

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau

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GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. No. 1843, Relating to Tax Credits

BEFORE THE:

House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

DATE: Wednesday, February 11, 2026

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 423

Chair Ilagan, Vice-Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Taxation (DOTAX) offers the following comments regarding H.B. 1843 for your consideration.

Section 2 of H.B. 1843 adds a new section to Part I of chapter 235, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) regarding tax credit sunset dates, as follows:

- (1) Any income tax credit existing under this chapter on December 31, 2026, shall sunset on December 31, 2030; and
- (2) Any income tax credit established or renewed under this chapter after December 31, 2026, shall sunset seven years after the date of [re]enactment or renewal of the tax credit;

provided that, this section shall not apply to section 235-15, HRS, (tax credits to promote the purchase of child passenger restraint systems) or income tax credits under part III of this chapter (Individual Income Tax).

The bill takes effect upon its approval.

DOTAX recommends that the term “reenactment” under paragraph (2) in the bill be replaced with the term “enactment.” Otherwise, the provision as written implies that the seven-year sunset date would apply only to reenacted or renewed credits, and not newly established credits.

Additionally, DOTAX recommends that paragraph (2) be amended so that the sunset will apply on December 31 of the seventh year after enactment or renewal, instead of seven years after the date of reenactment or renewal, to avoid the sunset of credits during the middle of a taxable year.

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

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:12:43 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colin O’Sullivan	The University of Hawaii at Manoa’s School of Cinematic Arts	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

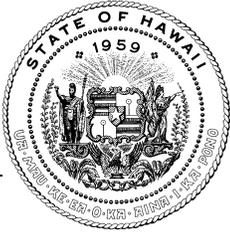
I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to HB1843.

HB1843 would require automatic sunset dates on Hawai‘i income tax credits, including the film tax credit. While oversight is important, automatic expirations create uncertainty that discourages long-term investment. In the film industry, this instability can lead productions to choose other locations with more predictable policies.

Fewer productions mean fewer local jobs, reduced workforce development, and lost opportunities for Hawai‘i residents and small businesses. Tax credits should be reviewed thoughtfully without undermining industries that have proven economic and community value.

On behalf on The University of Hawaii’s School of Cinematic Arts, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB1843.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone:
Web:

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 451-6648
energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Wednesday, February 11, 2026
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
HB 1843

RELATING TO TAX CREDITS.

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) is providing comments on HB 1843, which requires that income tax credits existing on December 31, 2026, include a sunset on December 31, 2030. Requires that income tax credits established or renewed after December 31, 2026 include a sunset 7 years after the date of enactment or renewal of the tax credit. The bill also provides exemptions for tax credits

HSEO appreciates the intent of this measure to promote periodic review and fiscal accountability of State tax credits. However, HSEO has concerns with the bill's blanket approach requiring all existing income tax credits to sunset on December 31, 2030, and imposing an automatic seven-year sunset on all credits established or renewed after December 31, 2026.

A uniform sunset requirement, applied without regard to the structure, purpose, or maturity of individual tax credits is arbitrary and risks creating uncertainty for long-term investments that are essential to achieving the State's clean energy and climate goals. Programs such as the Renewable Energy Income Tax Credit (REITC) as established under Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) §235-12.5 and the Renewable Fuels Production Tax Credit (RFPTC) as established under HRS §235-110.32 are important

finance mechanisms critical to achieve Hawai'i's clean energy goals and are specifically designed to support capital-intensive projects with long development timelines, extended permitting processes, and multi-year financing horizons. Sunset dates, when arbitrary and misaligned, can undermine project finance, increase investment risk, and deter private capital, even where the underlying policy objectives remain valid.

HSEO asserts that the REITC plays a critical role in Hawai'i's economy by accelerating the deployment of renewable energy technologies across the residential, commercial, and utility-scale sectors. Abrupt or frequent sunset deadlines can create boom-and-bust cycles, disrupt local installation and construction workforces, and complicate coordination with parallel federal incentives and utility planning processes.

In the case of the RFPTC, investors and producers rely on predictable policy signals to justify investments in local renewable fuel production, which supports energy security, economic development, emissions reductions, and waste diversion. A mandatory sunset that is disconnected from market readiness, feedstock availability, or infrastructure development could prematurely constrain a nascent, growing industry before it reaches commercial viability.

HSEO believes a more methodical approach is necessary—one that evaluates tax credits based on performance, cost-effectiveness, administrative burden, and alignment with statutory energy and climate targets. Rather than imposing uniform sunsets, the Legislature could consider credit-specific reviews, data-driven evaluation metrics, and tailored modifications that reflect market conditions, cost constraints, and policy outcomes.

Such an approach would preserve legislative oversight and fiscal discipline while avoiding unintended consequences that could slow progress toward Hawai'i's clean energy transition. For these reasons, HSEO respectfully urges reconsideration of the bill's one-size-fits-all sunset framework in favor of a more targeted and strategic review process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**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

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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Wednesday, February 11, 2026
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

In consideration of
HB1843
RELATING TO TAX CREDITS

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) offers comments on HB1843 and recognizes the Legislature's intent to promote accountability through sunset provisions. DBEDT respectfully emphasizes the importance of stability and predictability for tax credits that support long-term business investment and economic diversification.

HB1843 includes provisions affecting the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit. DBEDT notes that this program is critical to maintaining Hawai'i's competitiveness as a production destination and supporting a locally based workforce. In 2024, film productions generated approximately 8,900 hires, with 86.4 percent filled by Hawai'i residents, and more than three-quarters of qualifying productions filmed entirely in the State. Available analysis indicates that if production spending were to revert to pre-credit levels, in-state spending would decline by approximately 59.7 percent, or \$100.7 million.

DBEDT also emphasizes the importance of the Research and Development (R&D) Tax Credit, which supports innovation and knowledge-based employment. While HB1843 proposes a 2030 sunset, DBEDT has historically supported longer extensions to provide businesses with greater certainty for long-term planning.

DBEDT respectfully encourages consideration of the need for continuity in tax credits that support strategic industries and long-term economic resilience.

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

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:04:45 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sky Pierce	Hana Productions & FX Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill - there should not be any sunset (expiration) on the film tax credits.

Mandatory sunsets create **instability and uncertainty** in an industry that depends on **long-term planning and multi-year commitments**.

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

735 Bishop Street, Suite 417

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: NET INCOME; Tax Credit Sunset Date or Annual Reduction

BILL NUMBER: HB 1843, SB 3061

INTRODUCED BY: HB by YAMASHITA; SB by DELA CRUZ

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Requires that income tax credits existing on 12/31/2026 include a sunset on 12/31/2030. Requires that income tax credits established or renewed after 12/31/2026 include a sunset 7 years after the date of enactment or renewal of the tax credit. Provides for exceptions.

SYNOPSIS: Adds a new section to chapter 235, HRS, providing that notwithstanding any other provision of the Income Tax Law: (1) Any income tax credit existing under this chapter on December 31, 2026, shall sunset on December 31, 2030; and (2) Any income tax credit established or renewed under this chapter after December 31, 2026, shall sunset seven years after the date of reenactment or renewal of the tax credit;

Does not apply to section 235-15 (tax credit to promote the purchase of child passenger restraint systems) or income tax credits codified in part III of chapter 235, HRS, relating to individual income tax (which currently contains sections 235-55, credits for resident taxpayers paying tax to a sister state or foreign jurisdiction; 235-55.6, credit for expenses for household and dependent care services necessary for gainful employment; 235-55.7, credit for low-income household renters; 235-55.75, refundable earned income tax credit; 235-55.85, refundable food/excise tax credit; and 235-55.91, credit for employment of vocational rehabilitation referrals).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.

STAFF COMMENTS: We have concerns over whether this bill, if enacted, would be effective. Normally a current legislature can't bind a future legislature, and later enacted legislation normally prevails over older legislation when the two conflict. Thus, if a future legislature were to pass a bill adding a new (or amending an old) tax credit with neither a sunset nor a phaseout, and the bill were signed into law, the law would be effective with neither a sunset nor a phaseout.

The bill, however, would have the effect of sunsetting credits that are now on the books unless they are amended within the next four years.

We note that the State Auditor is required to review existing income tax credits under HRS sections 23-91 to 23-96 on a five-year rolling basis, and the reports issued by the Auditor are supposed to trigger legislative review. New credits are supposed to be added to the list in those sections of chapter 23, but none of these sections were amended after 2017.

Re: HB 1843
Page 2

Digested: 2/7/2026

Written Statement of
Trung Lam, Executive Director

before the
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Wednesday, February 11, 2026
08:30 am
Conference Room 423 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HB 1843
RELATING TO TAX CREDITS

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee.

HTDC is committed to advancing Hawai'i as a leader in technology innovation, with a focus on developing the space and ocean sectors and supporting the broader technology-based economic ecosystem. HB1843 is of significant interest to HTDC, as it proposes mandatory sunset provisions for all income tax credits, including those that directly support research and development, renewable energy, and technology commercialization—key drivers of economic diversification and high-wage job creation in Hawai'i.

While HTDC recognizes the value of periodic review to ensure tax credits remain effective and aligned with state priorities, the imposition of automatic sunsets may create uncertainty for technology businesses and investors. Many innovation-driven initiatives, such as R&D, clean energy, and broadband infrastructure, require long-term commitments and stable policy environments to attract investment and realize their full economic potential. Frequent sunsets could inadvertently disrupt ongoing projects or deter new ventures, especially in emerging sectors like the blue economy and artificial intelligence, where Hawai'i has unique opportunities for leadership.

At the same time, best practices in tax policy emphasize the importance of accountability and regular evaluation to ensure public resources are well spent. Sunset provisions can serve as a useful tool to prompt legislative review and refinement. However, HTDC encourages a balanced approach that allows for flexibility in cases where longer-term certainty is critical to the success of technology-based economic development programs.

HTDC respectfully recommends that, as the bill advances, consideration be given to allowing exceptions or tailored review processes for tax credits that demonstrably support innovation, R&D, and strategic economic sectors. This could include establishing criteria for extending or renewing credits that meet specific performance benchmarks or contribute to statewide economic development goals. Such measures would help maintain accountability while preserving Hawai'i's competitiveness as a destination for technology investment and growth.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:11:23 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Young	Tyler Young Films, LLC.	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Tyler Young, and I run Tyler Young Films, LLC., a production company based here in Honolulu, Hawaii. I am a Creative Producer, Line Producer, and Unit Production Manager. In the last 25 years I have produced over 450 different productions for the film & television industry worldwide. As a producer, I am responsible for building and managing budgets, hiring local crew and vendors, and bidding projects to television networks, streamers, and productions companies. I am writing in opposition to HB1843 to impose mandatory sunset dates on tax credits.

The last film I produced took 6 years. Many films take years longer to package and finance before filming can begin. Hawai'i's film and television industry relies on long-term planning and policy stability. Mandatory sunset requirements for income tax credits introduce uncertainty that discourages investment and puts local jobs at risk.

Film production decisions are made years in advance, and unpredictable incentive structures make Hawai'i less competitive compared to other jurisdictions. HB 1843 would negatively impact local workers, small businesses, and the broader creative economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

Sincerely,

Tyler Young

Creative Producer

Tyler Young Films LLC.

Honolulu, Hawaii



February 11, 2026

Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Chair Ilagan
Vice Chair Hussey

The House of Representatives
The Thirtieth-Third Legislature
Regular Session of 2026

[RE: HB 1843 RELATING TO TAX CREDITS.](#)

DATE: Wednesday, February 11, 2026

TIME: 8:30 am

PLACE: Conference Room 423

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu HI

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **OPPOSITION** of [HB 1843 RELATING TO TAX CREDITS.](#)

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.

We are grateful for the Legislature's continued support. The tax credit to qualified producers has been a beneficial incentive, creating thousands of jobs for local people to support their families and enrich our community.

In addition to contributing to the vibrancy of our creative community, this industry also pumps money into our economy. In 2024 our film and television industry generated \$324,150,100 in sales or economic activity, \$20,235,960 in estimated tax revenues, and \$74,948,000 in Hawaii

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

household income generated because of the qualified productions.¹ The film/tv/streaming industry also accounted for 2,247 jobs for 2023².

This measure calls for the eventual sunset or significant reduction of all income tax credits established or renewed after 12/31/2026 . As written, this measure may have dire unintended consequences, not just for the film industry, but for a wide swath of the population of Hawaii, many of whom benefit in profound, life-altering ways from the tax credits this bill will kill.

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

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:32:47 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Saville	LegaSea Energy	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

I oppose HB 1843 because it would automatically sunset Hawaii’s Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit during a period of major disruption for the solar and energy storage industry.

The RETITC is a proven investment that supports local jobs, attracts private capital, reduces energy costs, and strengthens grid resilience. According to DBEDT, the credit generates more in state revenue and economic activity than it costs.

Abrupt or automatic sunsets create uncertainty, suppress investment, and slow clean energy deployment -- directly conflicting with Hawaii’s renewable energy and resilience goals. I respectfully urge the Legislature to defer HB 1843 and pursue a more strategic approach instead.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

I oppose HB 1843 because it would automatically sunset Hawaii’s Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit during a period of major disruption for the solar and energy storage industry.

The RETITC is a proven investment that supports local jobs, attracts private capital, reduces energy costs, and strengthens grid resilience. According to DBEDT, the credit generates more in state revenue and economic activity than it costs.

Abrupt or automatic sunsets create uncertainty, suppress investment, and slow clean energy deployment -- directly conflicting with Hawaii’s renewable energy and resilience goals. I respectfully urge the Legislature to defer HB 1843 and pursue a more strategic approach instead.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Scott

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:36:33 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Schopen	Alternate Energy Inc	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

I oppose HB 1843 because it would automatically sunset Hawaii’s Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit during a period of major disruption for the solar and energy storage industry.

The RETITC is a proven investment that supports local jobs, attracts private capital, reduces energy costs, and strengthens grid resilience. According to DBEDT, the credit generates more in state revenue and economic activity than it costs.

Abrupt or automatic sunsets create uncertainty, suppress investment, and slow clean energy deployment -- directly conflicting with Hawaii’s renewable energy and resilience goals. I respectfully urge the Legislature to defer HB 1843 and pursue a more strategic approach instead.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:39:11 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Keahiolalo	EP Cube	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

I oppose HB 1843 because it would automatically sunset Hawaii’s Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit during a period of major disruption for the solar and energy storage industry.

The RETITC is a proven investment that supports local jobs, attracts private capital, reduces energy costs, and strengthens grid resilience. According to DBEDT, the credit generates more in state revenue and economic activity than it costs.

Abrupt or automatic sunsets create uncertainty, suppress investment, and slow clean energy deployment -- directly conflicting with Hawaii’s renewable energy and resilience goals. I respectfully urge the Legislature to defer HB 1843 and pursue a more strategic approach instead.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Aloha, Kim Keahiolalo

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:43:53 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
PAUL OREM	Photonworks Engineering	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

I oppose HB 1843 because it would automatically sunset Hawaii’s Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit during a period of major disruption for the solar and energy storage industry.

The RETITC is a proven investment that supports local jobs, attracts private capital, reduces energy costs, and strengthens grid resilience. According to DBEDT, the credit generates more in state revenue and economic activity than it costs.

Abrupt or automatic sunsets create uncertainty, suppress investment, and slow clean energy deployment -- directly conflicting with Hawaii’s renewable energy and resilience goals. I respectfully urge the Legislature to defer HB 1843 and pursue a more strategic approach instead.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Paul Orem- CEO

Photonworks Engineering LLP

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:31:08 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Wiecking	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the House committee,

My name is Christopher Wiecking. I'm the current President of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. I strongly oppose HB1843, RELATING TO TAX CREDITS.

The tax credit to qualified producers has been a beneficial incentive, creating thousands of jobs for local people to support their families and enrich our community. In addition to contributing to the vibrancy of our creative community, this industry also pumps money into our economy. In 2024 our film and television industry generated \$324,150,100 in sales or economic activity, \$20,235,960 in estimated tax revenues, and \$74,948,000 in Hawaii household income generated because of the qualified productions. The film/tv/streaming industry also accounted for 2,247 jobs for 2023 . This measure calls for the eventual sunset or significant reduction of all income tax credits established or renewed after 12/31/2026 .

As written, this measure may have dire unintended consequences, not just for the film industry, but for a wide swath of the population of Hawaii, many of whom benefit in profound, life-altering ways from the tax credits this bill will kill.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wages 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. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program.

I strongly oppose HB1843. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Christopher Wiecking

President, IATSE Local 665

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:01:30 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hilliard Meeks	Hawaii Film Alliance	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose HB 1843.

Hawai‘i’s film and television industry depends on long-term planning and policy stability. Mandatory sunset requirements for income tax credits introduce uncertainty that discourages investment and puts local jobs at risk.

Film productions plan years in advance, and unpredictable incentive structures make Hawai‘i less competitive compared to other states. HB 1843 would negatively impact local workers, small businesses, and the broader creative economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

Hawaii is where I got my start. I want to see others get the same opportunity.

Thank you,

Hilliard Joshua Meeks

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:05:58 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Young	CARES	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Reference my live testimony.



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony of the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding HB1843, Relating to Tax Credits, Before the House Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Wednesday, February 11, 2025

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members,

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **opposes** HB1843, which would impose an automatic sunset on most state income tax credits, including Hawaii’s Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit (RETITC).

While HSEA appreciates the Legislature’s interest in fiscal oversight and periodic review of tax policy, this bill would undermine Hawaii’s clean energy, economic development, and resilience goals at a time of extraordinary disruption in the renewable energy sector.

The RETITC Is a Proven, High-Return Public Investment

Hawaii’s RETITC (or “solar ITC”) is a **strategic investment** that has consistently delivered measurable economic and fiscal returns to the State.

Each dollar invested in the construction of customer-sited, distributed energy resources, such as rooftop solar and energy storage, generates between \$1.47 and \$2.12 in direct economic output and supports between 7.79 and 11.8 jobs,¹ according to the Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT). Solar incentives have resulted in:

- Increased state revenue -- every \$1 in tax credit generates between \$1.97 and \$2.67 in additional state revenues, improving the state's fiscal picture.²
- Significant economic contributions -- residential solar systems generate \$66,810 in added economic output, while commercial systems generate \$8.5 million over their lifetimes.³

¹ See DBEDT-READ 2017 *State Input-Output Study and Condensed Input-Output Transactions Table*, ‘mining and construction’ category. (https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/reports_studies/2017-io/)

² Thomas A. Laudat and Prahlad Kasturi, 2017. “[The Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Hawaii’s Solar Tax Credit](#),” *International Journal of Energy Economics and Policy, Econjournals*, vol.7(1), pages 224-252.

³ Ibid



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

- Job creation -- each additional megawatt (MW) of solar adds 19 to 27 jobs, supporting thousands of clean energy jobs statewide.⁴
- Private and federal investment -- every \$1 in state incentives attracts \$3.44 in additional funding, amplifying economic benefits.⁵

These outcomes demonstrate that the RETITC pays for itself and more. Automatically sunseting such a credit would eliminate one of the State's most effective economic development tools.

Automatic Sunsets Create Market Instability at the Worst Possible Time

The timing of HB1843 is especially concerning.

Hawaii's renewable energy industry is already experiencing major disruption due to federal policy changes, including the elimination of long-standing federal tax incentives for residential solar and energy storage. At the same time, local regulatory, permitting, and interconnection challenges continue to slow deployment and increase costs.

Imposing an automatic sunset on the RETITC under these conditions would:

- inject significant uncertainty into project planning and financing,
- disrupt local businesses and employment,
- and slow deployment when acceleration is needed.

Misalignment with Hawaii's Energy, Climate, and Resilience Goals

HB1843 is fundamentally misaligned with Hawaii's clean energy commitments, including:

- the State's 100% renewable energy standard,

⁴ [Solar Foundation National Solar Jobs Census 2020](#); [SEIA Solar Market Insight Report 2020](#); and Bill Nussey, [Freeing Energy](#).

⁵ Based on the refundable tax credit rate of 22.5%, leaving 77.5% from other sources, private and federal. 77.5 divided by 22.5 equals 3.44.



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

- Governor Green’s Executive Order No. 25-01 calling for rapid rooftop solar deployment, and
- Act 266 (SB589), which prioritizes accelerated deployment of distributed energy resources and grid modernization.

Sunsetting the RETITC without a carefully designed transition strategy directly conflicts with these policies and risks stalling progress just as Hawaii enters the most difficult phase of its clean energy transition.

A More Responsible Alternative: Gradual, Strategic Adjustment

If the Legislature wishes to revisit tax credit policy, HSEA strongly urges a **measured, data-driven approach**, rather than an across-the-board automatic sunset.

Conclusion

Hawaii’s clean energy transition is entering its most challenging and consequential phase. This is not the time to withdraw a proven, high-return policy tool that:

- generates net positive revenue for the State,
- supports thousands of local jobs,
- mobilizes private capital,
- and strengthens energy affordability and resilience.

For these reasons, HSEA respectfully urges the Committee to **defer HB1843** and to pursue a more deliberate, strategic approach to tax credit policy that reflects Hawaii’s economic, energy, and resilience priorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rocky Mould
Executive Director

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:46:59 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Genaro Hale Gualdarama	Hawaii Teamsters Local 996	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1843 on the sunset of tax credits.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:33:09 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Lennard	Green Power Projects LLC	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

I oppose HB 1843 because it would automatically sunset Hawaii’s Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit during a period of major disruption for the solar and energy storage industry.

The RETITC is a proven investment that supports local jobs, attracts private capital, reduces energy costs, and strengthens grid resilience. According to DBEDT, the credit generates more in state revenue and economic activity than it costs.

Abrupt or automatic sunsets create uncertainty, suppress investment, and slow clean energy deployment -- directly conflicting with Hawaii’s renewable energy and resilience goals. I respectfully urge the Legislature to defer HB 1843 and pursue a more strategic approach instead.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Alan Lennard

Green Power Projects LLC



February 10, 2026

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1843
RELATING TO TAX CREDITS**

House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
The Honorable Greggor Ilagan, Chair
The Honorable Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 8:30 am
State Capitol
Conference Room 423

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 1843, Relating to Tax Credits. Pono Pacific respectfully opposes a sunset provision for §235-110.32, the renewable fuels production tax credit. This legislation will have the unfortunate effect of reducing the availability and increasing the costs for renewable fuel in Hawaii at a time when local companies are helping the State advance its carbon reduction goals by producing more liquid renewable fuels.

Pono Pacific is Hawai'i's first and largest private natural resource conservation company providing land management, restoration services, sustainable agricultural development, renewable energy, and eco-asset development for large and small-scale projects throughout the state. Pono Pacific's expertise creates a more resilient future by promoting industries that activate working lands, increase food security and community engagement, and protect natural resources. Since 2023, Pono Pacific has partnered with Par Hawaii to develop a consistent supply of feedstocks for biofuel production across the state. Locally grown feedstocks will provide farmers with a viable economic commodity to supply the refinery and help stimulate growth in the agricultural economy from farmers to ranchers.

Par Hawaii is spending significant capital, approximately \$100M, retrofitting its Kapolei refinery to produce liquid renewable fuels, including Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), and production will begin in Q1 of this year. Instead of eliminating this critical incentive, Pono Pacific and its partners are actively working to refine and update the RFPTC through HB 1695, ensuring that Hawai'i maintains a balanced, fiscally responsible approach to



supporting renewable fuel development. Conversely, eliminating this tax credit would have negative economic consequences, including:

- Increasing energy costs for public agencies, airlines, utilities, and fuel providers;
- Loss of private investment in renewable fuel production and related industries; and
- Reducing energy security, making Hawai'i more vulnerable to price fluctuations in global fuel markets.

Hawaii needs to be competitive with other states that have already adopted tax credits for liquid renewable fuels and provide local production and consumption with the necessary advantages to succeed, especially as the industry is just starting to get off the ground.

Renewable fuels face a financial hurdle and cost more to produce than conventional alternatives. These incentives will empower us to cultivate energy independence, foster economic growth, and create a sustainable future for our islands. As such, we respectfully OPPOSE this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Chris Bennett
Vice President of Sustainable Energy Solutions
Pono Pacific Land Management, LLC



Legislative Testimony of Sunrun Inc.
Before the ECD Committee
February 10, 2026

IN OPPOSITION to HB1843 – Relating to Tax Credits

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and distinguished Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Technology,

Sunrun is the nation’s leading home solar, battery storage and energy services company, and has a long and proud history in Hawai‘i with office and warehouse locations on O‘ahu, Maui, and Hawai‘i Islands. We directly employ more than 200 professional solar workers across the islands, including sales/marketers, customer experience professionals, and installation team members including electrical inspectors, technicians, forepersons and warehouse personnel.

Sunrun strongly opposes HB1843, which would sunset existing income tax credits, including the Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit (RETITC), after December 31, 2030; and require any newly established or renewed tax credits after 2026 to sunset automatically after seven years.

Hawai‘i’s solar tax credit has been instrumental in making clean energy affordable for residents and businesses, supporting thousands of local jobs, and strengthening Hawai‘i’s energy resilience. Automatically sunsetting the RETITC during a period of major disruption for the solar and energy storage industry would slow our transition to 100% renewable energy, increase our reliance on expensive fossil fuels, and create financial uncertainty for families and businesses looking to invest in solar. With federal residential clean energy incentives (25D) recently expired, Hawai‘i must take local action to strengthen, not weaken, its commitment to renewable energy.

Prematurely sunsetting the RETITC would:

- **Slow down Hawai‘i’s clean energy progress** and make it harder for families to adopt solar and protect themselves from high electricity prices.
- **Jeopardize local jobs** in the solar and energy storage industry, which are already being negatively impacted by the recent expiration of federal rooftop solar tax credit 25D.
- **Increase dependence on expensive, polluting, and volatile fossil fuels**, making our state less energy secure.
- **Worsen economic uncertainty for local families and businesses**, especially given rollbacks of federal clean energy incentives.
- **Directly contradict Governor Green’s Executive Order 25-01¹** which sets a target of 50,000 new distributed energy resource (DER) installations in Hawai‘i by 2030.

¹ https://governor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2501085_Executive-Order-No.-25-01.pdf

The solar investment tax credit yields a return of more than three dollars of private and federal investment for every state dollar invested, with multiplier effects ranging from two to four times the initial investment. This fuels economic growth, job creation, and surplus excise and income tax revenue across the islands. Repealing the Hawai‘i tax credit will cause us to miss out on critical federal and outside investments that circulate within our local economy.

Repealing the solar investment tax credit also directly contradicts Governor Green’s Executive Order 25-01 which sets a target of 50,000 new DER installations in Hawai‘i by 2030. HB1843 will slow the adoption of rooftop solar across the state at a time when the Governor has directed State agencies and authorities to “enact policies to expedite these [DER] installations.”²

Further, Hawai‘i has a 100% renewable portfolio standard (RPS) by 2045,³ and DER systems are critical to achieving the state’s RPS goals. Hawaiian Electric (HECO) reported achieving a 36% consolidated RPS in 2024, largely due to continued DER adoption.⁴ Rooftop solar is the leading contributor to Hawai‘i’s clean energy portfolio, generating around 44% of all renewable energy in the state. The solar investment tax credit has directly contributed to this continued adoption of DERs across the state. Implementation of rooftop solar has proven to be a strong component of the state’s renewable energy generation and contributes to a more resilient energy system while lowering energy costs for all ratepayers. Repealing the solar investment tax credit would significantly hinder the growth trajectory of DERs throughout the state, impeding progress on our clean energy targets.

Sunrun strongly opposes HB1843 and respectfully urges the committee to reject this measure and pursue an alternative, more strategic approach instead. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this critical legislation. As a national solar, storage and energy services company, Sunrun has a broad view of states’ clean energy policies and stands ready to assist Hawai‘i with its policy goals.

² https://governor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2501085_Executive-Order-No.-25-01.pdf

³ <https://energy.hawaii.gov/what-we-do/clean-energy-vision/>

⁴ <https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/hawaiian-electric-surges-to-36-renewable-energy-on-grids>

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:03:24 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryden Iwata	Hawaii Film Alliance	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ryden Iwata , but everybody calls me Nalu and I'm a member of the Hawaii Film Alliance. Ever since I was a kid, I loved watching movies. When I learned that many of the films I admired were shot here in Hawaii, it meant a lot to me. When filming stopped, it was discouraging because I wanted the chance to show my talent and pursue my passion.

I oppose HB 1843 because it could make it harder for filmmakers, actors, and crew to work here. Hawaii's film industry creates jobs, supports families, and tells our stories to the world. Passing this bill could drive productions away and limit opportunities for local artists.

For the sake of Hawaii's creative community, I respectfully ask that HB 1843 not be passed.

Mahalo Nui loa

Ryden "Nalu" Iwata

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 3:22:12 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Chacko	Credence Projects LLC	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

I oppose HB 1843 because it would automatically sunset Hawaii’s Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit during a period of major disruption for the solar and energy storage industry.

The RETITC is a proven investment that supports local jobs, attracts private capital, reduces energy costs, and strengthens grid resilience. According to DBEDT, the credit generates more in state revenue and economic activity than it costs.

Abrupt or automatic sunsets create uncertainty, suppress investment, and slow clean energy deployment -- directly conflicting with Hawaii’s renewable energy and resilience goals. I respectfully urge the Legislature to defer HB 1843 and pursue a more strategic approach instead.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 6:38:05 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Giese	Inter-Island Solar Supply/The Solaray Corporation	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

I oppose HB 1843 because it would automatically sunset Hawaii’s Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit during a period of major disruption for the solar and energy storage industry.

The RETITC is a proven investment that supports local jobs, attracts private capital, reduces energy costs, and strengthens grid resilience. According to DBEDT, the credit generates more in state revenue and economic activity than it costs.

Abrupt or automatic sunsets create uncertainty, suppress investment, and slow clean energy deployment -- directly conflicting with Hawaii’s renewable energy and resilience goals. I respectfully urge the Legislature to defer HB 1843 and pursue a more strategic approach instead.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 7:42:49 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aubrey Lee Staley	ALA Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committees

I am a talent agent working in Hawai‘i’s film and television industry. I represent local actors, performers, and creatives whose livelihoods depend directly on a stable, active production environment in our state. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 1843.

As someone who works on the ground with working professionals, not large corporations, I am deeply concerned about the uncertainty this bill creates. Film and television production is not short-term work. Projects are developed years in advance, financing is planned well ahead of time, and long-term confidence in Hawai‘i as a place to do business is critical to keeping productions here.

Tax credits are one of the few tools Hawai‘i has to compete with other states and countries for film and television work. When those incentives become unpredictable or are automatically set to expire, it sends a message that Hawai‘i is not a stable place to invest. That hesitation does not just affect studios it affects local crews, performers, small vendors, and families who rely on consistent work.

In my role, I see firsthand how quickly opportunities disappear when productions decide to go elsewhere. When a project leaves, it is not just a budget line item that disappears it is income for local actors, food on the table for families, and experience that allows Hawai‘i talent to grow their careers without leaving the state.

While I support accountability and thoughtful review of tax incentives, I do not believe a blanket sunset approach is the right solution. Each tax credit serves a different purpose and should be evaluated on its own merits, based on real outcomes and real impact not forced expiration timelines.

HB 1843, as written, risks weakening one of the few economic engines that allows creative professionals in Hawai‘i to stay, work, and contribute to our local economy. For these reasons, I respectfully oppose this measure.

Aloha,

Aubrey Lee Staley

Owner ALA Hawaii



Testimony of
ALASKA AIRLINES and HAWAIIAN AIRLINES

Before the House Committee on
Economic Development & Technology

Wednesday, February 11, 2026
8:30 A.M.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 423

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1843
RELATING TO TAX CREDITS

The Honorable Greggor Ilagan, Chair
The Honorable Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Re: Testimony in Opposition to H.B. 1843, Relating To Tax Credits

Chair Ilagan, Vice-Chair Hussey and members of the committee:

Alaska Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to H.B. 1843, which would impose mandatory sunset dates on existing and future income tax credits

While we recognize the Legislature's interest in accountability and periodic review of tax incentives, we are concerned that the broad approach proposed in this bill would undermine Hawai'i's ability to attract long term private investment in clean energy and transportation decarbonization, particularly with respect to the Renewable Fuels Production Tax Credit.

Impact on the Renewable Fuels Production Tax Credit

The Renewable Fuels Production Tax Credit is a critical policy tool intended to help overcome the high capital costs, market uncertainty, and infrastructure challenges associated with producing renewable fuels in Hawai'i. For the aviation sector, this credit is especially important to support the development of sustainable aviation fuel, which is

currently the only scalable pathway to meaningfully reduce aviation emissions in the near to medium term.

Importantly, efforts are already underway to clarify, refine, and improve the Renewable Fuels Production Tax Credit to ensure it functions as intended and is responsive to real world market conditions. These efforts are focused on addressing structural barriers, improving usability, and better aligning the credit with the state's clean energy and emissions reduction goals. Introducing mandatory sunset dates at this stage would undercut that work by adding uncertainty just as the Legislature and stakeholders are seeking to strengthen and stabilize the credit.

Unlike short term or mature tax incentives, renewable fuel production requires long planning horizons, significant upfront investment, and stable policy signals. Investors, fuel producers, and infrastructure developers often make commitments spanning ten to twenty years. A mandatory four-year sunset for existing credits or a seven-year sunset for renewed or newly enacted credits would introduce uncertainty into projects that already face substantial economic and logistical challenges in Hawai'i's island based market.

As a result, H.B. 1843 would likely discourage investment in local renewable fuel production, delay or derail sustainable aviation fuel related projects, and weaken Hawai'i's competitiveness relative to other states that are actively strengthening clean fuel incentives.

Misalignment With State Climate and Energy Goals

Hawai'i has established some of the most ambitious climate and clean energy goals in the nation. The Renewable Fuels Production Tax Credit plays an important role in advancing those goals by supporting local production, reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels, and lowering lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions from transportation.

Imposing automatic sunset dates without regard to market maturity or sector specific needs risks ending effective policy tools before they can deliver their intended outcomes. In the case of renewable fuels and sustainable aviation fuel, the market remains in its early stages, and policy stability rather than contraction is needed to move projects from concept to operation.

Need for a More Targeted Approach

Alaska Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines support thoughtful oversight, transparency, and periodic legislative review. However, these objectives can be achieved without imposing blanket sunset provisions that fail to account for the unique characteristics of capital intensive, long term infrastructure investments.

We respectfully urge the Legislature to exclude the Renewable Fuels Production Tax Credit from the mandatory sunset framework proposed in H.B. 1843 or to provide flexibility for credits that are directly tied to long term climate, energy, and transportation objectives.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



State of Hawai'i
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State House of Representatives
Committee on Economic Development and Technology (ECD)

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026
8:30 AM – Room 423, HI State Capitol

TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO HB 1843
RELATING TO TAX CREDITS

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

The Hawai'i Film Alliance (HFA) submits this testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 1843** which proposes to sunset or place a cap on various tax credits, including the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit (HRS §235-17).

While we respect the Legislature's need to periodically review tax expenditures, applying a sunset or converting this specific credit to a grant system would be a catastrophic error for Hawai'i's economy.

The film tax credit is not a "cost" to the state, but a procurement tool that allows Hawai'i to buy global marketing, create high-wage jobs, and direct community aid that the state could not otherwise afford.

1. Workforce Development

Hawai'i's film and television industry is a powerful workforce development engine because it creates clear, attainable career pathways that do not require leaving the islands. Productions rely on a wide spectrum of skilled professionals—from electricians, carpenters, and costume makers to digital artists, accountants, and logistics managers—many of whom gain paid, hands-on experience while working on union and non-union sets.

In addition, through union internships, shows such as *Wrecking Crew*, *Chief of War* and *Moana* hire interns who are paid while learning about the film business. This learn-while-you-earn approach allows local residents, especially young people and career-switchers, to build transferable skills that are valuable not only in film but across construction, technology, tourism, and creative industries.

Graduates of the two film bachelor's program at UH-Manoa's School of Cinematic Arts (SCA) and the UH-West Oahu's Academy of Creative Media are able to stay home and further their



education to become Above-the-Line directors, producers and writers. By strengthening the film industry, Hawai‘i invests directly in practical education tied to real jobs.

Just as important, the film industry nurtures homegrown talent and supports long-term career sustainability for local families. When productions commit to hiring locally, they create incentives for training programs, apprenticeships, and mentorship pipelines rooted in Hawai‘i’s communities. These opportunities help retain residents who might otherwise leave the state in search of creative or technical careers elsewhere. Over time, a robust local crew base reduces reliance on imported labor, keeps wages circulating locally, and builds a workforce that reflects Hawai‘i’s cultural values, perspectives, and lived experience—ensuring that stories told here are shaped by people who call these islands home.

2. Economic Development

From an economic development standpoint, the film industry delivers immediate and measurable returns. Film and television productions inject millions of dollars directly into the local economy through spending on lodging, food services, transportation, equipment rental, construction materials, and professional services. These expenditures benefit small businesses across multiple sectors, many of which are locally owned and operated. Unlike extractive industries, film production leverages Hawai‘i’s natural beauty, infrastructure, and talent without permanently depleting resources, making it a high-impact, low-footprint contributor to economic growth.

Looking ahead, the film industry positions Hawai‘i as a competitive hub in the global creative economy. A stable production environment encourages repeat business, long-term studio relationships, and investment in local facilities and post-production capacity. This diversification is critical for an island economy historically dependent on tourism, as film creates year-round economic activity that is resilient to seasonal fluctuations. By supporting the film industry, Hawai‘i is not simply attracting productions—it is cultivating an ecosystem that generates sustainable jobs, fosters innovation, and strengthens the state’s economic independence for generations to come.

If you’d like, I can tailor this testimony to a specific committee, bill, or time limit—or adjust the tone to be more formal, more community-centered, or more data-driven.

Additionally, there are millions of dollars in donations, volunteer work, and educational funding that film productions provide to our communities *behind-the-scenes*, which would vanish if this incentive is destabilized.

3. Direct Community Donations & Volunteerism

Legislative audits often look only at the tax revenue generated versus the credit paid out. This ignores the massive "surplus capacity" that film productions bring to our islands. When a major



production lands in Hawai'i, it functions as a temporary, high-capacity donor to our local non-profits and schools.

A. Food Security: Feeding Families, Not Landfills

Film sets are renowned for their high-quality catering. In Hawai'i, the industry has aggressively partnered with **Aloha Harvest** to ensure surplus food feeds local families rather than filling trash bins.

- Real Data: The live-action production of *Lilo & Stitch* (2024) alone donated over 3,500 pounds of high-quality, prepared proteins and produce to Aloha Harvest¹. This single donation provided the equivalent of **two years' worth of meals for one person**.
- Systemic Impact: This is not an isolated event. It is a standard industry practice that turns film sets into "pop-up kitchens" for the food insecure, **reducing the strain on state social services at no cost to taxpayers**.

B. Crisis Resilience: The Industry as First Responders

Because film productions bring their own power, tents, and logistics, they are often the fastest to respond during island emergencies.

- Maui Schools (COVID-19): When schools in Kīhei (District 11) struggled to reopen due to social distancing requirements, the production of *Temptation Island* (filming in a "bubble" on Maui) stepped in. They donated \$20,000 worth of large commercial tents to Kamali'i Elementary, Kīhei Charter, and others². This infrastructure **allowed keiki to return to school safely** when state procurement would have taken months.
- Maui Wildfires: Immediately following the Lahaina tragedy, the cast and crew of *NCIS: Hawai'i* emptied their wardrobe departments, donating vast amounts of clothing to displaced families, **providing immediate relief** while long-term aid was still mobilizing³.
- With a 100% local water unit consisting of risk management and skilled experts in their field, *Rescue HI-Surf* performed over 150 public rescues during the course of filming.

C. Sustainability: Subsidizing State Environmental Goals

The industry is funding the circular economy as a partner to the state.

- Waste Diversion: *Lilo & Stitch* achieved an 80% waste diversion rate. The production paid to compost 18,000 pounds of food scraps at **Full Circle Farms**, turning waste into soil for local agriculture.
- Material Donation: Productions like *Hawaii Five-0* and *Magnum P.I.* have historically donated tons of lumber, furniture, and set materials to **Reuse Hawai'i, Nanakuli Housing**

¹ <https://thewaltdisneycompany.com/news/lilo-stitch-sustainability-hawaii/>

² <https://mauinow.com/2021/02/22/temptation-island-production-company-donates-tents-to-kihei-schools-for-outside-classes/>

³ <https://www.hellomagazine.com/film/500631/vanessa-lachey-reveals-incredible-gesture-ncis-hawaii-cast-amid-maui-wildfires/>



Corporation and Habitat for Humanity. This keeps construction waste out of our landfills and lowers home repair costs for local residents. When *Hawai'i Film-O* wrapped, they donated truckloads of clothing to **Goodwill, Salvation Army, Savers** and other charitable organizations on the island.

- Unlike other industries which can permanently change a community with infrastructure, the film industry is a green industry, often leaving locations better than they found it. Playgrounds are painted and restored, old buildings are beautified, and debris removed.

4. Statutory Education Funding: Cash for Classrooms

Under HRS §235-17, productions are *required* to make financial or in-kind contributions to workforce development. This is a dedicated revenue stream for our schools that bypasses the general fund.

- FY 2025 Contributions: In Fiscal Year 2025 alone, the industry contributed approximately \$200,000 directly to local education partners⁴.
 - \$68,776 from *Rescue: HI-Surf* to **Leeward Community College** for a TV production boot camp.
 - \$38,139 from *NCIS: Hawai'i* to **Waipahu High School** for equipment.
 - \$100,000 from *Moana* to **UH West O'ahu** for VFX and animation internships.
- The Consequence: If HB 1843 allows this credit to sunset, this mandatory funding for our creative media students evaporates overnight.

5. The Economic Engine: Why "Grants" Don't Work

There is often a desire to switch from tax credits to grants to cap costs. While this sounds fiscally prudent, it is structurally impossible for the film industry due to "Bankability."

- The Problem: Major productions do not pay for movies with cash; they take out bank loans. Banks accept the Hawai'i tax credit as collateral because it is law.
- The Risk: Grants are discretionary and subject to whether the legislature puts money in the pot that year. Banks will not lend against a grant because it is "soft money."
- The Result: If we switch to grants, productions lose their financing. They will move to Georgia, New Zealand, or Australia where incentives are bankable statutes.

6. Film Tourism: The Marketing Department You Don't Pay For

Each year, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) spends tens of millions of dollars marketing the islands. While film and television productions are primarily made for entertainment, they have a secondary benefit of showcasing Hawai'i's landscapes, culture, and local businesses to worldwide audiences - often with greater reach, authenticity, and longevity than traditional advertising. The economic impact of this "earned media" is well documented:

⁴ <https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/annuals/2025/2025-read-workforce-development.pdf>



- The "White Lotus" Effect: Following Season 1 (filmed at the Four Seasons Maui), online searches and **travel demand for Maui surged by 300%**. This "set-jetting" brings high-value visitors who want to experience the culture they saw on screen⁵.
- The "**Maui Cookie Lady**": When Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson posted about this small Makawao business during a production break, it crashed her website and launched her into global markets (Forbes, GMA)⁶. This is millions of dollars in "Earned Media Value" that the state did not have to buy.
- **Zippy's** restaurants was prominently featured in the recent release of *Wrecking Crew* and the press junket for *Chief of War*, providing free global exposure to the local company and the state. Jason Momoa sampled Zippy's food on YouTube which has had 6.5 million views to date, promoting the beloved local brand⁷.
- A DBEDT survey released in 2024, reported that 4.8% of Hawai'i's visitors in 2022 came here specifically because of a film or TV show they saw. These tourists spent \$1 Billion dollars in 2022, generating **\$121 Million in state tax revenue** for that year (more than double the annual film tax credit)⁸. Add this to the taxes paid by the film crew and supporting vendors, and you have a sustainable tax credit.

These movies, television shows, and YouTube videos are online forever, increasing Hawai'i's content footprint and inspiring viewers to visit year after year, long after shows have wrapped. Hawai'i reaps the long-term benefits of films made in Hawai'i.

7. Conclusion: A Strong Ask

The Film Tax Credit is not a gift to Hollywood; it is a marketing machine, a jobs program and a resource in philanthropy for Hawai'i. In exchange for the credit, the State of Hawai'i receives global marketing, tax revenue from businesses and high-wage union jobs (avg. \$95,551/year⁹), and millions in direct community aid. The film industry is a sustainable industry and resource-laden business partner for the state.

We respectfully ask the ECD Committee to:

1. **Exempt HRS §235-17 from HB 1843:** Do not allow the film tax credit to sunset. Stability is the currency of this industry.
2. **Reject the Grant Model:** Understand that a grant system would unintentionally kill the industry's financing structure.
3. **Support "Smart Credits":** We support audits and local hire requirements to ensure accountability, but we must keep the credit viable to maintain the flow of benefits to our schools, food banks, and small businesses.

⁵ <https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20250213-how-tv-and-film-locations-impact-travel-the-white-lotus-effect>

⁶ <https://www.hawaiimagazine.com/how-the-maui-cookie-lady-rose-to-sweet-stardom/>

⁷ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pfe_cH7hfUY

⁸ https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/film_impacts_on_tourism_feb_2024.pdf

⁹ https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/hawaii-creative-report/Hi_Creative_Ind_2024.pdf



HFA is a member-based organization comprised of Hawai'i film and television professionals, entertainment union members, creative workers, production companies, small businesses, and allied industry partners who live and work in the State of Hawai'i. Our members span the full spectrum of the production ecosystem which includes crew, talent, producers, and supporting business owners.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure. **Please remove HRS §235-17 from or do not pass HB 1843.**

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:25:24 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ricardo Galindez	Island Film Group	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We **STRONGLY OPPOSE** the required sunseting of the tax credit set forth in HRS 235-17. In addition to the hundreds of millions in production spending in the state, and the resulting local wages and income tax, the television industry adds more than \$1B in annual tourism revenue, \$500m in local wages and \$121m in income tax per the 2024 DBEDT/READ report.

This tax incentive is an economic driver and, as such, should be continued and supported.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:51:02 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey Kaemmerlen	Sunspear Energy	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

I oppose HB 1843 because it would automatically sunset Hawaii’s Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit during a period of major disruption for the solar and energy storage industry.

The RETITC is a proven investment that supports local jobs, attracts private capital, reduces energy costs, and strengthens grid resilience. According to DBEDT, the credit generates more in state revenue and economic activity than it costs.

Abrupt or automatic sunsets create uncertainty, suppress investment, and slow clean energy deployment -- directly conflicting with Hawaii’s renewable energy and resilience goals. I respectfully urge the Legislature to defer HB 1843 and pursue a more strategic approach instead.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Jeffrey Kaemmerlen
CEO
Sunspear Energy



February 11, 2026

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF HB 1843 RELATING TO TAX CREDITS

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey and Members of the Economic Development & Technology Committee

Nahelani Parsons, Executive Director for the Hawai'i Renewable Fuels Coalition (HRFC). Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **opposition** to **HB1843**, which proposes to place a four year sunset on the Renewable Fuels Production Tax Credit (HRS §235-110.32).

This credit is already delivering real, measurable returns for Hawai'i through concrete private-sector investment.

In April 2023, Par Hawaii announced a **\$90 million investment** to convert a unit at the Kapolei refinery to renewable fuel production. The Renewable Hydrotreater (RHT) is currently under construction and will be operational in Q1 of 2026. Using hydrotreating, a process that removes oxygen and impurities from fats, oils, and grease, the RHT will produce **approximately 60 million gallons per year of renewable fuels**. These "drop-in" fuels are compatible with existing infrastructure and will include:

- **Sustainable aviation fuel (SAF)** for airlines,
- **Renewable diesel** for ground, marine, and power generation,
- **Renewable naphtha** used in gasoline blending, synthetic natural gas, and power production.
- Par Hawaii is actively negotiating supply contracts with customers including **Hawai'i Gas, Hawaiian Electric, the Hawai'i Department of Transportation, Hawaiian x Alaska Airlines**, ensuring broad in-state utilization. Par Hawaii intends to utilize the Renewable Fuels Production Tax Credit for tax years 2025 and 2026, a key factor in making these fuels price-competitive for local consumers.

Placing a sunset on the Renewable Fuels Production Tax Credit (RFPTC) now would introduce uncertainty at a critical stage of project development, when jobs are being created, long-term contracts are underway, and Hawai'i stands to gain significant economic, supply chain, and infrastructure benefits. As a key incentive supporting the state's clean energy transition, job growth, and energy security, eliminating the credit would deter private investment, increase reliance on imported fossil fuels, and undermine progress toward Hawai'i's goal of 100% renewable energy by 2045.



We represent a diverse alliance of stakeholders working to achieve Hawai'i's renewable energy goals. Our founding members include:

- **Hawaiian/Alaska Airlines:** Leaders in adopting Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) to decarbonize the aviation sector.
- **Pono Pacific:** Hawai'i's largest natural resource conservation company, advancing oil crop feedstock cultivation to support local renewable fuel production.
- **Par Hawai'i:** The state's largest energy supplier, investing over \$90 million in renewable fuel production technology to strengthen energy security and sustainability.

In addition to these partners, HRFC collaborates with:

Pacific Biodiesel, a local producer of biodiesel. The Hawai'i Farm Bureau, representing 1,800 farm families statewide, to support renewable feedstock cultivation and enhance food and energy security. Ranchers, dairy farmers, and conservationists, such as Meadow Gold and Haleakalā Ranch, contributing to Hawai'i's resilience and self-sufficiency. Airlines for America, which advocates for SAF adoption nationwide to reduce aviation emissions.

Hawai'i Renewable Fuels Coalition members in alphabetical order:

Airlines for America	Alaska Airlines	Haleakala Ranch
Hawaii Farm Bureau	Hawaii Fuelling Facilities Corp	Hawaiian Airlines
Hawaiian Electric	ITOCHU Corporation	Japan Airlines
Kuilima Farm	Meadow Gold Hawaii	Pacific Biodiesel
Par Hawaii	Pono Pacific	United Steelworkers

Hawai'i has taken significant steps to reduce its dependence on imported petroleum, but key industries, including aviation, maritime, ground transportation, agriculture, and electricity generation still require firm, renewable energy sources. The RFPTC would help attract investment from local and national stakeholders, ensuring that state agencies, utilities, and businesses have access to affordable, local renewable fuels.

Eliminating this tax credit would have negative economic consequences, including:

- Increased energy costs for public agencies, airlines, utilities, farmers, and fuel providers.



- Loss of private investment in renewable fuel production, diverting projects to states with stronger incentives like California, Oregon, and Washington.
- Reduced energy security, making Hawai'i more vulnerable to price fluctuations in global fuel markets.

Together, we are working to build a stronger, more resilient energy future that supports local jobs, reduces import reliance, and keeps energy dollars circulating within Hawai'i's economy.

We respectfully urge the Legislature to maintain this credit as a smart economic development strategy and a proven vehicle for private investment by opposing HB1843. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Nahelani Parsons
Executive Director
Hawai'i Renewable Fuels Coalition

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:40:45 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Neal Martin	ELCCO Inc.	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

I oppose HB 1843 because it would automatically sunset Hawaii’s Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit during a period of major disruption for the solar and energy storage industry.

The RETITC is a proven investment that supports local jobs, attracts private capital, reduces energy costs, and strengthens grid resilience. According to DBEDT, the credit generates more in state revenue and economic activity than it costs.

For companies like Elcco Inc., policy certainty is essential to maintaining a stable local workforce. An abrupt or automatic sunset of the RETITC would likely force companies to scale back project pipelines, delay hiring, and potentially consider layoffs of skilled Hawaii-based employees who depend on a consistent clean-energy market. These are well-paying technical and construction jobs that directly support local families and communities.

Abrupt or automatic sunsets create uncertainty, suppress investment, and slow clean energy deployment — directly conflicting with Hawaii’s renewable energy and resilience goals. I respectfully urge the Legislature to defer HB 1843 and pursue a more strategic approach instead.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Economic Development & Technology (ECD)
Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair
Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 8:30AM
Conference Room 423 & Videoconference**

RE: HB1843 Relating to Tax Credits

Aloha e Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sherry Menor, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber respectfully opposes House Bill 1843 (HB1843), which requires that income tax credits existing on 12/31/2026 include a sunset on 12/31/2030 and requires that income tax credits established or renewed after 12/31/2026 include a sunset 7 years after the date of enactment or renewal of the tax credit.

HB1843 runs contrary with our 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii: An Economic Action Plan, specifically under the policy pillars for Economic Action and Small Business. These pillars prioritize access to capital, advancing research and development, and diversified industry growth. The Chamber supports long-term economic stability and certainty. A fixed, automatic tax credit sunset — applied uniformly and without regard to sector or performance — creates significant uncertainty in the State's investment climate. Such funding insecurity would drive private funders to other markets and discourage local businesses from long-term planning.

Many tax credits are embedded in multi-year financing structures and capital-intensive projects in sectors such as renewable energy, housing, agriculture, film, and technology. An across-the-board sunset increases perceived risk and discourages long-term investment in Hawaii. Even the possibility of expiration can delay or redirect private investment to competing jurisdictions with more stable incentive environments.

We respectfully ask to hold House Bill 1843. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is the state's leading business advocacy organization, dedicated to improving Hawaii's economy and securing Hawaii's future for growth and opportunity. Our mission is to foster a vibrant economic climate. As such, we support initiatives and policies that align with the 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii that create opportunities to strengthen overall competitiveness, improve the quantity and skills of available workforce, diversify the economy, and build greater local wealth.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:14:34 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Ho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1843

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:15:55 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I deeply oppose this bill. A mandatory sunset will destabilize our film community. The film industry needs long term planning and multi year commitments. When an insentive program appear to be temoporary productions will choose other markets, and local workers will feel that pain.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:23:38 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1843.

Mandatory sunset dates create uncertainty that makes Hawai‘i less competitive for film and television production. This industry has allowed me to work, stay in Hawai‘i, and give back to my community. Film incentives already include accountability and oversight. Automatic sunsets will discourage productions from committing to Hawai‘i and will directly impact local jobs and small businesses.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:23:43 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Aiwohi-Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose HB 1843.

This will have a negative impact on the film industry due to it's uncertainty and risks.

Hawai'i's film and television industry relies on long-term stability with planning and policy. The mandatory sunset requirements for income tax credits would bring uncertainty and would discourage investment and puts local jobs at risk

Film production takes time and decisions are made years in advance and these incentive structures can make things unpredictable and make Hawai'i less competitive compared to other jurisdictions. HB 1843 would have a negative impact on local workers, small business, and the broader creative community. In other words, this would turn away projects and they'll leave to film elsewhere and not here in Hawai'i, leaving local workers at a financial limbo and have a domino effect on the entire community, which would hurt jobs and the local economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:26:10 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Michaels	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sunset dates discourage investment in long-term and necessary film industry infrastructure, which makes it harder and more expensive (and thereby significantly less attractive) for film productions to be brought here at all.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:30:32 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dezmond Gilla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Dezmond Gilla, a professional working in the film industry.

Mandatory sunsets create **instability and uncertainty** in an industry that depends on **long-term planning and multi-year commitments**.

When incentives appear temporary or unreliable, productions choose other states or countries, and **local workers feel the impact first**

Please keep productions running here in Hawaii!

Thank You,

Dezmond Gilla

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

My name is Lisa Coll, and I respectfully submit testimony in **opposition to HB1843**.

As someone who works in the film and television industry, I've seen firsthand how important stable tax incentives are to bringing productions to Hawaii. Projects are planned years in advance, and producers choose locations based on predictability. If tax credits are subject to automatic sunsets and ongoing uncertainty, many productions will simply choose other states or countries with more stable programs.

When productions leave, it isn't just studios that are affected—it's local crew, small businesses, vendors, and families who rely on this work. The film industry provides well-paying jobs and supports a wide network of local workers, and stability is key to keeping that economic activity here.

I absolutely support accountability and review of tax credit programs, but a blanket sunset approach risks discouraging the very investment that helps diversify Hawaii's economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **defer HB1843**.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:47:29 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Love Hodel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1843.

Aloha,

Mandatory sunset dates create makes Hawai‘i less competitive for film and television production. This industry has allowed me to work, live in my home state of Hawai‘i, and give back to my community. Film incentives already include accountability and oversight. Automatic sunsets will discourage productions from committing to Hawai‘i and will directly impact local jobs and small businesses.

Mahalo for your time,

Love Hodel

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:48:44 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

my name is Soraya -Elena Pérez and I strongly oppose HB 1843.

Mandatory sunset dates create uncertainty that makes Hawai‘i less competitive for film and television production. This industry has allowed me to work, stay in Hawai‘i, and give back to my community. Film incentives already include accountability and oversight. Automatic sunsets will discourage productions from committing to Hawai‘i and will directly impact local jobs and small businesses.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

Mahalo

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:55:53 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Stuart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The more productions choose Hawai‘i, the more I would be able to stay here, support my family, and build a career. For this reason I strongly oppose HB 1843.

Mandatory sunset dates create uncertainty that makes Hawai‘i less competitive for film and television production. Film incentives already include accountability and oversight. Automatic sunsets will discourage productions from committing to Hawai‘i and will directly impact local jobs and small businesses.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843. Thank you.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:07:36 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1843. Productions need continuity and stability for longer term and multi year productions. This will help both local and international production companies plan with more assurance and confidence. This bill will work against this important phase of productions. Thank you

Peter Rodbell

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:10:50 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha. I oppose this bill because the Hawaii film industry needs the support and stability to be competitive with the rest of other locations for filming to attract film productions to Hawai'i nei. Mahalo for your time.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:25:04 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Nicole Rombaoa, and I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to HB 1843, specifically due to its proposed sunseting of tax incentives that support Hawai‘i’s film and television industry.

Hawai‘i’s film tax incentives are not giveaways — they are proven economic development tools that directly support local jobs, small businesses, and workforce growth. Automatic sunset provisions create uncertainty in an industry that relies heavily on long-term planning, multi-year production schedules, and location stability.

From local crew members and actors to hotels, restaurants, transportation companies, and small vendors, the film industry generates millions of dollars in local economic activity. These productions choose Hawai‘i because incentives provide predictability in an otherwise highly competitive global market. When that predictability disappears, productions simply go elsewhere — often permanently.

Key concerns with HB 1843 include:

1. Loss of competitiveness

Other states and countries actively strengthen their film incentive programs. Automatically sunseting Hawai‘i’s incentives places our state at a competitive disadvantage and signals instability to studios making long-term investment decisions.

2. Threat to local jobs and workforce development

Film incentives sustain year-round employment for Hawai'i residents, not just visiting productions. Crew members, creatives, and production professionals depend on a consistent pipeline of work. Sunsets risk shrinking the industry and forcing skilled workers to leave the state.

3. One-size-fits-all policy harms a results-driven program

Film incentives already produce measurable returns through local spending, tax revenue, and tourism exposure. Applying an automatic expiration — regardless of performance — ignores data and undermines a program that is demonstrably working.

If accountability is the goal, a more effective approach would be:

- Regular performance reviews based on economic impact
- Industry-specific evaluations, rather than blanket sunset clauses
- Data-driven adjustments that strengthen, not destabilize, successful programs

Hawai'i has worked hard to build a reputation as a world-class production destination. HB 1843, as written, risks undoing years of progress and weakening an industry that brings sustainable economic value to our islands.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose HB 1843 or amend it to exempt film and television tax incentives from automatic sunset provisions.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Nicole Rombaoa

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:38:31 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
La Fa'amausili-Siliato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members,

I respectfully oppose HB 1843.

While accountability is important, automatically sunseting nearly all tax credits creates instability and uncertainty for individuals, families, and small businesses who rely on consistent tax policy to plan long-term decisions. Credits meant to encourage investment, housing, workforce development, or sustainability lose their effectiveness when their future is always in question.

HB 1843 would also place an unnecessary burden on the Legislature by requiring constant renewal of credits regardless of performance, diverting time and resources from meaningful policy work. More importantly, it risks discouraging investment in Hawai'i at a time when our cost of living and cost of doing business are already among the highest in the nation.

Tax credits should be evaluated based on outcomes and effectiveness, not eliminated by arbitrary timelines. For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 1843.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:42:45 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for allowing input on this bill.

Please, please, please do NOT pass this bill. **I strongly oppose this bill.**

HB 1843 is a bill that would impose *mandatory sunset/expiration dates on all tax credits*. Currently, all tax credit sunset dates are different for different situations as they should be!

To have a stable film industry, the production companies need certainty. This bill would erode that certainty, causing job loss for everyone in the film industry in Hawaii. A vital industry that not only hires a lot of local people, but brings in a lot of revenue for the state. We can't afford to lose that revenue!

When Louisiana discontinued their film credits, all work left the state. When Hawaii almost discontinued the film credits, we lost almost all filming here. I, an actress, didn't work at all last year! Hawaii can't afford to lose this industry that brings in so much money to the state!

I have a friend who drives tourists on "LOST TOURS". They visit locations where Lost was filmed. I regularly see postings on Facebook groups from people who are visiting Hawaii because of a TV show or film they saw, to visit film locations. Film helps the tourist industry bring in visitors!

Hawaii can't afford to lose the jobs! I'm already hearing from film industry professionals who have had to move out of Hawaii to find work. We want to keep these people here in Hawaii.

I strongly oppose HB 1843!

Mahalo,

Jean Simon

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:45:47 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mihyun (aka.Daisy) Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1843.

Mandatory sunset dates create uncertainty that makes Hawai‘i less competitive for film and television production. This industry has allowed me to work, stay in Hawai‘i, and give back to my community. Film incentives already include accountability and oversight. Automatic sunsets will discourage productions from committing to Hawai‘i and will directly impact local jobs and small businesses.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:47:56 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen (Katie)Doyle-Hummel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1843. This will undermine any/all progress we have made in attracting production to come to Hawaii now and in the future.

Katie Doyle-Hummel

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:44:37 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 1843.

This bill may sound technical, but for those of us who work in Hawai‘i’s film and television industry, a mandatory sunset means one thing: uncertainty. Sunset means expiration. And expiration means our livelihoods are treated as temporary.

Film work is how many of us are able to stay home. Because productions return to Hawai‘i, I’ve been able to build a life here instead of leaving the islands to chase work on the mainland. I’ve been able to support myself, contribute to my community, and plan for a future in the place I love. When incentives feel unstable or unreliable, productions don’t take the risk—and it’s local workers who pay the price.

When shows leave, it’s not just crew members who lose work. It’s small local businesses, family-owned vendors, and service workers who feel it too. The ripple effects are real and immediate.

Film crews also give back in quiet ways that don’t always make headlines. After many productions, leftover food is donated to shelters. Wardrobe and set materials are shared with schools, nonprofits, and community groups. We don’t just work here—we care about this place.

The film tax credit has also created real pathways for local people. I've seen interns and entry-level workers step onto a set for the first time and, through mentorship and hands-on experience, turn that opportunity into a career. That kind of growth only happens when the industry feels stable enough to invest in people.

Hawai'i already requires audits, reporting, and legislative oversight for the film tax credit. Adding a mandatory sunset does not increase accountability—it increases uncertainty. It sends a message that Hawai'i is not committed long-term, and productions will look elsewhere.

HB 1843 puts local jobs, workforce development, and economic stability at risk. For many of us, this industry is not a luxury—it's how we stay home.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Grace Hall

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:51:43 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keala Cody Peltier-Nakanelua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose HB 1843.

Hawai‘i’s film and television industry relies on long-term planning and policy stability. Mandatory sunset requirements for income tax credits introduce uncertainty that discourages investment and puts local jobs at risk.

Film production decisions are made years in advance, and unpredictable incentive structures make Hawai‘i less competitive compared to other jurisdictions. HB 1843 would negatively impact local workers, small businesses, and the broader creative economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:56:45 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Mr. Yamashita,

I am Sally "Kalei" Davis. I have worked in the film business in Hawaii since the 1990's. I strongly oppose SB1843. Productions seek tax incentives. We need to raise them, not sunset them. If you think Hollywood needs to pay their fair share, you will be getting 0% of 0. This would put thousands of film workers out of work, as evidenced in last years lack of production. I find it no coincidence that our show Rescue: HI Surf was cancelled the day after the tax incentives bills were squashed. Please allow us to work here.

Mahalo,

Kalei Davis

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:58:11 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Raquino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I respectfully oppose HB 1843. Tax credits help support families, small businesses, and important community priorities. Automatically stripping these credits after a set number of years creates uncertainty for taxpayers and businesses who rely on them to plan for the future. Rather than imposing arbitrary sunsets, we should carefully evaluate each credit's impact through the regular budget and legislative process ensuring stability, fairness, and thoughtful decision-making for all Hawai'i taxpayers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:11:21 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I respectfully stand in opposition to HB 1843.

Hawai‘i’s film, television, and creative industries depend heavily on long-term vision, planning, and consistency in policy. When income tax credits are given mandatory sunset dates, it creates uncertainty that makes it difficult for producers, studios, and investors to confidently commit to projects here. That uncertainty does not just affect large productions, it directly affects local workers, small businesses, and the families who rely on this industry for income.

Film and television projects are often planned years in advance. When incentive structures feel unstable or unpredictable, Hawai‘i becomes a risk rather than an opportunity in comparison to other locations that offer clearer and more dependable programs. As a result, productions look elsewhere, and the economic and creative benefits that could have stayed in our islands leave with them.

HB 1843, while likely well-intentioned, would ultimately weaken Hawai‘i’s competitiveness and place unnecessary strain on the very workforce and creative community we are trying to grow.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:15:14 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelii	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1843.

Mandatory sunset dates create uncertainty that makes Hawai‘i less competitive for film and television production. This industry has allowed me to work, stay in Hawai‘i, and give back to my community. Film incentives already include accountability and oversight. Automatic sunsets will discourage productions from committing to Hawai‘i and will directly impact local jobs and small businesses.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:20:32 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Powers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern,

I, Joan Powers, strongly oppose HB 1843.

Mandatory sunset dates create uncertainty that makes Hawai‘i less competitive for film and television production. This industry has allowed me to work, remain in Hawai‘i, and give back to my community. Film incentives already include accountability and oversight. Automatic sunsets will discourage productions from committing to Hawai‘i and will directly impact local jobs and small businesses.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

Mahalo for your time.

Aloha,

My name is Bruce Vollert and I am a member of I.A.T.S.E. Local 665. I have worked in the film and entertainment industry in Hawaii for over 30 years.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1843

I strongly oppose HB1843 because, in my experience as a long-time member of Hawaii's film industry, such legislation would harm local workers and reduce opportunities for our community. I urge you to consider alternative measures that support, rather than hinder, our industry's growth.

Mahalo for allowing me to submit my testimony

Bruce Vollert

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:25:05 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Parker Ellenburg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I'm asking for your support by opposing this bill. Loosing any incentive for productions in Hawaii would impact Hawai'i's film and television industry, and the people who rely on it, in a negative way.

As a family with two working parents, we rely on my work as a Stunt Performer to be able to live in this challengingly and increasingly expensive place. These productions add a lot of value to our community. Allowing these insetives to expire does not, and would be detrimental.

Please ensure incentives for production companies remain or are increased.

Thank you,

Parker Ellenburg

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:40:02 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

No.

Mandatory sunsets create **instability and uncertainty** in an industry that depends on **long-term planning and multi-year commitments**.

When incentives appear temporary or unreliable, productions choose other states or countries, and **local workers feel the impact first**.

vote No.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:42:17 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:51:12 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andy McDermott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I count on TV and Film production in HI to help support my family. Please oppose this bill, which discourages production to choose Hawaii.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 5:07:23 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Laulu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha My name is Tara F.Laulu

I'm writing this testimony to support my families that work on the HAWAII Film Industry.

I respectfully "OPPOSE HB1843 "

I urge you to oppose HB1843 & protect policies that support local workers & Hawaii creative economy.

Jobs for HAWAII people, money for all businesses, tourism industry.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Respectfully & Mahalo Nui Loa,

Tara F.Laulu

Fandoms of MagnumPI.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 5:19:01 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I stand in opposition to HB1843.

This bill is poorly written, as there is no explanation or reasoning for the implementation of sunseting tax credits, nor the goal that this bill is hoping to achieve. This is problematic as the results of this bill, for anyone reviewing or voting on this measure, is not clear on how to understand if the actions of this bill will lead to success in accomplishing its impacts, as none are listed.

This is also problematic for larger industry initiatives like the Film industry, which currently depends on their tax credits in keeping production opportunities coming to Hawaii. This could possibly effect other industries, depending on the existing tax credits, but that is not publicly known, nor is the impact goals of this bill.

As such, it is difficult to make a sound decision on the nature of this bill, these facts should have been included in Section 1 of the bill. Thus, I suggest not passing this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Keoni Shizuma

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 5:23:27 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1843

Relating to Tax Credits; Sunset Provisions

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I submit this testimony in opposition to HB1843.

While the intent of creating periodic review and accountability for tax credits is understandable, applying mandatory sunset provisions across existing and future income tax credits would have serious and unintended consequences for Hawai‘i’s film and television industry.

Film production is not a short-cycle industry. Major productions are planned years in advance, often requiring multi-year certainty before capital is committed. Studios, financiers, insurers, and completion bond companies require a stable and predictable incentive environment before approving projects. A four-year sunset for existing credits and a seven-year sunset for future credits introduces instability that directly undermines Hawai‘i’s competitiveness as a filming destination.

Unlike other industries, film production is highly mobile. Productions can—and will—shift jurisdictions quickly if incentive structures appear uncertain or temporary. Competing states and countries offer long-term, clearly defined incentive programs precisely because predictability is essential to attracting sustained production activity. By contrast, HB1843 would signal to the global market that Hawai‘i’s incentives are provisional and politically fragile, even when they are working as intended.

This instability does not simply affect large studios. It ripples through the entire local ecosystem: union crews, non-union workers, small vendors, rental houses, caterers, hotels, transportation companies, and post-production services. When productions hesitate or leave, these local businesses lose consistent work, and skilled workers are forced to leave the state to remain employed. The result is a weakened local workforce and higher long-term costs when productions do return.

Film incentives are not speculative giveaways. They are performance-based economic tools that return value through direct spending, job creation, tax revenue, and global brand exposure for Hawai‘i. The appropriate question is not whether these credits should sunset automatically, but whether they are delivering a positive return on investment. That analysis already exists through reporting requirements, audits, and legislative oversight.

If concerns exist about effectiveness, transparency, or fiscal exposure, those issues should be addressed directly through targeted amendments, reporting improvements, or program-specific reforms—not through a blanket sunset policy that treats all tax credits the same regardless of their structure, purpose, or proven economic impact.

At a time when Hawai‘i is actively debating how to strengthen its film infrastructure, retain local talent, and compete with jurisdictions that offer greater certainty, HB1843 moves in the opposite direction. It increases risk, reduces confidence, and makes long-term planning more difficult for an industry that depends on stability.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose HB1843, or at minimum exempt the film and television production tax credit from its provisions, and instead pursue a data-driven, industry-specific approach that protects Hawai‘i’s economic interests while maintaining accountability.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 5:51:43 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret Pearlman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1843.

Mandatory sunset dates create uncertainty that makes Hawai‘i less competitive for film and television production. This industry has allowed me to work, stay in Hawai‘i, and give back to my community. Film incentives already include accountability and oversight. Automatic sunsets will discourage productions from committing to Hawai‘i and will directly impact local jobs and small businesses.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

-Margaret Pearlman

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 6:44:58 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aileen Lily Acain	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB 1843 may sound like a technical or administrative bill, but its impact on Hawai‘i’s film and television industry—and the people who rely on it—would be significant.

SUNSET means EXPIRATION DATE.

Mandatory sunsets create **instability and uncertainty** in an industry that depends on **long-term planning and multi-year commitments**.

When incentives appear temporary or unreliable, productions choose other states or countries, and **local workers feel the impact first**.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 6:50:27 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brian Wallace. I was **born and raised in Hawai‘i**, and I am a Hawai‘i-based film professional and a **second-generation film worker**, with over 17 years of experience working on film and television productions in this state. My father worked in Hawai‘i’s film industry for more than 45 years. I currently serve as Vice President of IATSE Local 665 and am a founder and leader of the Hawai‘i Film Alliance.

I respectfully oppose **HB 1843**.

Hawai‘i’s film and television industry relies on long-term planning and policy stability. Productions make decisions years in advance, and mandatory sunset requirements introduce uncertainty that discourages investment and long-term commitments. From a worker’s perspective, that uncertainty translates directly into fewer jobs and less consistent employment for local families.

I’ve also seen firsthand how stable, returning productions benefit Hawai‘i beyond the paychecks. Through my nonprofit, **H.U.M.B.O. Hearts**, I was able to establish a daily food donation system using surplus catering food from the television series *NCIS: Hawai‘i*. That food was redirected to Hawai‘i families in need instead of going to waste. During the Lahaina wildfires, *NCIS: Hawai‘i* also sent two shipping containers of supplies to Maui to support fire victims.

On a recent feature film, *Wrecking Crew*, more than twenty large boxes of wardrobe items were donated from the production to the Institute for Human Services in Kalihi. These are not isolated incidents. This kind of community support happens because productions return year after year and build real relationships with local organizations.

This is why stability matters. When incentives are predictable, productions invest not just in crews, but in communities. Mandatory sunsets make Hawai‘i appear unreliable and risk pushing productions to other states with long-term incentive structures, even when Hawai‘i has the workforce, infrastructure, and goodwill to support them.

Film tax credits do not only benefit productions—they support local workers, small businesses, workforce development, and meaningful community giving. HB 1843 threatens that ecosystem by creating uncertainty where consistency is essential.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose **HB 1843**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 7:22:41 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I do not support tax credit sunsets because expiration dates create an expectation that triggers economic uncertainty while discouraging long-term investments in sectors like the film industry

These, or potential for, sudden reversals in policy disrupt project planning, create "boom and bust" cycles, and complicate financial forecasting for businesses and individuals.

We experienced this very thing within the last couple years as productions chose not to film in Hawaii because the tax credit incentives were being waned. The result... movies and tv shows ended up filming in other locations, leaving the entire industry in HI out of work and struggling. It also majorly affected small businesses who sold goods and services to various productions. Sunsets are bad for business

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 7:32:23 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amia Voluntad	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Amia Voluntad, and I am a 21-year-old filmmaker based in Hawai‘i. I oppose this proposal to impose automatic sunsets on film tax credits.

As a young local artist, these incentives directly affect whether I can build a career here instead of being forced to leave. When tax credits are uncertain, productions take their jobs and opportunities elsewhere, and people like me lose chances to learn, work, and grow.

Film brings jobs, skills, and stories to our community. I ask that you support policies that keep those opportunities stable and keep young filmmakers like me in Hawai‘i. Thank you.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 9:48:27 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha HFA Members,

We need your immediate help.

HB 1843, a bill that would impose **mandatory sunset/expiration dates on all tax credits**, is scheduled for hearing on **Wednesday, February 11, 2026**, before the House Committee on Economic Development & Technology (ECD).



Hawai'i Film Alliance OPPOSES HB 1843.



Public testimony is DUE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 by 8:30 AM.



TAKE ACTION NOW (2 MINUTES)

Submitting testimony is one of the most effective ways to protect Hawai'i's film industry.



Submit Testimony Here:

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/account/submittestimony.aspx>

How to submit:

1. Log in or create a Capitol account
2. Search for **HB 1843**
3. Select **OPPOSE**
4. Write from your own experience (or copy the sample below)
5. Submit by **Tuesday, Feb 10 at 8:30 AM**



Why This Matters

HB 1843 may sound like a technical or administrative bill, but its impact on Hawai‘i’s film and television industry—and the people who rely on it—would be significant.

SUNSET means EXPIRATION DATE.

Mandatory sunsets create **instability and uncertainty** in an industry that depends on **long-term planning and multi-year commitments**.

When incentives appear temporary or unreliable, productions choose other states or countries, and **local workers feel the impact first**.



How the Film Tax Credit Has Actually Helped Our Members

When submitting testimony, you do not need statistics. **Personal experience is powerful and appropriate.**

Here are real ways members can speak honestly about how the film tax credit has made a difference:



Stable Jobs & Family Security

- Staying in Hawai‘i instead of chasing work elsewhere
- Supporting family with predictable employment
- Building long-term careers locally

You might say:

“Because productions return to Hawai‘i, I’ve been able to stay here, support my family, and build a career.”



Giving Back to the Community

Film crews don’t just leave—we give back.

Members often see:

- Food donated to shelters and community groups

- Set materials and wardrobe donated to schools and nonprofits
- Productions quietly supporting youth programs and local fundraisers

You might say:

“After nearly every production I’ve worked on, leftover food or materials were donated to local organizations.”



Workforce Development & Mentorship

Productions accessing the tax credit are required to invest in workforce development.

Members can speak to:

- Interns and students gaining real on-set experience
- Mentorship that turns entry-level jobs into careers
- Local workers moving up departments

You might say:

“I’ve personally trained or mentored local workers who are now building careers in this industry.”



Film & Tourism (Keep It Simple)

You don’t need numbers. Speak as a witness.

You might say:

“I regularly meet visitors who tell us they came to Hawai‘i because of shows and movies filmed here.”



Why Mandatory Sunsets Are Harmful

HB 1843 would:

- Discourage productions from committing to Hawai‘i
- Undermine workforce and infrastructure investment
- Put local jobs and small businesses at risk

Film incentives already include audits, reporting, and legislative oversight. Automatic sunsets are unnecessary and harmful.



Optional Short Sample (Copy & Paste)

I strongly oppose HB 1843.

Mandatory sunset dates create uncertainty that makes Hawai'i less competitive for film and television production. This industry has allowed me to work, stay in Hawai'i, and give back to my community. Film incentives already include accountability and oversight. Automatic sunsets will discourage productions from committing to Hawai'i and will directly impact local jobs and small businesses.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 10:06:51 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha! I am writing in opposition of HB1843. Mandatory sunset dates create uncertainty that makes Hawai'i less competitive for film and television production. This industry has allowed me to work, stay in Hawai'i, and give back to my community. Film incentives already include accountability and oversight. Automatic sunsets will discourage productions from committing to Hawai'i and will directly impact local jobs and small businesses. I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843. Mahalo!

Testimony of Matson Navigation Company, Inc.
Opposition to HB1843
Before the Committee on Economic Development and Technology
February 11, 2026

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

Matson Navigation Company, Inc. (Matson) respectfully opposes HB1843, which requires a sunset on all tax credits.

Automatically sunseting all tax credits without first examining whether each tax credit provides benefits such as preventing tax pyramiding will likely result in higher costs for end consumers of all goods and increase the cost of living.

Thank you for considering our testimony in opposition.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 6:55:52 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

To the Hawai'i State Legislature

I am absolutely opposed to Bill HB1843, which can only seriously harm the film industry.

Thank you for your time, and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,
Fabienne Lequertier

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:03:27 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vincent LEQUERTIER	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Hawai‘i State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill HB1843, which risks causing serious harm to Hawai‘i’s film and television industry. At a time when global competition for productions is increasing, policies that may discourage investment or create additional barriers could weaken an industry that supports local employment, small businesses, and the broader state economy. The film sector is not only a source of jobs—it is also a powerful driver of tourism and international visibility for Hawai‘i. Legislation that undermines this industry could have long-term economic consequences and reduce opportunities for local talent. Protecting and strengthening Hawai‘i’s attractiveness as a filming destination should remain a priority. I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential impact of HB1843 and to support policies that foster growth, competitiveness, and stability for the film industry and the communities that depend on it. Thank you for your time and consideration. Respectfully,

Vincent Lequertier

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:13:33 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
john cambareri	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e,

As an actor and homeowner in Hawai'i, I oppose limitations on incentives that bring revenue to the local work force and economy. Temporary incentives are unstable and therefore, not incentives at all.

Mandatory sunsets create **instability and uncertainty** in an industry that depends on **long-term planning and multi-year commitments**.

When incentives appear temporary or unreliable, productions choose other states or countries, and **local workers feel the impact first**.

Please do not implement this bill - it will adversely affect all local professionals involved in the tv/film industry, and the local economy.

Mahalo,,

John Cambareri

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:26:41 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1843.

Mandatory sunset dates create uncertainty that makes Hawai'i less competitive for film and television production. This industry has allowed me to work, stay in Hawai'i, and give back to my community. Film incentives already include accountability and oversight. Automatic sunsets will discourage productions from committing to Hawai'i and will directly impact local jobs and small businesses. I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:54:07 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Todd Robertson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear members of the committee,

As a local business owner in Hawai'i and CEO of Hyperspective Studios, and a member of the creative industries, I believe it is greatly important for the state to invest in diversification of our economy for future generations and the long-term sustainability of Hawai'i. Therefore, I **oppose HB1843** and the purpose of this bill to sunset tax credits, which would take away these important investments in our economy and diverse industries in Hawai'i. The bill could potentially do long-term harm to diverse industries and have immediate negative ramifications for their growth.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Todd J. Robertson

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:46:26 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1843.

Mandatory sunset dates create uncertainty that makes Hawai‘i less competitive for film and television production. Because of productions coming to Hawai‘i, I’ve been able to work locally, gain real on-set experience, and build a future in this industry without having to leave home.

Film incentives already include oversight and accountability. Automatic sunsets would discourage long-term planning, reduce opportunities for local workers, and put jobs at risk.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 3:36:57 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Romano	Sag/Aftra	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Lisa Romano proud Sag/Aftra member strongly oppose this measure . While components of it are acceptable, imposing a sunset date would destroy our chance at ever building a competitive film industry! We-Hawaii while being the most beautiful and magical state in the nation is also the most expensive and isolated state. During this past Christmas I took a job for Elite Parking at the convention center. I earned half of what I would make on an average day on set!! No breaks and no meals or even a discount . To live like this would cause me to leave my beloved state after being a proud resident for 40 years! I pray that this bill is amended and bring us up to par with the rest of the world . Mahalo Nui Loa for your attention to this matter! In gratitude filled aloha , Lisa Romano Sag/Aftra

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 4:43:28 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

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

I am testifying in strong OPPOSITION to HB 1843.

Mahalo,

Scott Swartz

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:22:21 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1843.

With respect, Mandatory sunset dates create uncertainty that makes Hawai'i less competitive for film and television production. This industry has allowed me to work, stay in Hawai'i, and give back to my community. Film incentives already include accountability and oversight. Automatic sunsets will discourage productions from committing to Hawai'i and will directly impact local jobs and small businesses.

And there's more which i look forward to testying in person.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843 .

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:20:54 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariann Tesaro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i strongly oppose HB 1843.

Mandatory sunset dates create uncertainty that makes Hawai'i less competitive for film and television production. This industry has allowed me to work, stay in Hawai'i, and give back to my community. Film incentives already include accountability and oversight. Automatic sunsets will discourage productions from committing to Hawai'i and will directly impact local jobs and small businesses.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:23:44 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill is awful for Hawaii's creative/entertainment industry. It destroys long-term planning for major studios and streaming platforms as they will be aware of the 2030 expiration date. Hawaii wil lose local jobs as the pipeline of work will dry up thus denying local creatives and industry members from sustaining a middle-class life in Hawaii. Lastly, HB1843 underminse pro-labor legislation byt setting a expiration date on the industry's life in Hawaii.

Hawaii can**NOT** build a sustained creative economy on a four-year expiration.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:35:18 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1843 because it creates uncertainty that harms Hawai'i's local film economy.

Film and television productions plan years in advance, and setting an expiration date on the tax credit makes Hawai'i a risky place to invest. As a result, major productions will choose other states or COUNTRIES that offer long-term stability. many of which these countries, local union members cannot even work in.

This bill would directly reduce job opportunities for local actors and industry workers. At a time when we are working to strengthen and protect this industry, HB 1843 undermines those efforts by putting a countdown on its future in Hawai'i.

I've seen the threat of a sunset on tax credits alone halt the industry twice. Please consider the families that are born, raised and have been making this industry our bread and butter for over 20+ years. We need stronger, more reliable tax credits, not threats of sunsets.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:39:11 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Kawasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1843. I am personally involved with film industry and this HB will negatively impact the all industries that support the film industry.

respectfully,

Stephanie Kawasaki

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:03:46 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Hawe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a small operations freelance film and commercial video producer I have felt significant impact from the slowing of productions coming to Hawaii to shoot their projects. As fewer come, opting to other locations with incentives that allow them to stretch their budgets further, the small pool of work present locally begins to become very crowded and jobs and clients that I used to have are becoming harder to land as the pool of talented people outmatches the amount of work. That is why I see it as essential to continue to offer attractive incentives to bring films, TV and commercial productions to Hawaii. In a constant battle to keep young, intelligent and hard working people here – to prevent the 'brain drain' – supporting diversity in career options is essential. Not every young intelligent person wants to work in real estate, construction, finance, hospitality, transportation or healthcare. As honorable as those professions all are, they don't fit for everyone. Keeping a robust flow of work from outside sources onto our islands is a no-brainer and lasting tax incentives are part of that picture.

Jeff Hawe

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:30:53 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREA TORRES	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1843

This industry has allowed me to work, stay in Hawai'i, and give back to my community. Automatic sunsets will discourage productions to committing to Hawai'i.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:47:19 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalia Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose **HB 1843**, and I am a staunch supporter of more film and TV work being brought to the hawaiian islands. This means, making better tax breaks for productions to come shoot here!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:12:00 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I respectfully oppose HB 1843.

Hawai‘i’s film and television industry relies on long-term planning and policy stability. Mandatory sunset requirements for income tax credits introduce uncertainty that discourages investment and puts local jobs at risk.

Film production decisions are made years in advance, and unpredictable incentive structures make Hawai‘i less competitive compared to other jurisdictions. HB 1843 would negatively impact local workers, small businesses, and the broader creative economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:30:32 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I respectfully oppose HB 1843.

Hawai‘i’s film and television industry depends on long-term planning and policy stability. Mandatory sunset requirements for income tax credits introduce uncertainty that discourages investment and puts local jobs at risk.

Film productions plan years in advance, and unpredictable incentive structures make Hawai‘i less competitive compared to other states. HB 1843 would negatively impact local workers, small businesses, and the broader creative economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:33:25 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Radford Nakamura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

I oppose HB 1843 because it would automatically sunset Hawaii’s Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit during a period of major disruption for the solar and energy storage industry.

The RETITC is a proven investment that supports local jobs, attracts private capital, reduces energy costs, and strengthens grid resilience. According to DBEDT, the credit generates more in state revenue and economic activity than it costs.

Abrupt or automatic sunsets create uncertainty, suppress investment, and slow clean energy deployment -- directly conflicting with Hawaii’s renewable energy and resilience goals. I respectfully urge the Legislature to defer HB 1843 and pursue a more strategic approach instead.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Radford Nakamura

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:44:01 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

I oppose HB 1843 because it would automatically sunset Hawaii’s Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit during a period of major disruption for the solar and energy storage industry.

The RETITC is a proven investment that supports local jobs, attracts private capital, reduces energy costs, and strengthens grid resilience. According to DBEDT, the credit generates more in state revenue and economic activity than it costs.

Abrupt or automatic sunsets create uncertainty, suppress investment, and slow clean energy deployment -- directly conflicting with Hawaii’s renewable energy and resilience goals. I respectfully urge the Legislature to defer HB 1843 and pursue a more strategic approach instead.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Miles Yoshimoto

Project Developer

Alternate Energy Inc.

96-1276 Waihona Street Unit 114

Pearl City HI 96782

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:44:11 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
GREGORY LUNDSGAARD	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose HB 1843.

Hawai‘i’s film and television industry depends on long-term planning and policy stability. Mandatory sunset requirements for income tax credits introduce uncertainty, discouraging investment and putting local jobs at risk. There are so many people affected by this.

Film productions plan years in advance, and unpredictable incentive structures make Hawai‘i less competitive compared to other states. HB 1843 would negatively impact local workers, small businesses, and the broader creative economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:50:58 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dean Des Jarlais	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1843. Eliminating tax credits for film productions would crush that industry, create more unemployment, and force local equipment vendors out of business.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:53:28 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in opposition to HB 1843.

Hawai‘i’s film and television industry relies on long-term planning and consistent public policy. Imposing mandatory sunset dates on income tax credits creates uncertainty that makes it harder for productions to commit to Hawai‘i. In an industry where projects are planned years in advance, instability in incentive programs can be enough to push productions to other states.

HB 1843 would weaken Hawai‘i’s competitive position, discourage outside investment, and place local jobs and small businesses at risk. Our creative workforce, vendors, and small companies depend on a stable production environment to sustain employment and grow the local economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843 and support policies that provide predictability and long-term confidence for Hawai‘i’s film and television industry.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:58:32 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaden Lawrence	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose HB 1843.

Hawai‘i’s film and television industry depends on long-term planning and policy stability. Mandatory sunset requirements for income tax credits introduce uncertainty that discourages investment and puts local jobs at risk.

Film productions plan years in advance, and unpredictable incentive structures make Hawai‘i less competitive compared to other states. HB 1843 would negatively impact local workers, small businesses, and the broader creative economy.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:59:42 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelica Quinn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1843 because this will is not favorable for our filmmaker industry in Hawaii for these reasons below because the film and television projects are planned years in advance. Unstable incentive policy makes Hawai'i less competitive and harms our local workforce.

- Creates uncertainty for long-term industries
- Undermines Hawai'i's competitiveness
- Discourages production investment
- Puts local jobs and small businesses at risk

Thank you for your time.

Angelica Quinn

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:00:16 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Asher Morgado	Hawaii Film Alliance	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

My name is Asher Morgado. I am 19 years old, born and raised in Hawai‘i, and I am a local actor and aspiring film director. I speak today in opposition to HB1843, not just as a creative, but as a young person fighting to keep my future in the place I call home.

Growing up in Hawai‘i, I was taught to love this land, honor its stories, and carry its values with me wherever I go. Film became the way I learned to tell those stories. It gave me a voice. It gave me purpose. And most importantly, it gave me hope that I could build a meaningful life here without having to leave everything I love behind.

HB1843 may seem technical on paper, but for people like me, its impact is deeply personal. By forcing automatic sunset dates on tax credits like the film incentive, this bill creates uncertainty that drives productions away. When productions leave, opportunity leaves with them. Jobs disappear. Mentorship disappears. Pathways for young local talent quietly close.

At 19 years old, I am still learning. I am still growing. Local film productions are where people like me get our first chances, our first roles, our first days on set, our first belief that we belong in this industry. When those opportunities shrink, we are left with a painful choice: leave Hawai‘i to chase our dreams, or stay and let those dreams fade.

I don’t want to leave Hawai‘i to succeed. I want to succeed for Hawai‘i. I want to tell our stories through our own voices. I want younger kids watching to believe that their home is not a limitation, but a launching point. HB1843 makes that belief harder to hold onto.

Stability matters. Consistency matters. The film industry cannot thrive in an environment where support feels temporary or uncertain. The film tax credit has already proven that when Hawai‘i invests in this industry, it invests in local people, local families, and local futures.

Please do not pass a bill that unintentionally tells young creatives that our dreams here are disposable. I respectfully urge you to oppose HB1843 and to stand with the next generation of Hawai‘i storytellers who want nothing more than to stay home and build something meaningful.

Mahalo for listening. Mahalo for considering the long term impact of your decisions. not just on budgets, but on people like me.

Respectfully,

Asher Morgado

19 year old Actor & Aspiring Film Director

Born and Raised in Hawai'i

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:06:50 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlena Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha HFA Members,

This is an important reminder and call to action regarding HB 1843, a bill that is currently OPEN for public testimony and scheduled to be heard soon.

HFA OPPOSES HB 1843.

This bill would impose mandatory sunset dates on income tax credits, creating instability for industries—like film and television—that rely on long-term planning and policy predictability.

Testimony Deadline:

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 (before 8:30 AM)

(Hearing: House Committee on Economic Development & Technology – Wednesday, February 11 at 8:30 AM)

WHY HFA OPPOSES HB 1843

- Creates uncertainty for long-term industries
- Undermines Hawai‘i’s competitiveness
- Discourages production investment
- Puts local jobs and small businesses at risk

Film and television projects are planned years in advance. Unstable incentive policy makes Hawai‘i less competitive and harms our local workforce.

HOW TO SUBMIT TESTIMONY (Takes ~2 Minutes)

1) Register (one time):

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/account/register.aspx>

2) Log in:

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/account/login.aspx>

3) Search for HB 1843

4) Click Submit Testimony

 Choose Oppose

5) Copy/paste a message (or personalize it) and submit

 Submit testimony here:

I respectfully oppose HB 1843.

Hawai‘i’s film and television industry depends on long-term planning and policy stability.

Mandatory sunset requirements for income tax credits introduce uncertainty that discourages investment and puts local jobs at risk.

Film productions plan years in advance, and unpredictable incentive structures make Hawai'i less competitive compared to other states. HB 1843 would negatively impact local workers, small businesses, and the broader creative economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:12:28 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roy Skaggs	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear, Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members,

I strongly oppose HB 1843 because it would automatically sunset Hawaii’s Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit during a period of major disruption for the solar and energy storage industry. I'm not sure why a Bill would seek to make it more difficult to hit our 2045 goal? If you want to sunset tax credits, then start in 2040 with a 5 year step down coinciding with the 2045 end date.

The RETITC is a proven investment that supports local jobs, attracts private capital, reduces energy costs, and strengthens grid resilience. According to DBEDT, the credit generates more in state revenue and economic activity than it costs.

Abrupt or automatic sunsets create uncertainty, suppress investment, and slow clean energy deployment -- directly conflicting with Hawaii’s renewable energy and resilience goals. I respectfully urge the Legislature to defer HB 1843 and pursue a more strategic approach instead.

Mahalo!
Roy Skaggs

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:13:51 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

- Creates uncertainty for long-term industries
- Undermines Hawai'i's competitiveness
- Discourages production investment
- Puts local jobs and small businesses at risk

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:18:03 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill. I believe it creates uncertainty for long-term industries. Undermines Hawai'i's competitiveness. Discourages production investment. Puts local jobs and small businesses at risk

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:21:29 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nohealani Nihipali	IATSE 665	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose HB 1843.

Hawai‘i’s film and television industry depends on long-term planning and policy stability. Mandatory sunset requirements for income tax credits introduce uncertainty that discourages investment and puts local jobs at risk.

Film productions plan years in advance, and unpredictable incentive structures make Hawai‘i less competitive compared to other states. HB 1843 would negatively impact local workers, small businesses, and the broader creative economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:29:34 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isidro Villaflor	PV Tech	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

I strongly oppose HB 1843 because it would automatically sunset Hawaii’s Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit because this will greatly hinder Hawaii residents to save money from installing a solar PV System.

The RETITC helps the local economy because the families savings are returned to our local economy. It also provides hundreds office jobs and field jobs.

I respectfully urge the Legislature to defer HB 1843 and pursue a more strategic approach instead.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Isidro Villaflor

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:45:20 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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 oppose HB1843, RELATING TO TAX CREDITS.

The tax credit to qualified producers has been a beneficial incentive, creating thousands of jobs for local people to support their families and enrich our community. In addition to contributing to the vibrancy of our creative community, this industry also pumps money into our economy. In 2024 our film and television industry generated \$324,150,100 in sales or economic activity, \$20,235,960 in estimated tax revenues, and \$74,948,000 in Hawaii household income generated because of the qualified productions. The film/tv/streaming industry also accounted for 2,247 jobs for 2023 . This measure calls for the eventual sunset or significant reduction of all income tax credits established or renewed after 12/31/2026 .

As written, this measure may have dire unintended consequences, not just for the film industry, but for a wide swath of the population of Hawaii, many of whom benefit in profound, life-altering ways from the tax credits this bill will kill.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wages 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. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program.

I strongly oppose HB1843. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Keahi S Kuikahi

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:45:29 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colby Haines	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB 1843

- Creates uncertainty for long-term industries
- Undermines Hawai‘i’s competitiveness
- Discourages production investment
- Puts local jobs and small businesses at risk

Film and television projects are planned years in advance. Unstable incentive policy makes Hawai‘i less competitive and harms our local workforce.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:58:31 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Romyn Sabatchi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I respectfully oppose HB 1843.

Hawai‘i’s film and television industry depends on long-term planning and policy stability. Mandatory sunset requirements for income tax credits introduce uncertainty that discourages investment and puts local jobs at risk.

Film productions plan years in advance, and unpredictable incentive structures make Hawai‘i less competitive compared to other states. HB 1843 would negatively impact local workers, small businesses, and the broader creative economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

Mahalo!

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:03:22 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jason swink	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose HB 1843.

Hawai‘i’s film and television industry depends on long-term planning and policy stability. Mandatory sunset requirements for income tax credits introduce uncertainty that discourages investment and puts local jobs at risk.

Film productions plan years in advance, and unpredictable incentive structures make Hawai‘i less competitive compared to other states. HB 1843 would negatively impact local workers, small businesses, and the broader creative economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:14:40 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

My name is Joshua J. Meredith. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. I strongly oppose HB 1843.

Beyond the debate about whether tax incentives are good or bad, evidence in the form of financial reports and economic studies show the Hawaii film tax incentive yields economic gains which outweigh its costs.

Furthermore, historical economic data from Hawaii in 2025 and multiple other states which allowed their film tax credits to expire or contain a sunset clause, or in effect cease to function, show the collapse of the film industry in those places as a direct result, along with the associated economic loss.

Hawaii needs a film industry which grows over the decades because of the stability and competitive edge of Hawaii's film tax credit.

Therefore, it is this working-class person's opinion that the introduction of House Bill 1843 is retrograde and regressive, and if passed would put Hawaii film workers out of work, would shrink tourism as a side effect, would negatively impact local businesses, and in an irony of bad government, result in more lost tax revenue than it's abolishment would scrape back.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:14:45 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Petritz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support the film industry.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:31:47 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Spencer Turley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose HB 1843.

Hawai‘i’s film and television industry relies on long-term planning and policy stability. Film and television productions are developed, financed, and scheduled years in advance, and mandatory sunset requirements for income tax credits introduce uncertainty that discourages investment and makes Hawai‘i less competitive.

Film tax incentives are not short-term benefits. They are essential economic infrastructure. Jurisdictions with stable, long-standing incentive programs consistently attract more production than those with uncertain or expiring policies. A four-year sunset does not provide the confidence needed for long-term production commitments.

HB 1843 would negatively impact local workers, union crews, small businesses, and vendors who depend on consistent production activity. Reduced production volume ultimately harms the broader creative and service economy across the state.

For these reasons I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:33:37 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the House 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 oppose HB1843, RELATING TO TAX CREDITS.

The tax credit to qualified producers has been a beneficial incentive, creating thousands of jobs for local people to support their families and enrich our community. In addition to contributing to the vibrancy of our creative community, this industry also pumps money into our economy. In 2024 our film and television industry generated \$324,150,100 in sales or economic activity, \$20,235,960 in estimated tax revenues, and \$74,948,000 in Hawaii household income generated because of the qualified productions. The film/tv/streaming industry also accounted for 2,247 jobs for 2023 . This measure calls for the eventual sunset or significant reduction of all income tax credits established or renewed after 12/31/2026 .

As written, this measure may have dire unintended consequences, not just for the film industry, but for a wide swath of the population of Hawaii, many of whom benefit in profound, life-altering ways from the tax credits this bill will kill.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wages 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. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program.

I strongly oppose HB1843. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Kaipu Seales

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:35:59 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Gilhooly	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the House committee,

My name is P. Brian Gilhooly II. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. I strongly oppose HB1843, RELATING TO TAX CREDITS.

The tax credit to qualified producers has been a beneficial incentive, creating thousands of jobs for local people to support their families and enrich our community. In addition to contributing to the vibrancy of our creative community, this industry also pumps money into our economy. In 2024 our film and television industry generated \$324,150,100 in sales or economic activity, \$20,235,960 in estimated tax revenues, and \$74,948,000 in Hawaii household income generated because of the qualified productions. The film/tv/streaming industry also accounted for 2,247 jobs for 2023 . This measure calls for the eventual sunset or significant reduction of all income tax credits established or renewed after 12/31/2026 .

As written, this measure may have dire unintended consequences, not just for the film industry, but for a wide swath of the population of Hawaii, many of whom benefit in profound, life-altering ways from the tax credits this bill will kill.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wages 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. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1843. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

P. Brian Gilhooly II

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:36:45 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Lum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

I oppose HB 1843 because it would automatically sunset Hawaii’s Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit during a period of major disruption for the solar and energy storage industry.

The RETITC is a proven investment that supports local jobs, attracts private capital, reduces energy costs, and strengthens grid resilience. According to DBEDT, the credit generates more in state revenue and economic activity than it costs.

Abrupt or automatic sunsets create uncertainty, suppress investment, and slow clean energy deployment -- directly conflicting with Hawaii’s renewable energy and resilience goals. I respectfully urge the Legislature to defer HB 1843 and pursue a more strategic approach instead.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

aloha, Jeff Lum

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:38:37 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison Seales	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the House committee,

My name is Allison Seales. I'm a spouse of a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. I strongly oppose HB1843, RELATING TO TAX CREDITS.

The tax credit to qualified producers has been a beneficial incentive, creating thousands of jobs for local people to support their families and enrich our community. In addition to contributing to the vibrancy of our creative community, this industry also pumps money into our economy. In 2024 our film and television industry generated \$324,150,100 in sales or economic activity, \$20,235,960 in estimated tax revenues, and \$74,948,000 in Hawaii household income generated because of the qualified productions. The film/tv/streaming industry also accounted for 2,247 jobs for 2023 . This measure calls for the eventual sunset or significant reduction of all income tax credits established or renewed after 12/31/2026 .

As written, this measure may have dire unintended consequences, not just for the film industry, but for a wide swath of the population of Hawaii, many of whom benefit in profound, life-altering ways from the tax credits this bill will kill.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wages 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. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program.

I strongly oppose HB1843. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Allison Seales

[INSERT NAME HERE]

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:39:20 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is John Salanoa and I respectfully oppose HB 1843.

Hawai‘i’s film and television industry depends on long-term planning and policy stability. Mandatory sunset requirements for income tax credits introduce uncertainty that discourages investment and puts local jobs at risk.

Film productions plan years in advance, and unpredictable incentive structures make Hawai‘i less competitive compared to other states. HB 1843 would negatively impact local workers, small businesses, and the broader creative economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:40:40 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Morgado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

My name is Michele Morgado, and I am the proud mother of Asher Morgado, a 19 year old local actor and aspiring film director, born and raised in Hawai‘i. I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to HB1843, not only as a parent, but as someone who has watched firsthand what this industry means for our local youth.

From a young age, I saw my son gravitate toward storytelling, performance, and creativity. Like many parents in Hawai‘i, I supported him not because it was easy, but because it was who he is. I drove him to auditions, sat through rehearsals, prayed over opportunities, and encouraged him when doors didn’t open right away. I did all of this believing that Hawai‘i could still be a place where our children’s dreams are possible.

HB1843 threatens that belief.

By placing automatic sunset dates on tax credits such as the film incentive, this bill creates uncertainty that discourages productions from coming to Hawai‘i. When productions leave, it’s not just budgets that disappear, it’s opportunities for our children. Entry level jobs. Training. Mentorship. The chance to learn and grow without having to leave home.

As a parent, one of the hardest realities to face is watching our children feel like they must leave Hawai‘i to succeed. Many families already struggle with the cost of living, housing, and limited career pathways. The film industry has been one of the few spaces where local youth can build real careers while staying connected to family, culture, and community.

I want my son, and others like him, to build their futures here, contribute to Hawai‘i’s economy, and tell Hawai‘i stories with authenticity and respect. I do not want to see policies that unintentionally push our children away by making industries unstable or uncertain.

Please consider the long-term impact of HB1843 not just on numbers, but on families. On parents who are trying to raise the next generation of local leaders, artists, and storytellers without having to say goodbye too soon.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB1843 and to continue supporting policies that allow our keiki to dream, grow, and succeed, right here at home.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Michele Morgado

Parent of a 19-year-old Local Actor & Aspiring Film Director Hawai'i

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:49:30 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Junior Abraham Morgado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

My name is Abraham Morgado. I am a father, a provider, and a lifelong supporter of my son, Asher Morgado, a 19 year old local actor and aspiring film director born and raised in Hawai'i. I am here today in opposition to HB1843.

As a father, my responsibility has always been to prepare my son for the future, to teach him discipline, work ethic, and commitment. But just as important is knowing that the place he calls home will still have opportunities for him when he's ready to step forward.

HB1843 creates instability by placing automatic sunset dates on tax credits like the film incentive. In business and industry, instability sends one message: don't invest here. When productions stop coming to Hawai'i, jobs disappear, not just for actors, but for crew, technicians, small businesses, and local families.

The film industry is not a hobby. It is real work. It creates real paychecks and real pathways for our youth. I have watched my son grow through this industry, learning responsibility, professionalism, and leadership, all while staying close to his family and culture.

As a father, I do not want to see policies that push our children to leave Hawai'i just to survive or succeed. We should be creating stability, not uncertainty. Opportunity, not exit strategies.

Please do not pass a bill that weakens one of the few industries giving our young people a reason to stay. I respectfully urge you to oppose HB1843 and stand for Hawai'i families, workers, and future generations.

Mahalo, Abe

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:04:18 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Archuleta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose HB 1843.

Hawai‘i’s film and television industry depends on long-term planning and policy stability. Mandatory sunset requirements for income tax credits introduce uncertainty that discourages investment and puts local jobs at risk.

Film productions plan years in advance, and unpredictable incentive structures make Hawai‘i less competitive compared to other states. HB 1843 would negatively impact local workers, small businesses, and the broader creative economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:13:51 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ute K Finch	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Productions need to stay in Hawaii to support the workers in this industry.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:20:49 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua F. Powell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

I oppose HB 1843 because it would automatically sunset Hawaii’s Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit during a period of major disruption for the solar and energy storage industry.

The RETITC is a proven investment that supports local jobs, attracts private capital, reduces energy costs, and strengthens grid resilience. According to DBEDT, the credit generates more in state revenue and economic activity than it costs.

Abrupt or automatic sunsets create uncertainty, suppress investment, and slow clean energy deployment -- directly conflicting with Hawaii’s renewable energy and resilience goals. I respectfully urge the Legislature to defer HB 1843 and pursue a more strategic approach instead.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Josh Powell, Honolulu

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:26:03 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carlton Saito	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1843.

Tax credits should not be repealed across the board.

That would cause chaos and a flood of bills to re-enact existing tax credits. And this would happen every seven years.

An across-the-board repeal of tax credits would also violate the intent of the originating legislation.

If a tax credit is not fulfilling its intended purpose, then it should be repealed through specific legislation.

Thank you.

Carlton Saito

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:33:35 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Spelman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not support this bill. Tax credits are a VITAL part of our Hawai'i economy me. Without these credits there will be NO film/Television industry in Hawai'i. Tax credits should be empowered for this industry so that it can continue to be a contributor to the state GDP as it has in the past. Mahalo!

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:39:47 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Berkley Spivey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the House committee,

My name is Berkley Spivey. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. I strongly oppose HB1843, RELATING TO TAX CREDITS.

The tax credit to qualified producers has been a beneficial incentive, creating thousands of jobs for local people to support their families and enrich our community. In addition to contributing to the vibrancy of our creative community, this industry also pumps money into our economy. In 2024 our film and television industry generated \$324,150,100 in sales or economic activity, \$20,235,960 in estimated tax revenues, and \$74,948,000 in Hawaii household income generated because of the qualified productions. The film/tv/streaming industry also accounted for 2,247 jobs for 2023 . This measure calls for the eventual sunset or significant reduction of all income tax credits established or renewed after 12/31/2026 .

As written, this measure may have dire unintended consequences, not just for the film industry, but for a wide swath of the population of Hawaii, many of whom benefit in profound, life-altering ways from the tax credits this bill will kill.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wages 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. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program.

I strongly oppose HB1843. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Berkley Spivey

2/9/2026 2:42:35 PM

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

I oppose HB 1843 because it would automatically sunset Hawaii's Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit during a period of major disruption for the solar and energy storage industry.

It is a contradiction to all the progress of past and future goals that Hawaii Legislation has introduced and invested in.

Paul Spencer

Paul Spencer

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:02:49 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malachi Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi I am Malachi and oppose bill hb1843. Please listen to all our testimonies submitted and vote to oppose this bill, mahalo.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:19:54 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvia Dahlby	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1843.

I am a member of the **Hawai‘i Film Alliance**.

Film & TV production is a sustainable industry and vital part of creating a more diverse economy and better paying local jobs. Film production companies accessing the tax credit are required to invest in workforce development.

HB143 would:

- Discourage productions from committing to Hawai‘i
- Undermine workforce and infrastructure investment
- Put local jobs and small businesses at risk

Mandatory sunset dates create uncertainty that makes Hawai‘i less competitive for film and television production. This vital and growing industry allows local talent to work, stay in Hawai‘i, pay taxes that generates state revenue, and give back to the community.

Film incentives already include accountability and oversight. Automatic sunsets will discourage productions from committing to Hawai‘i and will directly impact local jobs and small businesses.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:38:43 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Thompson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill would hurt the solar industry. I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:57:19 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeremy Warner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose HB 1843.

Hawai‘i’s film and television industry depends on long-term planning and policy stability. Mandatory sunset requirements for income tax credits introduce uncertainty that discourages investment and puts local jobs at risk.

Film productions plan years in advance, and unpredictable incentive structures make Hawai‘i less competitive compared to other states. HB 1843 would negatively impact local workers, small businesses, and the broader creative economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:02:57 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deirdre A Roney	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose HB 1843.

Hawai'i's film and television industry depends on long-term planning and policy stability. Mandatory sunset requirements for income tax credits introduce uncertainty that discourages investment and puts local jobs at risk.

Film productions plan years in advance, and unpredictable incentive structures make Hawai'i less competitive compared to other states. HB 1843 would negatively impact local workers, small businesses, and the broader creative economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:15:24 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leanne Teves	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chari and Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chari and members of the committee,

My name is Leanne Teves, and I thank you so much for the opportunity to submit my testimony in opposition of HB 1843. I have had many wonderful opportunities to work as a background actor with the production of the reboot of Hawaii Five-0 over the course of this television show’s run of ten years, 2010-2020. I have many friends that have benefited from the lengthy run of this show with full time employment in Hawaii. This allowed them to remain in Hawaii, their home to work and fulfill their dreams. HB 1843 that captures a sunset framework for tax credits afforded these productions would deter those with multiple years of filming projections, such as Hawaii Five-0, from choosing Hawaii to film in. The contents of this bill would not help with the creation of jobs in the filming industry. Thank you again for your time in reviewing not only my testimony in opposition but all testimonies submitted. Aloha.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:52:10 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Yoza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose HB 1843.

Hawai‘i’s film and television industry depends on long-term planning and policy stability. Mandatory sunset requirements for income tax credits introduce uncertainty that discourages investment and puts local jobs at risk.

Film productions plan years in advance, and unpredictable incentive structures make Hawai‘i less competitive compared to other states. HB 1843 would negatively impact local workers, small businesses, and the broader creative economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 6:22:30 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beatriz Talerico	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to this bill.

While oversight and fiscal responsibility are important, this measure takes a blunt approach that risks undermining long term economic planning, investment, and program effectiveness by imposing automatic sunset dates on income tax credits regardless of their performance or public benefit.

Income tax credits are not short term experiments. Many are designed specifically to encourage long term behavior such as workforce development, affordable housing, renewable energy investment, research and innovation, small business growth, and community revitalization. Automatically sunseting these credits on an arbitrary timeline creates uncertainty for individuals, families, and businesses who rely on stable policy to make multi year decisions.

For existing credits, forcing a universal sunset by December 31, 2030 ignores the reality that not all credits are alike. Some have demonstrated measurable success and return on investment over decades. Others support sectors that require long planning horizons. A one size fits all expiration date risks eliminating effective tools simply because of calendar mechanics, not policy merit.

For future or renewed credits, the mandated seven year sunset may sound reasonable on paper, but in practice it discourages participation. Businesses and investors are less likely to engage in programs that may disappear before benefits are realized. This uncertainty ultimately weakens the very economic activity these credits are intended to stimulate.

Accountability should come through rigorous review, data driven evaluation, and legislative judgment, not automatic expiration. Legislators already possess the authority to amend, repeal, or refine tax credits that are ineffective or no longer aligned with public priorities. This bill substitutes that responsibility with a mechanical process that prioritizes administrative convenience over thoughtful governance.

Fiscal discipline should mean making informed decisions, not creating instability. This proposal risks increased bureaucracy, reduced participation, and unintended economic harm, while offering little evidence that it will improve outcomes or savings.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:05:04 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1843

(Relating to Tax Credits; Sunset for Income Tax Credits)

Aloha Chair Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey, and House ECD Members Daniel Holt, Adrian K. Tam, Shirley Ann Templo, Kyle T. Yamashita, and Joe Gedeon, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is **Lukas Seno**, Business Representative for **IATSE Local 665**, representing behind-the-scenes film, television, and live event workers across Hawai‘i.

We respectfully **OPPOSE HB 1843** because it creates uncertainty that will push work away from Hawai‘i. Our members need steady local jobs to support their families. When productions avoid Hawai‘i, we lose the **wages** and **benefits** that come with consistent employment.

Film and TV projects plan years in advance. If there’s doubt about whether Hawai‘i will keep key incentives in place, productions choose other countries and other states. That means fewer local hires, more gaps between jobs, and more pressure on workers when there is no work.

We support **accountability and review**, and we need a targeted approach that stabilizes job-creating programs long term to create confidence in our jurisdiction..

I respectfully urge you to **OPPOSE HB 1843**.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Lukas Seno

Business Representative, IATSE Local 665

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:06:32 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Lee Mitchell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey and members of the committee,

I respectfully request that you vote **NO** on HB 1843. While legislative oversight is important, mandatory sunsets on film and television tax credits create a climate of instability that our local industry cannot afford. 2025 was a year of immense change for many of us, and as we look toward a prosperous 2026, we need policies that provide a foundation for growth—not a countdown to expiration.

Stability is the backbone of production. When a sunset date is looming, investment dries up long before the actual expiration. This bill would:

1. Put local "below-the-line" jobs at risk.
2. Hurt small businesses—from catering to construction—that support active sets.
3. Send a message to the global film community that Hawai'i is not a stable partner.

Please support our local workers and small businesses by voting no on this bill .

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lisa Lee Mitchell

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:16:43 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Mitchell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the House Committee,

My name is Frank Mitchell. I am a member of IATSE Local 665, representing the skilled technicians and artisans who form the backbone of Hawai'i's entertainment industry. I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1843.

While I understand the desire for legislative oversight, this measure's mandate to sunset or significantly reduce tax credits after December 31, 2026, poses a direct threat to the stability of our industry. Film and television production is not a short-term venture; it requires years of lead time and a predictable policy environment to secure investment.

The motion picture and streaming industry is a proven economic engine for our islands. To illustrate the scale of what is at stake, consider the impact from 2024 alone:

- **\$324,150,100** in total sales and economic activity generated.
- **\$74,948,000** in direct Hawai'i household income.
- **\$20,235,960** in estimated tax revenues returned to the state.
- **2,247 Jobs** supported in 2023, providing "thriving wages" that are irreplaceable in our current economy.

The "unintended consequences" of this bill extend far beyond a balance sheet. By introducing a mandatory sunset, we signal to global studios that Hawai'i is an unstable partner.

1. **Job Loss:** When the incentive is restrained, we don't just lose productions; we lose the 2,200+ local families who rely on these high-quality jobs to stay in Hawai'i.
2. **Loss of Voice:** A thriving local industry ensures we have the infrastructure and talent to tell our own stories, rather than having them told for us by outsiders.
3. **Small Business Impact:** This industry pumps money into local catering, construction, transportation, and hospitality—sectors that benefit profoundly from the activity productions bring to our shores.

To remain competitive in a global market, Hawai'i must strengthen and stabilize—not undermine—the film tax incentive program.

I strongly oppose HB1843. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Frank Mitchell

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:27:37 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Jarrett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the House committee,

My name is Jason Kapono Jarrett. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. I strongly oppose HB1843, RELATING TO TAX CREDITS.

The tax credit to qualified producers has been a beneficial incentive, creating thousands of jobs for local people to support their families and enrich our community. In addition to contributing to the vibrancy of our creative community, this industry also pumps money into our economy. In 2024 our film and television industry generated \$324,150,100 in sales or economic activity, \$20,235,960 in estimated tax revenues, and \$74,948,000 in Hawaii household income generated because of the qualified productions. The film/tv/streaming industry also accounted for 2,247 jobs for 2023 . This measure calls for the eventual sunset or significant reduction of all income tax credits established or renewed after 12/31/2026 .

As written, this measure may have dire unintended consequences, not just for the film industry, but for a wide swath of the population of Hawaii, many of whom benefit in profound, life-altering ways from the tax credits this bill will kill.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wages 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. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program.

I strongly oppose HB1843. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Jason kaponono Jarrett

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:33:42 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hailey Bowen Cole	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the House committee,

My name is Hailey Bowen Cole. I'm a crew member of the Hawaii film and entertainment industry and I strongly oppose HB1843, RELATING TO TAX CREDITS.

The tax credit to qualified producers has been a beneficial incentive, creating thousands of jobs for local people to support their families and enrich our community. In addition to contributing to the vibrancy of our creative community, this industry also pumps money into our economy. In 2024 our film and television industry generated \$324,150,100 in sales or economic activity, \$20,235,960 in estimated tax revenues, and \$74,948,000 in Hawaii household income generated because of the qualified productions. The film/tv/streaming industry also accounted for 2,247 jobs for 2023 . This measure calls for the eventual sunset or significant reduction of all income tax credits established or renewed after 12/31/2026 .

As written, this measure may have dire unintended consequences, not just for the film industry, but for a wide swath of the population of Hawaii, many of whom benefit in profound, life-altering ways from the tax credits this bill will kill.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wages 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. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program.

I strongly oppose HB1843. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Hailey Bowen Cole

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:44:41 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pualalea Slover	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, as someone in the film industry, this will harm our industry. When it's already suffering, this'll make matters worse. I oppose this bill.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:48:54 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I've been in the film industry since 2018 and I oppose this bill

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:49:44 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Henry Fordham	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the House committee,

My name is Henry Fordham. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. I **Strongly Oppose HB1843, RELATING TO TAX CREDITS.**

For decades, the Film Tax Credit to qualified productions has been a beneficial incentive, creating thousands of jobs for local people to support their families and enrich our community. In addition to contributing to the vibrancy of our creative community, this industry contributes multiple levels of financial injection into our economy. In 2024 our film and television industry generated \$324,150,100 in sales or economic activity, \$20,235,960 in estimated tax revenues, and \$74,948,000 in Hawaii household income generated because of the qualified productions. The film/tv/streaming industry also accounted for 2,247 jobs for 2023 . This measure calls for the eventual sunset or significant reduction of all income tax credits established or renewed after 12/31/2026 .

This measure will create direct, unintended consequences, not just for the film industry, but for entire the population of Hawaii, affecting the broad range of tax credits this bill will kill.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These Ohana sustaining wages can not be replaced by other industriy sectors. When the Film Tax Credit incentives are empowered, We contribute 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. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the Film Tax incentive program.

I Strongly Oppose HB1843. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Henry Fordham

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:52:22 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deenie TKam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The success of Film and Television projects weighs heavily on the advance planning that will be undermined by the passage of HB1843. The uncertainty created by mandatory sunset requirements for income tax credits will not attract production companies to spend their dollars in Hawaii. This affects local businesses and livelihoods who would otherwise benefit from the influx of income generated by long-term industries which includes film and TV production. This is an ask not only for the film/tv production industry, but for the businesses that benefit when these productions choose to conduct business here. I respectfully ask for your support in opposing HB1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:56:06 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I write in strong opposition to HB1843

I am a member of the Directors Guild of America and currently, I am the unit production manager on Protecting Jared, a Netflix film that will begin shooting later this month.

I help studios budget for feature films and television shows considering shooting in Hawaii.

A similar bill was vetoed last session for a reason: It's an industry killer.

The film tax incentive only works with a long time horizon so that studios can make multi year plans.

Feb 9, 2026

To: House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

From: Mariah Serine White, Hawaii Resident

Email: mswentpriz@gmail.com

RE: Testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 1843 — Relating to Tax Credits

Hearing Date: Feb 11, 2026 | **Time:** 9:00 a.m. | **Location:** Conference Room 423

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mariah S White, and I am a Hawai'i resident and 22-year member of SAG-AFTRA. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB1843.

As a local working in the TV and film production industry, I am a prime example of how a strong industry directly benefits Hawai'i residents. In years when the industry was strong (b/c our tax credit was), I had a full-time stand-in position on a TV show—that job paid a living wage and provided me with economic stability. Even when I was not on set full-time, I had a steady amount of work. I worked as a background actor, performed stunts, or worked as a PA and production coordinator. These bookings helped supplement my income and kept me fed, clothed, and able to pay rent, especially since many FT jobs in Hawai'i do not cover the high cost of living. When the industry is strong, it creates jobs and opportunity.

I believe that imposing mandatory sunset dates on tax credits *will create instability and works against our own economic health*. As a former DBEDT employee who worked at the Hawai'i Film Office overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Production Tax Credit (PTC) for 5 years, I have witnessed what happens when we create perceived or real instability around the PTC. It deters production investment and lucrative productions become wary of coming to Hawai'i.

It is critical that we maintain a strong, consistent, and reliable tax credit so we can sustain this incredible industry in Hawai'i. The TV/Film production industry gives back to the people and the state in many ways—far beyond the cost of the tax credit. Not only in terms of ROI, but by providing living wages for local residents, economic stimulus to local businesses, and it's an industry that does little harm. Those of us in production are mindful of preserving the , leave places as we found them and keep our footprint light.

This bill undermines our industry and creates uncertainty for film and television productions and potential financial investors, who plan projects years in advance. It also weakens Hawai'i's position and competitive advantage when compared to other states or countries that offer stable, long-term incentives.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1483.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,



Mariah S White

mswentpriz@gmail.com

Written Testimony In Opposition of HB 1843

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

I submit this testimony in OPPOSITION of this bill based on direct experience working in Hawai'i's film and television industry. Mahalo for addressing this specific issue that has been a major issue to Hawai'i's film industry.

I have been involved with Hawai'i's film industry professionally since I moved here in 2016. Since moving here, I have been able to build a career in my industry and have worked on many amazing films and television series throughout the years and was able to join the Directors Guild of America in 2021 because of constant filming here in our state.

Hawai'i has a robust and talented film industry with thousands of film workers in many various roles and professions. **This bill threatens our very livelihoods and has already had a direct impact on us financially and personally.**

The previous bill that was passed last year, HB 796, already tried to sunset the film industry's and other's tax incentives and was massively opposed by the public. As a direct result of this bill passing, we saw the last television series filming in Hawai'i that we were hoping to be renewed for a second season being cancelled a week after. **A message was sent to the studios in Hollywood that Hawai'i was not open for business and they should look elsewhere.**

If this new iteration of the previous bill should pass, the same message will be sent, and we will have set our industry back significantly. There are thousands of film workers, their families, and hundreds of people in supplemental support who rely on the tax incentives being here to be able to provide for their families and have a full-fledged careers in the film industry while remaining here in Hawai'i.

The film industry here in Hawai'i not only provides jobs but is also a major draw for tourism. Over the years I have met hundreds of tourists that have come from all over the world just to see the sites that various films and TV shows have filmed at such as Kualoa Ranch, the Hilton Hawaiian Lagoon, and many more spots throughout our state. The film industry is also one of the major contributors to our state's economy, and we risk losing it if this bill should pass. **The film incentive is not a rebate or a handout to the studios, rather it is an incentive to spend more money in our state** and hopefully we can get them to spend more locally with the other bills currently working through legislation.

Members of the committee, **I implore you now to think about the future of our state and the thousands of people who depend on the film industry being here long term.** Do not look at just the numbers, look at all the people who this industry is able to provide careers to. Many of us have struggled to find employment outside the film industry over the last few years, and if this bill should proceed any further, I fear for our future prospects.

Please, do not let this bill go any further than this, keep our incentives that we are trying to raise and let us get back to what we do best, showcasing Hawai'i's beauty and talents to the entire world.

Thank you very much for your time to testify on this matter,

Mahalo,

Ian Petriello Eisenberg

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:17:05 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1843 that would require that income tax credits existing on 12/31/2026 include a sunset on 12/31/2030. This bill is the same as misguided HB796 from the 2025 legislative session that was vetoed by the Governor who stated:

This bill would have a significant long-term impact on income tax credits across a variety of industries, including film and television, research, and renewable energy. These tax credits are critical to supporting economic development and diversification, particularly within growing and emerging sectors. Categorically sunseting income tax credits will not only disincentivize future investors from doing business in Hawai‘i, but will destabilize existing businesses that currently rely upon these tax credits.

I urge the committee to oppose this harmful, short-sighted measure.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:21:33 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ron Evans	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the House committee,

My name is Ron Evans. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. I strongly oppose HB1843, RELATING TO TAX CREDITS.

The tax credit to qualified producers has been a beneficial incentive, creating thousands of jobs for local people to support their families and enrich our community. In addition to contributing to the vibrancy of our creative community, this industry also pumps money into our economy. In 2024 our film and television industry generated \$324,150,100 in sales or economic activity, \$20,235,960 in estimated tax revenues, and \$74,948,000 in Hawaii household income generated because of the qualified productions. The film/tv/streaming industry also accounted for 2,247 jobs for 2023 . This measure calls for the eventual sunset or significant reduction of all income tax credits established or renewed after 12/31/2026 .

As written, this measure may have dire unintended consequences, not just for the film industry, but for a wide swath of the population of Hawaii, many of whom benefit in profound, life-altering ways from the tax credits this bill will kill.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wages 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. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program.

I strongly oppose HB1843. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Ron Evans

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:47:13 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
HENRY IAN CUSICK	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

The film industry in Hawaii does not operate on a year-to-year basis. We are in competition with global markets that offer long-term stability. If HB 1843 passes, it will create a "climate of uncertainty" that will drive major productions away from our islands for the following reasons:

- **Destroys Long-Term Planning:** Major studios and streaming platforms (Netflix, Disney+, AppleTV) plan "franchise" content and multi-season series years in advance. A looming 2030 expiration date makes Hawaii a risky "no-go" zone for any production looking for a long-term home.
- **Loss of Local Jobs:** Without a stable tax credit, the "pipeline" of work for our local actors and performers will dry up. This bill threatens the progress we've made in ensuring our members can sustain a middle-class life here in Hawai'i.
- **Undermines Current Pro-Labor Legislation:** While we are currently fighting for bills to *expand* the credit and protect us from AI (like HB 1635 and HB 2137), HB 1843 acts as a "poison pill" that effectively sets a timer on the entire industry's survival in the state.

Hawaii's creative economy cannot be built on a four-year expiration date.

Mahalo

Henry Ian Cusick



Valerie Matsunaga PO 330519 Kahului, Maui, HI 96733

February 9, 2026

TO: Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Chair: Representative Ilagan

Vice Chair: Representative Hussey

FROM: Valerie M. K. Matsunaga, Maui Resident

RE: HB 1843 – RELATING TO TAX CREDITS

DATE: Wednesday, February 11, 2026

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 423

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawai‘i

The House of Representatives

The Thirty-Third Legislature

Regular Session of 2026

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

I submit this testimony in **strong opposition to HB 1843**.

While this bill is framed as a general “good governance” measure addressing income tax credits, its impact on Hawai‘i’s Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit (HRS §235-17) would be devastating to our local creative workforce and film economy.

HB 1843 mandates automatic sunset dates for all income tax credits, including the Film Tax Credit. Specifically, all existing credits would expire on December 31, 2030, and any credit established or renewed after 2026 would be forced to sunset every seven years. As written, this creates a **climate of uncertainty** that Hawai‘i’s film industry cannot withstand.

The motion picture and digital media industry does not operate on a year-to-year basis. Hawai‘i is in direct competition with global jurisdictions that offer long-term stability and predictability. Major studios and streaming platforms plan franchise content and multi-season series many years in advance. A looming expiration date effectively renders Hawai‘i a “no-go” zone for productions seeking a long-term home.

The consequences are significant and far-reaching:

- **Destruction of Long-Term Planning:** Automatic sunset dates discourage studios from committing to Hawai‘i for multi-year projects, series, or repeat productions.

- **Loss of Local Jobs:** Without a stable tax credit, the pipeline of work for local actors, crew, technicians, and small businesses will dry up, threatening the ability of working families to sustain middle-class lives here.
- **Undermining Pro-Labor Efforts:** At the very moment lawmakers are considering legislation to expand the credit and protect workers from emerging threats such as artificial intelligence, HB 1843 acts as a poison pill by placing a countdown clock on the industry's future.

Hawai'i's creative economy cannot be built on an expiration date. This measure calls for the eventual sunset or significant reduction of all income tax credits established or renewed after December 31, 2026, and may have severe unintended consequences—not only for the film industry, but for a wide swath of Hawai'i's residents who benefit in profound, life-altering ways from these credits.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **oppose HB 1843**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie M. K. Matsunaga
Maui, Hawai'i

SAG-AFTRA member since 2020

Email: val.matsunaga@gmail.com

Phone: 808-205-5677

Written Testimony In Opposition of HB 1843

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

I submit this testimony in OPPOSITION of this bill based on direct experience working in Hawai'i's film and television industry. Thank you for addressing this specific issue that has been a major issue to Hawai'i's film industry.

My brother joined the film industry here in 2016, and I in 2020. Because of this, we have been able to create a career, and work on amazing television series and films. Not only that, but when you work in the film industry here in Hawai'i you understand that there is a sense of family and community , and we found our family here.

Hawai'i has a robust and talented film industry with thousands of film workers in many various roles and professions. **This bill threatens our very livelihoods and has already had a direct impact on us financially and personally.**

The previous bill that was passed last year, HB 796, already tried to sunset the film industry's and other's tax incentives and was massively opposed by the public. As a direct result of this bill passing, we saw the last television series filming in Hawai'i that we were hoping to be renewed for a second season being cancelled a week after. **A message was sent to the studios in Hollywood that Hawai'i was not open for business and they should look elsewhere.**

The film industry here in Hawai'i not only provides jobs but is also a major draw for tourism and a major contributor to our state's economy, and we risk losing it if this bill should pass. **The film incentive is not a rebate or a handout to the studios, rather it is an incentive to spend more money in our state** and hopefully we can get them to spend more locally with the other bills currently working through legislation.

To the people of the committee, please think about the future of our state and the thousands of people who depend on the film industry. If this bill goes any further, this will be devastating to the state and the people.

Please, do not let this bill go any further than this. Keep our incentives that we are trying to raise and let us get back to what we do best, showcasing Hawai'i's beauty and talents to the entire world.

Thank you very much for your time to testify on this matter,
Kayla Petriello Eisenberg

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:52:46 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
O. Carr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am a Native Hawaiian actor writing in opposition of HB1843. Having a sunset date on the income tax credits will be detrimental to the future of our industry.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:59:43 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luis Linares	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou, I urge you to please **STRONGLY OPPOSE** this bill as it will absolutely compromise the ability of the Hawai'i film industry to rebound, get stronger or grow. Therefore robbing the community from thousands of lucrative career building jobs and large long term investments that affect countless aspects of Hawai'i communities. Film projects at all scales require years of planning, millions of dollars in investments and the possibility of growth and longevity. As the Hawai'i film ohana is making a giant effort to ensure the possibility for growth for Hawai'i workers at all levels and departments generated by this industry that can be so rewarding, powerful, and influential with limitless possibilities for the island's present work force and the future. Please don't robb Hawai'i of the opportunity to grow and make world class, world influencing, lucrative projects that affect all aspects of Hawai'i's economy possitively. Don't make the people of Hawai'i that dream of building a career in this industry and all the effort, education, preparation and investment that is being made into this field be in vain. This bill will prevent productions from having longevity and stability and therefore making the islands too risky for high investment if any at all and you will absolutely destroy the film industry once again if this bill is passed. Therefore please help revibe the film industry stronger, bigger, better, and more prone to growth for the local community than ever by **OPPOSING THIS BILL**. Mahalo. Aloha.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:12:05 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a film crew member, I strongly oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 4:26:13 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Mahalo.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 6:17:02 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Rodriguez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I respectfully oppose HB 1843.

As someone who works in Hawai‘i’s film and television industry, I’ve seen firsthand how much this work depends on long-term planning and policy stability. Mandatory sunset requirements for income tax credits create uncertainty that make it so much harder for productions to commit to Hawai‘i and for local workers to rely on consistent employment.

Film projects take years in advance to make. When incentive structures are unpredictable, Hawai‘i becomes less competitive compared to other states and countries, and that uncertainty directly affects local crew members, small businesses, and families who depend on this industry.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843 and support the continued stability of Hawai‘i’s creative economy.

Mahalo

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 6:44:02 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB1843

The film industry in Hawaii does not operate on a year-to-year basis. We are in competition with global markets that offer long-term stability. If HB 1843 passes, it will create a "climate of uncertainty" that will drive major productions away from our islands for the following reasons:

- **Destroys Long-Term Planning:** Major studios and streaming platforms (Netflix, Disney+, AppleTV) plan "franchise" content and multi-season series years in advance. A looming 2030 expiration date makes Hawaii a risky "no-go" zone for any production looking for a long-term home.
- **Loss of Local Jobs:** Without a stable tax credit, the "pipeline" of work for our local actors and performers will dry up. This bill threatens the progress we've made in ensuring our members can sustain a middle-class life here in Hawai'i.
- **Undermines Current Pro-Labor Legislation:** While we are currently fighting for bills to *expand* the credit and protect us from AI (like HB 1635 and HB 2137), HB 1843 acts as a "poison pill" that effectively sets a timer on the entire industry's survival in the state.

Hawaii's creative economy cannot be built on a four-year expiration date.

We need time for this industry here to grow and stabilize. Our local industry people need these production in Hawaii to sustain our ability to live and raise our families here.

Mahalo

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 7:06:58 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Troyan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

I oppose HB 1843 because it would automatically sunset Hawaii’s Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit during a period of major disruption for the solar and energy storage industry.

The RETITC is a proven investment that supports local jobs, attracts private capital, reduces energy costs, and strengthens grid resilience. According to DBEDT, the credit generates more in state revenue and economic activity than it costs.

Abrupt or automatic sunsets create uncertainty, suppress investment, and slow clean energy deployment -- directly conflicting with Hawaii’s renewable energy and resilience goals. I respectfully urge the Legislature to defer HB 1843 and pursue a more strategic approach instead.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Kathryn Troyan

Makiki Resident

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 7:29:14 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Confair	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose HB 1843.

Hawai‘i’s film and television industry depends on long-term planning and policy stability. Mandatory sunset requirements for income tax credits introduce uncertainty that discourages investment and puts local jobs at risk.

Film productions plan years in advance, and unpredictable incentive structures make Hawai‘i less competitive compared to other states. HB 1843 would negatively impact local workers, small businesses, and the broader creative economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 7:38:51 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
wei lian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members,

I oppose HB 1843 because it would automatically sunset Hawaii’s Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit during a period of major disruption for the solar and energy storage industry.

The RETITC is a proven investment that supports local jobs, attracts private capital, reduces energy costs, and strengthens grid resilience. According to DBEDT, the credit generates more in state revenue and economic activity than it costs.

Abrupt or automatic sunsets create uncertainty, suppress investment, and slow clean energy deployment -- directly conflicting with Hawaii’s renewable energy and resilience goals. I respectfully urge the Legislature to defer HB 1843 and pursue a more strategic approach instead.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony,

Wei Lian

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 7:42:49 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cassie Fillhart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mandatory sunset dates create uncertainty that makes Hawai‘i less competitive for film and television production. This industry has allowed me to work, stay in Hawai‘i, and give back to my community. Film incentives already include accountability and oversight. Automatic sunsets will discourage productions from committing to Hawai‘i and will directly impact local jobs and small businesses.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 7:54:29 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strongly oppose- this will kill our film industry - everything we've worked so hard towards - building our local industry up- trying to get better incentives passed!

HB 1843 needs to go away!

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:29:31 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimee Balmilero	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kimee Balmilero, and I respectfully oppose HB 1843.

As a Hawai'i born actor who depends on film and television work, I know how important stability is in this industry. Productions plan years in advance, and when incentives feel uncertain or temporary, Hawai'i is often the first place taken off the list.

Mandatory sunset requirements create that uncertainty. Instead of protecting jobs, they make it harder for productions to commit to Hawai'i, which directly affects local workers and small businesses who rely on this work.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1843.

Thank you for your time,

Kimee Balmilero

Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Regular Session of 2026
House Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Testimony by IATSE International Trustee Tuia'ana Scanlan
February 11th, 2026

HB 1843 - RELATING TO TAX CREDITS

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the House committee,

My name is Tuia'ana Scanlan, IATSE International Trustee. The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees represents more than 170,000 Entertainment industry artisans and technicians in the United States, its territories, and Canada. **I strongly oppose HB1843**, Relating to Tax Credits.

In the past, it has been erroneously stated that “taxes are for receiving money, not giving money”. This is demonstratively false. The working class households pay significantly more in taxes than large corporations do. We collectively contribute in this way so as to support the initiatives and services that we all benefit from. The unintended consequences of a one-size-fits-all approach to the complexities of all state tax credits are far reaching and detrimental to the economic health of Hawai'i. Furthermore, it would undermine the efforts and intent of hundreds of other bills. It's a bad faith effort to supersede the will of not only your fellow legislators, but that of the people of Hawai'i. Each tax credit should be individually examined on its own merit and its relative sunset date should reflect the usage, impact, and necessity of the industry/industries it supports.

I strongly oppose HB 1843. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,



Tuia'ana Scanlan
IATSE International Trustee
He/him

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:35:23 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trevor Sullivan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

I oppose HB 1843 because it would automatically sunset Hawai‘i’s Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit during a period of major disruption for the solar and energy storage industry.

The RETITC is a proven investment that supports local jobs, attracts private capital, reduces energy costs, and strengthens grid resilience. According to DBEDT, the credit generates more in state revenue and economic activity than it costs.

Abrupt or automatic sunsets create uncertainty, suppress investment, and slow clean energy deployment -- directly conflicting with Hawai‘i’s renewable energy and resilience goals. I respectfully urge the Legislature to defer HB 1843 and pursue a more strategic approach instead.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 3:07:34 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cruz Romero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

I oppose HB 1843 because it would automatically sunset Hawaii’s Renewable Energy Technologies Income Tax Credit during a period of major disruption for the solar and energy storage industry.

The RETITC is a proven investment that supports local jobs, attracts private capital, reduces energy costs, and strengthens grid resilience. According to DBEDT, the credit generates more in state revenue and economic activity than it costs.

Abrupt or automatic sunsets create uncertainty, suppress investment, and slow clean energy deployment -- directly conflicting with Hawaii’s renewable energy and resilience goals. I respectfully urge the Legislature to defer HB 1843 and pursue a more strategic approach instead.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Cruz Romero

VP

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 4:18:35 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill because it will create significant obstacles and barriers that will prevent Hawai'i's legendary filmmaking industry to thrive.

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 6:27:53 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapala Novikoff	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the House committee,

My name is Kapala Novikoff. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. I strongly oppose HB1843, RELATING TO TAX CREDITS.

The tax credit to qualified producers has been a beneficial incentive, creating thousands of jobs for local people to support their families and enrich our community. In addition to contributing to the vibrancy of our creative community, this industry also pumps money into our economy. In 2024 our film and television industry generated \$324,150,100 in sales or economic activity, \$20,235,960 in estimated tax revenues, and \$74,948,000 in Hawaii household income generated because of the qualified productions. The film/tv/streaming industry also accounted for 2,247 jobs for 2023 . This measure calls for the eventual sunset or significant reduction of all income tax credits established or renewed after 12/31/2026 .

As written, this measure may have dire unintended consequences, not just for the film industry, but for a wide swath of the population of Hawaii, many of whom benefit in profound, life-altering ways from the tax credits this bill will kill.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wages 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. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program.

I strongly oppose HB1843. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Kapala Novikoff

HB-1843

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:48:15 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Myers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the House committee,

My name is Michael Myers. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. I strongly oppose HB1843, RELATING TO TAX CREDITS.

The tax credit to qualified producers has been a beneficial incentive, creating thousands of jobs for local people to support their families and enrich our community. In addition to contributing to the vibrancy of our creative community, this industry also pumps money into our economy. In 2024 our film and television industry generated \$324,150,100 in sales or economic activity, \$20,235,960 in estimated tax revenues, and \$74,948,000 in Hawaii household income generated because of the qualified productions. The film/tv/streaming industry also accounted for 2,247 jobs for 2023 . This measure calls for the eventual sunset or significant reduction of all income tax credits established or renewed after 12/31/2026 .

As written, this measure may have dire unintended consequences, not just for the film industry, but for a wide swath of the population of Hawaii, many of whom benefit in profound, life-altering ways from the tax credits this bill will kill.

Hawai'i's film industry supports thousands of working families in the state of Hawai'i. These thriving wages 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. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program.

I strongly oppose HB1843. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Michael Myers