



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'ŌIHA NA HO'ŌMOHALA PĀ'ŌIHA NA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA  
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

Statement of  
**GEORJA SKINNER**  
**Division Chief, Creative Industries**  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY**

Friday, February 6, 2025  
8:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

In consideration of  
**HB2267**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII FILM AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT  
SPECIAL FUND**

Chairs Ilagan, and Vice Chairs Hussey, and members of the Committee. The Creative Industries Division (CID) of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports HB2267, which expands the funding sources of Section 201-113, HRS, the Hawai'i Film and Creative Industries Development Special Fund (HFCD) to now include revenues received by DBEDT from production's use of the Hawaii Film Studio.

This administration bill expands the current funding streams which relies solely on revenues received from film and media facilities which DBEDT manages. As stated in the purpose section of the statute, the fund is intended to support content creators and growth of the state's digital export industry of creative intellectual.

HFCD is a component of DBEDT's broader vision to accelerate business and skills development, enhance infrastructure capabilities, and improve access to capital for local creative professionals in media, arts, music, design/fashion, animation and immersive storytelling sectors of Hawai'i's creative economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
Director  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
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In consideration of  
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**RELATING TO THE HAWAII FILM AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT  
SPECIAL FUND**

Chairs Ilagan, and Vice Chairs Hussey, and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports HB2267**, which strengthens the financial structure supporting Hawai'i's film and creative industries by aligning revenues generated from the management of the Hawai'i Film Studio with the statutory purpose of the Hawai'i Film and Creative Industries Development Special Fund (HFCF).

HB2267 allows revenues generated from productions' use of the Hawai'i Film Studio to be deposited into, and expended from, the HFCF. While DBEDT manages the Film Studio as a core production asset, current law directs these revenues to the General Fund, limiting the State's ability to strategically reinvest production-generated dollars back into the film and creative ecosystem that supports those productions.

This bill corrects that structural misalignment.

As global film and television production becomes increasingly competitive,

jurisdictions are no longer competing on tax incentives alone. States and countries are now competing on capacity, reliability, and infrastructure readiness, including access to soundstages, workforce depth, and production support facilities. Hawai'i's ability to attract, retain, and extend productions depends on maintaining and strengthening these assets.

HB2267 provides a targeted, sustainable mechanism to do so without creating new taxes, increasing incentives, or requiring additional General Fund appropriations.

The Hawai'i Film and Creative Industries Development Special Fund was established to support the growth of Hawai'i's creative economy, including workforce development, infrastructure, and access to capital for local content creators. Revenues generated by the Hawai'i Film Studio are directly tied to production activity and are most effectively used when reinvested into:

- Maintaining and upgrading production facilities;
- Supporting workforce training, internships, and pipeline development;
- Enhancing Hawai'i's capacity to accommodate longer production stays; and
- Seeding local content creation and digital export opportunities.

By allowing studio-generated revenues to flow back into the HFCF, HB2267 strengthens Hawai'i's production ecosystem and directly supports the State's broader Film Hawai'i strategy, which emphasizes infrastructure readiness, workforce development, and long-term industry sustainability.

This alignment is particularly important as productions increasingly make location decisions based on certainty, certainty of facilities, schedules, and crew availability. Reinforcing these fundamentals helps Hawai'i remain competitive in an environment where productions can and do relocate to jurisdictions with stronger infrastructure support.

While this bill redirects up to approximately \$400,000 annually from the General Fund, these revenues are generated directly through film production activity and are more effectively utilized when reinvested into the industry that produces them. Strengthening the film ecosystem supports continued production activity, local employment, and downstream tax revenues, reducing long-term reliance on General Fund support.

HB2267 ensures that the State's existing film infrastructure assets function not only as facilities, but as reinvestment engines that support Hawai'i's creative economy. By aligning production-generated revenues with their intended statutory purpose, this measure enhances Hawai'i's competitiveness, supports local workforce development, and advances the Film Hawai'i strategy in a fiscally responsible manner.

For these reasons, DBEDT supports HB2267 and respectfully urges the Committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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

Friday, February 6, 2026  
8:30 AM – Room 423, HI State Capitol

**TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT OF HB 2267****  
**RELATING TO TAXATION**

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

Mahalo, Representative Ilagan, for scheduling HB 2267 and allowing us to testify on this measure. The Hawai'i Film Alliance (HFA) submits this testimony in **strong support of HB 2267**.

HFA is a member-based organization comprised of over 600 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.

HB 2267 strengthens Hawai'i's investment in the creative economy by broadening the revenue base of the Hawai'i Film and Creative Industries Development Special Fund to include income from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism's management of the Hawai'i Film Studio.

**Enhances Long-Term Industry Infrastructure**

Including Hawai'i Film Studio revenues in the special fund creates a dedicated and sustainable resource for workforce development, facility improvements, and production support services which boosts our ability to attract a wide diversity of film, television, commercial, and digital media projects to the islands.

**Supports Year-Round Production Activity**

Expanding the Fund's revenue sources helps sustain ongoing programming, operations, and outreach that make filmmaking in Hawai'i more efficient and accessible for both large-scale productions and emerging local creators. Robust funding means more steady work for local crews, cast, technical professionals, and small businesses across multiple islands.

**Amplifies Hawai'i's Creative and Cultural Reach**

Strong, well-resourced film industry infrastructure not only attracts outside productions but also



inspires and supports local storytelling across formats such as documentaries and feature films to commercials and digital content. This economic and cultural amplification strengthens Hawai'i's global brand and gives voice to local talent and communities.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to pass HB 2267 to enrich and sustain Hawai'i's film and creative industries for diverse productions and long-term economic impact.

Alongside other measures aimed at improving the state's film industry, HB 2267 sends a clear message that Hawai'i is serious about supporting its workforce and maintaining a fair, competitive environment for production.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony. **HFA SUPPORTS HB 2267.**

**HB-2267**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 1:09:52 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angela Young	CAREWS	Support	In Person

Comments:

Support

**HB-2267**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 12:35:59 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cassie Fillhart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support!!

**HB-2267**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:35:44 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Genaro Hale Gualdarama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of bill HB2267.

**HB-2267**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:37:09 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniel Hamilton-Lowe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you

**HB-2267**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:12:35 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Salanoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan,

My name is John Salanoa and I stand in support of bill HB2267.

**HB-2267**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:31:05 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Eric Uyeda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO THIS BILL, UNLESS AMENDED

Relating to the Hawai‘i Film and Creative Industries Development Special Fund

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in opposition to this measure unless it is amended to include clear transparency, reporting, and accountability requirements.

I am not opposed to supporting Hawai‘i’s film and creative industries.

I am opposed to expanding or consolidating special funds without enforceable public transparency, especially when those funds are financed by production fees, public assets, and state-managed facilities.

CORE CONCERN: EXPANDING A FUND WITHOUT OVERSIGHT

This bill expands the Hawai‘i Film and Creative Industries Development Special Fund to include revenues generated from management of the Hawai‘i Film Studio, placing additional public income streams into a fund that already lacks:

- Clear public accounting
- Regular, detailed expenditure reporting
- Performance metrics tied to outcomes
- Easy public access to balances and uses

That is not acceptable.

WHY THIS IS A PROBLEM

1. The Fund Already Lacks Meaningful Transparency

At present, there is no clear, regularly published, easy-to-access public accounting that shows:

- How much money is deposited into the fund
- How much is spent annually
- Who receives funding
- What outcomes are produced

Expanding a fund before fixing transparency compounds the problem.

## 2. Studio Revenues Are Public Assets

The Hawai'i Film Studio is a public asset.

Revenues generated from its use should be:

- Traceable
- Auditable
- Clearly linked to public benefit

Moving those revenues into a special fund without additional safeguards makes it harder — not easier — for the public and the Legislature to understand how those assets are being monetized.

## 3. Special Funds Without Guardrails Erode Trust

Special funds can be useful tools — but only when they are:

- Narrowly defined
- Actively reported
- Performance-tracked

Without those guardrails, they become opaque holding accounts that weaken legislative oversight and public confidence.

## 4. No Reporting, No Metrics, No ROI Requirements

This bill does not require:

- Annual public reports detailing deposits and expenditures
- Project-level disclosure of fund usage
- Job creation, workforce development, or economic impact metrics

Public money should never move further away from scrutiny.

**REQUIRED AMENDMENTS TO CONSIDER SUPPORT**

I would only support this bill if it is amended to include, at minimum:

1. Annual public reporting, posted online, showing:
  - Beginning and ending fund balances
  - All deposits by source
  - All expenditures by program and recipient
2. Clear allowable uses of the fund, tied to:
  - Workforce development
  - Local hiring
  - Infrastructure with shared industry benefit
3. Performance metrics, including:
  - Jobs created or supported
  - Local vendor utilization
  - Measurable economic return
4. Legislative oversight, including:
  - Regular review by the Legislature
  - Sunset or reauthorization triggers tied to performance

Without these amendments, the bill should not move forward.

#### BOTTOM LINE

I am consistently opposed to any fund that grows without transparency.

If the Legislature believes the Hawai'i Film and Creative Industries Development Special Fund is worth expanding, then it is also worth fully disclosing how it operates, how much money it holds, and what the public receives in return.

Until that happens, expanding the fund — especially with revenues from the Hawai'i Film Studio — is premature and undermines accountability.

I respectfully urge the committee to hold or amend this bill to add transparency and reporting requirements before advancing it.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2267**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:13:35 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patrick Ah Loy	IATSE 665	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee. My name is Patrick Ah Loy, I've worked in the industry for 17 years. I stand on my written testimony in support of HB2267 Thank you for the opportunity to testify"*

**HB-2267**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 12:17:17 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joshua Meredith	Individual	Support	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 support HB 2267.

**HB-2267**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 4:31:29 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeff Juett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: