



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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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SYLVIA LUKE
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Statement of
GEORJA SKINNER
Administrator, Creative Industries Division
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Tuesday, March 24, 2026
1:04 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
HB1576 HD1
RELATING TO FILMING

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee. The Creative Industries Division (CID) in the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports Section 2 of HB1576 HD1, which incorporates language from the Administration's HB2269 to expedite the approval process for productions use of the Hawai'i Film Studio through amending Chapter 166 and respectfully offers comments on Section 1 which requires DBEDT and its Hawai'i Film Office to issue public notices for all state film permits, as well as productions registering or qualifying for the 235-17 HRS, the Hawai'i Motion Picture, Digital Media, Film Production Income Tax Credit within five days of either process, including emailing or mailing notices and posting on DBEDT HFO websites.

DBEDT recognizes the intent of Section 1 of this measure to increase transparency and community awareness related to film production activities across the state. We bring your attention to actions implemented by the department, CID and its Tax Credit Unit (TCU) as it relates to Section 1, for example:

- 1) Currently, notification emails to all entertainment industry labor unions are issued by the TCU team once a project has been registered and their documentation of the Start of Principal Photography (SOPP) Productions has been received. They must submit a formal notification letter on the filing entity's official letterhead to affirming advance notice, at least seven business days prior, of the start of principal photography for a film or media production in Hawai'i. TCU confirms receipt of required production information, including the production name, filing entity, island location, scheduled shoot dates, and the start and end dates the production will be in the state.
 - a. This is a requirement applies to all productions with budgets exceeding \$1,000,000, and the filers must approve release of this information through acknowledging DBEDT's authority to notify applicable Hawai'i-based entertainment industry labor unions, including IATSE Local 665, Teamsters Local 996, SAG-AFTRA, and, if applicable, IBEW, of the project's production start date. Guilds will be added in, including Directors Guild of America (DGA), Writers Guild of America (WGA), Producers United and Producers Guild of America (PGA).
- 2) DBEDT/CID provides Annual Reports to the Legislature and has done so since the inception of the credit. The report compiles all estimated production direct spend into the state's economy, the aggregate data of those productions identified by project, and includes estimated spend, hiring data, workforce development for internships and cash contributions to public education institutions to grow film workers from Hawai'i in DOE and UH.
- 3) DBEDT/CID TCU also provides all granular data by spend, type of positions hired for above and below the line, and vendor spend for the annual Cost Benefit Report published by the Research and Economic Analysis Division (READ) in DBEDT.

Section 1 seeks to set notifications parameters for all film related permits under 201-14 HRS, including the multiple locations of standard permits, online open and accessible and is a layered process with inherent challenges. This is dependent on 1)

when the department with jurisdiction of the permitting approves and designates conditions for each production, 2) will require approval of each production – large or small – to ok the notification to the public and posting and 3) is also weather dependent as dates, times and locations may change.

While we recognize the intent may be to provide information to the community-at-large in order to inform and foster positive relationships between the film industry, residents, and local stakeholders, this can inadvertently compromise production schedules and operations in general in CID and its film office.

Because it is not an industry best practice to provide public notice of film productions as part of the film permit application process, we are concerned the requirement as proposed could act more as a dis-incentive to attract new production business to Hawai'i.

The Office of the Attorney General has reviewed the proposed legislation and stated proposals could create potential privacy, confidentiality, and safety considerations, primarily depending on how “designated representative” is defined and the operational implications of publicly releasing detailed filming information long before productions are released in theatres, on television or streamed.

We all recognize the economic diversification the film industry brings to Hawai'i, and an anchor of Hawai'i's creative economy, and provides meaningful employment opportunities for local residents and vendors.

DBEDT looks forward to working collaboratively with our Legislature, sister agencies, industry partners, and community stakeholders to refine the measure in a way that advances transparency goals while ensuring that implementation is practical, sustainable, and appropriately resourced.

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

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 10:29:48 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Genaro Hale Gualdarama	Testifying for Hawaii Teamsters Local 996	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Local Union 996, stand in full support of bill HB1576 with amendments.

As a big part of the labor workforce that represents Drivers, Locations, Casting, Catering and Wranglers within the film industry. It is vitality important that we be notified about any production applying for tax credits or permits regarding any type of film, motion picture, television show, commerical or visually recorded production.

Just for clarity, notification to the Union or Unions is already in the law. However, "reasonable efforts" is not strong enough language for anyone to comply with. We are requesting that Bill HB 1576 reads for notification the word "Shall" instead of reasonable.

Rather a production, commerical, tv show, etc., be filmed in the State of Hawaii or on the neighboring Islands, we the Union or Unions "Shall" be notified. It is our intent to utilize all productions, especially the smaller low budget films, commericals, etc. Aa a pipeline for workforce development to allow our permits to train for the bigger shows and have their days and hours counted to become Union members. None of this can happen if the Union or Unions are not being notified properly, rather the show is non-signatory, low budget etc. This will allow the Union or Unions a chance to speak with whoever is filming to offer our professional crafts and at the same time apply workforce development for our film industry.

I appreciate your time and consideration in this matter and for hearing this bill.

Mahalo Nui,

Hale Gualdarama



HAWAII TEAMSTERS & ALLIED WORKERS LOCAL 996

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Local996@hawaiiiteamsters.com

1817 Hart Street
Honolulu, HI 96819-3205

Telephone: (808) 847-6633
Fax: (808) 842-4575

March 22, 2026

Hawaii State Legislature,
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

On behalf of Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Local Union 996, I am writing to express our strong support for HB 1576.

This bill will significantly benefit our organization and other unions in Hawaii's film industry by ensuring we receive proper notice of upcoming productions. Early notification allows us to engage with low-budget filmmakers and offer them access to the skilled, professional workforce we represent.

Hawaii is not a right-to-work state, and HB 1576 will help prevent the continued undermining of union labor by non-union production. Additionally, this measure would enable the Union to use smaller productions as a no-cost workforce-development pathway, strengthening local talent and supporting industry growth without requiring State funding.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1576.

Sincerely,

Sandy D Chung

Sandy Chung
Business Agent
HTAW, Local 996

KEVIN HOLU
President/Principal Officer

JOELLE HUSSEY
Secretary – Treasurer

WALTER FOX III
Vice President

BEVERLY TUSI
Recording Secretary

FELIPE "PACO" ANGUIANO
Trustee

TAVESI AUGAFA
Trustee

JONATHAN LEO REED
Trustee

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 6:53:25 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joelle Hussey	Testifying for Hawaii Teamsters Local 996	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Local Union 996 stands in full support of bill HB 1576.

This bill will help our organization along with the other Unions that are a part of the film industry, to grow on all fronts. Being properly notified allows all of us the opportunity and ability to have a conversation with the low budget films to offer them the professional work force that we represent.

Due to the fact that Hawaii is not a right to work State and that it is a Union State, It would stop all the under minding work that is union work. This would also allow the Union to utilize the smaller productions as a work force development program that would cost the State nothing.

Thank you for hearing bill HB 1576.

Mahalo Nui,

Joelle Hussey

Secretary-Treasurer Hawaii Teamsters Local 996

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 7:37:39 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvette Paiva	Testifying for Hawaii Teamsters 996	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Member of the Committee,

Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Local Union 996 stands in full support of bill HB 1576.

This bill will help our organization along with the other Unions that are a part of the film industry, to grow on all fronts. Being properly notified allows all of us the opportunity and ability to have a conversation with the low budget films to offer them the professional work force that we represent.

Due to the fact that Hawaii is not a right to work State and that it is a Union State. It would stop all the under minding work that is Union. Furthermore, it would allow the Union to utilize the smaller productions as a work force development program that would cost the State nothing.

Thank you for hearing bill HB 1576.

Mahalo Nui,

Yvette Paiva

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 7:57:55 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tavesi Augafa	Testifying for Hawaii Teamsters 996	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Local 996 stands in full support of bill HB 1576

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 7:09:29 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin K. Holu	Testifying for Hawaii Teamsters 996	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HAWAII TEAMSTERS & ALLIED WORKERS LOCAL 996

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Local996@hawaiiiteamsters.com

1817 Hart Street

Telephone: (808) 847-6633

Honolulu, HI 96819-3205

Fax: (808) 842-4575

March 23, 2026

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Member of the Committee,

Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Local Union 996 stands in full support of bill HB 1576.

This bill will help our organization along with the other Unions that are a part of the film industry, to grow on all fronts. Being properly notified allows all of us the opportunity and ability to have a conversation with the low budget films to offer them the professional work force that we represent.

Due to the fact that Hawaii is not a right to work State and that it is a Union State. It would stop all the under minding work that is Union. Furthermore, it would allow the Union to utilize the smaller productions as a work force development program that would cost the State nothing. Thank you for hearing bill HB 1576.

Mahalo Nui,

KEVIN K. HOLU
PRESIDENT/PRINCIPAL OFFICER
HT&AWL 996

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 7:30:46 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodie Holu	Testifying for Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers Local 996	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Local 996 stands in full support of bill HB1576.

This bill will help our organization along with the other unions that are part of the film industry, to grow on all fronts. Being properly notified allows all of us the opportunity and ability to have a conversation with the low budget films to offer them the professional work force that we represent.

Due to the fact that Hawaii is not a right to work state and are a union state, it would stop all the undermining work that should be offered to a union member. Furthermore, it would allow the union to utilize the smaller productions as a work force development program that will be zero cost to our state.

Mahalo for considering bill HB1576.

Jodie Holu

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:53:40 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Felipe Anguiano	Testifying for Hawaii Teamsters Local 996	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Local Union 996 stands in full support of Bill HB1576.

This Bill will help our Organization along with the other Unions that are a part of the film industry to grow on all fronts. Being properly notified allows all of us the opportunity and ability to have a conversation with the low budget films to offer them the professional work force that we represent.

Because Hawaii is not a Right-To-Work state and has a strong Union framework, this approach would help prevent the undermining of Union labor standards. In addition, it would create an opportunity for Unions to utilize the smaller productions as a workforce development program that would cost the State nothing.

Mahalo Nui,

Felipe Anguiano

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:09:40 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Rosner	Testifying for Hawaii Media Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Danny Rosner. I am president of Hawai'i Media Inc., which is the largest provider of Production, Camera, Lighting and Grip equipment in the state of Hawai'i since 1992. Also, I have been a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i since 1981.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1576 relating to the filming.

I want to thank the entire legislature for their efforts during this session to support for the film industry. As the owner and president of the largest vendor in this sector in Hawai'i, I can testify without reservation that the measures suggested in this bill will be exceptionally effective in revitalizing the movie production industry in general, and my company specifically. I would expect to be hiring additional workforce shortly after the bill's passage.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony on this important matter.

Mahalo,

Danny Rosner

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:53:10 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lukas s Seno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair, Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development & Technology—Representatives Adrian K. Tam, Shirley Ann Templo, Kyle T. Yamashita, and Joe Gedeon,

I am writing in support of HB1576 HD1.

Improved communication and project visibility increase transparency, create more opportunities for local workers, strengthen coordination, and help Hawai‘i stay competitive by putting the most qualified people on the job.

Mahalo for your time and continued leadership.

Respectfully,

Lukas Seno

Buisness Representative IATSE Local 665

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:53:31 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Wiecking	Testifying for IATSE Local 665	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon Chair, Vice-Chair and members of the Committee.

My name is Christopher Wiecking, President of IATSE Local 665 Hawaii. I am submitting my testimony in Support of HB1576 HD1. This bill provides a better level of transparency for notification of productions approaching the state.

I appreciate your efforts this Legislative Session.

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 7:40:44 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terrence Kealoha	Testifying for The Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers Local 996	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

The Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Local 996 stands in full support of bill HB 1576.

This bill will help our organization along with the other Unions that are a part of the film industry, to grow on all fronts. Being properly notified allows all of us the opportunity and ability to have a conversation with the low budget films to offer them the professional work force that we represent.

Due to the fact that Hawaii is not a right to work State and that it is a Union State. It would stop all the under minding work that is Union. Furthermore, it would allow the Union to utilize the smaller productions as a work force development program that would cost the State nothing.

Thank you for hearing bill HB 1576.

Mahalo Nui,

Terrence Kealoha

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 8:22:33 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ricardo Galindez	Testifying for Island Film Group	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Island Film Group STRONGLY SUPPORTS this measure

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 10:04:14 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abbra Green	Testifying for The Libertarian Party of Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Libertaraian Party of Hawaii is in Opposition to this measure. Do not restrict the first amendment for "certain locations". Do not obstruct the free market. We don't need more regulations and restrictions; we need FAR less.

Abbra Green | LPHI Secretary | LibertarianHawaii.com | (808)824-LPHI

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 6:50:45 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Rosner	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. It will help the entire film industry here know what's happening so we all can participate in making it happen. thanks very much, Mark Rosner

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 11:35:40 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite Vice Chair Wakai,

I am writing in support of HB1576. This bill is in support of our local union workers as it forces productions to make our unions aware of their projects here in Hawaii. We are Hawaii first and we need to keep our people employed and this bill will do such.

Mahalo,

John Salanoa

Actor/ Director/ Producer

Chair- Hawaii Film Allaince Bills Committee

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 12:37:28 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Genaro Gualdarama Hale	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Committee,

I stand in full support of bill HB1576. Notifications are very important for any line of work. This should be automatically done within every department. Unfortunately it isn't always being carried out.

This bill adds stronger language with the word " Shall ". I'm hoping that there will be more transparency and cooperation with accountability.

I thank you Chair, Vice Chair and members of this Committee for hearing bill HB1576 and ask that it please be passed.

Mahalo Nui,

Genaro Gualdarama Hale

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 2:11:48 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wainani Tomich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1576

Mahalo

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 2:32:32 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Hamilton-Lowe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a member of the Directors Guild of America and I support HB 1576.

Having a notification system in place allows local unions to negotiate for local workers as non-studio projects plan to shoot in Hawai‘i. Notification allows my fellow local DGA members a chance fill positions instead of productions flying in mainland assistant directors and production managers.

Similar systems have existed in other states for decades.

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 3:39:01 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan Spicer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are in full support of HB1576

State of Hawai'i
The Thirty-Third Legislature
Ka'aha Kenekoa
Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Tuesday, March 24, 2026
1:04 PM – Room 229, HI State Capitol

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1576 HD 1 RELATING TO FILMING

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

Mahalo for allowing me to testify on this matter. As a founding member of the Hawai'i Film Alliance (HFA) I submit this testimony in support of HB 1576 HD 1.

HB 1576 HD 1 ensures that when a production obtains a permit, enters into a filming agreement with DBEDT, or registers for pre-qualification for the state's film tax credit, clear notice is made publicly available and posted on a readily accessible part of the department's website. It also allows members of the community to sign up to receive these notifications by email or mail.

Open, advance notification strengthens community engagement around filming activity by giving residents, businesses, and cultural practitioners timely information about where and when productions will occur. It helps ensure that community voices are heard and that potential impacts on neighborhoods, natural areas, and cultural sites are considered. At the same time, this transparency supports the film industry by building greater trust between production teams and the communities they engage with.

In a state as diverse as Hawai'i, where filming spans urban centers, rural areas, beaches, forests, and sacred cultural places, clear communication about upcoming production work benefits everyone. Greater transparency allows residents to plan for temporary changes in access or traffic, supports local businesses in preparing for production-related demand, and fosters stronger partnerships between filmmakers and Hawai'i communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Kristin Jackson

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 4:41:56 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Wallace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill.

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 6:26:05 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kulani Watson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1576.

Increasing transparency around film and television productions that utilize state resources or incentives can create more opportunities for local vendors, service providers, and workforce participation by allowing residents to stay informed about upcoming productions. It also promotes public trust and accountability by ensuring that the use of state permits and film tax incentives is more clearly understood.

I believe improved coordination and access to information can help foster stronger connections between productions and Hawai'i's creative community. This measure supports a more informed and collaborative industry environment that benefits both residents and incoming productions.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for HB 1576.

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 9:37:47 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Rombaoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nicole Rombaoa, and I am a professional actor and creator who has lived and worked in Hawai‘i for 37 years. I am writing in strong support of HB 1576 (HD1), which would require the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to provide public notice whenever a production obtains a permit, enters into a memorandum of agreement, registers for pre-qualification, or is determined to qualify for the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit. This bill passed the House unanimously, and I urge the Senate to pass it as well. Transparency is not a burden on our film industry — it is the foundation of the community trust that allows it to thrive.

Our Communities Deserve to Know When Productions Are Coming

Hawai‘i is not just a filming location — it is home to real communities, many of them deeply rooted in place, culture, and relationship to the land. When a production arrives to film at a park, a beach, a historic site, or a neighborhood, the people who live near those locations have a legitimate interest in knowing what is happening and when. Under the current system, there is no requirement that DBEDT publicly announce any of this. Residents can find their neighborhood streets blocked, their beaches crowded with equipment, or their sacred sites used as backdrops, with little or no advance notice. HB 1576 changes that by requiring DBEDT to post public notice on its website whenever a production obtains a permit or enters into an agreement to film at certain locations — and by allowing individuals to sign up for direct notification by email or postal mail. This is a simple and reasonable requirement that respects the relationship between our communities and the industry that profits from filming here.

Transparency in the Tax Credit Program Protects Its Long-Term Viability

Hawai‘i’s film production tax credit is a public investment of up to \$50 million per year. For a program of that scale to maintain the public and legislative support it needs to survive, people need to be able to see how it is being used. Right now, there is no requirement that DBEDT publicly disclose which productions have registered for pre-qualification or qualified for the credit. Taxpayers are funding this program but have no easy way to see who is benefiting from it. HB 1576 addresses this directly by requiring public notice at both the pre-qualification and qualification stages. This is not about exposing trade secrets or competitive information — it is about basic accountability for public dollars. A transparent tax credit program is a more trusted

one, and a more trusted program is one that is more durable over time. Passing HB 1576 is one of the most important things the Legislature can do to protect the long-term future of our film incentive structure.

Working Artists and Crew Members Need to Know What Is Filming Here

As a working actor in Hawai‘i, I can tell you that one of the most persistent frustrations in our industry is simply finding out what is being produced here. Productions often operate with a level of secrecy that makes it genuinely difficult for local talent and crew to know that opportunities exist, let alone pursue them. I have heard from fellow actors who discovered a major production had filmed entirely on O‘ahu only after it wrapped — never knowing to submit for auditions or inquire about crew positions. A public notice requirement would not expose anything that harms productions — they regularly announce themselves through other channels — but it would give local artists and crew members a fair chance to know that work is coming and to position themselves to be part of it. Information that is available to mainland casting agencies and production companies should also be available to the local talent that lives here.

Local Businesses and Vendors Cannot Compete for Work They Do Not Know Exists

The economic benefits of film production extend well beyond the cast and crew — they flow to local caterers, equipment rental companies, transportation providers, costume and prop shops, hotels, and countless other small businesses that serve productions in the field. But those businesses can only compete for that work if they know a production is coming. Right now, the lack of any public notice requirement means that well-connected mainland vendors with existing industry relationships often capture that spending before local businesses even know there is an opportunity. HB 1576’s public notice requirement would level that playing field in a meaningful way. When a production’s permit or agreement is posted publicly, local vendors have a chance to reach out, introduce themselves, and compete on their merits. That is how a film tax credit program maximizes its economic multiplier effect — by making sure the spending stays in the community that is subsidizing it.

Conclusion

HB 1576 is a straightforward transparency measure with broad benefits: for communities that deserve to know when productions are coming, for taxpayers who fund a \$50 million annual credit and deserve to see how it is used, for local actors and crew who deserve a fair chance to compete for work in their own state, and for local businesses that deserve the opportunity to serve productions filming here. It passed the House without a dissenting vote for good reason. I urge the Senate to send it to the Governor’s desk. Mahalo nui loa for your time and for your commitment to making Hawai‘i’s film industry work for everyone in these islands.

Respectfully,
Nicole Rombaoa

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 6:38:26 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beverly Tusi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Member of the Committee,

Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Local Union 996 stands in full support of bill HB 1576.

This bill will help our organization along with the other Unions that are a part of the film industry, to grow on all fronts. Being properly notified allows all of us the opportunity and ability to have a conversation with the low budget films to offer them the professional work force that we represent.

Due to the fact that Hawaii is not a right to work State and that it is a Union State. It would stop all the under minding work that is Union. Furthermore, it would allow the Union to utilize the smaller productions as a work force development program that would cost the State nothing.

Thank you for hearing bill HB 1576.

Mahalo Nui,

Beverly Tusi

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 7:19:24 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support bill HB1576

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 7:19:57 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodie Holu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support bill HB1576

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:52:15 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sally "Kalei" Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Sally "Kalei" Davis. I support this bill.

I have been a member of SAG/AFTRA since 1979. Our Hawaii Film industry is suffering. Thousands of local professionals are out of work. As it is now, we can't compete with other states and countries. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Sally "Kalei"

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:09:26 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Casey Merrill	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Transparency.

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:16:40 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I SUPPORT [HB1576 HD1](#).

The way I see it, this bill would provide transparency to the film industry about what's filming where, who is getting funded, who is getting tax credits, etc. Transparency is a good thing.

Mahalo,

Jean Simon

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

My name is Lisa Coll, and I am writing in strong support of HB1576.

As a working professional in Hawai'i's film and television industry, I have seen firsthand how critical a stable and competitive production environment is to sustain local jobs and grow our creative economy. HB1576 represents an important step toward strengthening Hawai'i's position as a desirable place for film and television production.

This industry is not just about entertainment—it provides meaningful, well-paying jobs for local residents across a wide range of departments, from production and transportation to hospitality and small businesses that benefit from on-location filming. When productions choose Hawai'i, the economic impact extends far beyond the set.

In recent years, we have seen increasing competition from other states and countries offering aggressive incentives and streamlined processes to attract productions. Without continued support and modernization of our own policies, Hawai'i risks losing valuable opportunities—and the local workforce that depends on them—to these competing markets.

HB1576 helps ensure that Hawai'i remains competitive, encourages long-term investment, and supports the retention and growth of a skilled local workforce. It sends a clear message that our state values this industry and the economic and cultural benefits it brings.

I respectfully urge you to support HB1576 and help secure a stronger future for Hawai'i's film and television industry.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lisa Coll

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:48:59 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacy Ray	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I submit in support and I repeat previous testimony from HFA (Hawai'i Film Alliance) as to the importance and positive community/cultural impact of this Bill:

"Open, advance notification strengthens community engagement around filming activity by giving residents, businesses, and cultural practitioners timely information about where and when productions will occur. It helps ensure that community voices are heard and that potential impacts on neighborhoods, natural areas, and cultural sites are considered. At the same time, this transparency supports the film industry by building greater trust between production teams and the communities they engage with.

In a state as diverse as Hawai'i, where filming spans urban centers, rural areas, beaches, forests, and sacred cultural places, clear communication about upcoming production work benefits everyone. Greater transparency allows residents to plan for temporary changes in access or traffic, supports local businesses in preparing for production-related demand, and fosters stronger partnerships between filmmakers and Hawai'i communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony. HFA SUPPORTS HB 1567.

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:56:03 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheela Sharma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB 1576 will help us to ensure transparency related to when productions obtain permits or qualify for the film tax credit.

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:32:09 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

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

Comments:

We are missing out on a lucrative source of income for Hawaii if we don't offer incentives to bring productions back here. Productions bring revenue here for not only our actors, but hotels, grocery stores etc. We should not be losing productions to Malta, New Zealand, Atlanta etc. to name a few, because they are offering incentives that lure production companies. We tend to offer major incentives for tourism to the exclusion of other sources of income. It is time to correct that and bring features and television series back to Hawaii!

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:36:16 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Juett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:42:07 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

ich möchte die Filmindustrie auf Hawaii unter-

stützen,da sie vielen Menschen auf Ihren schönen Inseln Arbeit gibt. Die Hotels und Geschäfte auf Hawaii profitieren davon und durch die vielen schönen Serien habe viele Menschen z.B. auch Ich durch die Serie Magnumpi ihre Inseln besonders Oahu lieben gelernt,ich möchte Ihnen auch alles Gute wünschen denn der Sturm hat ja vielen Menschen das Zuhause genommen und Verwüstung hinterlassen,bleiben Sie stark Mahalo

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 11:59:38 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB1576 as an important step toward greater transparency and public trust in Hawaii’s film industry. This bill ensures that residents are informed about filming activities, agreements, and the use of public incentives such as tax credits. By improving access to information and offering public notifications, it promotes accountability and community awareness. HB1576 strikes a thoughtful balance between supporting economic development and respecting local communities. I respectfully urge the Legislature to pass this measure.

Mahalo for your time and consideration

Respectfully submitted

Fabienne Lequertier

Fandom of Magnum

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 12:06:52 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Rodbell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support posting of film permits to the public after submission and approval. Residents should know who is filming on the islands and in their neighborhoods. This is long overdue. thank you

Peter Rodbell

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 12:08:12 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha. I am in support of this bill HB1576 HD1.

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 12:38:01 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please do all you can to support local film. The vibrancy and diversity of films made on the islands only adds to the economic health and creative acknowledgement and expression of fine artists ins the state. I personally have been able to support myself and therefore my rental apartment owners, local shops and services through my film business paychecks.

IMDb.me/MiaAdams The only way for local artists and craftspeople in the islands to maintain professional knowledge and relevance is by continued opportunity.

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 3:42:57 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ivana Skelin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

transparency is key when building trust and buy-in, and helping form a sense of ownership from within the community.

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 2:25:26 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara LauLu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ALOHA CHAIRS & MEMBERS,

MY NAME IS TARA F LAULU AND IM A MEMBER OF FANDOMS OF MAGNUMPI.

I RESPECTFULLY SUPPORT THIS BILL HB1576. RELATES TO FILMING NOTICE AND TRANSPARENCY REQUIRING DBEDT FOR PROVIDE PUBLIC NOTICE WHEN PRODUCTIONS ARE PERMITTED OR QUALIFY FOR THE HAWAII FILM TAX CREDIT.

MUCH MAHALO NUI LOA FOR EXCEPTING MY TESTIMONY.

TARA F LAULU.

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 2:05:07 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

My name is Joshua J. Meredith. I'm a Maui resident and member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. I strongly support HB 1576.

LATE

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:38:49 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha! I am writing in support of HB1576 HD1. It helps ensure better communication regarding permits and tax credits and therefore will help allow smoother processes for productions going forward. Mahalo!

HB 1576 — Public Notice for Filming Permits / MOUs (DBEDT)

Submitted by: Brian Keaulana
Producer / Director / Stunt Coordinator / Ocean Risk Management Specialist
Position: SUPPORT
Date: February 28, 2026

Chair and members, aloha mai kākou.

My name is Brian Keaulana, Producer / Director / Stunt Coordinator / Ocean Risk Management Specialist. I submit testimony in support of HB 1576.

Competitive incentive context: Hawai'i competes directly with other jurisdictions that offer aggressive, predictable tax incentives and purpose-built infrastructure. To draw productions here—and keep them here—we need a competitive, stable incentive that reduces friction and rewards in-state hiring, local vendors, and in-state post work.

HB 1576 strengthens public notice requirements when productions obtain permits or enter memoranda to film at certain locations. Clear communication is one of the best ways to keep Hawai'i both film-friendly and community-friendly—so we can stay competitive without sacrificing public trust.

I also want to add a local “above-the-line” perspective. We have many strong local producers here in Hawai'i. When mainland productions arrive, local producers can help set the tone early: we build a stewardship atmosphere—respecting access, cultural protocol, and the people who live here—rather than an “ownership” mindset. Public notice and a clear point of contact support that stewardship approach and reduce conflict in real time.

Timely permitting and flexibility matter: Filmmaking has to work with weather, ocean conditions, and natural patterns. Productions shoot day or night and plan ahead, but sometimes the window that nature gives us is short. HB 1576 can support a more efficient process by standardizing notice and contacts, while still allowing reasonable, rapid schedule adjustments when conditions change.

How this benefits Hawai'i's economy: A predictable, trusted permitting environment reduces conflict and delays that can drive productions to other jurisdictions. Smoother operations help Hawai'i retain production days and the spending that comes with them.

How this benefits local people and vendors: Notice helps communities plan around

access, traffic, and public spaces, and it helps local vendors prepare to support productions. Transparency supports local jobs while protecting residents' daily life and use of shared places.

Is this a sustainable business for me: As a Hawai'i-based producer and production service provider, predictability matters. Clear notice and points of contact reduce last-minute disruptions and cancellations, supporting a more sustainable local business environment—including local safety, water, and risk-management services.

Design check: This bill is best designed when it improves communication without slowing permit approvals. I recommend a standardized notice format (what/where/when/contact), protection of sensitive security details, and clear timelines—plus a simple way to update notices when weather or conditions force a schedule change—so compliance is straightforward for productions and useful for communities.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 7:50:21 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arthur wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill.

LATE

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 8:13:46 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moana Coloma Quintanilla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1576.

Transparency and communication around filming activity are important for maintaining strong relationships between productions and the community. Policies in this area should be balanced to support public awareness while also ensuring a stable and efficient production environment.

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 8:49:47 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adam Dulin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB 1576 and you should too because HB 1576 requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) to provide **public notice** when productions obtain permits or qualify for the film tax credit.

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 10:08:13 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM



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

Comments:

Aloha Chair & Members,

I strongly support HB1576 as an important step toward greater transparency and public trust in Hawaii's film industry. This bill ensures that residents are informed about filming activities, agreements, and the use of public incentives such as tax credits. In an era where public funds are under increasing scrutiny, taxpayers deserve to know how their money is being invested and what returns these investments generate for local communities. By improving access to information and offering public notifications, it promotes accountability and community awareness. Furthermore, transparency serves as a safeguard against potential misuse of public resources while simultaneously demonstrating the tangible benefits that film production brings to Hawaii's economy and employment landscape. HB1576 strikes a thoughtful balance between supporting economic development and respecting local communities. This measured approach recognizes that informed citizens are better positioned to support industries that contribute meaningfully to Hawaii's prosperity while ensuring that growth occurs in harmony with community values and needs. I respectfully urge the Legislature to pass this measure.

Respectfully submitted

Vincent LEQUERTIER

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 10:08:32 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

TESTIMONY in SUPPORT of HB1576 WITH CONCERNED COMMENTS

My name is Tyler Young. I am a Film & Television Producer based here in Honolulu. With some concerns and comments detailed below, I am submitting testimony generally in support of HB 1576 HD1 with the intent to increase transparency and public awareness. In the last 25 years I have produced over 450 different productions for the film & television industry. As a Creative Producer, Line Producer, and Unit Production Manager, I have submitted requests for and received many film permits from film commissions and governing agencies across the US and around the world. Very few of these film permit issuing agencies have given public notice to the extent as proposed in HB 1576. Here are a few pros and cons to consider, as we work to pass more thoughtful legislation to better support the film industry in Hawaii.

As a producer, there can be benefits of publishing film permits such as notifying local communities potentially impacted, and to notify local film industry personal of upcoming productions. With the BLM in the state of Utah as an example, I have reviewed published film permits as I search for locations to prevent conflicting shoot dates with other productions which has been very helpful.

However, publishing film permit information raises privacy and security concerns for the designated representative and the producer. No production wants to worry about the general public crashing their film shoot on location and causing security and operational problems. Nor does any producer or designated representative want their name or contact information published as they may receive distracting phone calls or emails from the general public. There may be better ways to mitigate these concerns by removing personal information or contact information, or replacing it with Film Commission contact information.

Sincerely,

Tyler Young

Creative Producer

Tyler Young Films, LLC.

Honolulu, Hawai'i

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 12:12:01 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Comment

IRAN WAR IS COSTING TAXPAYERS 1BILLION \$ A DAY. HOW WILL FEDERAL FUNDING IMPACT THE SOH BUDGET?

1576 HB RELATING TO FILMING.

LATE

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 11:35:10 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Laprete	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in support

HB-1576-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 12:45:32 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/24/2026 1:04:00 PM

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

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1576 HD1. While I understand the intent may be to increase transparency, this bill as drafted creates unnecessary administrative hurdles that will hinder, rather than help, Hawaii’s competitive film industry.

I oppose this measure for the following reasons:

1. Excessive Administrative "Red Tape"

The requirement for the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) to provide public notice within five business days for every permit, memorandum of agreement, and tax credit registration is an unreasonable burden. Our state film offices are already working with limited resources; forcing staff to pivot to public notification tasks for every single production—including small commercials and digital media—will inevitably lead to delays in permit processing.

2. Privacy and Security Concerns

By requiring the public posting of a "designated representative's" name, phone number, and physical address, this bill may inadvertently create security risks for productions. High-profile projects often require a level of discretion to manage crowds and ensure the safety of cast and crew. Mandating a public "registry" of active sets and contact info invites unwanted disruptions and could make Hawaii a less attractive destination for major studios.

3. Impact on Competitiveness

The film industry is global and highly mobile. Productions choose Hawaii not just for our scenery, but for the ease of doing business. Adding new layers of "information public notice" requirements sends a signal to the industry that Hawaii is becoming more bureaucratic. In an era where we should be streamlining the "Film Hawaii" experience, this bill adds a layer of scrutiny that serves no clear economic or operational purpose.

4. Redundancy

The film industry already operates under strict local guidelines and coordinates closely with community stakeholders and county film offices. Adding a centralized state-level notification mandate for every single tax credit registration is a redundant process that offers no tangible benefit to the local workforce or the economy.

Conclusion

HB1576 HD1 is a solution in search of a problem. Instead of supporting the film industry, it introduces logistics-heavy requirements that will likely result in slower approvals and increased costs for the State.

I respectfully urge the Committee to hold this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.