Hawaii.

Creating a robust and stable incentive program is not only good for SAG/AFTRA members, crew, technicians and the creative industries, it also benefits the whole state by creating living wage jobs and diversifying our economy.

I recently retired from the Air Force and have been trying to become an actor. Right now, there are limited opportunities to pursue that dream. The lack of available projects in Hawaii has had a direct negative impact on my life. By increasing the tax credit and extending it to broadcast and streaming platforms, this bill provides more opportunities for me to gain employment in the film industry. In turn, that could provide more taxable revenue for the state.

Further, when more television and movie projects film in Hawaii, the local economy is boosted due to supporting the production of the projects and also by highlighting how amazing Hawaii is to the world, which is essentially free advertising dollars for the states tourism programs.

Please vote yes on SB732 and help the Hawaiian economy and entertainment industry grow and flourish.

Thank you,

Woodrow

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:08:01 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clarence Kalima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an active Screen Actors Guild union member working in the film industry I see first hand the number jobs created by the tv/film projects that come to Hawaii and the benefit to the economy and tourism it provides. Therefore, I am in support of SB732 to support the media/film industry to grow and continue to bring projects to Hawaii.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:04:43 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Fernandes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I am writing testimony in support of 732 SB RELATING TO THE FILM INDUSTRY. I'm born and raised on Oahu and found my dream job by working as a Set Dresser in the Film and Television industry on Oahu.

My wife and I have both worked in the industry for the last 15 years and have made a good living and we're able to purchase a home. We recently had a baby girl and all of a sudden our work, which had been so steady has dried up. These past two years have been a bit scary for us. We're afraid of not being able to pay our bills. Afraid to lose the home we've worked so hard to purchase and hoped our daughter would get to grow up in.

So many productions written for Hawai'i are filming elsewhere and leaving us with little to no work. We need to incentivize them to come here. To bring their money and their jobs to Hawai'i rather than taking it to New Zealand or elsewhere.

Please pass this bill to give us a fighting chance to compete with all the other filming locations who have competitive incentives. Please pass this bill so our family, and hundreds like ours, can go back to work full time and pay our bills.

Thank you for listening, we appreciate your time. Aloha.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:10:04 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suzanne Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: The Hawaii film industry has provided hundreds of jobs for each project in the past. We have fallen behind many states and other countries in filming because they offer tax incentives and we do not. Please bring back this thriving business.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:46:25 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Ah Loy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Patrick Ah Loy. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Patrick Ah Loy

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:51:55 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Toterò	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Laura Toterò]. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. "Wrecking Crew" was also a Hawai'i story which filmed the majority of the movie in Atearoa. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Laura Toterò

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:53:49 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaikala Tamanaha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Kaikala Tamanaha. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Kaikala Tamanaha

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:55:45 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erika K Aresta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Erika K Aresta I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

thank you Kindky,

Erika Aresta]

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:59:41 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Reid	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a retired senior who works as background extra for TVshows/movies etc., to supplement my Social Security payments. I have had no work for a year, primarily because all TV series filmed here were cancelled and very few movies are made here. Even when they are, there are a lot of us competing for the few available background slots. My income has been cut so badly because of this. Hawai'i needs more shows/movies to be produced here so that all of us can get back to work, and so that the Hawai'i economy is boosted, which is sorely needed. We MUST attract more productions - the whole industry in Hawai'i is affected, not just the actors. We deserve to work - please help us to do that. Thank you

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:07:53 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Ribuca	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I've been in this industry for 9years and around the industry most of my life. My family depends on me working and that is now hard to do with movies filming else where because of the tax credits. It makes me sad that movies based here story's about Hawai'i and around our culture is being filmed in places like New Zealand , Georgia and the Dominion Republic. All because of the tax credits. Please help our family's

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:12:53 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alika Leavey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members

I am a member of IATSE Local 665.

I am KANALUA on this bill unless amended to require that productions HIRE LOCAL CREW MEMBERS and that the film office be required to perform auditing for compliance and certification of the credits. We're getting our local jobs poached over and over by Hollywood, Atlanta and other mainland crews.

mahalo

'Alika Leavey

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:24:29 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to write to you.

My name is Gerard Elmore, VP of Film at NMG Network and Executive Director of ‘Ohina ,an incubation lab program for local emerging filmmakers.

I'm writing in strong support of SB732.

The film industry in Hawai‘i needs to stay competitive in the film industry and a robust and stable incentive program is essential.

We have dedicated a lot of our time to fostering and incubating talent in the state and need to keep film production coming to the state. Students graduate from ACM and SCA and we need to do whatever we can to have good, high quality, high paying film jobs for them. This bill helps to do that.

At NMG Network, almost our entire team are ACM graduates and we have seen our ‘Ohina fellows have found great success. Writing on Moana 2, working on local productions, commercials, music videos and making feature films that find international success.

We can only keep the momentum going if we support our industry. At a global level, film production is contracting and it’s essential that we remain competitive as currencies and tax incentives other countries and states can offer make it tougher and tougher for us to sell Hawai‘i as a place to bring film or tv productions. It remains expensive to shoot here and we can’t simply rely on the selling point that people will come here because it’s Hawai‘i. Producers, studios are chasing tax incentives.

Our goal at ‘Ohina is to have more talent in above-the-line roles and the only way we get there is by competing, creating work, and using productions that come to Hawai‘i as avenues to build up our local talent.

Please support this bill and ensure that we have a fighting chance at the global level.

Mahalo,

Gerard Elmore

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:55:44 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariah Metzger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to help local workers and bring business to Hawaii

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 12:03:32 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristin Sifton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kristin sifton I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 12:32:47 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Aguon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Laura Aguon, I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65-NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Laura Aguon

local 665 makeup Artist

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 12:52:53 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raimar Bylaardt II	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee, My name is Raimar Bylaardt II. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support SB732, relating to the film industry. Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i. I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. In Solidarity,

Raimar Bylaardt II

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 1:17:40 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
fabienne lequertier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want to participate to this testimony for the bill SB732. This is very important for the Island this little paradise need all the help which provides incentives for the development of film studio facilities. As a huge fan of the MagnumPI show I want to tell you how much it means for me and a lot of people around me ! the value of this show is exactly what we feel when we set foot on Hawaiian soil for the first time ! The beauty of the island is one of the reason I wanted to come to see it by myself ! we did it in summer 2023 and we just come back from our stay in January 2025 because when you come ! you can't come once because we fall in love immediately, and you need to have a strong tourism industry. This is why you need to give the opportunities to the local economy to grow and make your wonderful island more attractive by agreeing this bill. Everything began with MagnumPI and I'm really forward to spending time again on your Island ! Even if coming from France is a big journey but so worthy. Strong film industry means a lot for tourism industry and strong economy for the Island and the population

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 1:19:21 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Prescott	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Mybname is Charlie Prescott. The film industry in Hawaii has helped me with my mental health and overall health. I have met many talented cast and crew who have made a difference in my life. Please help us continue to help our community of Hawaii and let us film more projects here.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 1:24:24 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sophie Zepf	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Sophie, and I am writing in strong support of **SB732, which extends and enhances Hawaii's film tax credit program.** As a dedicated member of the *Magnum P.I.* fandom, I have seen firsthand how productions filmed in Hawaii not only showcase the islands' natural beauty but also contribute significantly to the local economy and cultural identity.

Productions like *Magnum P.I.* bring global attention to Hawaii's landscapes, culture, and skilled workforce. The continuation of competitive tax incentives is crucial to attracting filmmakers and ensuring that Hawaii remains a premier destination for production. Without these incentives, productions may move elsewhere, resulting in the loss of jobs and economic opportunities for local businesses and communities.

This bill's tax credits would directly support **jobs in film production, tourism, and related industries**, strengthening Hawaii's economy while fostering a thriving creative sector. The success of productions filmed in Hawaii has already had a profound impact, benefiting local vendors, hotels, restaurants, and countless professionals who rely on this industry.

Supporting this bill means investing in the future of Hawaii's entertainment sector and reinforcing its reputation as a hub for storytelling and cultural representation. I urge you to pass **SB732** to ensure Hawaii remains competitive and continues to grow as a center for film and television production.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sophie Zepf

Member of the *Magnum P.I.* Fandom

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 1:41:13 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cristin Rachele	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Cristin Rachele. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

This is more important now than ever as there is significantly less production work here in Hawaii than there has been in many years (with the exception of covid shutdown). That means less local jobs not only for crew members and actors but also outside vendors who work with the shows and films. It's a ripple effect and the current economic conditions are making it even harder to support ourselves and our families without consistent work. Hawaii is one the most sought after locations for filming yet without better incentives to come here, productions will continue to seek other locations that have more favorable film tax credits. The local film industry has time and time again proven how skilled and valuable we are. We need these tax incentives to draw in more work so we can continue to thrive and contribute to job growth and economic growth here in Hawaii.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Cristin Rachele

Costumer/IATSE Local 665

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 1:58:59 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariann Tesauro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Mariann Tesauro I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Mariann Tesauro

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 2:12:23 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teya Tilley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Teya Tilley. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Teya Tilley

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 2:12:27 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaipu Seales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Kaipu Seales. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65-NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Kaipu Seales

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 2:18:28 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terrie Wehrli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a union actor in Hawaii, I support SB732

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 3:23:58 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cyndi Mayo-Akeo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Cyndi Mayo, and I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 732, which seeks to enhance tax incentives for the entertainment industry in Hawai‘i. As an actor, performer, producer, creator and small business owner in the entertainment industry, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that film and television production bring to our local economy, workforce, and cultural representation.

The entertainment industry is not only a source of economic growth but also an avenue for Hawai‘i to share its stories with the world. Productions create job opportunities for local talent, crew members, and businesses, providing employment in an industry where opportunities are often limited. Additionally, when productions choose Hawai‘i, they invest in local services—hotels, restaurants, transportation, and vendors—directly benefiting our economy.

For small, locally-driven productions like many short films I have acted in, tax incentives play a crucial role in making projects financially feasible. Without competitive incentives, productions have chosen to film elsewhere, leading to lost job opportunities and economic benefits for our islands. Strengthening these incentives will encourage more productions to choose Hawai‘i, ensuring our local creatives can thrive in their Hawaii rather than seeking opportunities elsewhere.

Beyond economics, increasing support for the entertainment industry helps perpetuate Hawai‘i’s unique culture and language. Many productions feature our landscapes, stories, and traditions, fostering cultural awareness and appreciation globally. By investing in this industry, we are investing in the preservation and promotion of our identity.

I urge you to pass SB 732 and continue supporting the growth of Hawai‘i’s entertainment sector. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cyndi Mayo

Actress/producer

Co-creator of The Peek-a-Bows

I strongly support SB732.

I've spent 30 years working in the motion picture industry. Making movies has provided for my family, keeping food on the table, a house to live in, and a vehicle in the driveway.

My industry is under attack from foreign powers. Canada, New Zealand, Australia, The United Kingdom, and the EU are buying our jobs with government money. Those nations are paying up to 40 percent on the dollar to entice film productions to go there. It's unfair and, I believe, illegal.

Billions of dollars are pouring out of our country and away from our economy.

In addition to SB732. Could you please work with the new administration and punish those nations that use public funds to buy our jobs.

Thank you,

David Presley

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 2:27:30 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pauwilo Look	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 2, 2025

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Pauwilo Look. I am a Hawai‘i-based writer and a full-time dual degree candidate at Harvard University Extension School majoring in Creative Writing and Literature. I am a life-long resident of O‘ahu. During the 90’s through the early 2000’s I worked in television and radio as a producer, voice talent, and actor. My ‘ohana are members of SAG-AFTRA Hawai‘i and IATSE Local 665, the unions respectively representing performers, and technicians and artisans in the entertainment profession. **I strongly support SB732, relating to the film industry.**

There has never been a more critical time for Hawai‘i to harness the potential of entertainment production. Maximum effort should target filmmakers and content developers across the globe to choose Hawai‘i first. A strong and stable film tax incentive program as proposed in SB732 will ensure our families in direct production roles and in ancillary support, are able to thrive here, not be priced out of paradise. Empowering a broader, stronger tax incentive signals that we are serious contenders, ready to work, and administratively support their multi-million/billion dollar projects.

Entertainment industry sources reported *Moana 2* (Walt Disney Animation) exceeded global box office sales of \$1 billion in January 2025 with \$442.8 million in domestic earnings. It is officially one of the fifty highest grossing films of all-time. It’s successor, live-action *Moana*, however filmed ninety-eight percent in Atlanta, GA with just a handful of days on O‘ahu, one of many examples where money has been left on the table—both related directly to production and the peripheral business community.

Entertainment Partners, an entertainment production finance and production management partner, projects film and television production incentives will continue to influence production decisions and redefine industry dynamics well into 2025 in a report dated December 20, 2024. Hawai‘i’s focus on stabilization, such as the broadened definition of “Qualified Production” in SB732 to include broadcast and streaming platforms, sends a firm message that we want you here.

Developers and investors are moving forward with entertainment projects to restore, revitalize, and expand production facilities from Monmouth, New Jersey (Netflix) to Bastrop County,

Texas (Line 204) to San Francisco, California (Hangar 2, Hangar 3). This is just the tip of production facility projects in development across the continent, indicating sustained long-term growth.

My adult son is a SAG-AFTRA actor, who worked on the live-action *Moana* film for one month in Atlanta. He was grateful for the steady work, but upon returning has had few project prospects. He wrapped up 2024 with work in California as a documentary actor, a few days of local work on live-action *Moana*, with a few more local days on *The Wrecking Crew* in 2025. There are no projects at this writing, and I expect that he will look for work on the continent in the months ahead. It would be impossible for him to sustain himself were it not for our multi-generational home which supports his pursuit in his profession of choice. **I strongly support SB732, and I urge your committee to support our Hawai'i-based actors and production crafts in same.** Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Pauwilo Look
94-423 Ikepono St.
Waipahu, HI 96797-1619
(808) 371-5665

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 3:57:52 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keikilani Grune	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing this in support of SB732.

Increasing the tax incentive program is not only good for my fellow Sag-Aftra members, crew, technicians and creative industries that work on sets everyday, but it also benefits the state as whole. Bringing in money to the state, supporting small business, creating LIVING wage jobs and diversifying our economy. Our shows being shown internationally, put eyes on Hawaii, promoting our state and boosting tourism.

As an actor, stand in & stunt performer, I have been employed full time for the past 8 years, providing more stability for me and my family. I have earned enough money to provide medical insurance for my family of 4 through Sag-Aftra. With movies & shows now choosing to film in locations with higher tax incentives, it's hard to compete. NCIS Hawaii was suppose to run for 10 years, it lasted 3 seasons. It was too expensive. I now have been unemployed since April and we are losing our medical coverage at the end of March. I have fellow crew member that have had to change careers all together. Friends who are losing their homes and moving to the continent.

Hawaii being a beautiful filming location, just isn't enough to draw in long term productions anymore. They come in and film a few weeks and move on. It's frustrating to know how the film industry has thrived here in the past and now, its dry. It's scary. Hopefully we can turn that around.

Thank you Legislature for supporting our Sag-Aftra & IATSE members in Hawaii.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 4:23:05 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ernie Lopez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ernie Lopez, local actor and member of the Screen Actors Guild.

I urge our legislators to support SB732. With competitive film tax incentives and the removal of caps (limits on the amounts of rebates they can earn) and sunset dates (ending dates to the incentive programs), we can ensure that Hawaii remains an attractive location for film productions. We all want to see the state economy grow, and increasing incentives to film productions to come and stay here means more jobs for us and more direct revenue for the state. Let's work together to advocate for the growth of the film industry in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Ernie Lopez SAG Actor

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 4:29:20 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Yamada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear members of the Hawaii Legislature,

I am writing to show my support for SB 732. Incentives for the tv & film industry are vital if we are to compete with other locations. Hawaii is laden with talent in front of and behind the camera. This would help us with more projects and more opportunities to show that Hawaii can be a consistent place where productions would like to shoot. I was a working actor for years in New York and Philadelphia. There were so many opportunities there. Let's have more opportunities here. Let's increase the incentives with SB 732 so that Hawaii can be a hub for film & tv. Thank you for your time.

aloha,

Kevin Yamada

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 4:52:28 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Fowler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Michele Fowler. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Michele Fowler

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 4:53:01 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Kaplan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Victoria Kaplan. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Victoria Kaplan

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 6:01:09 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chauncy Williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Chauncy Williams. I graduated with a Bachelors in Digital Cinema from the Academy of Creative Media (ACM) in December of 2018. I am also a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i since November 2022.

I strongly support SB732, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Chauncy Williams

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 7:10:26 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Valdovino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Catherine Valdovino. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Catherine Valdovino

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 7:12:23 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Montgomery Meyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB732

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 7:22:23 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catharine Incaprera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Catharine Incaprera. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

I have not had work since August, 2024 and am running out of unemployment. I will probably have to leave the island to work on the mainland which I do not want to do! That will separate my family.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

PLEASE! Help the film community stay a community!

Respectfully yours,

Catharine Incaprera

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 7:46:06 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
NICOLE ROMBAOA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB732

Submitted by: Nicole Rombaoa

Date: February 2, 2025

Aloha, Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 732, which proposes important adjustments to the Hawaii Film Tax Credit program. As a working actor in the state of Hawaii, I've seen firsthand how these incentives directly benefit individuals like me and contribute to the economic growth of our islands.

The changes proposed in SB732 will provide greater stability and opportunity for Hawaii's creative industry, which is critical in diversifying our economy beyond the tourism sector. Here are a few key reasons why I strongly support this bill:

- 1. Job Creation and Economic Opportunity:** The tax credit program has been invaluable in providing jobs and opportunities for local talent, crew, and small businesses. With the increase in the total amount of tax credits allowed annually, we can expect more productions to come to Hawaii, which means more opportunities for workers in the entertainment sector—from actors and technicians to caterers and set designers. By continuing to build this infrastructure, we can create a thriving creative industry that benefits everyone.
- 2. Support for Local Artists and Workers:** As a working actor, I've personally benefited from the tax credit program, as it directly leads to more film and TV projects coming to Hawaii. The inclusion of streaming platforms in this bill is especially important, as it reflects the growing trend of digital media and streaming content production. This is a win for local talent and an essential step in ensuring that Hawaii is competitive in the global media market.
- 3. Economic Diversification:** Hawaii's economy is largely dependent on tourism, and while this industry will always be important, it is crucial that we diversify to ensure long-term economic resilience. By continuing to support the film and entertainment industry, we can create a sustainable, high-wage sector that brings in dollars from outside the state and spreads wealth across our communities.
- 4. Strengthening Hawaii's Position as a Production Hub:** The changes proposed, such as raising the tax credit cap and extending the program's sunset date, will make Hawaii even

more attractive to productions. With the inclusion of broadcast and streaming platforms, we can capture a larger share of the rapidly expanding content production market. Additionally, the requirement for third-party certification of production costs ensures greater accountability and transparency, which is vital for the integrity of the program.

In conclusion, SB732 represents a critical step forward in fostering a vibrant, diverse economy in Hawaii. It will continue to provide opportunities for local workers, enhance our state's attractiveness to the entertainment industry, and contribute to the long-term economic sustainability of Hawaii. I urge the Committee to pass this bill and continue to support our local economy and workforce.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Nicole Rombaoa

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 7:49:28 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

Regarding 732, I want to express my support for this and any measure that continues to incentivize more opportunities for employment in the field of film and video production. I have been employed by this industry for nearly 30 years including freelancing as a crew member here in hawaii soft the past 8 years. In the current state, there is no work slated to come hers and we have come to a grinding halt in bringing viable film production work to Hawaii. I have grown to rely on this business to feed my family and continue to exist. I have met so many amazing colleagues on the various film productions here and am so honored to be a part of the Hawaii film Ohana. I am worried about continuing to feed my family here, as well as feeling great concern for the many talented crew members who have also come to rely on this industry as a primary source of income. Hawaii offers so many unique locations, and an extremely hard work, committed and talented work force. On top of the financial hit we are all currently facing, many of us rely on the industry for the healthcare and retirement programs that come with union production work. I urge The representatives to vote in favor of this bill as measured incentive to create interest in bring more production to this amazing place.

Thank you for your time,

Michael Cruickshank

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:07:13 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
justin anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Justin Anderson. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Justin Anderson

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:15:57 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ixchel Lopez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Ixchel Lopez and I am an actor, writer, teacher, and producer based on O‘ahu. Thank you for supporting our community in Hawai‘i. I'd like to share my testimony in support of SB732.

A robust and stable incentive program is not only good for our members, crew, technicians and the creative industries — it benefits the whole state by creating living wage jobs and diversifying our economy. We have an incredibly strong talent base in Hawai‘i, with people who are ready to continue working as much as they can to benefit our economy and boost cultural richness through film.

I am also a school teacher who works with aspiring creatives. My mission to lead our keiki and young people down their paths of creativity fuel my passion for supporting this bill. Many of my students plan to pursue filmmaking and the arts after high school, and would like to stay home to do it. Their desire to stay in Hawai‘i to make films is a testament to the positive aspects of what a thriving industry could be. However, they know that's only possible with the approval of this bill.

Working in film has benefited my colleagues and me greatly — we work together to help put Hawai‘i on the map in a way that lives on forever through media, we are able to supplement our cost of living and have jobs here at home, and we are part of something greater!

I implore you to consider my testimony, and others. This is our livelihood and can create so many jobs for others in the community, boosting the economy and keeping people here. Thank you for considering!

Aloha Members of the State of Hawaii Legislature,

My name is Dylan Chace Lee and I am submitting my testimony in regards to SB732 relating to the film industry tax credit.

I believe that passing the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit would be beneficial for local residents, businesses, and the State.

Firstly, let me begin with the benefits this credit would have for local residents. Simply put, local TV/ Film crew members will have work. Having this tax credit incentivizes productions to film here. There was no reason that a project like *Chief of War*, a story about Hawaii, written by Hawaiians, produced by Hawaiians, and featuring Hawaiian actors, needed to be filmed in Aotearoa. Had the tax credit been in place at the time of filming, hundreds of crew members could have been working. Instead, they found themselves fighting to get a couple days of work on the only show at the time, *NCIS:HI*. The latter of which has since been canceled due to expenses in the absence of the tax credit. In addition, this benefits local residents by keeping local residents in Hawaii. Over the years, many residents have been priced out of their own homes due to the rising cost of living in Hawaii. Taking away the tax incentive pushed many local residents, who were working in the film industry, to other states such as California and Georgia, in order to seek better opportunities. If the state of Hawaii is truly keen on keeping local residents in Hawaii, then it would be in it's best interest to provide credits that benefit the creation of local jobs for local families.

Secondly, the tax credit will benefit local businesses by generating demand due to production needs. Sets need to be constructed, props need to be procured, food needs to be cooked. These are just three facets of the film world that can boost business locally. Productions will source the materials locally to prevent having to ship materials in constantly. In addition, being able to source locally, means production can continue to operate instead of waiting on supplies. Local businesses provide a service to production companies that in return pay the local businesses. Simple economics. Another way that local businesses will benefit from this tax credit is by generating more tourists. Hawaii thrives on tourism. The pandemic showed the impact of not having a steady flow of tourists within our state. A business that comes to mind that has been successfully taking advantage of productions that have filmed here is Kualoa Ranch. Kualoa Ranch has provided the backdrop not only to movies such as *Jurassic Park* and *King Kong* but also TV shows like *LOST* and *Hawaii 5-0*. Because of this, Kualoa Ranch markets tours on property to see where the productions companies filmed while there. Think of it like a version of a Warner Brothers Film Studio tour with Hawaii's own natural beauty.

Lastly, this tax credit will benefit the state by diversifying our economy. In the previous paragraph I mentioned that Hawaii thrives on tourism. While this is true, it is a dangerous situation. The pandemic crippled Hawaii's economy and to this day tourism numbers have not returned to pre-pandemic levels. However, TV/ Film productions were still able to film during the pandemic. Providing work for local residents and even benefiting businesses like Lawson & Associates. The fact of the matter is, TV/Film productions aren't reliant on tourists coming in. Which is good when tourism numbers are low, because it still provides work for film crew members. Which alleviates the burden on the antiquated unemployment system. A look at Hawaii's past has shown that a mono-economy, plantation farming, is not sustainable in the long run. Therefore, the future of Hawaii's economical success will be determined by how diversified it is. I am not saying that TV/Film is the savior for Hawaii's economy but it is a step in a good direction.

In conclusion, this tax credit will benefit Hawaii by: creating jobs for local residents, keep local residents in Hawaii, boost local businesses, and diversify Hawaii's economy. Mahalo for your folks time and I hope that I have provided enough evidence to ensure a favorable vote that passes the tax credit.

Mahalo a nui loa,
Dylan Chace Lee

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:42:28 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cameron Prestwich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an actor, I want to work on more projects in Hawaii instead of leaving home to work. We have so much talent here on every side of the film industry. The more work there is for us, the more we can grow in our respective professions.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:44:19 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keahi Kuikahi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Keahi S Kuikahi. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support SB732, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Keahi S Kuikahi

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:55:22 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Legislature for supporting our members in Hawaii and for recognizing the importance of maintaining a strong film incentive program. I fully support SB732, as a robust and stable incentive program not only benefits members of our industry, but also crew, technicians, and all the professionals involved in the creative process. It provides a critical lifeline to our community, generating living-wage jobs, diversifying our economy, and sustaining the local economy in the long term.

I've witnessed firsthand how the film incentive program has directly impacted the lives of people I care about. A close friend of mine has worked full-time as a stand-in and double for 8 years, relying on these opportunities to support their family. They had their family on the SAG medical plan, which was a vital resource for their health and well-being. However, after the cancellation of *NCIS Hawaii* last year, my friend didn't earn enough to maintain their medical benefits, and they are now set to lose them in March. This loss is devastating—not only for my friend but for many others in the industry who are facing the same struggles. People are losing their homes, and some are even being forced to leave Hawaii in search of work.

The impact of this situation extends beyond individual families. It's affecting the wider community, as many talented professionals in the industry are facing job insecurity. I've seen friends and colleagues, who have built their lives here, now struggling with uncertainty and financial hardship.

While raising the tax incentive by \$10 million may not solve all the problems, it's a step in the right direction, and any support is appreciated. I strongly encourage the legislature to continue backing this program, as it provides critical stability and opportunity for so many in our state.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your continued support of the creative industry and its workers here in Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Jacob White

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:03:12 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Romeo Valentine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Romeo Valentine, and I am a local entrepreneur, entertainer, and media professional with over 16 years in radio and entertainment. In the past years, I had the opportunity to be part of my first TV show and commercial, which gave me firsthand experience in Hawaii’s growing film industry.

Hawaii has incredible talent, from actors to production crews, and the film industry provides vital opportunities for local creatives to showcase their skills and build careers right here at home. SB 732 is crucial in ensuring that Hawaii remains a competitive and attractive destination for film and television productions. Expanding industry incentives will not only create more jobs but also provide pathways for local talent to participate in major productions without having to leave the islands.

My experience in film and commercials has reinforced my belief that investing in this industry can drive economic growth, provide more jobs, and boost Hawaii’s creative economy. By supporting SB 732, you are investing in the future of Hawaii’s film industry and the many individuals, like myself, who aspire to contribute to it.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit my testimony. I respectfully urge you to support SB 732 and continue fostering a thriving entertainment industry in Hawaii.

Mahalo,
Romeo Valentine

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:10:33 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vincent Laurent Loïc LEQUERTIER	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Tax reductions in Hawaii benefit the film industry by making the state a more attractive and cost-effective location for productions. Lower production costs encourage more filmmakers to choose Hawaii, boosting local employment, infrastructure investment, and business opportunities in related sectors. Additionally, successful films shot in Hawaii serve as powerful marketing tools, attracting tourists eager to visit iconic locations seen on screen. This influx of visitors stimulates the hospitality, retail, and service industries, ultimately driving economic growth and reinforcing Hawaii's reputation as a premier travel destination. This is the reason why I support this bill SB732.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:33:19 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moses Goods	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am expressing my support for SB732. A stable incentive program is essential to building a healthy film industry which will positively impact economic growth.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:42:47 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kari Goodbar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:03:54 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caitlin m tong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Caitlin Tong and I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support SB732, relating to the film industry.

The film industry is very important to Hawai'i's workers. It makes it so that thousands of us locals, born and raised, are able to stay in Hawai'i, and afford a home. My skill set doesn't afford me other work at this pay level, and there is no other job I would love as much.

It has been a lean year on the industry. Owed in part to the fact that we lost Moana, a Polynesian film beloved by many, to ATLANTA, of all places. A story that means so much to many of us here in Hawai'i, we lost to a place a quarter of the world away. A location irrelevant to the story involved. How EMBARRASSING. How embarrassing that it is considered easier to fake us than to come here and film. The year before we lost Chief of War, a show ABOUT HAWAII, which was filmed in large part in Aoteroa. Because it is supposedly cheaper.

This is work taken out of the hands of our workers, not just those in the union but the crafters and cultural professionals that are hired outside of us as well. All the local goods a film buys from our local shops and small businesses, lost.

When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Caitlin Tong

In Solidarity,

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:16:28 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shen Gandolfo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please pass this bill and support the film industry in Hawaii, as it brings more work, opportunity and prosperity to the people of Hawaii. By passing this bill we will be encouraging productions to come to Hawaii and stimulate life, economy and culture by bringing a creative industry and outlet to the islands in which the people of Hawaii can use their talents, earn good livings and flourish. This would do wonders for our community.

Mahalo,

Shen Kai

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:18:08 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyla Hee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for supporting our film industry members in Hawaii. I am supporting SB732. A robust and stable incentive program is not only good for our members, crew, technicians and the creative industries — it benefits the whole state by creating many living wage jobs and diversifying our economy. I directly benefit from this film incentive program because I am a film producer and actor apart of SAG-AFTRA. Providing this tax insentive will encourage more productions to come to Hawaii which in turn will provide me the opportunity to work. Thus leading to obtaining health insurance from SAG-AFTRA.

Many of my friends in this industry suffer from lack of work and health care due to the limited productions coming to Hawaii. One production can provide hundreds of jobs to our local members along with aiding our economy because these productions will support the local businesses through catering, renting, housing, and advertising. Hawaii needs the film industry.

Mahalo,

Kyla Hee

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:56:05 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Armani Makaiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 732

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

My name is Armani Makaiwa, and I am writing to express my strong support for SB 732, which is critical to the continued growth and success of Hawaii’s film industry.

This bill strengthens our creative economy by:

Increasing the annual tax credit cap from \$50 million to \$60 million, providing more opportunities for productions to invest in Hawaii.

Expanding eligibility to include broadcast and streaming platform productions, keeping Hawaii competitive in today’s evolving media landscape.

Extending the tax credit through January 1, 2038, ensuring long-term stability for industry growth.

A robust and stable incentive program like this not only supports film crews, technicians, and creative professionals but also benefits the entire state by creating living wage jobs, boosting local businesses, and diversifying our economy beyond tourism. Productions bring in revenue for local vendors, restaurants, hotels, and more, directly impacting communities across Hawaii.

Thank you for supporting Hawaii’s creative industries. I urge you to pass SB 732 to help strengthen our economy and create sustainable opportunities for our local talent.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Armani Makaiwa

(SAG-AFTRA Hawai'i Member)

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:46:54 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Yohana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in strong support of the proposed amendments to the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit, as outlined in the report titled "Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit; Broadcast and Streaming Platforms." These changes represent a significant step forward in fostering a thriving film and media production environment.

The increase in the total amount of tax credits available, from \$50 million to \$60 million, is particularly welcome. This expansion will allow for more projects to qualify, leading to increased job creation for local crew members, actors, and support staff. It also stimulates local economies by generating revenue for businesses that cater to film productions, such as hotels, restaurants, and equipment rental companies.

The inclusion of broadcast and streaming platform productions under this tax credit is essential in today's rapidly evolving media landscape. Streaming services have become a major force in content creation, and extending the credit to these platforms ensures that Hawai'i remains competitive in attracting these productions. Defining "streaming platform" further clarifies eligibility and ensures the credit is applied appropriately.

Furthermore, the requirement for independent CPA certification for productions exceeding \$1 million in qualified costs adds a layer of transparency and accountability, ensuring the proper allocation of taxpayer funds. This strengthens the integrity of the tax credit program and reinforces public trust.

Finally, extending the sunset date to 2039 provides much-needed long-term stability for the industry. This allows production companies to plan their projects with confidence, knowing that the tax credit will be available. This predictability is crucial for attracting sustained investment and fostering long-term growth in the film and media sector.

In conclusion, I believe these amendments to the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit are vital for supporting and expanding the film and media industry.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 2:48:52 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
claudia kühn	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Vorsitzender De Coite, stellvertretender Vorsitzender Wakai und geschätzte Mitglieder des Senatsausschusses,

mein Name ist Claudia Kühn und komme aus Deutschland, und obwohl ich nicht aus Hawai‘i komme, bin ich ein Teil des Fandom of Magnum PI und anderer Shows, die die Schönheit und Kultur Ihrer Inseln zeigen. Ich bin hier, um meine starke Unterstützung für SB 732 auszudrücken, die für die Filmindustrie auf Hawai‘i lebenswichtig ist. Die Filmindustrie ist nicht nur ein lokaler Schatz, sie trifft auf Resonanz von Fans auf der ganzen Welt, die von atemberaubenden Landschaften und reichen Erzählungen, die Hawai‘i bietet, gefesselt sind. Diese Branche unterstützt tausende Familien und bietet einzigartige Arbeitsplatzmöglichkeiten, die von anderen Sektoren unersetzbar sind. Ein robuster Filmsteueranreiz führt zu einem erhöhten staatlichen BIP, höheren lokalen Einkünften und zieht sofar Besucher an, die die Magie Ihrer Inseln persönlich erleben möchten. Wenn diese Anreize jedoch eingeschränkt werden, verlieren wir mehr als nur wirtschaftliche Vorteile, wir verlieren die Möglichkeit, authentische hawaiianische Geschichten zu erzählen. Zum Beispiel ist es entmutigend zu erfahren, daß 98% der Live Action "Moana" in Atlanta gedreht wurden, während sich "Chief of War" für einen großen Teil seiner Produktion für Aotearoa entschieden hat. Aotearoas fortschrittliche Infrastruktur erschwer es Hawai‘i zunehmend - auf dem Weltmarkt zu konkurrieren. Damit Hawai‘i an vorderster Front Filmindustrie bleibt, ist es entscheidend, daß Filmsteueranreizprogramm zu stärken und zu stabilisieren. SB732 ist ein wichtiger Schritt in diese Richtung, da es die Definition einer "qualifizierten Produktion" um Broadcast und Streamingplattformen erweitert. Diese Expansion wird nicht nur das Filmsteueranreizprogramm verbessern, sondern auch unzählige arbeitende Familien auf Hawai‘i unterstützen und dafür sorgen, daß das Publikum weltweit weiterhin die Geschichten genießen, die aus diesem einzigartigen Ort hervor. Ich unterstütze SB732 von ganzem Herzen und ermutige Ihren Ausschuss, Maßnahmen zugunsten dieser wichtigen Gesetzgebung zu ergreifen. Danke, daß ich meine Aussage teilen durfte.

in Solidarität

claudia kühn

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 2:04:13 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Umipeg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you to the Legislature for supporting our communities and SB732.

My name is Michelle Umipeg and I am supporting SB732.

A robust and stable incentive program is not only good for actors, crew, technicians, and the creative industries--it benefits the whole state by creating jobs and diversifying and strengthening our economy.

I've been interested in entertainment for as long as I can remember. I wrote short stories as a young girl and took drama and audio visual classes when I was in high school. I took drama classes at Leeward Community College and Cosmetology at Honolulu Community College. I designed hair and makeup for local theatrical productions including Kumu Kahua Theatre and the Hawai'i Shakespeare Festival. I had the opportunity to be a makeup artist and hairstylist for student and independent films. I went back to school at Leeward Community College for Television Production. I was a set production assistant for season 2 Magnum P.I. I was an office production assistant for Magnum P.I. (season 3) and NCIS: Hawai'i (season 1). I later became the assistant to the producers for NCIS: Hawai'i for seasons 2 and 3 until the show got canceled last June.

I learned a lot as the assistant to the producers and applied those skills to creating my short films that I wrote, directed, and produced. One of them won Best Romantic Comedy at the Houston Comedy Film Festival in 2023. I also became a fellow for the 'Ohina Filmmakers Lab in 2023 and 2024.

Having film and TV productions has helped the economy by providing jobs to hundreds of local crew members. They also support local vendors. The office and location scout lunches are from local restaurants. We order between twenty to forty-five lunches from various restaurants, depending on what we need for the day. A former employee of a restaurant vendor recently contacted me to let me know he opened his own restaurant and that they could provide lunch services. I unfortunately had to tell him that the show I worked on got canceled but I would keep him in mind for future productions. A local promotional items vendor reached out to me to see if we would like to order more for the show but I had to tell him the show was canceled. The Costumes department of the show used local vendors

to create printed shirts for various background actors for different scenes in the show. The Locations department helps provide settings for the episodes, from local businesses to private homes. The Locations department negotiates with these businesses and private homeowners to film at their place of business or residence for various fees, depending on the budget. These are only a few examples of what the local economy is losing out on without a show or film production in the state.

I've enjoyed working professionally in the film and television industry since 2019. Unfortunately, since there aren't any productions that I know of that are on the horizon, I will have to get a job outside of the industry that I love. I'm saddened that I won't be working in the industry that I'm passionate about, as I have goals to be a showrunner (creator of a TV show) and a writer/director of feature films. I would love to have an original project in Hawai'i where the cast and crew are paid well for their time and talent. Hopefully there will be more opportunities for us in the near future.

Mahalo for your time.

Sincerely,

Michelle Umipeg

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:00:52 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melinda Santhany	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Respectfully submitting in SUPPORT of SB732.

Mahalo.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:14:58 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra Grey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate committee,

My name is Debra Grey, and while I may not be from Hawaii, I am part of the Fandom Of MagnumPI and other shows that showcase the beauty and culture of your islands. I am here today to express my strong support for SB732, which is vital to the film industry in Hawaii.

The film industry is not just a local treasure; it resonates with fans around the world who are captivated by the stunning landscapes and rich narratives that Hawaii offers. This industry supports thousands of families and provides unique job opportunities that are irreplaceable by other sectors. A robust film tax incentive leads to increased state GDP, higher local earnings, and even attracts visitors eager to experience the magic of your islands in person.

However, when these incentives are restricted, we lose more than just economic benefits; we lose the opportunity to tell authentic Hawaiian stories. For example, it is disheartening to learn that 98% of the live-action “Moana” was filmed in Atlanta, while “Chief of War” opted for Aotearoa for significant portions of its production. Aotearoa’s advanced infrastructure makes it increasingly difficult for Hawaii to compete in the global market.

To keep Hawaii at the forefront of the film industry, it is crucial to strengthen and stabilize the film tax incentive program. SB732 is a significant step in this direction, as it expands the definition of a “Qualified Production” to include broadcast and streaming platforms. This expansion will not only enhance the film tax incentive program but also support countless working families in Hawaii and ensure that audiences worldwide continue to enjoy the stories that emerge from this unique locale.

I wholeheartedly support SB732 and encourage your committee to take action in favor of this important legislation. Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony.

In Solidarity,

Debra Grey

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:10:56 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phyllis Bruce	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee

My name is Phyllis Bruce, and while I may not be from Hawaii, I am part of the Fandom of MagnumPI and other shows that showcase the beauty and culture of your islands. Magnum PI was extremely great at bringing your beautiful island and culture to light! I am here today to express my strong support for SB732, which is vital to the film industry of Hawaii.

The film industry is not just a local treasure, it resonates with fans around the world who are captivated by the stunning landscapes and rich narratives that Hawaii offers. This industry supports thousands of families and provides unique job opportunities that are irreplaceable by other sectors. A robust film tax incentive leads to increase state GDP, higher local earnings, and even attracts visitors, such as myself, eager to experience the magic of your islands in person.

However, when these incentives are restricted, we lose more than just economic benefits; we lose the opportunity to tell authentic Hawaiian stories. For example, it is disheartening to learn that 98% of the live-action "Moana" was filmed in Atlanta, while "Chief of War" opted for Aotearoa for significant portions of its production. Aotearoa's advanced infrastructure makes it increasingly difficult for Hawaii to compete in the global market.

To keep Hawaii at the forefront of the film industry, it is crucial to strengthen and stabilize the film tax incentive program. SB732 is a significant step in this direction, as it expands the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms. This expansion will not only enhance the film tax incentive program but also support countless working families in Hawaii and ensure that audiences worldwide continue to enjoy the stories that emerge from this unique locale.

I wholeheartedly support SB732 and encourage your committee to take action in favor of this important legislation. Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony. I hope to one day enjoy more shows bringing your beautiful island and its culture to light!

In Solidarity,

Phyllis Bruce

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:15:36 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Arnstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support the Hawai'i Film Industry!

Thank you Legislature for supporting our communities and SB732.

I am supporting SB732.

A robust and stable incentive program is not only good for actors, crew, technicians, and the creative industries — it benefits the whole state by creating jobs and diversifying and strengthening our economy.

There are many examples of the positive impact this incentive program has had on me, my family, and the community. When we are all working on set, everyone is thriving. We are able to pay our bills and do what we are passionate about, what we worked hard for, what we trained and studied for. We are able to use that and put it into action. Filming in Hawaii is the best place in the world to film, and we should really take advantage of that and expand. We have amazing talent and crew on this island of Oahu and we don't want it going to waste! We are all eager to get back to work on set. Unemployment doesn't last too long, and it would be a shame for us to do jobs we aren't passionate about. Please let's encourage shows and movies to film here, cast here, hire here, and we can all thrive together, consistently. This is our home, and we deserve to have the same opportunities here, just like the rest of the world has! I've lived here for 11 years and grew up here. The film industry is my passion, acting in my passion, and I would love to do it all here. Thank you so much.

Nancy Arnstein

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:54:03 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Incaprera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm a member of Directors Guild of America and the Producers Guild of America and I reside in Hawaii. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

I have been in the film industry for 30 years and have been producing Episodic Television for Netowrk and Streamers like Netflix and HBO for over 15 years. My wife and I moved to Hawaii in 2022. We both worked on the FOX Series Rescue Hi Surf in 2024. I was the Producer for the Project. We hired a local crew. We used local businesses. We supported local hotels, car rental agencies, lumber yards, flower shops, clohing stores etc... We hired hundreds of Hawaiian Residents. The show provided many jobs and a good wage for hard working people. These are craft people with unique skill sets. They are respected in their communités and respectful of Hawaiian Culture and its people.

This bill will help keep Hawaii as an option for Studios to bring their projects to the State. I am currently In LA today (as I write this) intervieuwng for jobs that are not in Hawaii because there isnt any film work in the State. If this bill fails there wont be a film industry in Hawaii to speak of and many people will have lost their profession.

Hawii struggles to compete with other states like Louisiana and Georgia that have more robust Tax Credit Programs and lower costs of living. Hawaii already has a lot of hurdles being so remote and if the Tax legislation does not pass that will be the final blow. We need this bill to pass.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:49:10 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristine Haag	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Kristine Haag, I'm a member of IATSE Local 892, the union representing Costume Designers in the entertainment industry.

I strongly support SB732, relating to the film industry.

Working in production on Oahu provided me personally with employment in 2024. This met my living expenses and created an environment to exercise my skill and creativity in storytelling, as well as being able to teach and mentor others from the local community in the art and execution of costume design.

I witnessed first hand the large number of locals employed by the production I was a part of. I know from experience that this opportunity to generate income goes far beyond other employment opportunities in the market place.

Increasing the state tax incentive will make it possible for more productions to operate. This will support the community with securing employment opportunities as well as stimulating the economy with the purchasing of local goods and services to execute production successfully.

To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I hope to be involved in and support the community of Hawaii's entertainment industry for many many years to come.

In Solidarity,

Kristine N Haag

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:51:29 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taj Gutierrez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting the members of the film Community in Hawaii

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:07:43 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Tavares	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Tiffany Telana Tavares. I am script supervisor and member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support SB732, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories.

I am the Script Supervisor on both Apple TV's "Chief of War and Amazon's "The Wrecking Crew" 2 projects that are set in Hawaii but that shot more then 80 percent of their principle photography in Aotearoa due to their strong film incentive program. In addition to being native Hawaiian, I am also a member of I.A.T.S.E. 871 & 161, have worked all over the world and as such have seen the impact of successful film tax incentive programs in the community.

To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Tiffany T Tavares

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:28:33 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sue chipperton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Sue Chipperton

Owner, Check The Gate - Animals for Film & TV
Hearing on Bill SB732

Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and esteemed members of the committee,

My name is Sue Chipperton, and I am the owner and operator of *Check The Gate*, a company specializing in the training and provision of animals for the film and television industry. I have been an active professional in this industry for 30 years, with the past decade based here in Hawai‘i.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of supplying and training animals for numerous high-profile productions, including *Hawai‘i Five-0*, *Magnum P.I.*, *NCIS: Hawai‘i*, *Jurassic World*, and *Triple Frontier*, among others. Most recently, I worked on *Lilo & Stitch*.

Since relocating to Hawai‘i in 2014, I have been consistently employed in the industry and have never had difficulty meeting the union work-hour requirements necessary to qualify for health insurance. However, the current state of film production in Hawai‘i has changed dramatically. Since July 13, 2023, I have worked only 23 days—a level of inactivity that is unprecedented in my career.

This downturn is not due to a lack of interest in filming in Hawai‘i, but rather the increasing trend of productions choosing alternative locations. Following my work on *Lilo & Stitch*, I was in discussions with a major production planning to shoot here, only for them to ultimately relocate to Atlanta. A film set in a tropical environment chose a soundstage in Atlanta over the natural beauty of Hawai‘i. Similarly, I have lost count of the number of times productions have opted for New Zealand instead of our islands.

This decline in production does not just affect me—it impacts a network of local workers. When film projects come to Hawai‘i, I employ numerous local professionals and subcontract horses and other animals, providing income to individuals who have never set foot on a film set.

For the first time in my 30-year career, I did not accumulate enough union hours to qualify for my health insurance. This is a clear indicator that something must change. We need to take

immediate action to incentivize productions to film in Hawai'i, ensuring the survival of this vital industry and the livelihoods of those it supports.

I urge you to support legislation that strengthens film production incentives and fosters a thriving entertainment industry in Hawai'i. Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:50:32 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Bennett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, please accept this written testimony in support of SB732. After retiring as the Film Commissioner in Maui County at the end of 2023, I have moved into producing projects locally, in film, television and music. The financing arm that is supporting my project development is interested in jurisdictions with a healthy and competitive tax incentive. While all of my projects are written for Maui specifically, there is pressure to move them to Australia and New Zealand because of their flexible and handsome incentives. I know that our state legislators are aware of the job creation, career enhancement and longevity that comes with a robust industry here, and the overlying setbacks from Covid, industry strikes and wildfires both here on Maui and in Los Angeles, the timing of boosting Hawaii's film tax credits is ripe. Mahalo nui.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:44:06 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin R Kersting	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Kevin Kersting. I am a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support SB732, relating to the film industry. <Hawai'i film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action movie Moana was filmed in Atlanta.

Chief of War filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65-NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a Qualified Production to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Kevin Kersting

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:53:48 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vi Schap	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you to the legislature for bringing up this bill. I am in support of this bill, SB 732. An incentive program is positively life changing for our members, crew, technicians, and the creative industries of Hawaii. This benefits our state by creating more livable wage jobs. There is so much local talent in the film industry, and should not have to move away from their homes to sustain a livable wage.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:00:56 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kristen Davis, and I am a mother of 4 kids. I have been an active professional in this industry for 4 years. Although I have not been in the industry long, I have been greatly impacted by the lack of work on Oahu, including not even meeting the union work-hour requirement necessary to qualify for benefits. My mentor has been in the industry for over 30 years and has never been disqualified for medical insurance before.

This downturn is not due to a lack of interest in filming in Hawai‘i, but rather the increasing trend of productions choosing alternative locations. Following my work on Lilo & Stitch, I was in discussions with a major production planning to shoot here, only for them to ultimately relocate to Atlanta. A film set in a tropical environment chose a soundstage in Atlanta over the natural beauty of Hawai‘i. Similarly, I have lost count of the number of times productions have opted for New Zealand instead of our islands.

This decline in production does not just affect me—it impacts a network of local workers and their families. For the first time many professionals are unable to put in enough hours to even qualify for health insurance through their union. This is a clear indicator that something must change. We need to take immediate action to incentivize productions to film in Hawai‘i, ensuring the survival of this vital industry and the livelihoods of those it supports.

I urge you to support legislation that strengthens film production incentives and fosters a thriving entertainment industry in Hawai‘i. Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:09:08 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robyn Zucker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Robyn Zucker I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Robyn Zucker

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:12:21 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsay Watson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

The film industry is vital to a large portion of the Hawai'i local community and it is the duty of the Hawaiian government to support its people and their livelihoods. I was born and raised in Hawai'i and always had a passion for film & television. At the time, there was no way for me to support that passion with the lack of film & tv productions in Hawai'i, so I was forced to relocate to California to pursue my dreams. I was lucky enough to find some success in California, but the goal as a Hawaiian actor, director, and writer is to be able to do what I love in my home of Hawai'i with my 'ohana. The film industry has so much to offer Hawai'i; most importantly, financially. Film & TV productions would drum up a lot of revenue for Hawai'i, not only from influx of money directly from the studios/streamers, but with the need for housing for cast & crew, the influx of spending for food at local businesses, location rentals, equipment rentals, income for local actors/crew/producers/directors/etc, clothing/costumes, consultants, and so much more. From my experience in the industry, there is no shortage of money when it comes to productions. With the vast beauty that Hawai'i offers, it is highly sought after by productions year round. There would be no shortage of cash flow if more productions had incentives to film in Hawai'i. It would be spread far into the community helping all levels of Hawaiians and Hawai'i locals. Additionally, as a Hawaiian, I pride myself of caring for our 'aina and resources, and I can confidently say that productions do a stellar job ensuring they respect and take care of whatever location they film on. It is something I was very pleased to learn after my years in the industry, which is why I have no hesitations about productions filming in Hawai'i because I know they will do everything in their power to respect the land on which they are shooting. Overall, the film & TV community in Hawai'i has grown exponentially over the past decades and it is only right for the Hawai'i government to grow with them. To understand the new world of media and the vast opportunities that lie within it. We as community members are pursuing our dreams in this industry, but it is not easy to do it on our own, we need our government to stand beside us and show their support. We promise to not take it lightly as we strive to tell the stories of our people, our culture, and our aloha.

Mahalo,

Lindsay Watson

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:14:55 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Bredehoft	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:26:49 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Cohen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

Thank you for supporting this bill in order to help save and grow our movie and television industry in the State of Hawaii. I have been working in the industry since the early 80's and have seen the benefit of production investments in the State.

Currently the union members of the Crew and Cast need the "tax incentive" support of our legislature to attract investment for these industries. The financial burden on all the members of the various unions is having a grave impact since investors have left the State of Hawaii to film in other States and Countries. Please help turn this situation around. Mahalo.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:15:49 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katie Pere	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The film industry in Hawaii creates living wages for local people. It keeps Hawaiians in Hawaii and offers more than construction and the tourist industry. Currently, television and film productions are flooding Georgia and New Zealand due to the highly competitive tax breaks. We are losing millions of dollars. They are filming shows that are supposed to take place in Hawaii elsewhere and those places are reaping the benefits. Please support the film industry here and encourage it!

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:28:00 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I'd first like to thank the Legislature for supporting our SAG members in beautiful Hawaii. I am in SUPPORT of SB732. A robust and stable incentive program is not only good for our members, crew, technicians and the creative industries, it benefits the whole state by creating living wage jobs and diversifying our economy. I am a working actress for over 20 years and hope to keep booking roles on productions out here in Hawaii. I feel grateful to have worked on many productions shot on Oahu, from Lost to Magnum P.I. More productions will create more opportunities for work along with more revenue for the state. Mahalo for keeping the tv and film industry thriving in Hawaii now and into the future!

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:28:03 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Moquin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB732 as it relates to Hawaii's Film and Television Industry. As a 20+ year member of this local industry, I've seen the enormous financial impact that spreads throughout the community when these projects happen in our islands. The trickle down of the money being spent helps out so many large and small businesses, as well as countless individuals and their families.

Additionally, by not supporting these projects with competitive tax incentives, we're ensuring that the stories told about Hawai'i are being controlled by other people outside of Hawai'i. Does it seem right that the latest live action movie Moana (about the demi god Maui) was shot almost entirely in Atlanta? Or that the recent epic historical film Chief of War (described by IMDB as "A thrilling telling of the unification of the Hawaiian Islands from an indigenous perspective") was shot not here in the Hawai'ian Islands, but in New Zealand?? Please support SB732 so that the people of Hawai'i can both participate in and benefit from this lucrative and important industry. Mahalo

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:33:12 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ute K Finch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a GM of an activity company on Maui and I am a SAG actor.

I can tell you first hand that the activity business has suffered due to a reduction in tourism. Especially here on Maui due to the fire.

The State is tied too heavily to tourism. Please consider supporting the entertainment industry to also support jobs here on the islands.

We have locations that are desirable scenery for producers. Give them the extra nudge to bring their productions here to provide work for the crew and actors in Hawaii.

Kind regards,

Ute K. Finch

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:37:03 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nigel Nally	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to support Hawaii film industry..we have so many talented technician's that are unemployed and have been for a while now..

If films or tv shows are brought back to Hawaii instead of being filmed offshore, we can get everyone working again and provide 1000's of local jobs and money back into the local economy

TO THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA
THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2025

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

HEARING SB732
DATE: Tuesday, February 4, 2025
TIME: 1:00 PM

Bill No. SB732

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

One of the most impactful approaches to economic diversification is the film industry. Historically, the film industry's presence in Hawai'i has stimulated other businesses through the direct creation of high-paying jobs and the purchase of supplies, which go into the production of motion pictures and digital media, and the indirect support of ancillary businesses (e.g., restaurants, shops, and construction companies).

I support the intent of this bill. Which amends the motion picture, digital media, and film production income tax credit to increase the annual cap from \$50,00,000,000 to \$60,000,000. The film industry is one of the strongest mechanisms that improve the overall economic activity which directly affects the velocity of money (how many times a dollar circulates) through the local economy. This in turn leads to tax revenue that benefits the state and can be used in a manner the legislature deems fit. Furthermore, studies conducted by UHERO indicate that the current film tax credit generates close to a billion dollars in economic activity. Hence increasing the tax credit with current enforcement provisions will ensure that products follow the conditions of the tax credit and is a responsible way in the goal of diversifying Hawaii's economy.

In summary, I recommend that bill SB732 be passed by this committee. I hope that all changes to this bill will be in keeping with the introducer's intent and long-term thinking toward a viable economic sector. The passage of this bill will increase the standard of living for all workers in Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Mahalo,

Ken Farm

Chair Emeritus,
Former Chair Neighborhood Board No. 15
Speaking in my personal capacity,

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:55:08 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raleigh Tabora	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting members of the film community in Hawaii. I am in strong support of SB732. A strong incentive program would greatly benefit not only the widely talented film and tv crews, actors, and other members of the community but our state as a whole! This would diversify our economy and bring in new jobs for many individuals seeking employment in this industry! Bringing more productions to the island would benefit me personally as I would be able to work more as an actor while staying in my home on island rather than traveling to the mainland for every job. The film industry in Hawaii is family-like. It is safe, supportive, and fierce. The people are creative and hardworking. Giving us more opportunities to work and grow in our community and industry would be an amazing opportunity. Bring more productions to Hawaii! Thank you for your time.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:14:02 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa Hookano-Briel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB732

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Emery, and I am 8 years old. I am a Hawaii

based actress, and I love being a part of the film industry. It is so exciting to be in movies and shows, and it makes me really happy to share Hawaii's beauty with the world.

I want to support SB732 because it will help bring more film and TV projects to Hawaii. When more movies and shows are made here, it means a boost in our economy and a chance for kids from Hawaii to follow our dreams of acting and being part of something special. It also means jobs for so many people, like camera crews, costume designers, and even people who help with food on set.

Hawaii is the most beautiful place in the world, and I think it's amazing when movies show our beaches, mountains, and culture. Passing this bill will make it easier for film companies to come here and work. It will help my family and friends have more opportunities, and it will make Hawaii an even better place.

Thank you for letting me share my thoughts, and I hope you support SB732 to help kids like me and so many others.

Mahalo,

Emery Hookano-Briel

8-year-old actress from Hawaii

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:14:54 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regan Downie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support Bill SB732, as it provides a much-needed boost to Hawaii's film industry and helps elevate local talent. As someone who has seen the passion, creativity, and potential within our local filmmakers, artists, and crew, this bill is a game-changer. It not only offers a platform for local professionals to thrive, but it also strengthens Hawaii's cultural identity by showcasing our unique stories to a global audience. Supporting SB732 means investing in our community, creating jobs, and ensuring that Hawaii remains a hub for creative innovation. I urge lawmakers to pass this bill and help our local talent shine. Mahalo!

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:22:47 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaun Skinner Wolfe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please consider this bill! Hawai'i is becoming unlivable for us in the film industry. We are being forced to either move or change careers. The film industry can be a massive economic driver in Hawaiian and employ so many local residents causing minimal harm to the aina and its residents.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:24:48 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas h. Penny	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Thomas H. Penny. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Thomas H. Penny

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:38:10 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim curtis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly urge you to pass this bill . The film industry in hawaii is in deep trouble the cost of filming has far outpaced the current tax incentives the cost of production (fuel , housing , travel, food etc.) have far outpaced the 2013 incentives , inflation has hit us all hard . There is also stiff competition for projects w/ other states & country's offering tax incentives that are more attractive to producers . Where 10 years ago a project would come to Hawaii for 6 months it dwindled down to 3 months 5 years ago now where lucky to get 2 weeks of work ! Hawaii can't afford to lose a high paying industry , after all films are basically commercials for Hawaii Tourism ! Please help us stay employed and remain productive & profitable .mahalo

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:38:12 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie M Matsunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

Mahalo for supporting our residents in Hawaii. I am contacting you in support of SB732.

The incentive program is critical in sustaining the creative industries in Hawaii through living wage jobs and diversifying our economy for our members, crew, technician alike.

As you know, many productions have left the state, leaving only a few productions available for local Hawaii talent to benefit from having opportunities to work in state without having to travel out of state, out of the country.

As a new actor, desiring to re-engineer myself after a career in healthcare and education, having local productions in state is affordable and accessible. I've benefited from the television series ,”Hawaii Five-0, Magnum PI, Doogie Kamealoha, MD, Moku Moku” as background on my resume, that I never would've considered, if they were filmed elsewhere. I've also been able to encourage, recruit and refer local Maui talent to train and prepare their skills should productions come, we have talent camera ready. Some of us would not be involved in the film creative industry had we not stepped foot on set.

Paradise City was filmed on location in Maui. Talent local to Maui was cast. Locations island wide were used during the three weeks that the production occurred, leaving a clean foot print on the environment. Jobs were created and provided local employment through food and beverage, construction supplies and skill, and healthcare workers to Maui residents. Similarly, The White Lotus filmed during the pandemic was a positive influence on the economic impact through jobs locally.

While on Paradise City, one of my colleagues was given the chance to be a Production Assistant, and she states this one experience changed her life. She went on to study abroad in Media Production, and is currently in Law School earning a degree in Production Law. She intends to return to Hawaii and contribute her talents locally.

All because Paradise City was filmed on Maui.

Please support SB732 to continue to provide incentives bringing productions to Hawaii~

With Gratitude,

~Valerie Matsunaga

SAG-AFTRA member

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:41:44 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen McGuire	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kathleen McGuire, and while I may not be from Hawaii I have visited many times. I am also part of the Fandom of Magnum PI and other shows that showcase the beauty and culture of your islands. I am here today to express my strong support of SB732, which is vital to the film industry in Hawaii.

The film industry is not just a local treasure but resonates with fans around the world who are captivated by the beautiful landscapes and rich heritage that Hawaii has to offer. This industry supports thousands of families and provides job opportunities that are irreplaceable by other sectors. A robust film tax incentive leads to increased GDP, higher local earnings, and attracts visitors to experience the beauty and magic of your islands in person.

When these incentives are restricted we lose more than economic benefits, we lose the opportunity to tell authentic Hawaiian stories. For example, it is disheartening to learn that 98% of the live action of "Moana" was filmed in Atlanta.

To keep Hawaii in the forefront of the film industry, it is crucial to strengthen and stabilize the film tax incentive program. SB732 is a significant step in this direction, and it expands the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms. This expansion will not only enhance the film tax incentive program but also support countless working families in Hawaii and ensure audiences worldwide continue to enjoy the stories that emerge for this unique locale.

I wholeheartedly support SB732 and encourage your committee to take action in favor of this important legislation. Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony.

In Solidarity,

Kathleen McGuire

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:44:33 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Carmen Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 732

My name is Maria Carmen Davis. As a retired kūpuna, mother and grandmother, I have a vested interest in helping to ensure that Hawaii maintains a strong, viable economy so that our children and grandchildren do not have to leave our island to seek financial security elsewhere. I need to trust that you, our esteemed lawmakers, hold that same resolve. Local families are hurting financially, and now it appears only a matter of time before thousands of our friends and families who work for the local federal government are going to be laid off and looking for other available jobs under this current administration. I am highlighting these issues to underscore the importance of helping local families by supporting SB 732.

I strongly urge you to support SB 732, as the decline in film production on O‘ahu has directly and adversely impacted our local workers, families, and businesses.

For the first time in their careers, experienced professionals, including union members with decades of work, are struggling to meet the work-hour requirements necessary for benefits like health insurance - imagine the impact of that on local families. Productions are not avoiding Hawaii due to lack of interest, but rather because other locations offer more competitive incentives. This should be preventable! Major productions recently relocate from Hawaii to Atlanta or New Zealand—locations that cannot match Hawaii’s natural beauty—because of stronger financial incentives.

This decline doesn’t just affect industry professionals—it affects a network of small local businesses, hospitality services, and working families who depend on film production for stable income. Make no mistake, the financial ripple effects on our residents have been far reaching. SB 732 is essential to ensuring Hawaii remains a viable location for film and television, keeping jobs and economic opportunities here at home. I strongly urge you to support this bill and protect an industry – and the individuals, families, and businesses that depend on it – that has long been a pillar of Hawaii’s economy. Please help keep jobs, businesses, and our local families to remain on island by supporting SB 732.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:47:07 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Truc Mai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the Hawai'i Senate Bill 732, which proposes several changes to the state's motion picture, digital media, and film production income tax credit. This will benefit the state and the people working in the film industry, providing us with stable income and improving the economy.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:49:18 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Spelman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support bill SB732! The television/movie industry in Hawaii is dying! There has never been a more dire time for this industry in the islands. This industry provides living wage jobs and almost incalculable other benefits for Hawaii; increased tourism, income to other businesses necessary to the industry, hotels, trucking, vehicle rentals, food catering, restaurants, signage, printing, construction materials, equipment rentals, location fees, and on and on. Taxes are collected on all these businesses for the state. Money made in the community is respent in the community and taxed again, etc. Thousands of people are benefited economically from just one production. The enviroment Hawaii provides filmmakers is unique; productions can work here year round, unlike so many states. This gives Hawaii a huge advantage over other locations around the USA but ONLY if it is more affordable than going abroad. This is where we are failing in Hawaii. It has become cost prohibitive to film in the islands. With the increase in tax credits it will help to recapture some of the work that has been lost. Please support this bill.

Mahalo

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:08:13 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Flores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Alexis Flores. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support SB732, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Alexis Flores

2.2.25

Senator DeCoite
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S Beretania St
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Support for SB 732 – Strengthening Hawaii’s Film & TV Industry

Dear Senator DeCoite,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 732, a bill that will ensure the continued growth and sustainability of Hawaii’s film and television industry. As a longtime resident of Hawaii for over 30 years, I have dedicated my professional career to the film and television sector, working extensively in casting and production for both major studios and independent projects. My deep ties to this industry, combined with my experience as a community advocate, compel me to advocate for the passage of this legislation. My support has been consistent and unwavering for many, many years.

My work has spanned decades, involving collaboration with major networks and studios such as Netflix, Disney, HBO, and Universal, contributing to productions including *Jurassic World*, *The White Lotus* (for which we received an Emmy® Award), *Jungle Cruise*, *Red Notice*, and many more. These productions have not only showcased Hawaii’s breathtaking landscapes but have also provided substantial economic benefits, employment opportunities, and invaluable exposure for local talent and businesses. We have helped hire thousands of local residents over the years. The tax incentives outlined in SB 732 will allow our state to remain competitive in attracting and retaining high-quality productions that bring significant revenue to our economy.

Beyond my professional contributions, I have dedicated my life to serving our local community, raising my son in Hawaii, where he actively engaged in volunteer work throughout his school years. My husband, a dedicated professional in social work, has been instrumental in developing and implementing programs to support our homeless and houseless populations. Our family's commitment to this community is unwavering, and I have witnessed firsthand the positive ripple

effects that the film industry has on local job creation, small businesses, and cultural representation.

SB 732 is more than just a tax incentive bill—it is an investment in Hawaii’s economic future, job security for our creative workforce, and an opportunity to showcase our unique culture and landscapes on a global scale. The increase in the annual tax credit cap and the inclusion of streaming productions will ensure that Hawaii remains a premier destination for the entertainment industry.

I urge you to support SB 732 and advocate for its swift passage. This legislation will ensure that Hawaii continues to thrive as a hub for film and television production, sustaining and expanding job opportunities for thousands of local residents while reinforcing our place in the global entertainment industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Katie Doyle-Hummel

Katiedoylecasting@gmail.com

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:12:04 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Asia Collier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Asia Collier. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ \$1.65- NZ \$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Asia Collier

COSTUMER - IATSE Local 665

C: 808 913 7038

E: asiacollierinc@gmail.com

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:15:42 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luis Linares	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai Kākou, as a Hawai'i resident I have had the privilege to work and be involved with major productions that asides from the immediate and measurable impact that this type of productions have for local residents including hundreds of good paying jobs per production, the opportunity to gain experience and develop local talent in all fields related to the complex ensemble of highly skilled individuals that compose the different departments that to the untrained eye seems like a wonderful symphony chaos coming together seemingly seamlessly to create an amazing product and an opportunity to build a valuable, rewarding and lucrative career in all the departments that come together to create a T.V. show or a Film.

From office jobs, to security, construction, PAs(Production Assistance), ADs (Assistant Directors), to BG (Background artist) Stunt performers, to Casting.

Perhaps this could have been a good opportunity to pressure production companies to create a more equality of opportunity environment when it comes to CASTING. Unfortunately the biggest projects that come through the state reserve their bigger paying opportunities like "Guest Star" or "Principal Roles" to their mainland CDs (Casting Directors) leaving local talent without the opportunity to even compete for this important, high paying, and potentially life changing/ career break through jobs. I'm not asking for any freebies but an equality of opportunity. Perhaps pressure from the legislative process to get them to at least give local talent the opportunity to ALSO audition for this bigger roles and give us an opportunity to compete with our mainland counter parts for this bigger jobs on a given production.

As I've heard over and over again. The film industry tends to be eclipsed by the massive tourism industry on the state but the reality is that the Film industry on the state has a significant yet difficult to measure influence in promoting the islands all over the world as shown over and over by iconic shows and movies that have been made on the islands that put Hawai'i on the map as a destination where certain projects where made. Kualoa Ranch is a perfect example of the tangible underlying impact and correlation between the film and tourism industries. People come to visit excited to know that this is where films like "Jurassic Park", "Hunger Games", "Hawaii Five-0", "Magnum P.I.", "50 First Dates", "Rescue HI Surf", "Lost", "Pirates of the Caribbean", "NCIS HAWAII", and many others where made.

Unfortunately Hawai'i has become NONE COMPETITIVE, when it comes to affordability of production cost, leaving too many professionals like myself obligated to explore the possibilities of leaving the state and tremendously hinduring the momentum that was being felt around the

islands just a few years ago as we as a state and an industry where in the middle of developing young talent in this highly technical and career building jobs that due to the none competitiveness of the state due to the lack of an adequate tax incentive (according to the Production runners) are now simply none existent.

This was even more significant and shameful for the state this past year when 2 major projects designed to represent the Hawaiian and Polynesian cultures and History like "Chief of War" or "Moana Live Action" to create the majority of their projects elsewhere having films about Hawai'i made in places like Atlanta and New Zealand while we lost the biggest show we had operational on the islands "NCIS HAWAII"

I hope that this testimony helps illustrate vaguely the tremendous importance and impact that having a strong film industry on the islands is for the well being of it's residents and to the legacy of the State of Hawai'i in arguably the most influential industry in the World.

We as an industry need the support from you the legislature to support and facilitate the further development of the film industry in Hawai'i starting by approving this bill to make Hawai'i at least a bit more competitive again, as a potential home for major productions to Kickstart the work opportunities for all those professionals and those seeking to make a creer for themselves in the Film industry.

Don't neglect another of Hawai'i's massive assets and help the film industry come back to the islands.

Thank you for your attention.

Luis Linares.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:41:31 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roger Hsiung	Testifying for SAG- AFTRA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB732 because the State of Hawaii needs to attract and grow the Hawaii film industry and business. This bill will help provide jobs, boost the economy, and increase tourism and Hawaii exposure. There are also many SAG-AFTRA union, crew, technicians, and production workers that depend on the Hawaii film industry for jobs and survival.

Thank you for the continued support of Hawaii SAG-AFTRA,

Roger Hsiung

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:44:13 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan chock	Testifying for IATSE local 665	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Ryan Chock. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Serena Flores. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65-NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Serena Flores

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:53:36 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Henry Jeppeson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB 732 , to help bring work to our state . Any consideration and help appreciated.

mahalo

Patrick Henry Jeppeson

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:00:20 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moku Durant	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe this bill will not only show people around the world the talent that Hawaii-based artists have, but it will also boost our local economy and create jobs behind the scenes. Outside the immediate bubble of the film and television industry, passing this bill would help to bolster the local economy.

Thank you to the legislature for supporting the members of Hawaii and I hope to see this bill passed.

Testimony in Support of SB732
Kimee Balmilero

Aloha,

My name is Kimee Balmilero, and I am writing in strong support of SB732, which is vital to the continued success of Hawai'i's film and television industry.

As a local girl born and raised in Hawai'i, the opportunity to return home and continue a career in this industry has been life-changing. I have been fortunate to work as an actor in major productions filmed here, including my regular role as Medical Examiner Noelani Cunha on *Hawai'i Five-0* and *Magnum P.I.*, a recurring guest star on *Doogie Kameāloha, M.D.*, and a lead in the Hallmark movie *Two Tickets to Paradise*. Because of the work available in Hawai'i, I was able to purchase a home, start Honolulu-based businesses, and, most importantly, stay close to my family—something that would not have been possible if I had to seek opportunities on the continent or elsewhere.

The film and television industry in Hawai'i provides thousands of jobs, strengthens our local economy, and gives creatives like me the chance to tell authentic stories that reflect our culture and upbringing. These stories matter—not just for representation on screen but for preserving and sharing our unique heritage with the world.

Investing in this industry is investing in Hawai'i's future. I urge you to support SB732 and ensure that local talent, businesses, and communities continue to thrive.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kimee J. Balmilero". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative flourish at the end of the name.

Kimee J. Balmilero
Kaneohe, HI
Castle H.S. c/o 1997

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:12:26 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahiau Machado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB732 and thank the Legislature for supporting our creative community :)

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:13:59 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill Baker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an active crew member in the local film industry in Hawaii and fully support Bill SB732, thank you for your consideration in increasing the Tax Credit, verbiage and program length to entice more work to Hawaii and our crews.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:26:16 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kurt simafranca	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kurt D. Simafranca . I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support SB732, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65-NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Kurt D. Simafranca

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:18:13 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
A'ne Tranetzki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is A'ne Tranetzki. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support SB732, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

A'ne Tranetzki

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:42:20 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jade Alexis Ryusaki-Gaspar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Jade Alexis Ryusaki. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Jade Alexis Ryusaki-Gaspar

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:48:51 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Powers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Joan Powers, support SB732 because my main source of income to help support my household of 5, has been severely diminished due to the lack of productions in 2023 & 2024. Our state has been losing productions from prime time television series and feature films to other countries who have better tax incentives. When productions film on our islands they generate income for many of our small businesses as well as provide income for those of us in the entertainment industry and the productions provide free advertising for the state when they promote their shows or films all over social media. PLEASE CONSIDER passing this so we can continue to thrive in our careers and not have to move away from paradise. Thank you.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:51:41 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
seana kofoed	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wanted to add my voice in support of SB732 as a small step in the right direction – in helping to resuscitate the filming industry here on the islands.

The Hawaii Film Tax Incentive is a WORKFORCE Program. This is not about subsidizing Hollywood execs, it’s about putting Hawaii residents to work. We want to ensure that the film business on the island, and the many jobs it creates, will be here for current residents, for their keiki, and THEIR keiki, to access.

The ROI of this incentive goes well beyond the actual tax revenue return on the dollar, and includes wide-reaching ancillary spending on local vendors, hotels, car rentals, restaurants – it includes workforce salary spending - - it supports our local educational system, and the pipelines currently in place with the Cinematic Arts programs at both universities and many of the two year programs, the implied promise in those programs of proximity to professional production - and it includes investment in our CULTURAL capital - our resident, local, and kanaka storytellers on island.

Increasing the annual cap, the per production cap, and the base % rate with optional step ups that further include Hawaii residents in both the financial and the career development success of the industry – are crucial steps we need to take to address the recent and far-reaching loss of production on the island.

SB732, by addressing the classification of streaming content (ie Netflix, Hulu, Apple) as eligible for the tax incentive, will help move us in that direction, as will a bump in the annual tax incentive cap. SB732, along with additional enhancements in the current film tax incentive structure including an increase in the base % rate to stay competitive, and a repositioning of the islands as a welcoming place to film, coupled with a Film Office website renovation, will help to ensure the future of this key industry on the islands – as it is essential to the livelihoods of so many.

Like the Banyan tree, the reach of the trees branches depends on its trunk, and SB732 helps to strengthen that trunk, to ensure both its reach and its longevity.

Mahalo!

seana kofoed

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:51:49 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Hoover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Travis Hoover. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity

Travis Hoover

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:52:06 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malosi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Malosi Scanlan and I support this bill because this will help increase jobs for up coming actors/actress staff and crew. Will help people get the funds they need to create amazing films that tell awesome stories also give them the income thwy need to provide for their families and live and stay in their homes here in Hawai'i. It will show the younger generations that their government wants them to succeed in the dream of film and everything associated with it. Aloha

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:52:27 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Craig Davidson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Craig Davidson and i have been in the Film industry since 1997. I am a currently Stunt Coordinator on Rescue High Surf and a short film called Halloween Store. I support Bill SB 732 and all the things that help our community. I am 1 of prob less than 5 people who make this industry our only way of income. in 2020 till 2022 i had to leave the islands and work in Atlanta for a couple of years. Being away from my family was tough and almost broke my family apart. With very little work in Hawaii i had to leave and work elsewhere to survive. with this Bill it allows productions to come and shoot in Hawaii. but i still have some issues with it as well. i think the amout should be more so it intices the bigger productions to film their whole film in Hawaii. a Perfect example is Jason Momoa"s last 3 films were shot almost in its entirley In New Zealand! he wants to film here but its too expensive!

Another small note that Taylor Sheridan recently put out in the news in Texas that he generated 2.52 billion in revenue for the state of Texas! Texas has a tax incentive of 200 million for film and tv production. Its a small price to pay for a giant return! I

support this Bill 732 and thank you for your time.

Aloha!

Craig Davidson

Stunt Coordinator

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:54:52 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hau'oli Carr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an active member of our Hawaii film and tv industry, I strongly believe that we have so much to offer the world. But in order to keep our craft and business and art alive, we need all the help we can get--starting with bills like this one. Please help us save the futures and livelihoods of our local creative community!

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:58:00 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lei-Ann Stender Durant	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Regarding SB732

The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Chair - Economic Development and Tourism

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the EDT Committee

I humbly submit my personal testimony for **SUPPORT OF SB732** and want to take a moment to first thank you for supporting our SAG-AFTRA members in Hawai'i.

I support this bill because the film industry is a source of income for my children who are actors as well as many of my nieces and nephews who are production assistants, set designers, as well as clothing designers and other local businesses. The film industry is great for Hawai'i.

A robust and stable incentive program is not only good for our members, crew, technicians, and other creative industries, but the film industry benefit is a great benefit for local businesses, hotels, car rental agencies, etc. These incentives draw the film industry to our state and provides jobs that offer living wages and diversifies our economy. The opportunities will hopefully keep our local people in Hawai'i rather than moving to the continent for better film opportunities.

As I stated earlier, these incentives will directly benefit my children, nieces, and nephews who already work in the industry. Having a steady stream of films being made in Hawai'i will also benefit those just entering the field. The film industry will benefit my family because our home has been used as a location site for film or for their "cafeteria."

Having the industry film in our neighborhood brings a sense of pride to our community, and it is fun to be amongst all these creative souls. People all over the world are appreciative of seeing the beauty of this place.

Thank you, again, for your continued support!

Best regards

Lei-Ann Stender Durant

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:58:44 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harley Bone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Harley Bone and I am a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support SB732, relating to the film industry and encourage the committee to do so for the sake of our local families, economy, and livelihoods.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry contributes significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

My family and I have benefited greatly from the tax incentives that have brought talent and productions to our distant shores over the years, and the decline in the tax credit offering was only the beginning of the hesitation I have seen from productions since. Without this incentive we (our neighbors, family, coworkers) are forced to compete with other locations around the world that can easily undercut, and ultimately undermine, our industry in the state. Please fully consider the ramifications of SB732 and the abundant benefits our state can gain from SB732, and let me personally extend a mahalo for taking the time to read my testimony.

In Solidarity,

Mahalo,
Harley Bone

Elexis Draine
elexisdraine_808@yahoo.com

02/02/2025

Committee on Economic Development
Hawai'i State Legislature
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in Support of SB732 – RELATING TO THE FILM INDUSTRY

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

I am writing to express my strong support for SB732, which seeks to strengthen and expand Hawai'i's film industry by increasing the state's film tax credit, broadening eligibility to include streaming and broadcast productions, and ensuring long-term benefits by extending the program to 2038.

The film industry plays a crucial role in diversifying Hawai'i's economy, creating high-quality, well-paying jobs, and supporting local businesses. SB732 builds upon the success of our current film incentive program and ensures that Hawai'i remains competitive in attracting high-value productions that generate economic benefits for our state.

Key Benefits of SB732:

1. **Ensures Accountability for Large Productions**
 - By requiring productions with expenditures over \$1 million to be certified by an independent CPA, this bill adds an extra layer of financial oversight and transparency.
2. **Increases the Annual Cap on Tax Credits**
 - Raising the total cap from \$50 million to \$60 million allows more productions to benefit, leading to greater industry growth and job creation.
3. **Expands Eligibility to Streaming and Broadcast Productions**
 - The inclusion of streaming services such as Netflix, Hulu, and Disney+ aligns Hawai'i's incentives with current industry trends, making our state a more attractive destination for modern content creators.
4. **Provides Clarity with an Official Definition of "Streaming Platform"**
 - This clarification helps streamline the application process and provides certainty for productions looking to invest in Hawai'i.

5. Extends the Program to 2038

- A long-term extension ensures stability for the industry, encouraging sustained investment, infrastructure development, and workforce training.

As someone who works in the industry, I have seen firsthand how the film industry has created jobs, supported local businesses, and provided invaluable opportunities for Hawai'i's creative workforce.

A robust and stable incentive program not only benefits our film professionals but strengthens Hawai'i's overall economy by diversifying our industries and providing living wage jobs. I urge you to pass SB732 to continue supporting Hawai'i's thriving film industry.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Elexis Draine

LATE

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:08:30 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Myerson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a worker in the film industry I submit this testimony in support of this bill. I have seen firsthand how productions on this island keep hard working crew employed and provide an important avenue for this amazing island chain to have a voice on the global stage. Hawaii film crews are an incredibly strong ohana that take pride in their work, and we have been struggling alot over the past couple of years. For this bill to pass, Hawaii can solidify its place as a well respected film center and hundreds of hard workers will be able to provide for their families. Without passing this bill, many people may be forced to move off island to seek work elsewhere, and all the economic benefits that come with having a robust film industry will also leave this island. Thank you for your time and representation.

LATE

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:26:12 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Zaguirre	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Susan Zaguirre. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Susan Zaguirre

LATE

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:30:56 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JOANNE MIYATA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Joanne Miyata. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65-NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Joanne Miyata

LATE

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:37:10 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Petritz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support the film industry. It empoyees a wide diversity of people.

LATE

- **Bill:** SB 732 - Relating to the Film Industry
- **Hearing notice:** Status and Testimony
- **Introducers:** DECOITE (Introduced by request of another party)
- **Report Title:** Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit; Broadcast and Streaming Platforms
- **Description:** Requires qualified production costs of a taxpayer that exceed \$1,000,000 to be certified by an independent third-party certified public accountant to qualify for the tax credit. Increases the total amount of tax credits allowed in any given year from \$50,000,000 to \$60,000,000. Includes broadcast and streaming platform productions under the tax credit. Defines "streaming platform". Extends the sunset date for the tax credit to 1/1/2039. Makes conforming amendments.

Aloha Kakou A Pau,
Leaders of our Hawai'i,
Representatives of our State,
Assigned officials who have been chosen to speak on my behalf,

My name is Nohealani Nihipali. I am a native film maker of these islands we call home. I am also a native of an entertainment industry involving the art of motion picture, digital media, film production, television production and the most current streaming platforms we have adapted to. An industry that has provided statistical proof of contributing monetary support to this State's economy by 20%; income and revenue is directly beneficial to a variety of local businesses, communities and residents statewide.

The reason I support bill SB732 referring to the tax credit incentive and extending the sunset date, is mainly to keep the native people and the people of Hawai'i, employed in our home land. As a state we have the capacity to remain self sufficient. Together, we have this time, to understand the details in supporting one another's logic regarding this particular hearing. The film industry business has kept Hawai'i Hawai'i by supporting local businesses in every capacity throughout their time here while actively building relationships that last for generations. We are proudly confident that we have local professional film crews and business owners in production who are native steadfast advocates to our unique State of Hawai'i. We are the voices and the faces of the people who will benefit from incentives like these. We implore our legislators to protect Hawai'i's work force in yet one more industry that inspires an effective way to entice businesses endowed to positively impact our economy before these incentives are paid.

E Malama kekahi i kekahi. We must pay close attention to the facts regarding the variety of industries attributed to the success of this entire state and it's people beyond tourism! The time to make these differences is now. Mahalo nui loa for providing a place for this testimony.

Sincerely,

Nohealani Nihipali

LATE

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:57:19 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Patterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting one's dream of a thriving film and entertainment industry should be inclusive. There are stories that need to be told and shared of experiences, thoughts and ideas from the heart of mind of those destined to create. We each have gifts and hopes and in all cases a story to tell and for those willing to share, they should be given every opportunity to do so through a means that provides a worldwide stage. For our children and our children's children, Hawaii must thrive and be as inclusive to culture as the land itself.

Respectfully,

PL Patterson

LATE

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 5:26:00 PM
Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Ward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee

My name is Eric Ward, I'm a member of IATSE LOCAL 655, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB732, relating to the film industry

Hawai'i's film industry supports THOUSANDS of working Families here in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to the state's GDP, EARNING, AND EVEN VISITOR SPENDING. With a restrained film tax incentive, we not only lose our tax benefits, we lose the economic benefits of our industry. Hawai'i loses its ability to tell its own story. 98% of MOANA movie was filmed in Atlanta, CHIEF OF WAR filmed a significant portion in Aotearoa NZ. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program.

SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, and will take meaningful steps to empower the film incentive program, and will support THOUSANDS of working Families and local residents in Hawai'i

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB732, I Strongly urge your committee to do the same

In Solidarity, ERIC WARD, LOCAL 655, GRIP

LATE

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:50:43 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Depicolzuane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB732. It will be a good start in improving Hawaii's film industry. And in helping everyone else who benefits directly and indirectly in numerous ways, such as: the jobs, money that productions will spend in our communities, the growth and sense of achievement, the extended programs which occur in a thriving industry, and in sharing Hawaii's indigenous culture and our healthy diversity with the world. Thank you to our Legislature!

LATE

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:57:41 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malik Haynes	Testifying for SAG- AFTRA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Malik Haynes and I'm a local Stunt Performer in the movie industry. The past few years has been rough. Especially for the people in the Entertainment industry. We took some shots these past few years. With work being slim in Hawaii there's been a lot of struggles. I know a lot of people who are doing their best to stay afloat with providing for their families. The thing about the Industry is that everything is uncertain. One day you're working and everything is all good. The next day you're unemployed. With Hawaii not having a Tax break the uncertainty of work is nothing. We know that shows/movies will most likely not come here because it's expensive. We get blessed with a month of work due to big budget shows/movies. That's not enough. The movie industry helps out the economy of the state in general. From Local Stores being rented out, local food services, construction workers, background talent, hair, make up, and the list goes on. When we filmed Chief of war out in Hawaii. The locals there were stoked because of how much money was being involved with the community. The movie industry provides for a lot of local families and businesses for the state of Hawaii. I hope things can change for the greater good. For the people. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

LATE

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:36:30 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taiana Tully	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am very fortunate to have been able to grow my acting resume and develop my career while staying home in Hawaii. I went to acting school in California and lived abroad for several years, trying to break into the industry as a newcomer. When I came back home, I was a "big fish in a small pond" compared to LA, and was able to start working on so many film projects that were abundant here in Hawaii. This was all thanks to the opportunities that we had coming through the islands with film productions having incentive to film here. Not only does it provide more jobs for so many of us, but it also helps us represent our Polynesian people within the industry and gives us the chance to make a name for ourselves authentically. It's a shame that productions about the Hawaiian islands are being filmed in sound stages on the mainland rather than at the story's origin place. This bill will give us the opportunity to be able to tell our own stories on our own land, provide more job opportunities for all of us in who call Hawaii home, and to maintain our value within the entertainment industry. Let's continue to take steps forward by passing this bill and creating more opportunities for locals in the film industry.

LATE

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:38:41 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aubrey Lee Staley	Testifying for ALA Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 732, which aims to increase tax credits, expand incentives for streaming productions, and strengthen the local film and television industry, creating economic opportunities and supporting Hawaii's creative workforce. By allowing streaming productions the ability to film here will open up more possibilities for our industry and people.

As a talent agent and industry professional with experience in Los Angeles, New York, North Carolina, and Oklahoma, I have seen firsthand how vital a thriving film and television industry is to local economies. In LA, I worked in an environment where state-supported incentives and infrastructure made it possible for productions to create sustainable jobs and long-term career opportunities for residents. When traveling to other states, I witnessed how effective and beneficial it was for our out-of-state productions to hire local talent. These professionals had the knowledge and experience we needed to bring our projects to life in their hometowns. This not only helped share the unique stories of their communities but also created lasting relationships and left a positive economic impact.

Hawaii has the talent and cultural richness to compete at that level, but we need the right legislative support to make it happen.

Currently, many local industry professionals are considering leaving our 'āina to sustain their growing careers. As a Kanaka Maoli, it is heartbreaking to hear this—**especially from fellow Kanaka—**as the displacement of Hawaiians continues to rise at an alarming rate. The stagnation of our local industry is yet another reason why our people are being forced to look elsewhere for opportunities.

We are at a pivotal moment where local creatives and specifically Native Hawaiians are gaining more visibility and success. We are adding more names to the roster of those who are “making it,” yet many cannot work in the place they call home, despite Hawaii’s potential to be a thriving industry hub. This is a time when our people and our stories deserve to be heard, where we have the opportunity to change the narrative—to see more characters proudly representing Hawaii, like Auli‘i Cravalho in *Mean Girls*.

This bill would help reverse the trend of talent leaving Hawaii by providing critical resources, incentives, and infrastructure to keep productions here and invest in our local workforce.

Beyond the economic impact, SB 732 is an investment in Hawaii's creative identity. As someone who has worked closely with talent in both LA and Hawaii, I know that our stories deserve to be told on a global stage—not just through productions that come here for our landscape, but through projects that center local voices, talent, and workforce. This bill would ensure that Hawaii remains not just a backdrop for Hollywood productions, but a thriving hub for local storytelling, job creation, and industry expansion.

I urge the committee to pass SB 732 and invest in the long-term success of our industry and our people.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

LATE

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 2:22:16 AM
Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Fellenstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In January 2022, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. (It was caught early and I've finished treatments). It scared me though and watching Magnum PI with Perdita Weeks and Jay Hernandez helped distract me. I even counted off treatment days by episodes. Once the new episode of Magnum airs, I'll be almost done with radiation ... for example. More shows like Magnum PI are needed. They provide an escape from reality in a beautiful location. Plus they tackle hard topics like PTSD, foster parenting and Japanese internment camps during World War II. With a mixture of humor, grace, friendship and kindness, more shows like Magnum PI are desperately needed in today's world. I would absolutely watch more programs filmed in Hawaii. Thank you for your time.

LATE

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:05:03 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helena Chow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I hope who ever is reading this testimony you are doing well, and this testimony be considered.

Please understand that this will tremendously help thousands of local people with employment, pursuing their dream career, and supporting families. I myself have been struggling finding work in my craft. This will continue to support the economy, local businesses, and individuals of their special God given talents. I support this bill.

Mahalo for your time and support.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:38:15 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krista Carella	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB732. This extremely important incentive program increases jobs across all islands, greatly benefits our small businesses, and diversifies our economy.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:51:13 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik Reedy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern and aloha,

I am writing to you to strongly considering support for the SB 732 measure. I have seen the impact of many of my friends and their lives due to the budding film industry in Hawaii, and I firmly believe it helps the islands to further incentivize it. I originally come from LA but my dad has lived in Maui since the 90s, I have seen the robust growth and how it creates new economic opportunities as well as Hawaiian representation in one of America's biggest exports: entertainment.

With ratings of Rescue Hi Surf and White Lotus being strong, another Avenue of income for many people living on the island is possible if and only if the tax incentives for production companies are strong. LA has dropped the ball on tax incentives, which creates a wide opening for other states to come in and reap the benefits, and no other state can match the tropical beauty the islands have to offer.

Thank you for your time and mahalo,

Erik Reedy

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:21:34 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Sullivan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support Bill SB732. Many films have decided against filming in Hawaii because of lack of incentives and so other countries like New Zealand and Australia are getting the benefits and revenue of a film and all the cast and crew being there to film. When movies and shows come to Hawaii so many cast and crew buy homes and move their families to Hawaii and help the local economy thrive. Not to mention the thousands of locals who also benefit by being employed by the shows and movies. And all the local businesses also thrive when their services are needed by the films. And, those opening scenes of Hawaii attract more tourists to visit Hawaii. My family and I have lived here on and off since 2019 and now we're considering leaving because the show my husband was on was cancelled and the movie he was going to be on is now delayed indefinitely due to lack of incentives. This should never be the case. I hope you will support this bill to increase incentives so everyone can get back to work making movies in Hawaii!!

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:30:39 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barrie Kealoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB732 on behalf of working actors throughout Hawai'i.

LATE

As a fan of multiple shows based in Hawaii I can tell you that this saves lives, homes, families, keeps people with jobs.

This also helps show representation to the Island and for people all around the world.

This show has such a strong fandom due to the first female lead and a health portrayal of a LGBTQ+ couple. This show is not just instretaning if help show young children / young teens, that people are equal and they can do what ever they out their mind to if they try to.

I started watching this show, because I've always loved Hawaii-based action shows, like Hawaii Five-0 and Magnum PI. I fell in love with it, because Kacy was a confirmation of my sexual orientation, and I loved every single character.

NCIS Hawaii deserves to be saved because it provides excellent lesbian representation, uplifts and employs many Native Hawaiians, and features a strong female lead.

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2022/05/12/after-4-seasons-cbs-cancels-hawaii-based-magum-pi/>

“The loss of the series also means the loss of hundreds of jobs” ([Gutierrez](#))

“I think that 2022 is shaping up to be on par with 2021, which was a \$423 million year,” said Skinner, referring to the revenues generated by TV and film productions.

The state Legislature also passed a measure to increase the tax credit for those productions in an effort to continue enticing them to film here.

Losing “Magnum,” however, is still like losing family for production members” ([Gutierrez](#)).

There is so much proof of why these shows should stay from Magnum PI and NCIS Hawaii

<https://www.monstersandcritics.com/tv/save-ncis-hawaii-petition-begun-by-fans-to-save-canceled-drama/>

<https://en.newsner.com/news/ncis-hawaii-stars-and-fans-express-outrage-over-cbs-sudden-decision/>

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2024/04/30/cancelation-ncis-hawaii-causes-economic-blow-hawaiis-economy/>

LATE

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:59:43 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Rachel Morgan. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film industry.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wage jobs are irreplaceable by other industries. When the film tax incentive is empowered, this industry generates significantly to state GDP, earnings, and even visitor spending. When the film tax incentive is restrained, we not only lose the economic benefits of the industry, but we also lose the ability to tell our own stories. 98% of the live action "Moana" movie was filmed in Atlanta. "Chief of War" filmed a significant portion of their production in Aotearoa, where the currency conversion rate has fluctuated over the past year from NZ\$1.65- NZ\$1.79 to the US \$1. Aotearoa's physical, administrative, and cultural infrastructures are decades ahead of ours. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. SB732 will expand the definition of a "Qualified Production" to include broadcast and streaming platforms, will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:13:25 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiger Tam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Increase work in film production in Hawaii and incentivize projects to be filmed here!

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:26:52 AM
Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
'O'oe Carr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo nui to the legislature for supporting film industry members in Hawai'i. I am in full support of SB732. A robust and stable incentive program is absolutely vital to the success of our film industry. It not only creates jobs for cast and crew and creative industries but benefits our state economy as a whole. As a Native Hawaiian actor, I would love to be able to stay here in Hawai'i doing what I love. These incentives can help that make that a reality. 2025 has been very slow for film and tv in Hawai'i. An attractive incentive program can hopefully bring more shows and films back to Hawai'i.

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:27:55 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Michael Morgan. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support SB732**, relating to the film.

I was born and raised in Hawaii. I along with my sister and late father, all are part of the industry me and my sister bought a house here with the money we've made from working in the industry, now we both have not worked in over seven months because you took away our tax credits and movies won't come here anymore. Please do not make me have to go look for work on the mainland. If that's the case I'm packing up and moving away and will be giving my money to a different economy, same with others that will leave because they can't find work here. The industry brings in millions of dollars to Hawaii economy, do not be foolish. please don't make us have to leave.

I strongly support SB732. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Michael Morgan

LATE

SB-732

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:17:00 AM
Testimony for EDT on 2/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hualalai Chung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou to our legislative ‘ohana and all involved,

My name is Hualālai Chung and I write to you in support of the SB732 bill. Being born and raised in Hawai‘i, I was brought up in the entertainment industry, raised by a Mrs.Hawai‘i pageant winner and an avid actor and entertainer. My parents instilled in me our cultural sense of storytelling and it is a passion of mine that I have carried to this day.

I am blessed to say that currently in my acting career, I have been able to work on a series of amazing t.v. titles and films, and I am grateful to have worked on almost every major title that has made its way through our home over the last 5-10 years. Through these experiences, I have met many who thrive in the local film industry and serve that very same cultural purpose of being an amazing storyteller. Unfortunately, since the tax credit cut back, many projects and titles are being diverted away from Hawai‘i, leaving this mass of a community jobless and without a place of enrichment and purpose.

My main hope is that we can make a change to be able to welcome back our film industry here in Hawai‘i, as we have so much to share and so many stories to tell, but more so, to allow this passionate group of film industry workers a place to thrive and live out their passions for telling stories as previous generations before us.

Mahalo for taking the time and may God be with you regardless of the decision moving forward.

Me ke aloha nō.