

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau
P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. No. 2269, Relating to the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production
Income Tax Credit

BEFORE THE:

House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

DATE: Friday, February 6, 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. 2269, an Administration measure.

HB 2269 makes multiple amendments to section 235-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), relating to the motion picture, digital media, and film production income tax credit ("film credit") as follows:

- Increases the credit amount which can be claimed for qualified production costs incurred in a county with a population of over 700,000 (Oahu) from 22 per cent to 27 per cent;
- Increases the credit amount which can be claimed for qualified production costs incurred in a county with a population of 700,000 or less (Neighbor Islands) from 27 per cent to 32 per cent;
- Adds a subsection requiring that no later than January 1, 2027, and each January 1 thereafter, claimants shall obtain independent third-party

certification of qualified production costs in the form of a tax opinion, while repealing the similar provision in Act 143, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2017;

- Increases the annual aggregate cap from \$50,000,000 to \$60,000,000, and removes the \$17,000,000 per production limit cap if qualified expenditures are at a minimum of \$60,000,000;
- Extends from December 31, 2032, to December 31, 2038, the taxpayer ability to carry forward excess claims not processed because the yearly cap has been met;
- Makes clarifying amendments to the definition of a “qualifying production” regarding broadcast versus streaming productions and the minimum qualifying number of per season episodes;
- Defines “streaming platform” as online providers of content delivered via the internet as a paid subscription service.

Section 6 of the measure extends the sunset of Act 88, SLH 2006, as amended, to apply to costs incurred before January 1, 2038.

The measure, upon approval, is effective retroactively on January 1, 2026.

DOTAX recommends that the effective date of the bill be amended to apply to costs incurred after December 31, 2025.

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



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Friday, February 06, 2026

8:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 423 and Videoconference

In Support

**House Bill No. 2269, Relating to the Motion Picture, Digital Media,
and Film Production Income Tax Credit**

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development & Technology:

The Office of the Governor strongly supports House Bill No. 2269. This bill will increase the film tax credit rate to 27% in counties with populations over 700,000 and to 32% in counties with populations under 700,000; lifts the \$17 million per-production cap for projects spending at least \$60 million; raises the annual statewide cap from \$50 million to \$60 million; extends the sunset date to January 1, 2038; and updates certification requirements while expanding and clarifying eligibility to include productions for streaming platforms.

The Office of the Governor believes enhancing the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit would incentivize the film industry to invest in Hawai'i's local workforce, creative talent, and culture. Greater utilization of the credit is projected to boost the State's GDP by \$14.2 million and earnings by \$16.1 million.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

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

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

In consideration of
HB2269
**RELATING TO THE MOTION PICTURE, DIGITAL MEDIA, AND FILM PRODUCTION
INCOME TAX CREDIT**

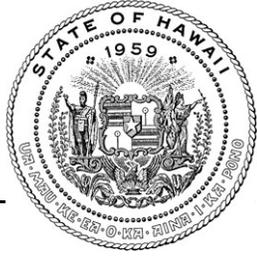
Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee. The Creative Industries Division (CID) of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports HB2269, which proposes targeted updates to Hawai'i's Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit program to improve competitiveness, program stability, and workforce development while maintaining fiscal accountability.

HB2269 increases the qualified production credit to better reflect rising production costs and evolving industry standards, lifts the per-production cap for large-scale projects, raises the annual aggregate cap, and extends the program's sunset date to provide long-term certainty. The bill also clarifies third-party certification requirements and updates statutory definitions to include streaming platforms, ensuring the tax credit framework remains current with industry practices.

When combined, these changes strengthen Hawai'i's ability to attract and retain film and digital media productions, expand local hiring and training opportunities, and support small businesses across the production ecosystem. HB2269 advances

DBEDT's broader policy goals of modernizing the program, fostering workforce development, and sustaining Hawai'i's creative economy. DBEDT respectfully urges passage of this measure.

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



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

LATE

AMENDED

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

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

February 6, 2026
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

In consideration of
HB2269
**RELATING TO THE MOTION PICTURE, DIGITAL MEDIA, AND FILM PRODUCTION
INCOME TAX CREDIT**

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports HB2269, an administrative measure that implements targeted updates to Hawai'i's Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit to ensure the program remains competitive, predictable, and aligned with the State's long-term Film Hawai'i strategy.

HB2269 is not a new policy direction. Rather, it is a measured implementation bill that advances provisions already identified in DBEDT's Film Hawai'i strategic framework and reflected in the Department's 2026 legislative priorities. The bill responds directly to documented market conditions, production cost escalation, and the increasing competition among jurisdictions for film and digital media projects.

Specifically, HB2269 modernizes the tax credit in four key ways:

First, the bill adjusts credit rates to better reflect inflation and rising production costs. Since the credit was last updated, its real value has declined significantly, reducing Hawai'i's competitiveness relative to other major filming jurisdictions that now offer incentives in the 30 to 40 percent range.

Second, the bill provides targeted relief from the per-production cap for large-scale projects with qualified expenditures of at least \$60 million. This provision is narrowly tailored and designed to allow Hawai'i to compete for high-impact productions without removing the annual aggregate cap, thereby preserving fiscal discipline.

Third, HB2269 extends the program's sunset date to 2038, providing the long-term certainty required for studio planning, financing decisions, and workforce investment. Predictability is a critical factor for productions deciding whether to base multi-season or large-format projects in Hawai'i.

Finally, the bill updates and clarifies program administration, including refining third-party certification requirements and explicitly recognizing streaming platforms. These changes ensure the statute reflects current industry practices and reduces ambiguity for applicants and administering agencies.

Taken together, these updates strengthen Hawai'i's ability not only to attract productions, but to retain them long enough to build local workforce capacity, support small and medium-sized businesses, expand post-production activity, and connect productions to curriculum-to-career pathways. These outcomes are central to the Film Hawai'i strategy and to the State's broader goals of economic diversification and resilience.

Importantly, HB2269 maintains appropriate safeguards. The annual cap remains in place, and the Department of Taxation and Department of Budget and Finance retain their respective roles in fiscal oversight and program administration. The bill does not expand eligibility beyond existing production categories; it ensures the incentive functions as intended in a highly competitive global market.

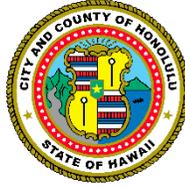
For these reasons, DBEDT respectfully supports HB2269 and urges its passage as a necessary administrative update to sustain Hawai'i's creative economy and align statute with the State's strategic direction for film and digital media.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

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

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

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



WALEA L. CONSTANTINAU
FILM COMMISSIONER
Kominina Līpine

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

February 6, 2026 8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423 and via Videoconference

RE: HB 2269 RELATING TO THE MOTION PICTURE, DIGITAL MEDIA AND FILM PRODUCTION
INCOME TAX CREDIT – **STRONG SUPPORT AND COMMENTS**

Dear Chair Ilagan Vice-chair Hussey and members of the committees:

The Honolulu Film Office would like to thank the Legislature and in particular this committee for its collaboration and long-standing support of Hawai'i's Film Industry. **We are at a crucial juncture** with our industry and the industry-supporting proposals this Legislative Session **are vital for the industry to address market changes and remain competitive.**

We strongly support the portions of this measure that:

- Update the film tax credit percentages to answer shifts in the market,
- Support attracting more of a production to film in Hawai'i which will allow the industry base to grow and develop infrastructure,
- Address technical issues that will streamline the tax filing process for both the State and Filers by using a Third Party Audit.

We offer these friendly amendments to take under advisement:

- Restore the Third Party language as discussed last session which would **exclude productions under \$1 million from the requirement.** Third Party Audits make sense for larger productions but can be cost-prohibitive for smaller productions, which would largely adversely affect our local filmmakers,
- Update and modernize a portion of the credit by deleting item (3) on line 7 of page 5 which currently excludes advertising messages for internet-only distribution. It is an outdated definition of a 'commercial' **and would inadvertently restrict commercials made for streaming platforms that allow advertising,** a strong growth-trend for that market segment.

Mahalo to the Chair and members of this committee who have been so supportive over the years, investing your time and mana'o to gain insights and an understanding of the needs of the industry and the significant economic benefits that the film industry brings to Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.



February 6, 2026

Committee on Economic Development & Technology
Chair Ilagan
Vice Chair Hussey

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

[RE: HB 2269 RELATING TO THE MOTION PICTURE, DIGITAL MEDIA, AND FILM PRODUCTION INCOME TAX CREDIT.](#)

DATE: Friday, February 6, 2026

TIME: 8:30am

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 **SUPPORT** of [HB 2269 RELATING TO THE MOTION PICTURE, DIGITAL MEDIA, AND FILM PRODUCTION INCOME TAX CREDIT.](#)

SAG-AFTRA represents over 160,000 actors, recording artists, and media professionals nationwide and over 1400 in Hawai'i. 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.

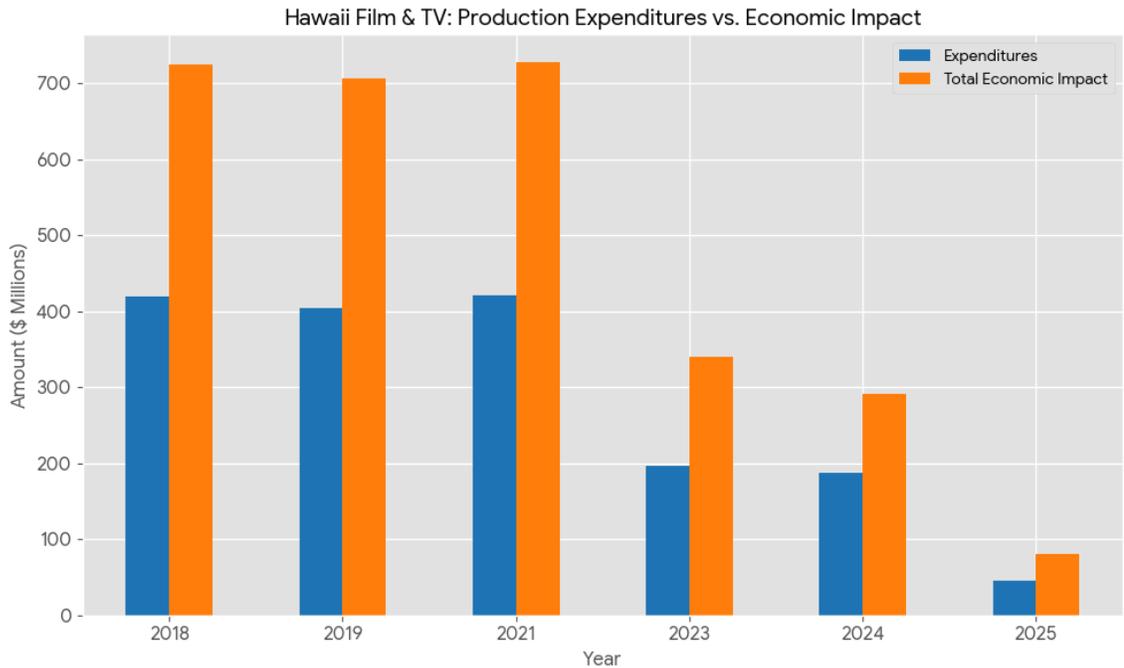
Raising the annual aggregate cap to **\$60 million** and excluding high-spend productions (those over \$60 million) from the individual \$17 million cap encourages large-scale projects that provide long-term, stable employment for our local cast and crew to stay in Hawaii.

Including "**streaming platforms**" in the definition of qualified productions reflects the reality of today's media landscape. Our members are increasingly working on high-budget streaming content, and our tax laws must evolve to capture this market.

Mericia Palma Elmore, JD/MLSc
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

Extending the sunset date to **2038** provides the industry with the predictability it needs. Studio executives and producers plan years in advance; they need to know that Hawaii's commitment to film is here to stay.



We have been through significant declines in production expenditures these last couple of years. These are not just bars on a chart, these numbers¹ reflect real local families struggling to pay bills, make ends meet, and in some cases eventually moving away for better opportunities.

When a production chooses Hawaii, it isn't just about the actors on screen. It is about hundreds of local jobs, from crew and stunt performers, to the local small businesses that provide catering, lumber, and equipment. This bill is a direct investment in Hawaii's middle-class creative workforce.

¹ Reports found here: <https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/overview/annual-reports-reports-to-the-legislature/>



We urge the Committee to **pass HB 2269** to keep Hawaii's storytellers working here at home.

Respectfully,

Mericia Palma Elmore

Mericia Palma Elmore, Executive Director SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local

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

SCREEN ACTORS GUILD - AMERICAN FEDERATION OF
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Testimony in Support of HB 2269

Relating to Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Tax Credits

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

My name is Gerard Elmore, and I am the Executive Director of 'Ohina Labs, a Hawai'i-based nonprofit dedicated to growing local film, television, and digital media talent and strengthening Hawai'i's creative economy. We strongly support HB 2269, which expands the scale and duration of Hawai'i's film and digital media tax credit program.

HB 2269 addresses one of the most critical needs in today's production environment: stability. Large studios and streaming platforms plan projects years, sometimes decades, in advance. By raising the annual tax credit cap to \$60 million, increasing the credit percentage (up to 32% on neighbor islands), and extending the program's sunset date to 2038, Hawai'i sends a clear and powerful signal that it is committed to being a long-term production partner.

This stability directly translates into steady, well-paying local jobs. When studios have confidence in a program's longevity, they are far more likely to base long-running series, franchises, and multi-project slates in one location. That means consistent employment for union crews, ongoing opportunities for local vendors, and durable career pathways for Hawai'i residents rather than short-term, one-off projects.

The enhanced neighbor island credit is especially important. It incentivizes productions to film beyond O'ahu, spreading economic benefits to rural communities, supporting small businesses, and helping to build local capacity across the state.

For organizations like 'Ohina Labs, which focus on developing local talent, predictability in the production ecosystem is essential. A stable and competitive incentive program ensures that the workforce we train can find meaningful, sustained employment here at home, rather than being forced to leave Hawai'i to build careers elsewhere.

HB 2269 is an investment in long-term economic growth, workforce stability, and Hawai'i's competitiveness in a rapidly evolving global media industry. We respectfully urge your strong support of this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Gerard Elmore

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerard Elmore".

Executive Director

'Ohina Labs

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:55:17 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pride at Work – Hawai‘i	Pride at Work – Hawai‘i	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Pride at Work – Hawai‘i is an official chapter of [Pride at Work](#) which is a national nonprofit organization that represents LGBTQIA+ union members and their allies. We are an officially recognized constituency group of the AFL-CIO that organizes mutual support between the organized Labor Movement and the LGBTQIA+ Community to further social and economic justice.

Pride at Work – Hawai‘i fully supports HB 2269.

We ask that you support this needed piece of legislation.

Mahalo,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)

President

[Pride at Work – Hawai‘i](#)



TESTIMONY OF DAVE ERDMAN, PRESIDENT & CEO
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
FEBRUARY 4, 2026
**IN SUPPORT OF HB 2269 - RELATING TO THE MOTION PICTURE, DIGITAL
MEDIA, AND FILM PRODUCTION INCOME TAX CREDIT**

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

My name is Dave Erdman, and I am the Interim President and CEO of Retail Merchants of Hawai'i (RMH), a statewide nonprofit trade association representing retailers, shopping centers, and allied businesses across the islands.

Retail Merchants of Hawai'i supports HB 2269.

Motion picture, digital media, and streaming productions generate immediate and measurable benefits for Hawai'i's retail sector. Productions purchase goods locally, rent equipment, rely on nearby restaurants and food retailers, generate foot traffic at shopping centers and neighborhood businesses, and support our allied members who are experts in logistics. Cast and crew spending supports grocery stores, apparel, pharmacies, service businesses, and visitor-facing retail throughout the duration of a project.

HB 2269 strengthens Hawai'i's ability to attract productions and longer-running series by increasing the qualified production credit, adjusting county incentives, and raising project and annual caps. These changes directly support more consistent and sustained retail spending, rather than short, one-time production activity.

Large-scale and long-term productions provide stability for retailers by supporting year-round employment, predictable customer demand, and higher visitor spending. This is especially important for retailers operating with narrow margins and facing rising labor, rent, and operating costs.

Including streaming platforms as qualified productions reflects current market realities and significantly expands Hawai'i's ability to compete for projects that now dominate the global production pipeline. Clarifying third-party certification requirements also improves program efficiency and certainty, helping productions move forward without delays that can reduce local spending.

For Hawai'i retailers, film and digital media production is not just a cultural benefit, but a practical economic driver that supports sales, jobs, and small businesses across the islands.

For these reasons, Retail Merchants of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to pass HB 2269.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Erdman
Interim President & CEO
Retail Merchants of Hawai'i



Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

1321 Kino'ole Street - Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Phone (808) 935-7178 - Fax (808) 961-4435 - Email exec@hicc.biz - www.hicc.biz

Executive Officer

Carla Kuo

2025-2026

Board of Directors

President

David Kurohara

President-Elect

Dennis Lin

Vice President

Bonnie Irwin

Treasurer

Joshua Vierra

Immediate Past

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Jeremy Chong

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Mark Chun

Dean Fuke

Larisa Hamamoto

Dayna Kawazoe

Daniel Kea

Randy Kurohara

Geoli Ng

Matthew Pickett

James Staub

Jase Takeya

Nimr Tamimi

Jennifer Tobey

Joni Waltjen

Irene Yamanaka

Tracie Yoshimoto

Testimony to the House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

**Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair
Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair**

Friday, February 6, 2026 at 8:30 AM

RE: HB2269 Relating to the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit - SUPPORT

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

The Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 350 businesses and individual members primarily on the east side of Hawai'i Island, **strongly supports HB2269**, which strengthens Hawai'i's competitiveness in the motion picture and digital media industry while encouraging long-term investment with statewide economic benefits.

HB2269 addresses the higher costs of filming on neighbor islands by increasing the qualified production credit to 32 percent in counties with populations under 700,000, while increasing the credit to 27 percent in counties with populations over 700,000. This adjustment helps level the playing field and incentivizes productions to film outside of O'ahu, bringing jobs and direct economic activity to Hawai'i Island and other neighbor-island communities.

In addition to immediate economic impacts, film and digital media productions provide long-term value through destination marketing. On-location filming showcases Hawai'i's landscapes, culture, and communities to global audiences, driving visitor interest and supporting tourism-related businesses well beyond the production period.

The bill also lifts the per-production cap for larger projects, increases the annual statewide cap to \$60 million, modernizes the program to include qualified streaming productions, clarifies third-party certification requirements, and extends the sunset date to January 1, 2038—providing the certainty and accountability needed to attract sustained industry investment.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges your support and passage of HB2269. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Kuo
Executive Officer
Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:29:04 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

My name is Aubrey Staley, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of my talent agency, which represents Hawai'i-based actors, creators, and industry professionals who rely directly on a stable and competitive film and television economy.

I strongly support HB 2269, the Governor's Film Tax Credit Bill.

HB 2269 modernizes Hawai'i's film tax credit to reflect the current realities of production, including streaming platforms, higher production costs, and long-term industry planning. By increasing the base credit and extending the sunset date, this bill provides certainty and competitiveness in an increasingly global market.

For local talent and crew, these incentives are not abstract numbers they translate directly into jobs, career longevity, and the ability to build sustainable lives in Hawai'i without relocating to the mainland. When productions choose Hawai'i, our local workforce benefits immediately. Displacement of Native Hawaiians is already a huge issue and I would hate to see the Kanakas that I represent who already have thriving careers like Moses Goods and Kaipō Dudoit have to move to Los Angeles, both who are already not wanting to.

HB 2269 is a necessary step to ensure Hawai'i remains a viable destination for film and television production while supporting local workers and small businesses across multiple sectors.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of Hawai'i's creative economy.

Mahalo,
Aubrey Lee Staley

Owner ALA Hawaii

February 6, 2026

House Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair
Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

Friday, February 6, 2026, 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room #423 and via video conference



RE: HB 2269 Relating to the Motion Picture, Digital Media and Film Production Income Tax Credit

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey and members of the Committee,

My name is Kiran Polk, and I am the Executive Director & CEO of the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce. The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce is an advocate for businesses in the Kapolei region including Waipahu, Kapolei, 'Ewa Beach, Nānakūli, Wai'anae, and Mākaha. We work on behalf of our members and the broader business community to improve the regional and State economic climate and to help West O'ahu businesses thrive.

The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce is in **strong support of HB 2269**, which updates Hawai'i's Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit to improve competitiveness, strengthen accountability, and support long-term industry growth. Specifically, this measure increases the qualified production credit to twenty-seven percent in counties with populations over seven hundred thousand and thirty-two percent in counties with populations of seven hundred thousand or less; lifts the per-production cap of \$17,000,000 for productions with qualified expenditures of at least \$60,000,000; increases the annual statewide cap from \$50,000,000 to \$60,000,000; extends the sunset date of the credit to January 1, 2038; clarifies and amends the requirement for independent third-party certification; and expands the definition of "qualified production" to include productions created for streaming platforms.

For decades, television series such as Magnum P.I., Hawai'i Five-O, and NCIS: Hawai'i filmed in West O'ahu, generating consistent demand for local restaurants, food vendors, transportation companies, equipment suppliers, cleaning services, and other small businesses. These productions provided more than short-term activity, they created steady revenue streams and sustained jobs that allowed local businesses and workers to remain rooted in our communities.

Today, for the first time in decades, Hawai'i does not have a television series filming in the State. This absence has been felt acutely in West O'ahu, where small businesses have lost customers, workers have lost income, and families have felt the ripple effects of reduced production activity. At the same time, **productions are increasingly choosing to film in other states and countries that offer more competitive and predictable incentive programs.**

This trend underscores that **Hawai'i's current incentive structure is no longer keeping pace in an increasingly competitive global market. Without meaningful updates, the State risks continued erosion of film-related economic activity, particularly in regions like West O'ahu that have demonstrated the capacity to support large-scale productions and associated workforce needs.**

Strengthening Hawai'i's film incentives through HB 2269 will help bring productions back, restore business activity for small businesses, and reestablish stable employment opportunities for local workers. **This is especially important as a film studio is planned for West O'ahu, positioning the region to become a significant hub for creative industry growth if the policy environment supports it.**

HB 2269 represents an important opportunity to reaffirm Hawai'i's commitment to supporting small businesses, retaining local jobs, and ensuring that West O'ahu remains an active and competitive participant in the State's economic development strategy.

For these reasons, the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce **strongly supports HB 2269** and respectfully urges the Committee to pass this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Kiran Polk
Executive Director & CEO



**WAIANAЕ COAST
COMPREHENSIVE
HEALTH CENTER**

**Friday, February 6, 2026 8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference room 423**

Hawai'i State House Committee on Economic Development and Technology (EDC)

To: Representative Ilagan, Chair,
Representative Hussey, Vice Chair

From: Ian Ross
Public Affairs Director
ianross@wcchc.com | (808)652-3380

**RE: SUPPORT FOR HB2269 - RELATING TO THE MOTION PICTURE, DIGITAL MEDIA,
AND FILM PRODUCTION INCOME TAX CREDIT**

Aloha and mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of House Bill No. 2269, which would strengthen Hawai'i's film incentives.

Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) is a Federally Qualified Health Center dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the West O'ahu community by providing accessible and affordable medical care. With 53 years of service, WCCHC is committed to providing comprehensive healthcare by addressing social determinants of health.

Access to good-paying jobs are closely tied to health outcomes. When local residents have steady employment, it improves housing stability, food security, and overall well-being.

Television and film productions such as Magnum P.I., Hawai'i Five-O, and NCIS: Hawai'i have previously filmed in West O'ahu, bringing economic activity to local businesses, creating jobs for residents, and supporting families across the region. These productions generate income not only for those directly employed in the industry, but also for small businesses and service providers that rely on increased local spending.

With no television series currently filming in Hawai'i, West O'ahu communities are losing important sources of economic activity and employment. Productions are increasingly choosing to film elsewhere as Hawai'i's incentives have become less competitive.

Strengthening Hawai'i's film incentives will help attract productions back to the state, support jobs and small businesses in West O'ahu, and contribute to a healthier local economy. These investments are especially important as plans move forward for a film studio in the region, offering long-term opportunities for workforce development and economic growth.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and for considering the economic and community health needs of West O'ahu.

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 **STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2269**
RELATING TO THE MOTION PICTURE, DIGITAL MEDIA AND FILM PRODUCTION INCOME TAX
CREDIT

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

Mahalo for hearing our concerns over the past several months and for introducing HB 2269 as a result of those conversations. The Hawai'i Film Alliance (HFA) submits this testimony in strong support of **HB 2269**.

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, including crew, talent, independent filmmakers and support services that enable films to operate locally.

Long-term film projects have been non-existent these past two years, and HB 2269 has key components that will immediately **strengthen Hawai'i's film-friendly reputation**:

- **Removes the per production cap for films over \$60M.** This is an akamai game-changer to entice large format films.
- **Adds streaming language** to embrace the digital platforms of distribution that make Hawai'i competitive. Films that go directly to streaming are now welcome to film in Hawai'i.
- **Raises the overall film production cap to \$60 million dollars.** The increase to the tax credit signals to the world that the State of Hawai'i supports film. This support has not gone unnoticed in this economic climate.
- **Raises the base points** to 27% for Oahu-based filming and 32% for neighbor-island filming. Getting over the 30% threshold across the state has been a goal of ours, so seeing this begin on the neighbor islands is a huge step in the right direction.
- **Re-establishes the requirement for a third-party, certification** to assist in the administering of the film tax credit. This will help to expedite credit payments.



HB 2269 supports **economic diversification** at a time when Hawai'i must reduce overreliance on a single sector. Film and creative media production brings **outside capital** into the state, **circulates dollars locally for at least 18 months before the credit is paid out**, and enhances Hawai'i's global visibility in a way that aligns with cultural storytelling, place-based identity, and community pride.

The film industry generates high-quality jobs across a wide range of skill levels, from production crews and post-production professionals to construction, transportation, hospitality, and local vendors. These are high-paying, project-based opportunities that provide pathways into creative and technical careers for Hawai'i residents.

With the loss of Hawai'i residents to out-of-state locales, **graduates of the School of Cinematic Arts program at UH Mānoa and the Academy of Creative Media program at UH-West 'Oahu** need a **vibrant film industry** that allow them to **work at home in the islands**. Having them stay home to raise families and nurture relationships with Aloha is part of what makes the Hawaiian culture so attractive and unique.

HFA recognizes that a strong incentive framework encourages productions to commit to Hawai'i for the long term. Our film history shows that two television series filming simultaneously build careers, **stabilizes families**, provides upward **departmental promotion**, promotes **infrastructure growth**, and **deepens partnerships** with local professionals and businesses. These outcomes are essential to building a resilient industry that benefits residents first.

The film tax credit does not just provide jobs for local residents. It is a **reliable tax revenue source** for the state. In 2022, **tourists** who came to Hawai'i because of a film they saw **spent \$1 Billion dollars** which generated **\$121 Million in state tax revenue**¹. Couple that with state taxes paid by film workers and supporting businesses, and you have a tax incentive that more than pays for itself year after year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your continued support of Hawai'i's film and creative media community. **Please pass HB 2269.**

¹ https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/film_impacts_on_tourism_feb_2024.pdf

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:52:58 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Young	Tyler Young Films, LLC.	Support	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 support of HB2269 to modernize the film tax credit.

Hawaii’s film and television industry provides critical jobs and economic activity for local workers and small businesses. Updating the film tax credit to reflect modern production realities, including streaming, is essential to keeping work in Hawaii. HB2269 strengthens our local workforce, supports long-term industry stability, and helps ensure Hawaii remains a competitive production destination.

I urge you to pass HB2269 to better support our film and television production, and to supercharge our local economies where everyone benefits from a robust film and television industry.

Sincerely,

Tyler Young

Creative Producer

Tyler Young Films LLC.

Honolulu, Hawaii



The Senate
The Thirty-Third Legislature
Regular Session of 2026

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair
Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

RE: HB2269 RELATING TO THE MOTION PICTURE, DIGITAL MEDIA, AND
FILM PRODUCTION INCOME TAX CREDIT

Date: Friday, February 6, 2026
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 423
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

February 5, 2026

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

We **STRONGLY SUPPORT** SB 2269 with the following comments and suggested changes:

- **Recognition of Independent Third-Party Certificates/Exemption:** We support the requirement of the Independent Third-Party Certificate but only if the certificates are recognized by DBEDT and DoTax, both of which have disregarded these certificates in the past and have proceeded with their own internal audits of every tax credit claim irrespective of evidence of non-compliance with the statute. Given the cost to obtain such certificates, qualified productions with less than

\$1,000,000 in qualified spend should be exempt from the requirement as they have been in the past.

- **Classification by Distribution Platform:** It should not matter whether a qualified production is distributed via streaming, broadcast or the internet, provided that the requisite amount of qualified expenditures are made in the state. The distinction between “streaming” and “broadcast” is also ambiguous since some qualified productions are distributed on both streaming and broadcast platforms. For the same reason, the exclusion of commercials that “include an advertising message with internet-only distribution” should also be eliminated.

We **PROPOSE** the following changes:

- **Distribution of Credit Proposed Language:**

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

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

Allowing investors to reallocate tax credits does not increase the cost to the state but makes it easier to attract investment for local film productions.

- **Studio Facilities Proposed Language:**

Proposed Language:

“Qualified Production”:

(2) Means a studio facility located on property owned by the state or any county.

“Qualified production costs” means...

(12) Development and construction costs relating to a studio facility.

Basis for Proposed Language: The inclusion of Studio Facilities as a Qualified Production will allow for much needed infrastructure support while providing ongoing revenue to the state and/or county. At the same time, the necessary approval of the governmental entity for the use of such property will allow for the flexibility of different facilities without restrictive statutory requirements.

About Island Film Group

Island Film Group is the largest locally owned and operated production company having produced more than 100 film, television and commercial projects in Hawaii. We began working in Hawaii’s film and television industry in 2004 as attorneys at Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel, where we represented mainland studios, local filmmakers and other production companies.

Me ke aloha,

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



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 423
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2026 AT 8:30 A.M.**

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

**SUPPORT HB2269 RELATING TO THE MOTION PICTURE, DIGITAL MEDIA, AND FILM
PRODUCTION INCOME TAX CREDIT**

The Maui Chamber of Commerce supports HB2269 because it focuses on strengthening the state's motion picture, digital media, and film production sectors. The proposed enhancements to the production income tax credit, particularly for counties with smaller populations such as Maui, align with our mission to foster a more resilient and diversified economy that benefits residents and businesses alike.

Increasing the production credit percentages and lifting the per-production cap for high-expenditure projects provide a compelling incentive for large-scale productions to choose Hawai'i, especially on the neighbor islands. By expanding eligibility to include streaming platforms, the bill also modernizes the credit to reflect current industry trends, supporting job creation and investment in creative industries beyond traditional film and television. These measures can help diversify local economic activity, reduce reliance on tourism, and create new opportunities for local talent and suppliers.

We also note that raising the annual cap and extending the sunset date provide greater predictability for both industry stakeholders and state planners. This stability is essential for attracting long-term investment and enabling local businesses to plan for growth. The requirement for independent third-party certification and the clarified definitions further strengthen accountability and ensure that the program delivers intended benefits.

We appreciate the Legislature's attention to these priorities and encourage passage of HB2269.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

735 Bishop Street, Suite 417

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: INCOME, Increase Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit

BILL NUMBER: HB 2269, SB 3088

INTRODUCED BY: HB by NAKAMURA by request; SB by KOUCHI by request (Governor's Package)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Increases the qualified production credit from twenty-two per cent to twenty-seven per cent in any county of the State with a population of over seven hundred thousand and twenty-seven per cent to thirty-two per cent in any county of the State with a population of less than seven hundred thousand. Lifts the per production cap of \$17,000,000 for productions with qualified expenditures of \$60,000,000 per project. Increases the annual cap to \$60,000,000 from \$50,000,000 for the total amount of the motion picture, digital media, and film production income tax credit allowed under section 235-17, HRS, and extends the sunset date of the tax credit to January 1, 2038. Clarifies and amends the requirement for an independent third-party certification and expands the definition of "qualified production" to include streaming platforms for the motion picture, digital media, and film production income tax credit. Includes a definition of "streaming platform".

SYNOPSIS: Amends sec 235-17(a), HRS, to increase the tax credit from 22% to 27% for qualified production in any county with a population of over 700,000 and from 27% to 32% for qualified production in counties with populations less than 700,000.

Amends sec 235-17(h), HRS, to require each film production that is claiming a tax credit to obtain an independent third-party certification of qualified production costs eligible for the credit, in the form of a tax opinion, to be submitted to DBEDT no later than January 1, 2027, and each January 1 thereafter.

Amends section 235-17(l), HRS, to exclude from the per-production tax credit limit any production incurring at least \$60 million of qualified production costs.

Amends section 235-17(n), HRS, to raise the aggregate cap statewide from \$50 million to \$60 million, and to extend the sunset date of the credit to January 1, 2038.

Amends section 235-17(o), HRS, to amend the qualified production definitions to allow streaming platform series to qualify.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Retroactive to January 1, 2026.

STAFF COMMENTS: This is an Administration bill sponsored by DBEDT and designated BED-12 (26).

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

After a period where this credit took a back seat to the qualified high tech business program enacted by Act 221, SLH 2001, this credit was next amended by Act 88, SLH 2006, which added credits for digital media and replaced the GET and TAT bifurcation with a unified credit of 15% of qualified production costs incurred in the C&C of Honolulu and 20% in any other county. The act added a per-production cap of \$8 million and sunset the credit on Jan. 1, 2016.

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

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

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

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

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

Re: HB 2269

Page 3

Internet-only distribution and streaming would seem to represent a different cost profile and employment profile from other kinds of productions. Perhaps appropriate industry representatives would be able to help justify application of this credit.

Digested: 2/4/2026

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 5:00:06 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Laprete	Hawaii Film Alliance	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for bringing this bill to the forefront.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:46:31 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

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

I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2269** relating to the motion picture, digital media, and film production income tax credit.

I want to thank Representative Ilagan for his tireless efforts to enhance the production income tax credit. As the owner and president of the largest vendor in this sector in Hawaii, I hereby testify that the enhancements suggested in this bill will be exceptionally effective in revitalizing the movie production industry in general, and my company specifically.

Mahalo!

Danny Rosner

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 1:02:31 AM

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

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

Comments:

Support.



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

**Friday, February 6, 2026, at 8:30AM
Conference Room 423 & Videoconference**

RE: HB2269 Relating to the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit

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 supports House Bill 2269 (HB2269), which strengthens Hawai'i's existing production tax credit by increasing the credit percentages, raising the annual cap, lifting per-production limits for larger productions, and extending the sunset date of the incentive program to 2038.

HB2269 aligns with our 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii: An Economic Action Plan, specifically under the policy pillar for Economic Action. This bill broadens Hawai'i's economic base by providing the economic support and stimulus necessary for economic diversification. Revising these tax credit structures help to attract industry investment that can create sizeable economic impulse for those industries that enable film production activity. Collectively, these ripple effects support broader workforce participation, strengthen Hawaii's creative and technical labor pools, and encourage local businesses to participate in a wider range of contracting opportunities.

Hawaii offers unique proprietary value to the film industry, privileging the state with a competitive advantage relative to other locations: year-round temperate weather, a diverse population, natural beauty, strong cultural capital, and an internationally recognized brand. By updating the existing tax credit structure, Hawaii's film industry is better able to leverage this inherent competitive advantage and reduce barriers that may deter industry investment. The Chamber supports policy that encourages positive economic impulse and ripple effects, encourages economic diversification, and supports workforce participation.

We respectfully ask to pass House Bill 2269. 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-2269

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 4:35:55 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Marie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 5:33:52 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha,

While I am in full support of the increasing tax credits for the film industry, I suggest that this bill integrate aspects of HB1939 into it, specifically having an emphasis on supporting projects with a high percentage of local hires, especially “Above-the-Line” positions. These tax credits need to drive the local economy and the local residents, thus including a requirement that anchors these projects to using local talent is needed.

Similar to my testimony for HB1939, I think that a report should be required of film productions that apply for the tax credit, sharing the following points so that the public is informed of the positive impacts these film projects are having on the local economy:

Provide evidence of reasonable efforts to hire local talent and crew;

Provide evidence when making any claim for products or services acquired or rendered outside of this State that reasonable efforts were unsuccessful to secure and use comparable products or services within this State;

Provide evidence of financial or in-kind contributions or educational or workforce development efforts, in partnership with related local industry labor organizations, educational institutions, or both, toward the furtherance of the local film and television and digital media industries;

Otherwise, I am in full support of this bill and hope this helps the long-time residents in the film industry in Hawaii.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Keoni Shizuma

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 8:53:40 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Romano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill ! Mahalo nui loa!

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:43:35 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Shereen Balles and I am in full SUPPORT of HB 2269.

Raising the annual aggregate cap to \$60 million and excluding high-spend productions (those over \$60 million) from the individual \$17 million cap encourages large-scale projects that provide long-term, stable employment for our local cast and crew to stay in Hawaii. Including "streaming platforms" in the definition of qualified productions reflects the reality of today's media landscape. Our members are increasingly working on high-budget streaming content, and our tax laws must evolve to capture this market.

Thank you Committee for hearing HB2269.

Me ke Aloha,

Shereen Balles

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:43:58 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Randall Yokota. I am a small farmer in Waimanalo and I am also a SAG-AFTRA union actor. I am in support of this bill because we need to show all of the film productions that we are serious about bringing and making more films in Hawaii. Hawaii needs to support the film industry because it supports the local economy in so many ways. Just think of what it takes to make a movie or a TV shows. From construction, electrical, plumbing, wardrobe clothing, hiring local vendors and food trucks for scenes to name of few. So, it is of most important to pass this bill. Mahalo

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:45:42 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward C Lou-Goode	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

More film and tv biz benefits everyone!

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:49:22 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mason McEwen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stability. Studios plan years in advance. By extending the credit to 2038 and raising the cap, Hawaii signals to major studios that they can build long-term franchises and series here, providing you with years of steady, local employment.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:43:42 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ute K Finch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let's remove the obstacles to get money flowing back into our state. Mahalo!

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:46:40 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric K. Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For Stability. Studios plan years in advance. By extending the credit to 2038 and raising the cap, Hawaii signals to major studios that they can build long-term franchises and series here, providing you with years of steady, local employment.

As any large organization future planning is key for future growth. Let us think forward and holomua.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:58:36 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayva Escobar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:02:33 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beatriz Talerico	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Beatriz, and I am a Hawai‘i-based writer working in film, television, and digital media. I strongly support this measure to modernize and strengthen Hawai‘i’s Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit.

Increasing the qualified production credit percentages by county reflects the real costs of producing in Hawai‘i and incentivizes production across all islands. Raising the per-production cap and the annual aggregate cap provides the scale and certainty needed to attract larger projects while sustaining mid-size productions that consistently hire local talent.

Extending the sunset date to 2038 is especially important. Long-term stability allows producers, studios, and local workers to plan, invest, and grow careers in Hawai‘i rather than treating the state as a short-term option. Clarifying third-party certification requirements strengthens accountability while preserving program integrity.

Expanding the definition of qualified production to include streaming platforms is essential. The industry has shifted, and Hawai‘i must keep pace to remain competitive and relevant in today’s production landscape.

This measure supports local jobs, local storytellers, and a sustainable creative economy statewide. I urge your support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Beatriz
Writer, Hawai‘i

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:13:45 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manda Mae Emery	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a local actress I strongly urge support of this bill. Bring film BACK to our native Hawaiian land & its film community. Thank you.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:17:26 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

My name is Kamuela Chandler, and I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 2269 as an actor and independent filmmaker who lives and works here in Hawai‘i.

I create films with little to no budget, often wearing multiple hats as a writer, director, actor, and producer just to keep stories alive. Like many local creatives, I don’t have access to large studios, major investors, or mainland infrastructure. What we do have is Hawai‘i’s people, landscapes, culture, and a deep desire to tell stories that come from this place rather than simply use it as a backdrop.

The motion picture and digital media tax credit has real, tangible impacts on people like me. It doesn’t just attract large productions — it creates paid work for local crew members, performers, editors, drivers, caterers, and small businesses. It keeps talent here instead of forcing creatives to leave Hawai‘i just to survive in this industry.

HB 2269 represents an important step toward keeping Hawai‘i competitive in a national and global production environment that is changing rapidly. Expanding eligibility to include streaming platforms reflects the reality of how audiences now consume content. Increasing the credit rates and caps sends a clear message that Hawai‘i values its creative economy not only as tourism promotion, but as a legitimate, long-term industry that can provide sustainable careers for local residents.

From my perspective on the ground, what makes the biggest difference is consistency and confidence. When productions know Hawai‘i is committed to stable, forward-looking film

policy, they invest here. When they invest here, local creatives gain experience, credits, and income that allow them to grow professionally and stay rooted in their communities.

This bill is not just about attracting outside productions — it is about building pathways for Hawai‘i’s own filmmakers, actors, and digital creators to move from micro-budget projects into sustainable, professional careers without having to leave home to do so.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 2269 and continue strengthening Hawai‘i’s creative economy in a way that uplifts local talent, small businesses, and the next generation of storytellers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share my perspective and for your continued service to our state.

Sincerely,

Kamuela Chandler

Actor & Independent Filmmaker

Member - Hawaii Film Alliance

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 12:20:15 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Fong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a union member, I support HB 2269. Extending and expanding the film tax credit encourages major productions to stay in Hawaii longer, creating stable, long-term employment for local performers and crew.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 12:25:42 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inge Romoschan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support **HB 2269**

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 12:33:48 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cassie Fillhart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support!!

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 12:44:00 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Soraya-Elena Perez and I support this bill, HB 2269: Expanding Scale and Duration

- **Goal:** To raise the annual tax credit cap to \$60 million, increase the credit percentage (up to 32% on neighbor islands), and extend the program's "sunset" date to 2038.
- **Why It Matters:** Stability. Studios plan years in advance. By extending the credit to 2038 and raising the cap, Hawaii signals to major studios that they can build long-term franchises and series here, providing you with years of steady, local employment. Mahalo

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 1:04:29 PM

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

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

Comments:

ALOHA!

As a memembr of the film community since 2001 i whole heartedly support this bill. This update to the film tax credit is essential to keepin gwork in hawaii. HB2269 strengthens our local work force by providing stabilty ensures we are a competitive production destination! Thanks for time!

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 1:20:25 PM

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

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

Comments:

My name is Marlena Silva. I starting working in the entertainment industry doing commecials and print at 4 years old. I have been a member of SAG-AFTRA since 1996 and now have my children working in the same industry. I SUPPORT HB2269. Hawai'i's film and television industry provides critical jobs and economical activity for local workers and small businesses. Updating the film tax credit to reflect modern production realities, including streaming, is essential to keeping work in Hawai'i. HB 2269 strengthens our local workforce, supports long-term industry stability, and helps ensure Hawai'i remains a competitive production destination.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:24:56 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Asaeli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Travis Asaeli, and I respectfully submit testimony in strong support of HB 2269, relating to the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit.

Hawai‘i’s film and digital media industry plays a vital role in supporting our local economy, workforce development, and small businesses across the state. Incentivizing film and television productions to operate in Hawai‘i brings direct and indirect economic benefits that extend far beyond the entertainment industry.

Film productions create employment opportunities for local residents across a wide range of fields including production crews, transportation, hospitality, construction, security, catering, and many other support services. These projects provide reliable, well-paying jobs while allowing residents to build long-term careers within Hawai‘i instead of relocating to the mainland for similar opportunities.

As someone who works in an industry that frequently supports large-scale events and productions, I have seen firsthand how film and media projects create additional employment opportunities and economic activity for local workers and businesses. Production projects often require significant logistical support, which strengthens partnerships with local vendors, service providers, and workforce sectors that rely on these opportunities to sustain operations.

Additionally, film productions serve as a powerful marketing tool for Hawai‘i by showcasing the islands to global audiences. This exposure supports tourism, promotes cultural appreciation, and encourages continued investment in our local economy. Maintaining competitive tax incentives helps ensure Hawai‘i remains an attractive and viable filming destination compared to other states and countries offering similar or greater incentives.

HB 2269 supports long-term economic sustainability by encouraging continued production activity, workforce development, and industry growth while providing meaningful opportunities for local residents and businesses.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure and for your continued efforts to strengthen Hawai‘i’s economy and workforce.

Respectfully submitted,

Travis Asaeli

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2269

Submitted by: Katie Doyle

Position: Support

2.3.26

Thank you for taking the time to consider my written testimony in strong support of HB 2269. This Bill strengthens our local workforce, supports long-term Industry stability, and helps ensure Hawai'i remains a competitive production destination. Updating our film tax credit to reflect modern production realities, including and especially streaming, is essential to keeping work in this State.

I am an Emmy Award winning (season one, *The White Lotus*) Location Casting Director, a Teamster with Local 996, a long time member of SAG-AFTRA, and one of only two (2) Casting Directors in Hawaii who have been inducted into the Casting Society of America. Prior to my tenure as a Casting Director, I was an actress who made a living in the industry appearing in dozens of commercials, television programs and feature films. My husband and I have lived on Oahu for over 30 years and our only son was born at the Queen's Hospital in October of 2000.

Through my work as a Location Casting Director, and we are just one small department among many on productions such as *The White Lotus*, *Chief of War*, *The Wrecking Crew*, *Protecting Jared*, *Big Eyes*, *Godzilla*, *Jurassic World*, *Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom*, *Snatched*, *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*, *Jungle Cruise*, *Triple Frontier*, *Midway*, *Hobbs & Shaw* and *The Wrong Missy*, to name a few, we have been fortunate to hire thousands of local actors as Principal or Extra talent. Our department has generated dozens of additional jobs for local people as Stand Ins and Production Assistants. Over the years, we have been grateful to see an increase in the scope and number of Principal Roles we are being asked to cast locally rather than flying someone in from LA or NY. This is indicative not only of the growth of the industry here in Hawaii but of the increased quality of the training and experience our local talent is being afforded. The hard work and dedication of many is just now beginning to pay off for us literally and figuratively. As numerous producers and their teams have taken great pains to explain to our administration, this growth will not continue with the current cap in place. The most relevant and personal experience for me has been watching the demise of the film industry in New Orleans where mistakes about a tax cap were clearly made and the incredible boom in Atlanta, where it seems wiser heads prevailed.

There are myriad of examples and statistics to prove how our industry brings in millions of dollars to our local economy directly and indirectly through the catering industry, hotel industry, local shops, etc etc... but for me it's much more personal. The people in my industry are solution oriented and, in general, they are among the most generous people in the world. We all gain when these people come into our communities with fresh ideas and willingness to jump onto community boards, put their kids into our public schools, open up their own businesses, volunteer, make donations to local non profits. I have been privileged to work on all of our islands and whenever a production comes in, they are seeking ways to benefit the community that will host them - sometimes for a year at a time. I was a Girl Scout and these guys follow our motto of always leaving a place better than how they found it.

Lastly, I humbly suggest that we who live and work here in the film and television industry are an asset to our state. My husband is a teacher and a social worker working with our most challenge houseless population. We make efforts to volunteer to make our neighborhood a better and safer place for all. Personally, I don't know anyone in our industry who doesn't put in work hours that would make most "normal" people collapse while continuing to contribute volunteer time for many projects. We pay taxes, contribute to our community in many ways and understand the gravity of what will happen if we don't make it more attractive to bring in film productions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Doyle-Hummel, Local 996, CSA
Location Casting Director
katiedoylecasting@gmail.com
808.258.7185

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:34:16 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Conrad Pratt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian, I would like to believe majority of those voting on this bill would like to support one of the most fundamental practices of our culture; storytelling. It is in our blood to keep our stories alive so that history will never be forgotten. Many productions, specifically based on the Hawaiian culture, have gone outside of Hawai'i to film leaving not only our Kingdom but our people out of jobs simply because the ignorance in this industry goes uneducated. Give Hawai'i her time to shine. Let our people continue their passion for story telling in modern times. Denying Hawai'i her voice on the world stage simply diminishes everything the Native Hawaiian culture stands for. IMUA <3

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:43:16 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry O'Brien Jr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was an background extra for shows and movies here in Hawaii. The last time I worked as an background extra was Ncis: Hawaii back in February 2024. It been 2 years since the last time I worked and it been hard for me to get and dealing with other things I had to deal with.

Around June 2025, I saw the studio around Diamondhead looked like a ghost town with the high weeds and had no one at the gate or even the parking lot. I been frustrated with this state's decision on production. Which cause the jobs to be sent to New Zealand and having better tax laws. For God's sakes look what for people who are out of work for and i talked to friends and my family about what is going on here in this state. The state (Ohio) I am originaly from has a taxed credit back had created back in 2019 and it works well. This is why people moved out of this state.

This is why Hawaii is losing out to have film made in other countries.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:48:35 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jena E	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB2269 modernizes Hawai'i's film tax credit policies to ensure our local film industry remains competitive and evolves with today's global and competitive production landscape.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:49:12 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
NICOLE ROMBAOA	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Committee,

My name is Nicole Rombaoa, and I am a local actor and creative professional living and working in Hawai‘i. I am submitting testimony in support of HB2269 because this bill speaks directly to the realities faced by creatives who are trying to build sustainable lives in the place we love.

For many of us in the creative community, staying in Hawai‘i is an intentional choice — one rooted in family, culture, and belonging. But that choice often comes with uncertainty. Creative work can be inconsistent, and without thoughtful policies in place, it becomes increasingly difficult to remain here long term. HB2269 represents an important step toward addressing those challenges and supporting the people who contribute to Hawai‘i’s cultural and economic fabric every day.

Creatives are more than performers or artists — we are storytellers, educators, entrepreneurs, and collaborators. Our work reflects Hawai‘i back to itself and to the world. When creatives are supported, it strengthens community connection, preserves local narratives, and helps ensure that Hawai‘i’s stories are told by those who live them.

This bill matters because it acknowledges that people working in creative fields deserve consideration, stability, and opportunity — not as an afterthought, but as a vital part of Hawai‘i’s future. For me and many others, HB2269 represents hope: hope that Hawai‘i is committed to investing in its people, honoring creative labor, and creating pathways that allow us to stay, grow, and give back to our communities.

I respectfully urge the committee to pass HB2269 and continue supporting policies that uplift Hawai‘i’s creatives and strengthen the future of our islands.

Mahalo for your time, your care, and your consideration.

Respectfully,

Nicole Rombaoa

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 3:30:39 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Klec	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Support HB 2269.

Updating the Hawai'i's film credit is vitally important for the economy and local businesses, and makes Hawai'i a competitive production destination.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 4:16:11 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of HB 2269, which modernizes Hawai‘i’s film and television tax credit and helps ensure our state remains competitive in an industry that provides thousands of local jobs and millions in economic activity.

Hawai‘i has long been a world-class filming destination, not only because of our natural beauty, but because of the skilled local workforce that supports productions across every department — from crew and cast to accounting, hospitality, transportation, and small local vendors. However, in recent years, Hawai‘i has lost productions to other states and countries that have updated and expanded their incentive programs while ours has remained stagnant.

HB 2269 is a necessary and timely step to modernize Hawai‘i’s tax credit so it reflects today’s production landscape. The industry has changed dramatically, particularly with the rise of streaming platforms, shorter production windows, and tighter budgets. Without modernization, Hawai‘i risks being priced out of consideration altogether — resulting in lost jobs, reduced tax revenue, and fewer opportunities for local residents.

Film and television production is not a niche industry. It directly supports:

- Local union and non-union workers
- Small businesses and vendors
- Hotels, restaurants, rental companies, and airlines
- Workforce training and career pathways for Hawai‘i residents

When productions leave the state, these are local people who lose work — not studios.

HB 2269 helps restore Hawai‘i’s competitiveness while continuing to require accountability and in-state spending. A modernized credit encourages longer stays, repeat productions, and sustainable employment, rather than one-off projects that offer little long-term benefit.

As someone who has worked in the film industry in Hawai‘i, I have seen firsthand how impactful this industry can be when productions choose to stay — and how damaging it is when they leave. This bill is about keeping good jobs in Hawai‘i, supporting our local workforce, and ensuring that Hawai‘i remains a viable place to build a career in film and media.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB 2269 with a favorable recommendation.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Grace Hall

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 4:56:34 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Becky Maltby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. The film industry has grown tremendously since the beginning of this century. Tourists travel here still to visit sites where they filmed LOST. The industry is a money-maker for Hawaii.

But last year we lost productions because it was too expensive. Thousands were out of work that we had come to rely on, myself included. It is essential for Hawaii to remain a top choice for productions. Otherwise we'll have places like New Zealand doubling for our islands. No one wants that.

Mahalo.

Becky Maltby

SAG-AFTRA

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 6:38:11 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Sclafani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support ths bill that can only be of great benefit to the Hawaiian film industry and locals across the State.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 6:51:07 PM

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

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

Comments:

Support for this measure is submitted. Mahalo.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:10:06 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Wallace	Individual	Support	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 strongly support **HB 2269**.

Hawai‘i’s film and television industry is not abstract to me—it is how local families, crews, and small businesses sustain themselves across generations. When productions choose Hawai‘i, they bring outside capital into our economy, employ local workers across multiple trades, and support businesses statewide. When Hawai‘i is not competitive, that work does not disappear—it simply goes to other states and countries.

HB 2269 is a necessary modernization of the film tax credit. It reflects how the industry actually operates today by including streaming platforms as qualified productions and by updating the credit structure to remain competitive. Streaming is now the primary driver of film and television production, and excluding it puts Hawai‘i at a structural disadvantage that directly impacts local jobs.

This bill supports long-term stability, not one-off projects. A modern, competitive incentive helps sustain episodic television and large-scale productions that provide consistent work, allow local crews to build careers here at home, and reduce the need for Hawai‘i residents to leave the state to stay employed.

HB 2269 strengthens Hawai‘i’s workforce, supports economic activity across multiple sectors, and helps ensure our state remains a viable production destination in a rapidly evolving industry.

I respectfully urge your support of HB 2269.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:24:05 PM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2269.

Hawaii's film and television industry provides critical jobs and economic activity for local workers and small businesses.

Updating the film tax credit to reflect modern production realities, including streaming, is essential to keeping work in Hawaii.

HB 2269 strengthens our local workforce, supports long-term industry stability, and helps ensure Hawaii remains a competitive production destination. I respectfully urge your support.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:32:38 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha!

I strongly support HB2269. We need to raise the annual tax credit cap to support the film industry in Hawaii. In today's competitive filming climate, locations are competing with film credits. California just raised theirs to entice film production and it's working. When Louisiana eliminated their tax credits, film work left and hasn't returned.

Studios plan years in advance. If they're not certain of their expenses, they won't come to Hawaii, or they won't stay in Hawaii. By extending the cap we give them certainty allowing film production to flourish here.

I'm an actor. I live in Hawaii. I work sometimes. The crew works all the time - but only if there's work. Many are thinking about moving to the mainland to get work. I can't blame them.

Please keep us working. Please raise the annual tax credit cap and extend the program's "sunset".

Mahalo,

Jean Simon

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:42:23 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malik Haynes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

My name is Malik Haynes, a Hawaii-based film and stunt professional. I strongly support HB2269.

This bill helps keep film and digital media production in Hawaii, which directly supports local jobs, small businesses, and homegrown talent. Productions don't just hire cast and crew—they spend money at local restaurants, hotels, rental houses, and vendors across our islands.

The film tax credit has proven to be an effective tool to attract projects that create real economic impact while allowing Hawaii residents to build sustainable careers without leaving home.

HB2269 is an investment in our people, our workforce, and our creative economy. I urge your support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

M

Valerie Matsunaga PO 330519 Kahului, Maui, HI 96733

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2269
Relating to the Film and Television Production Tax Credit

To: House Committee on Economic Development

From: Valerie Matsunaga, Maui Resident & SAG-AFTRA Member

Date: 2/3/2026

Position: Support

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Valerie Matsunaga. I am a longtime Maui resident and a member of SAG-AFTRA. I write in strong support of **HB 2269**, which extends the sunset date of Hawai‘i’s film and television production tax credit and provides the predictability necessary for our creative industry to survive and grow.

Film and television production is a long-range planning industry. As SAG-AFTRA Hawai‘i Executive Director Mericia Palma Elmore emphasized in her testimony, studios and producers plan projects years in advance. Without certainty that Hawai‘i’s tax credit will remain in place, productions are forced to choose other states or countries with stable, long-term incentives. Extending the sunset date to 2038 sends a clear signal that Hawai‘i is committed to remaining competitive.

On Maui and the Neighbor Islands, the impact of uncertainty is immediate and personal. Declines in production are not just numbers on a chart—they represent local families struggling to make ends meet, small businesses losing work, and creative professionals leaving Hawai‘i for more reliable opportunities elsewhere. Recent drops in production expenditures directly correlate with reduced economic activity and fewer middle-class jobs across the state.

When a production chooses Hawai‘i, the benefits extend far beyond actors on screen. Hundreds of local workers are employed, including crew members, background performers, drivers, carpenters, caterers, equipment vendors, and post-production professionals. These jobs are especially critical on Neighbor Islands like Maui, where diversified employment opportunities are limited.

HB 2269 does not expand the tax credit. It simply provides stability. By extending the sunset date, this bill allows producers to plan with confidence, hire local talent, and invest in Hawai‘i’s workforce. It protects existing jobs, strengthens our creative infrastructure, and supports a sustainable middle-class economy.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass **HB 2269**. This bill is a practical, forward-looking investment in Hawai‘i’s people and our creative industries.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Valerie Matsunaga

Maui Resident

SAG-AFTRA Member

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:46:16 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabriel Tom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you Chair Ilagan and members of the committee for hearing this bill. I am grateful to Governor Green and House Speaker Nakamura for introducing this HB 2269 this session. I am in full support of this bill. This bill targets many of the previous deficits in the previous iteration of the film tax credit and strengthens them. This includes: increasing the annual cap, allowing each production to use more of the tax credit per production, increasing the base percentage rates up 5% from their current standings, and including streaming shows as a qualified production. This bill will help locals like myself return to consistent work throughout the year on large scale productions that allow me to continue to stay in Hawai'i.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:48:09 PM

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

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

Comments:

I support this bill, please vote yes.

We need to do all we can to build the Hawaii Film and Production Industry back to what it once was. We have lost so much because it's just too expensive to film here. It's a disgrace to Hawaii that Chief of War was not filmed here! Don't let something like that happen again.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:14:48 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As someone that has worked in this field I support this bill.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:14:48 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As someone that has worked in this field I support this bill.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:16:55 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As someone that has worked in this field I support this bill.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:18:34 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Lin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a member of the Hawaii film community and Union Member of Hawaii Local SAG-AFTRA, please please please help to save the film industry in Hawaii. Not only have we lost revenue as a State to other more appealing film locations, but the many jobs that the film industry supports have suffered. Many individuals have been out of work, and we are slowly losing resources, talent and crew who have been without jobs. Please help to keep talent in Hawaii by supporting this bill which helps the industry, the State of Hawaii, and many, many individuals who look forward to and thrive on productions set in our State. This helps everyone, it should be a no-brainer given the steady decline in our State's tourism revenue.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:18:43 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Dedely	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My son has worked in this field. I support this bill.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:56:26 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Tagad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of this bill

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 SUPPORT HB 2269

Updating the film tax is essential to keeping work in Hawaii. HB 2269 strengthens our local work force, supports long term industry stability and helps the state of Hawaii remain a competitive production destination.

Mahalo for allowing me to submit my testimony

Bruce Vollert

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:44:24 AM

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

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

Comments:

Mahalo!

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:00:49 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Howard Bishop	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2269. As a SAG member since 1978, I have seen Hawaii's once very prolific film and television production work dissipating to near extinction. Without competitive tax incentives, we will continue to lose film and television production to our foreign competitors. This industry creates many local jobs, as well as huge revenue for our local businesses, as well as generating massive potential for tourism and it's revenue.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:19:22 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana Seppelfrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully submit testimony in strong support of this measure to strengthen and modernize Hawai‘i’s Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit.

This bill makes critical updates that reflect the realities of today’s production industry. Increasing the qualified production credit to twenty-seven per cent for counties with populations over seven hundred thousand and to thirty-two per cent for counties with populations under seven hundred thousand provides a meaningful incentive for productions to film across all islands. These enhanced credits encourage more equitable distribution of economic activity and job creation throughout the State.

Lifting the per-production cap for projects with qualified expenditures of sixty million dollars and increasing the annual statewide cap to sixty million dollars ensures Hawai‘i remains competitive with other production-friendly states. Large-scale productions bring substantial economic impact, supporting hundreds of local jobs and generating significant spending on lodging, food services, transportation, equipment rentals, construction, and other small businesses.

Extending the sunset date of the tax credit to January 1, 2038 offers long-term certainty that is essential for production planning. Studios and investors make decisions years in advance, and a stable, predictable incentive program allows Hawai‘i to remain a viable option in an increasingly competitive global market.

Equally important, expanding the definition of “qualified production” to include streaming platforms recognizes the current and future direction of the industry. Streaming content now represents a major share of film and television production worldwide. Including a clear definition of “streaming platform” ensures transparency, accountability, and consistency while welcoming these productions to Hawai‘i.

Finally, clarifying the requirement for independent third-party certification helps maintain program integrity while providing clearer guidance for productions seeking to comply with the law.

This measure supports local workers, sustains Hawai'i's creative workforce, strengthens the State's economy, and ensures that Hawai'i continues to be a premier destination for film, digital media, and streaming productions.

For these reasons, I urge your favorable consideration and passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Seppelfrick
SAG/AFTRA Member

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:52:04 AM

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

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

Comments:

ich gebe meine Aussage ab weil ich die Filmindustrie auf Hawaii unterstützen möchte. es hängen viele Arbeitsplätze davon ab und es leben viele Menschen von der Industrie .

Danke

claudia kühn

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:59:17 AM

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

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

Comments:

Hello,

I am an actor, writer, and director born and raised on Oahu. I have worked in the film industry for 20+ years and have seen increasing economic benefits by having productions shoot in our state. I fully support bills such as this one that will help secure more employment opportunities and fiscal growth for Hawaii and its residents.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:59:29 AM

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

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

Comments:

Mahalo, Representative Nakamura, for proposing this thoughtful bill that will help make Hawai'i competitive with other states by increasing rates of production tax credits and raising the annual cap to \$60M. I fully support this bill.

Angie Hamilton-Lowe, Manoa resident & UH employee

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:02:55 PM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2269.

Hawaii's film and television industry provides critical jobs and economic activity for local workers and small businesses. Updating the film tax credit to reflect modern production realities, including streaming, is essential to keeping work in Hawaii.

HB 2269 strengthens our local workforce, supports long-term industry stability, and helps ensure Hawaii remains a competitive production destination. I respectfully urge your support.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:11:19 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

My name is La Fa'amausili-Siliato and I am writing in support of HB 2269. As someone who has benefited directly from the film and television industry, I know how important long-term stability and competitive incentives are for keeping productions in Hawai'i. When productions choose Hawai'i, it creates steady work for local crews and meaningful income for nearby businesses.

HB 2269 sends a clear message that Hawai'i values its creative workforce and wants this industry to continue growing here. I strongly urge your support of this measure.

Mahalo nui loa.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:18:17 PM

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

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

Comments:

Standing in Strong support of HB2269.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:48:55 PM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support hb 2269 to do whatever it takes to increase film and tv in Hawaii. Because the more people around the world see Hawaii in film the more it supports Tourism; the most important thing to help Hawaii and it's citizens and businesses. And it creates and new and different industry here for our locals to have as a great career. thanks very much. Mark Rosner

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:26:09 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zenues-Jay Vaimanino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is for those who have dreamed of becoming a movie star. Who have been told in class that they are too "extra". This bill gets the ball rolling on providing a place for people to fulfill their potential while following their dreams. Not everyone has the capacity to sit behind a desk, or to work a labor job. This is the green light to many people's dreams becoming reality.

HB-2269

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

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chuck Lyons	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I applaud the efforts to reinvigorate film production in Hawaii. With an estimated 80% decrease in film production revenue, it's obvious we have a lot of work before us to bring it back.

Overall, film production is down approximately 11%+ across the country due to a variety of reasons; pandemic recovery, strikes, film industry business realignments towards profitability, and a number of other factors. A number of 'green lit' productions have been put on hold; some became victims of the drop in scripted shows

Adding to the challenges put on us by the industry itself, we have our own state's challenges. High cost of living. Logistics. Shipping costs. Limited film infrastructure, and a small, but highly regarded pool of film talent, in front and behind the camera. Our tax credits.

When looking across the film landscape, one thing becomes clear. Hawaii MUST work AGGRESSIVELY to compete if we expect to see a return of film production to our state

An increase from \$50M to \$60M is a good start, but still puts Hawaii in the lower tier of states with film production tax credit caps. States that had seen increases in the past will also be competing more aggressively to recover from the recent industry decline(s)

I'd suggest we aggressively raise the tax credit cap, either to be competitive with mid tier states that have been drawing business away from Hawaii, like New Mexico (\$130M) or Louisiana (\$125M+), or eliminate the tax credit cap entirely (like Georgia) for some period of time (3 yrs?) and aggressively market our new approach during that time period.

Mid tier states with tax credit caps have far more aggressive tax credits than Hawaii's 22%-27%. Louisiana (40%+), NM (25-40%+), or Georgia (30%+). We need to reevaluate our tax credits strategy.

Our GET tax adds another 4%-4.5% to the cost of filming in Hawaii. Other states do not have that extra tax burden, effectively giving ourselves an unnecessary 4%-4.5% budget disadvantage..add the 10%+ tax credit differential, and we're already 14-15% higher than our competitors

All of these get rolled into one final decision by film executives. What does filming in Hawaii do for my Return On Investment?

Now is not the time to take a cautious approach. This is not a problem that will be solved overnight. Nor can we expect to see our aggressive credit caps or tax credits get overwhelmed by an immediate demand, so we shouldn't expect to see budget pressures in the near future

We have many factors pushing against us, so being aggressive and dynamic in our planning and execution is critical in our efforts of restoring film production in Hawaii, maintaining our pool of talent, while we build the filming infrastructure to make this an area of ongoing business and job growth.

Chuck Lyons

Kailua Kona

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:17:10 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 2269. I am a local Hawai'i resident, a SAG-AFTRA member, and a high school senior who hopes to build a career in the film and television industry. Increasing the tax credit cap and extending the program gives studios the confidence to plan long-term projects in Hawai'i. This stability creates more consistent job opportunities for local workers and allows young people like me to build a future in this industry without leaving the state. I respectfully urge the committee to pass this bill.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:29:30 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Merritt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I highly support HB 2269. This is critical to the future of not only Hawaii's film industry but the economy of the entire state as well.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:38:25 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Puailihau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 2269 because film and television productions have historically supported small businesses and jobs in West O‘ahu. With no series currently filming in Hawai‘i, local businesses and workers are being impacted. Strengthening film incentives will help bring productions back and support our local economy.

Mahalo for your consideration!

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:41:35 PM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2269

Hawai'i film and television industry provides critical jobs and economic activity for local workers and small businesses. Updating the film tax credit to reflect modern production realities, including streaming, is essential to keeping work in Hawai'i.

HB 2269 strengthens local workforce, supports long-term industry stability, and helps ensure Hawai'i remains a competitive production destination. I respectfully urge your support.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:25:04 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SCOTT SWARTZ	Individual	Support	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 SUPPORT of HB 2269.

Mahalo,

Scott Swartz

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:31:38 PM

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

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

Comments:

Hello,

I'm submitting testimony to ask for your support to raise the annual tax credit cap to \$60 million, increase the credit percentage (up to 32% on neighbor islands), and extend the program's "sunset" date to 2038. Incentivizing the industry in this way helps provide meaningful work that is essential to me and my family being able to live and love Hawaii and to support its local culture and economy.

Thank you,

Parker Ellenburg (Stunt Performer/SAG-AFTRA Member)

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:56:30 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
George Y. Russell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I George Y. Russell strongly support HB 2269.

As a proud local independent filmmaker myself, I can attest to the fact that Hawai'i's film and television industry provides thousands of jobs and economic activity for local workers as well as multitudes of small businesses. Please update the film tax credit to reflect modern production realities, including new streaming, that is essential to keeping not only work but local workers here in Hawai'i.

HD 2269 strengthens our local workforce, supports long-term industry stability, and helps to ensure that Hawai'i remains a competitive production destination.

I sincerely urge you for your support of this bill.

Mahalo,
George Y. Russell

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:59:20 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 2269. I was born and raised in Hawai‘i and am an aspiring actor who hopes to build a future in the creative industries here at home.

HB 2269 matters to me because it supports opportunities for local creatives and helps strengthen Hawai‘i’s creative economy. I respectfully urge you to pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:10:30 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong support for **HB2269** along with the Hawai‘i Film and Television Industry and the vital role it plays in our state’s economy, workforce development, and global brand identity.

The film industry is more than entertainment—it is a powerful economic engine for Hawai‘i. Film and television productions generate millions of dollars in direct spending each year, supporting hundreds of local businesses, from hotels and restaurants to transportation, construction, and creative services. These projects create stable, well-paying jobs for local residents and provide career pathways in technical, creative, and administrative fields that allow our talent to remain in Hawai‘i rather than seeking opportunities elsewhere.

Beyond its economic impact, the Hawai‘i Film Industry amplifies our state’s visibility on a global stage. Productions filmed here showcase Hawai‘i’s unique landscapes, culture, and people, inspiring tourism while reinforcing our reputation as a world-class destination for creative storytelling. This exposure delivers long-term marketing value that extends far beyond the duration of any single production.

Equally important is the industry’s commitment to local hiring, cultural respect, and community collaboration. Hawai‘i-based film professionals bring deep cultural knowledge, professionalism, and pride to their work, ensuring that stories told here are produced responsibly and authentically. Continued investment in the film industry strengthens workforce training, supports local unions and small businesses, and fosters innovation across multiple sectors.

Maintaining a competitive and supportive environment for film and television production is essential for Hawai‘i’s economic diversification and resilience. Policies that encourage production activity help sustain jobs, attract outside investment, and ensure that Hawai‘i remains competitive with other production hubs.

For these reasons, I strongly urge continued support for the Hawai‘i Film Industry. Its success directly benefits our economy, our workforce, and our communities, while preserving Hawai‘i’s place as a premier location for film and television production.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to Hawai‘i’s future.

Mahalo,

Nicole Kilantang

*Director of Sales & Marketing / Embassy Suites by Hilton Oahu Kapolei
Kapolei, Hawai'i*

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:12:07 PM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support bill HB2269.

Hawai‘i’s film and television industry provides critical jobs and economic activity for local workers and small businesses. This bill updates the film tax credit to reflect modern production realities, including streaming which will keep Hawai‘i competitive and also keeping work in Hawai‘i.

This bill HB2269 will support and strengthen our local workforce, long-term industry stability, and once again helps to ensure that Hawai‘i remains a competitive production destination. I respectfully urge your support.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:18:42 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lila gutierrez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 2269. I was born and raised in Hawai‘i and believe it is important to support opportunities for local creatives and artists.

HB 2269 matters to me because it helps strengthen Hawai‘i’s creative economy and supports pathways for local talent to thrive here at home. I respectfully urge you to pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:22:15 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Frank Mitchell. I am a 20+ year veteran of the Hawai'i film and television industry and a member of both IATSE Local 665 and SAG/AFTRA. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2269.

Our industry provides more than just "gigs"; it provides high-paying jobs for local workers and essential revenue for our small businesses. I have seen firsthand how a stable, long-term production can anchor a community, allowing workers to buy homes and raise families here in the islands.

However, to keep these "anchor" productions coming, our tax credits must reflect modern realities. **HB 2269** is essential because:

- **Modernizes for Streaming:** The shift toward streaming platforms is no longer a trend—it is the industry standard. Updating our incentives to explicitly include streaming ensures we aren't leaving money and jobs on the table.
- **Stabilizes the Workforce:** By strengthening these credits, we provide the predictability that studios need to commit to multi-year projects in Hawai'i.
- **Supports Small Business:** Every major production is fueled by local vendors—from catering and transportation to construction and equipment rentals. When the film industry thrives, Hawai'i's small businesses thrive.

Hawai'i is a world-class destination, but we must remain a competitive one. If our incentives fall behind, the stories—and the jobs—will go elsewhere. HB 2269 takes the necessary steps to protect our local workforce and ensure the long-term health of our creative economy.

I respectfully urge your committee to support and pass HB 2269. Mahalo for your time and for your support of our local film community.

Sincerely,

Frank Mitchell

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:48:42 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sidney Higa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i State House Committee on Economic Development and Technology (EDC)

Date: Friday, February 6, 2026

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Conference Room 423 & Videoconference
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

RE: HB2269 Relating to Film Incentives

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

My name is **Sidney Higa**, and I am a **resident of Makakilo** in West O'ahu.

I am writing **in support of HB 2269**, which would strengthen Hawai'i's film incentives.

Television series such as Magnum P.I., Hawai'i Five-O, and NCIS: Hawai'i have filmed in West O'ahu, bringing business to local restaurants, vendors, and service providers, and supporting jobs for local workers.

With no television series filming in Hawai'i, small businesses are losing customers and workers are losing income that supports their families. Productions are increasingly choosing to film elsewhere because Hawai'i's incentives are no longer competitive.

Strengthening Hawai'i's film incentives will help bring productions back, support small businesses and jobs in West O'ahu, and increase economic activity in our communities, especially as a film studio is planned for the region.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and for considering the needs of our West O'ahu business community.

Respectfully,

Sidney Higa

Makakilo Resident

Written Testimony In Support of HB 2269

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

I submit this testimony in support of this bill based on direct experience working in Hawai'i's film and television industry. Mahalo to for addressing this specific issue that has been a major issue to Hawai'i's film production.

Since moving to Hawai'i in 2016 I have had the opportunity to work on a number of various films and television series like HAWAI'I FIVE-0, MAGNUM, P.I., TRIPLE FRONTIER, and NCIS: HAWAI'I. I have been able to make a career working in film production and was able to join my union, the Directors Guild of America, in 2021. I have directly benefited by the constant stream of film productions coming to Hawai'i. However, things changed starting in 2024. After the last two television series filming here regularly were canceled, work has significantly dried up since.

Major films and television series won't come to film in Hawai'i as long as the tax credits remain the same and not reflect the changing industry. Other states, including my own home state of Texas, have increased their tax incentives above 30% and are adding additional bumps if they hire more than a certain percentage of local crew, spending more money locally, or even telling specific stories based in that states history or promote the state in any way. **I believe that Hawai'i needs to raise its tax incentives and add some of these "bumps" that other states have if they want to stay a viable film destination.**

If Hawai'i doesn't change with the times, I fear that not only will we completely fall behind to not just other states, but to other countries as well. Without a large number of films and television series filming each year, Hawai'i will no longer be able to support the thousands of film workers and vendors that live here, and many will either change careers or move out of the state to find film work, which has already started happening.

By **increasing the base rate to 27%/32%** it gives the best chance to kickstart the studios wanting to come back to Hawai'i for longer productions instead of just two to three weeks that has been for the last few years now. It's not just about Hawai'i as the "location," it's about what is the better option for the studios to choose from, and they will choose the one that offers the better incentives every single time.

We need this bill to pass for everyone's sake. It's not just the film workers that benefit from this, it's their families, the vendors, the restaurants, the food and equipment suppliers, the locations, the local talent and so much more. **Hawai'i needs to stay competitive to be relevant in this game, or we will no longer be a viable filming destination for the studios, and they'll look elsewhere while we are left behind.**

Thank you very much for your time to testify on this matter,

Mahalo,

Ian Petriello Eisenberg

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:00:08 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leanne Teves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chari and Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chari and members of the committee,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of HB2269. I have had many wonderful opportunities to work as a background actor with many productions that have filmed in our great state. I have made many friends that have had productive careers in the film and television industry, which has all come to a concerning halt in the past going on three years. Many of us have had to seek employment in other areas, rethinking / revising our careers. I have had to revise and pause my career shift plans that I had made to move towards working full time in the film industry. This bill captures extending the credit to 2038 and raising the cap; together productions that plan years in advance would want to come to Hawaii to film knowing there would be several years' worth of incentives to count on. This would bring back jobs to this industry. With the outcome of me being able to fulfill my dream of working in the film industry full time and my friends being able to do the same. Thank you for your time in reviewing my testimony in support of this bill.

Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Regular Session of 2026
House Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Testimony by IATSE 665
February 6th, 2026

HB 2269 - RELATING TO THE MOTION PICTURE, DIGITAL MEDIA, AND FILM PRODUCTION INCOME TAX CREDIT.

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 support HB2269**, Relating to the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit.

Bills similar to this have had significant positive effects on state and local economies across the US and Canada. This bill is a direct investment in stable, middle-class jobs for Hawaii's creative workforce. HB 2269 will significantly increase Hawaii's ability to attract lasting work with thriving wage jobs to stabilize the long-term health of this vital industry. We thank the legislature for their foresight in proposing the increase of the overall cap, the increase of the per production percentages, the inclusion of "streaming platforms" as qualified productions, and the extension of the sunset date will make great strides in supporting the thousands of local working families that are supported by this industry. Excluding companies that incur more than \$60 million in qualified expenditures from the "per production" cap will encourage long-term projects towards our islands.

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 contributes significantly to state GDP, household earnings, and even visitor spending. To remain competitive in the global market, it is imperative that Hawai'i strengthens and stabilizes the film tax incentive program. HB 2269 will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support HB 2269. 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-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:08:26 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

My name is Joseph Barrett. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support HB2269, Relating to the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit.**

This bill is a direct investment in stable, middle-class jobs for Hawai'i's creative workforce. The changes proposed in SB 2580 will significantly increase Hawai'i's ability to attract lasting work with thriving wage jobs to stabilize the long-term health of this vital industry. I thank the legislature for their foresight in proposing the increase of the overall cap, the increase of the per production percentages, the inclusion of "streaming platforms" as qualified productions, and the extension of the sunset date will make great strides in supporting the thousands of local working families that are supported by this industry. Excluding companies that incur more than \$60 million in qualified expenditures from the "per production" cap will encourage long-term projects towards our islands.

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. SB 2580 will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support HB 2269. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Joseph Barrett

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:14:36 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vickie Kennedy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Our son, George Yoshio Russell, is a proud local independent filmmaker, and I can attest to the fact that Hawai'i's film and television industry provides thousands of jobs and economic activity for local workers as well as multitudes of small businesses. Please update the film tax credit to reflect modern production realities, including new streaming, that is essential to keeping not only work but local workers here in Hawai'i.

HB 2269 strengthens our local workforce, supports long-term industry stability, and helps to ensure that Hawai'i remains a competitive production destination.

I sincerely urge you for your support of this bill.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:19:32 PM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB2269

The industry has provided me the opportunities to take care of my Ohana.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:30:02 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Henry Fordham	Individual	Support	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 support HB2269, Relating to the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit.**

This bill is a direct investment in stable, middle-class jobs for Hawaii's creative workforce. The changes proposed in HB 2269 will significantly increase Hawai'i's ability to attract lasting work with thriving wage jobs to stabilize the long-term health of this vital industry. I thank the legislature for their foresight in proposing the increase of the overall cap, the increase of the per production percentages, the inclusion of "streaming platforms" as qualified productions, and the extension of the sunset date will make great strides in supporting the thousands of local working families that are supported by this industry. Excluding companies that incur more than \$60 million in qualified expenditures from the "per production" cap will encourage long-term projects towards our islands.

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. HB 2269 will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support HB 2269. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Henry Fordham

IATSE Local 665

Executive Board

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:33:50 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Lee Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Lisa Lee Mitchell and am a 25-year veteran of the Hawai'i film and television industry and a member of IATSE Local 665 and the Hawaii Film Alliance. I am writing to support for HB 2269.

Our industry provides more than just "gigs"; it provides high-paying jobs for local workers and essential revenue for our small businesses. As someone who worked on Hawaii Five-0 for ten years, I have seen how a stable, long-term production can anchor a community, allowing workers to buy homes and raise families right here in the islands.

However, to keep these "anchor" productions coming, our tax credits must reflect modern realities. **HB 2269** is essential because:

- **Modernizes for Streaming:** The shift toward streaming platforms is no longer a trend—it is the industry standard. Updating our incentives to explicitly include streaming ensures we aren't leaving money and jobs on the table.
- **Stabilizes the Workforce:** By strengthening these credits, we provide the predictability that studios need to commit to multi-year projects in Hawai'i.
- **Supports Small Business:** Every major production is fueled by local vendors—from catering and transportation to construction and equipment rentals. When the film industry thrives, Hawai'i's small businesses thrive.

Hawai'i is a world-class destination, but we must remain a competitive one. If our incentives fall behind, the stories—and the jobs—will go elsewhere. HB 2269 takes the necessary steps to protect our local workforce and ensure the long-term health of our creative economy.

I respectfully urge your committee to support and pass HB 2269. Mahalo for your time and for your support of our local film community.

Sincerely,

Lisa Lee Mitchell

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:36:31 PM

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

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

Comments:

I write in full support of HB 2269. Thank you, Representatives, for listening to our concerns and for addressing specific issues related to Hawai'i film production.

I am a member of the Directors Guild of America and was the unit production manager on Doogie Kamealoha, MD and Red One, and production supervisor on Moana. Currently, I am the unit production manager on Protecting Jared, a Netflix film that will begin shooting later this month.

Hawai'i's film tax incentive has been a huge success in the past, but has fallen behind in the past two years. Most other states with thriving film production have incentives above 30%. My community is now suffering because in 2025, there was nearly zero production work on the Islands.

This bill helps address four major concerns for film workers: **increasing the overall percentages, allowing larger projects to have a larger per-production cap, increasing the over all cap, and increasing the sunset date.**

Increasing the base rate to 27%/32% is the single best move we can make to bring mainland production spending into our economy. The studios have departments dedicated to judging incentives against one another. Hawai'i is often overlooked from the start because of its current 22% base rate. This increase will help all productions, but will mostly help smaller local production or shorter jobs coming from the mainland that do reach the production cap.

Allowing productions that spend more than 60 million to exceed the per-production cap is exactly what is needed to bring larger and long-term productions. Long-term television series and big-budget studio features will be able to shoot exclusively in Hawai'i rather than the current standard - where shows shoot exteriors for a couple of weeks, then shoot another location that passes for Hawai'i.

Increasing the overall cap is a commitment to finding success in this plan. The current \$50 million cap has not increased in several years. Raising it to \$60 million is a modest increase in line with inflation since the last increase. These bills are not about giving a handout to corporate studios; they enable the state and production companies to work as investment partners, adding to the local economy.

Extending the sunset date on the tax incentive is a strong message to producers and studios that Hawai'i is a committed investment partner. Television series have been the true stimulus in building the film community on Island. Television series producers need to know that they can create multi-year productions before committing to shoot in Hawai'i.

This bill will help bring mainland production money to the islands and distribute it to local vendors and workers; that's why they have my support. If enacted in conjunction with the other bills focused on improving the terms of our film tax incentives, they send a strong message that Hawai'i is a film-friendly state.

Thank you for your stewardship and partnership.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:42:10 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Rodriguez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Hannah-Grace Rodriguez, I am a professional stuntwoman and intimacy coordinator in the TV & Film Industry.

I strongly support HB 2269!

This industry provies crucial jobs and economic acivity for both local worker and small business owners. This bill would strengthen Hawai'i's local workfoce, it would support long-term industry stability and ensure that Hawai'i remains a competetive production. There is no better than to film AND be able to provide local jobs. The time is now.

Please support the Hawai'i film industry!

Mahalo,

Hannah-Grace Rodriguez (McDermott)

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:03:07 PM

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

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

Comments:

I support HB 2269 because it'll modernize Hawai's film tax credit to reflect today's production landscape. As the industry evolves, policy must evolve with it. We have to be more competitive for long term productions to even look to film here.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:17:11 PM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2269.

Hawai'i's fillm and television industry provides critical jobs and economic activity for local workers and small businesses. Updating the film tax credit to reflect modern production realities, including streaming, is essential to keeping work in Hawai'i.

HB 2269 strengthens our local workforce, supports long-term industry stability, and helps ensure Hawai'i remains a competitive production destination. I respectfully urge your support.

Mahalo nui loa

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:53:48 PM

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

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

Comments:

My name is Tiffany Tavares. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support HB2269, Relating to the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit.**

This bill is a direct investment in stable, middle-class jobs for Hawaii's creative workforce. The changes proposed in SB 2580 will significantly increase Hawaii's ability to attract lasting work with thriving wage jobs to stabilize the long-term health of this vital industry. I thank the legislature for their foresight in proposing the increase of the overall cap, the increase of the per production percentages, the inclusion of "streaming platforms" as qualified productions, and the extension of the sunset date will make great strides in supporting the thousands of local working families that are supported by this industry. Excluding companies that incur more than \$60 million in qualified expenditures from the "per production" cap will encourage long-term projects towards our islands.

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. SB 2580 will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support BB 2269. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Tiffany T Tavares

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:57:43 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William G. Meyer III	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Statement of William G. Meyer III

In strong support of HB 2269.

Hearing: Friday, February 6, 2026, at 8:30 am.

Dear Chair Iligan, Vice Chair Hussey and Members of the Committee my name is William G. Meyer III and I hereby express my strong support of HB 2269.

I have been practicing law in Honolulu since 1979 with a focus on entertainment and intellectual property law and have represented both local and national motion picture and television industry stakeholders in connection with intellectual property and tax matters.

Over the years Hawai'i's film tax incentive program has brought significant production work to the state which has led to the development of a crew base that is second to none throughout the country and has provided numerous opportunities for Hawai'i's creative talent to flourish. However, as a result of certain DoTax missteps and the state's failure to remain competitive with its incentive structure the past few years have seen a precipitous decline in production activity. In fact, last year saw virtually no production work come to Hawai'i. Most other states with thriving film production industry have incentives structures above 30%. With Hawai'i's high cost of living and uncompetitive incentives we have been passed over recently because it simply does not pencil out to do business here.

This measure addresses major concerns for the industry by: increasing the overall base percentages, allowing larger projects to have a larger per-production cap, increasing the over all yearly cap and extending the sunset date.

Increasing the base rate to 27%/32% is critical to bringing mainland production spending into our economy. Hawai'i as a location is almost always ruled out because of its current 22% base rate.

Allowing productions that spend more than 60 million to exceed the per-production cap is essential to bringing larger and long-term productions here. Television series and big-budget studio features will be able to shoot exclusively in Hawai'i rather than the current situation

whereby shows shoot some exteriors in Hawai'i for a couple of weeks but then revert to other more affordable locations that pose for Hawai'i.

The current overall \$50 million cap has not increased in several years. Raising it to \$60 million is a modest increase that is in line with inflation.

Extending the sunset date of our incentives sends a strong message to producers and studios that Hawai'i is a committed investment partner. TV series have been the primary stimulus in building the states' film industry. Television series producers need to know that they can rely on a stable business structure in bringing multi-year productions to Hawai'i.

Collectively, this measure, along with other film industry bills introduced this session, will bring mainland production money here and distribute it to local vendors and workers by sending a strong message that Hawai'i is a film-friendly state.

Respectfully submitted

William G. Meyer III

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:02:18 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha. I am writing in support of HB2269. We need better tax incentives so studios make Hawai'i a priority shooting destination again over the other locations that they have recently opted to shoot at outside of Hawai'i, even if it's portraying the islands. Mahalo for your help!

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:31:36 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deenie TKam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully urge you to support HB2269 to modernize Hawaii's film tax credit to reflect the way modern productions are produced and presented, including streaming. This is crucial for helping Hawaii to remain competitive in a field full of alternative choices, keep locals who wish to remain in the islands gainfully employed, and build sustainability for the film industry in Hawaii.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 12:13:54 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
O. Carr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am a Native Hawaiian actor writing in support of this bill. The passage of this bill will help draw productions back to Hawai'i, boost our economy, uplift local talent and help the thousands employed by the Hawai'i film industry get back to work.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 1:06:59 AM

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

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

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

Relating to the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in support of the intent of this measure, with important amendments, guided by the principles outlined in A Smarter Blueprint for Hawai‘i’s Film Industry.

This bill correctly acknowledges a central reality: Hawai‘i must remain competitive in a global production market where other jurisdictions are aggressively refining their incentives. Increasing the headline percentage, modernizing definitions to reflect streaming platforms, and extending the sunset date all move in the right direction.

However, raising the incentive without raising standards exposes the State to greater fiscal risk without guaranteeing better outcomes. The question before the Legislature is not whether Hawai‘i should offer a strong incentive — it should. The question is how that incentive is structured, measured, and enforced.

Performance-Based Incentives, Not Automatic Increases

This bill raises the base credit to 27% on O‘ahu and 32% on neighbor islands based primarily on county population.

While competitiveness matters, automatic percentage increases untethered from performance do not improve return on investment. Incentives should reward what Hawai‘i actually needs: local hiring, in-state spending, infrastructure use, and post-production retention.

Recommended amendment:

Treat the proposed percentages as maximums, not guaranteed floors, and tie incremental increases to measurable outcomes such as:

- Verified local crew hiring thresholds
- Minimum in-state spend requirements
- Use of Hawai‘i-based post-production, sound stages, or certified vendors

Public dollars should purchase results, not assumptions.

The Neighbor Island Bonus Is Outdated and Ineffective

The bill continues reliance on a flat 5% neighbor island incentive, a structure that is increasingly disconnected from the real cost of filming outside O‘ahu.

That additional 5% is no longer meaningful.

Productions filming on neighbor islands face substantially higher costs, including:

- Interisland airfare for cast, crew, and department heads
- Shipping or barging equipment, vehicles, and specialty gear
- Housing shortages and higher per-diem expenses
- Smaller labor pools requiring travel or split crews
- Duplicated infrastructure costs that do not exist on O‘ahu

In practice, these factors often increase production costs by 10–20% or more. A symbolic 5% bonus does not change production behavior, which is why most work continues to consolidate on O‘ahu despite the incentive’s existence.

Recommended amendment:

Replace the flat neighbor island bonus with a performance-based or cost-offset structure, such as:

- Tiered incentives tied to verified neighbor island spending
- Additional credits for interisland logistics, housing, or shipping
- Scaled bonuses that reflect actual cost differentials, not symbolic percentages

If the goal is real neighbor island production, the incentive must be material enough to matter.

The \$60 Million Per-Production Cap Waiver Creates Structural Risk

Section 3 lifts the \$17 million per-production cap entirely for productions spending \$60 million or more.

This is one of the most consequential provisions in the bill.

As written, it:

- Concentrates a disproportionate share of the annual cap into a single project
- Favors large outside productions over sustained local activity
- Risks crowding out multiple mid-sized projects that may deliver higher local ROI

Recommended amendment:

- Restore a graduated per-production cap, even for large projects; or
- Create a separate mega-production allocation with its own ceiling, safeguards, and reporting requirements

Competitiveness should not come at the expense of fiscal discipline.

Annual Cap Increase Must Be Conditioned on Outcomes

Raising the annual cap from \$50 million to \$60 million is not inherently problematic — but it cannot be unconditional.

Without stronger performance requirements, the State increases exposure without guarantees of:

- Workforce development
- Infrastructure investment
- Local vendor sustainability

Recommended amendment:

Condition the higher annual cap on:

- Verified local hire ratios
- In-state spend thresholds
- Timely reporting and certification

Incentives should scale with impact, not merely with production budgets.

Third-Party Certification Should Be Proportionate

Clarifying third-party certification improves transparency, but blanket requirements risk unintended consequences.

Smaller local and independent productions may be disproportionately burdened by full tax-opinion requirements.

Recommended amendment:

- Tier certification requirements by production size
- Allow streamlined or pooled certification options for smaller projects

Transparency should protect the program without discouraging participation.

Address the Missing Piece: Local Vendor and GE Tax Parity

Finally, the bill expands credits but does not address General Excise Tax pyramiding, which quietly disadvantages Hawai'i-based vendors.

Local equipment, transportation, and service providers often pay GE tax repeatedly on the same assets, while imported equipment avoids that burden. This:

- Makes local vendors structurally more expensive
- Incentivizes importing gear
- Undermines long-term local infrastructure investment

Recommended amendment:

Provide GE tax parity or pass-through relief for qualified local production rentals, aligned with certified productions — strengthening local capacity without increasing the credit rate or annual cap.

Conclusion

This bill should advance — but not as written.

Without amendments, it raises exposure while weakening accountability.

With targeted, performance-based refinements, it can:

- Improve competitiveness
- Protect taxpayers
- Build a durable, Hawai'i-owned film ecosystem

I urge the Committee to move this measure forward with amendments that reward real investment, real jobs, and real infrastructure — not just higher spending totals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 6:53:01 AM

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

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

Comments:

We need Stability. We need to extend the credit to 2038 and raise the cap, Hawaii needs major studios that they can build long-term franchises and series here, providing you with years of steady, local employment. This is so important to keep people in our industry here and working. We have lost so many since the cancellation of our last to shows to the continent. I would love to stay here, but I myself may be forced to move out of Hawaii to keep working. I support HB2269

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 6:55:42 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

My name is Kevin Kersting. I'm a member of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **I strongly support HB2269**, Relating to the Motion Picture, Digital Media, and Film Production Income Tax Credit.

This bill is a direct investment in stable, middle-class jobs for Hawaii's creative workforce. The changes proposed in SB 2580 will significantly increase Hawai'i's ability to attract lasting work with thriving wage jobs to stabilize the long-term health of this vital industry. I thank the legislature for their foresight in proposing the increase of the overall cap, the increase of the per production percentages, the inclusion of "streaming platforms" as qualified productions, and the extension of the sunset date will make great strides in supporting the thousands of local working families that are supported by this industry. Excluding companies that incur more than \$60 million in qualified expenditures from the "per production" cap will encourage long-term projects towards our islands.

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. SB 2580 will take meaningful steps to empower our film tax incentive program, and will support thousands of working families in Hawai'i.

I strongly support BB 2269. I urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Kevin Kersting

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 6:56:49 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The film industry in Hawai'i needs these expanded changes to become more competitive with other locations. These changes will encourage long-term investment, and protects jobs for local crews and talent. The benefit for the state shows up in jobs, local spending and an increased tax base.

HB-2269

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

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of Oahu and a member of the Director's Guild of America who tries to work only here in the state so I can continue to stay with my family, I whole-heartedly support HB2269. I thank the Governor and the State Legislature for their demonstrable support of the film industry.

In support of bill HB2269

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill HB 2269, which proposes critical enhancements to Hawaii's film tax credit program. My name is Bryan Spicer, and I have had the honor of serving as a film director on *Hawaii Five-0* and *Magnum PI* over the past decade. With over 250 episodes in Hawaii to my credit, I have witnessed the remarkable potential of our state's film industry, as well as the challenges it faces.

The proposed amendments to the tax credit program—including raising the base tax credit rate to 27% and 32% for streaming platforms, removing the per production cap for large expenditures, and extending the sunset date to 2038—are vital for several reasons:

-Enhanced Competitiveness: In an increasingly competitive landscape, it is essential for Hawaii to offer attractive incentives to filmmakers. By raising the tax credit rates and removing caps, we can position ourselves more favorably against other states and countries that are aggressively courting film productions.

-Sustained Economic Growth: A thriving film industry creates jobs and stimulates economic activity across various sectors. From local vendors and service providers to hospitality and tourism, the ripple effects of a robust film industry benefit our entire community.

-Support for Diverse Content: The inclusion of streaming platforms in the tax credit expansion acknowledges the changing nature of media consumption. As more content shifts to digital platforms, it is vital that Hawaii remains a relevant and attractive location for these productions, ensuring that our stories reach global audiences.

-Long-Term Viability: Extending the sunset date to 2038 provides filmmakers with the assurance they need to invest in our state. This long-term commitment fosters stability and encourages both local and international productions to establish roots in Hawaii and build much needed studios and infrastructure.

Bill HB 2269 is a crucial step toward revitalizing Hawaii's film industry, and I urge you to support it as well. The future of our creative community depends on our ability to adapt and compete on a larger scale.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Bryan Spicer
DGA Director

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:50:28 AM

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

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

Comments:

Committee: Economic Development & Technology

RE: HB 2269 – Film Tax Credit Cap Increase

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Lukas Seno**, Business Representative of **IATSE Local 665**, representing behind-the-scenes film, television, and live-event workers in Hawai‘i. I support **HB 2269**, which increases the annual cap for the motion picture, digital media, and film production income tax credit from \$50 million to \$60 million. This larger cap helps keep production work in Hawai‘i longer and prevents the cap from being reached too early in the year, which would otherwise reduce jobs and hours for local residents. Keeping more work here means **more employment opportunities, more hours, and stronger career stability for our members.**

Mahalo.

Lukas Seno

IATSE LOCAL 665

Business Representative

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:53:26 AM

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

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

Comments:

As a working film professional in Hawai‘i, I strongly support HB2269 and Governor Green’s film tax credit bill. The film and television industry provides stable, high-quality jobs for local residents across a wide range of skilled trades, while also supporting small businesses, tourism, and long-term workforce development. This bill helps keep Hawai‘i competitive with other production hubs, ensuring that projects choose to film here rather than taking jobs and investment elsewhere. HB2269 is not just an incentive for outside productions—it is an investment in local talent, local families, and a sustainable creative economy rooted in Hawai‘i.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:00:51 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nickoma Ing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:05:37 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Rodriguez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Steven Rodriguez. I'm a professional stunt performer and fight coordinator working in the TV & Film industry. I'm submitting a written testimony in support of SB2580 and SB2796, both of which help strengthen Hawai'i's competitiveness as a film and media production location while supporting local industry jobs.

I've had the opportunity of working in other states and out of the country. Thanks to the Hawai'ian industry I was able to meet my now wife (Hannah-Grace Rodriguez"McDermott ") she's an amazing stunt performer and Intimicy Coordinator. We worked together on Chief Of War. We have created a life together and both know there is NO place like home. There is no better place to film.

Hawai'i is home to some of the best movies and shows in the TV & Film industry, not only on screen but we have some of the best of the best, hard working crew members. Also the sceneries that Hawai'i provides are unique and enriched by the island love.

People often say "you don't quit the industry, the industry quits you" and if there is anything you've taken from my statement, please let it be that. Please let the cast & crew members keep having a chance to create what they are so passionate about.

Filming in Hawai'i made such a huge impact in my professional career and personal life. I got to fall in love with it and moved to the island wanting to bring more to the industry and support the local community.

The film and media industry brings significant economic activity to the islands and the families.

This bill would mean more consistent employment opportunities for performers, coordinators like myself, crew members of all departments and many local small businesses that provide

services to production crews. When productions come here, they spend locally on hotels, restaurants, equipment rentals, transportation, training facilities, etc.

I am so passionate about the TV & Film industry as well as many others. I respectfully ask that the committee support SB2580 and SB2796.

Mahalo for your time, your consideration of this testimony and your ongoing efforts to support Hawai'i's creativity.

Please save the film industry in Hawai'i!!

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Steven Rodriguez

IMDB: [IMDb Vanity URL \(imdb.me/StevenRodriguez\)](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0744868/)

Stunt Performer & Fight Coordinator

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:17:25 AM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am in support of HB2269. We need to bring more work to Hawaii and support the communities and families of Hawaii. This will allow more opportunities and more growth BEYOND the tourism industry. Supporting cultural education and expansion.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:20:49 AM

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

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

Comments:

strongly support this bill. keep our film industry competitive and enticing and keep the many benefits in state.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:25:27 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alana Eagle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members, my name is **Alana Eagle** from **Honolulu**. I built my early career in Hawai'i's film industry, but I had to step away because the **work wasn't stable enough to build a life around**. That instability still **forces local workers to choose** between tourism or leaving the state, and too often it separates families. HB2269 helps Hawai'i compete for productions that create steady local jobs and keep spending circulating in our economy.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:30:08 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valen ahlo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i strongly support hb22609.

it strengthens our local workforce, supports long term industry stability. we need to keep up with the times to be competitive with the world. please support.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:39:51 AM

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

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

Comments:

I support this bill for the film industry and economy at large.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2269
KIMEE BALMILERO

February 5th 2026

My name is Kimee Balmilero. I am originally from Kāneʻohe, and I am a professional actor born and raised in Hawaiʻi. I write in strong support of HB 2269.

My love for acting started here in Hawaiʻi. I am a lifetime theatre student of Ronald E. Bright, and the foundation of my career was built in local classrooms and on local stages. Hawaiʻi taught me how to be an artist. Like many creatives born here, I eventually had to leave the state to pursue professional opportunities, but I always hoped I could return home and continue this work in the place that shaped me.

Film and television production has made that possible. When production is happening in Hawaiʻi, it creates real jobs for local people who have trained here, invested here, and want to stay here. When it is not happening, that work does not disappear — it simply moves somewhere else, taking jobs and income with it.

This bill helps Hawaiʻi remain competitive in an industry that has many choices. By increasing the tax credit, allowing large productions to fully participate, expanding eligibility to streaming platforms, and extending the program long term, this bill sends a clear message that Hawaiʻi is open for business and serious about keeping this work here.

This is not just about film sets. It is about keeping skilled workers in Hawaiʻi, supporting local vendors and small businesses, and allowing people who grew up here to build careers without having to leave their families behind. It is about honoring the investment Hawaiʻi has already made in educating and training its artists and workers.

I want to continue doing the work I love in the place I love. This bill helps make that possible for me and for so many others who want to build their lives and careers here at home.

I respectfully urge your support.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kimee J. Balmilero". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized flourish at the end of the name.

Kimee J. Balmilero

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 12:00:24 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luis Linares	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

All film productions require years of planning during all aspects of production. From Pre-production, Production, to Post-production. Therefore requiring a long term commitment of money and resources (INVESTMENTS) As a business it often hopes to stay open to the possibility of expansion and growth. A possible sequel, more investment, a bigger budget, etc. ALL of these things would be beneficial for the state, from workers to all the other industries it touches and influence. Let's make sure we don't shoot ourselves in the foot by limiting the possibility of growth for our own people. Therefore I STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill. LET'S GET HAWAII BACK TO WORK WITH A STRONGER, BIGGER, BETTER AND MORE INTEGRATED FILM INDUSTRY. Mahalo for your support. Aloha.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 12:34:15 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am in support of this bill to continue to help our local film industry in Hawaii. Let's keep all of our film ohana working.

Angelica Quinn

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 1:31:08 PM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2269.

Hawaii's film and television industry provides critical jobs and economic activity for local workers and small businesses. Updating the film tax credit to reflect modern production realities, including streaming, is essential to keeping work in Hawai'i.

HB 2269 strengthens our local workforce, supports long-term industry stability, and helps ensure Hawai'i remains a competitive production destination. I respectfully urge your support.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 1:59:37 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy D Moser	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In opposition.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 4:45:11 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaun Skinner Wolfe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The film industry in Hawai'i has been suffering for some time with many professionals in the industry either unemployed or barely scraping by (including myself in the later category). This bill would help revitalize the film industry in Hawai'i and all of the locals that it employs. Please consider it.

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 4:49:05 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2269, relating to the motion picture, digital media, and film production income tax credit.

Modernizing our film tax credits is essential for maintaining Hawaii's competitiveness in the global production market. HB 2269 provides necessary updates that will help stabilize the local industry, encourage long-term investment in our infrastructure, and ensure a sustainable career path for our local creative workforce.

I respectfully urge the committee to pass this measure to further strengthen Hawaii's economy and its vibrant film community.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this important bill.

Best regards,

Jeff Juett

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 5:25:32 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hailey Veltri	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello. I oppose this bill because I believe that this strategy of using tax credits to make it cheap to film here is deeply flawed. It is probably never going to be cheap to film a movie in Hawai'i. We can invest in film equipment to make it cheaper for studios to film here, but at the end of the day, Hawai'i's isolation means that the cost of flying cast and crew to the islands will always make this place expensive to film. So why are we betting on a failing strategy? I'm not saying that tax credits don't have their place, but Hawai'i can't afford to offer the same amount of tax credits as other states, so we need other strategies.

A better bet would be to leverage Hawai'i's isolation and unique natural assets so that film companies come here because they can't film anywhere else. We have a tropical climate nearly unique to the United States. The only other state that can even come close to Hawai'i in terms of climate is Florida. So as long as we have better tax credits than FLorida we're golden. In ecological terms: Hawai'i is a specialist in the ecosystem, but the tax credits are best suited for generalists with nothing special that sets them apart. Hawai'i IS special - we need to leverage that, not how cheap we can be.

To put things into slightly more crass terms: Georgia's film strategy (offering extensive tax cuts) is like wearing a low cut top to a bar and going home with anyone who will have her. Georgia gets movie deals because Georgia is /cheap./ Anyone can be cheap. Hawai'i has the leverage to be a woman at the bar who's so aloof and charming that prospective film deals approach her. Not good in the short term, but in the long term, you form stronger (and healthier) relationships.

Don't make Hawai'i cheap!

HB-2269

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:53:01 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a tour guide on Oahu I receive requests from many visitors to take them to TV and movie filming sites. From “Hawai’i 5-0” to “Lost”, “Magnum PI” and most recently “Chiefs of War.” Unfortunately, I have to relay that the majority of “Chiefs of War” was not filmed locally, but in New Zealand. The ability to recommend custom filming site tours or incorporate them into general sightseeing helps my small business and others in the tourism industry. I strongly support bills to encourage more film and television production in the islands, including more investment by way of tax benefits.