



**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](http://dbedt.hawaii.gov)

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

Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
Director  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Tuesday, March 3, 2026  
10:17 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of  
**SB2578, SD1**  
**RELATING TO THE FILM INDUSTRY.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **support** of SB2578, SD1, which establishes a Hawai'i Film Commission and modernizes the State's governance structure for film, television, and digital media production. This measure is a critical step in aligning Hawai'i with global best practices in media industry development and ensuring that the State can compete in a rapidly evolving production economy.

Around the world, leading production jurisdictions have moved beyond traditional "film offices" and now operate through film commissions or media authorities that integrate:

- Incentive administration
- Studio and infrastructure development
- Workforce pipelines
- Public-private partnerships
- International marketing and co-production strategy

This structure exists because film is no longer simply an arts activity, it is a capital-intensive economic sector that requires coordinated governance. Examples include:

- California Film Commission – Administers incentives and coordinates large-scale production strategy statewide.

- Georgia Film Office – A key driver behind Georgia’s emergence as a global production hub through centralized incentive administration and industry coordination.
- New York State Governor’s Office of Motion Picture & Television Development – Integrates incentives, studio growth, and workforce policy.
- New Zealand Film Commission – National body coordinating incentives, workforce, and global production attraction alongside infrastructure growth.
- British Film Commission (under the UK’s BFI) – Centralized authority supporting inward investment, studio expansion, and international productions.
- Screen Australia – National commission integrating grants, development funding, industry growth, and export.

These jurisdictions have demonstrated that institutional structure matters. Production follows not just incentives, but certainty, speed, infrastructure, and governance capacity.

SB2578, SD1 brings Hawai’i into alignment with this global model.

Film and digital media production now involves:

- Multi-million to multi-billion-dollar infrastructure investments
- Studio campuses and soundstage development
- Virtual production and post-production facilities
- AI-enabled production workflows
- Long-term workforce pipelines tied to education and credentialing

These are asset-driven economic development activities. They require an entity with authority to:

- Enter into public-private partnerships
- Manage and activate state-owned production facilities
- Administer grants and development funds
- Coordinate statewide permitting and industry engagement

SB2578, SD1 explicitly grants these authorities to the Hawai’i Film Commission, including P3 agreements for studios, sound stages, post-production, and creative technology infrastructure.

A traditional program housed within a broader division is not structured to execute at this scale or speed. A commission provides:

- Dedicated governance
- Industry expertise on the board
- Operational flexibility

- Clear accountability through annual reporting

The Legislature has already recognized that high-impact industries require dedicated authorities or corporations, not general program administration. Examples include:

- Agriculture sector entities
- Housing finance and development corporations
- Technology and innovation development corporations
- Tourism and destination management authorities

These structures exist because those industries require:

- Asset development
- Financing and partnerships
- Market-driven responsiveness
- Industry-specific governance

Film and digital media now sit at that same level of economic significance. SB2578, SD1 provides the same structural maturity for this sector.

As outlined in the State's media strategy blueprint, Hawai'i has:

- World-class locations
- Strong brand value
- Emerging workforce pipelines

But faces structural gaps:

- Limited soundstage and post-production capacity
- Shallow senior crew base
- Competition from jurisdictions with stronger governance and infrastructure models
- A production incentive system constrained by administrative capacity rather than strategy

Without modernization, productions will continue to migrate to jurisdictions where institutional readiness matches industry needs. The proposed Commission directly addresses these structural gaps.

SB2578, SD1 also embeds workforce strategy into the Commission's duties, including:

- K–12 pathways
- Postsecondary and credential-based training
- Upskilling in AI, virtual production, and digital workflows

This aligns with the statewide curriculum-to-career approach needed to convert production activity into long-term resident employment and industry growth.

The bill maintains strong public accountability through:

- Annual reporting to the Legislature
- Incentive reporting
- Grant reporting
- Public-private partnership disclosure
- Workforce outcome reporting

This ensures the Commission operates as an economic development authority with legislative oversight, not an isolated entity.

SB2578, SD1 is not simply an organizational change. It is a structural modernization that:

- Aligns Hawai'i with global film industry governance best practices
- Enables infrastructure and asset development
- Strengthens workforce pipelines
- Provides the institutional capacity required to compete internationally
- Treats the film and digital media sector with the same seriousness as other legislatively prioritized industries

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2578, SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA  
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

**LATE**

Statement of  
**GEORJA SKINNER**  
Division Chief, Creative Industries  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

March 3, 2026  
10:17 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of  
**SB2578 SD1**  
**RELATING TO THE FILM INDUSTRY**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the Committee. The Creative Industries Division (CID) of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SB2578 SD1, which creates a Hawai'i Film Commission attached to the department. As proposed, the measure establishes a film fund, adds leadership positions exempt from Chapter 76, transfers Hawai'i film office functions and its civil service positions to the commission and maintains the film permitting functions as noted in chapter 201-14 HRS, separates film sector oversight and development from the creative industries framework, restructures funding flows, strengthens governance and reporting, establishes a new source of funding to attract productions, and adds responsibilities for workforce development, and development of production industry infrastructure.

As the global production industry evolves, an encompassing commission structure as proposed in SB2578 is timely and necessary. Massive consolidation of media corporations in film, television, streaming and other media industries are going through a seismic shift, with new business models evolving at an unprecedented pace.

We support the intent of many aspects of SB2578 HD1, which seeks to evolve Hawai'i's film industry governance as part of the maturity of this industry cluster. Through establishing a Hawai'i Film Commission comprised of industry and government leaders, the scope and duties of this body will look at a broader ecosystem development approach to include workforce initiatives, facilities development and management, business attraction, grants for film projects and industry development.

CID welcomes the opportunity to work with our lawmakers to refine language to ensure the vision is aligned, properly resourced, and operational clarity to include ethical safeguards when granting the commission its authority.

### **Funding & Grant Viability**

The newly proposed Film Industry Development Special Fund appears primarily reliant on the 0.2% tax credit processing fee, which generated \$68,519 (2023) and \$75,916 (2024). Given the scope and general areas of responsibility for the commission and staff, clarification is needed on whether additional appropriations are planned, and whether projected revenues are sufficient to support meaningful grant and workforce programs. Statutory language regarding where these funds are deposited must be reconciled.

### **HRS 201-113 Hawai'i Creative and Media Industries Development Fund**

We support the need for separating out the term "film" from the existing statute to focus on all film industry solely under the new fund as proposed in this measure. As a core strategic pillar of the division strategic framework to build a viable export industry for the state, the media cluster we request remains as a core purpose of the original fund as intended. While the funding resources derived from the 0.2% are slated to be removed as a resource for HRS 201-113, we will continue to provide seed capital for media, music, design and other emerging clusters in creative sectors, advancing our global export capacity of intellectual property through regional entrepreneurial development.

## **Grant Program Design & Fiscal Safeguards**

We recommend that the film grants focus on mid-to-large productions with clear eligibility thresholds, award caps, transparent scoring, and milestone-based payments. are essential, along with claw back and audit protections. We recommend that the management of the grants is separated from management of the tax compliance and incentives program, which would remain in DBEDT as proposed this session.

## **Tax Credit & Grant Overlap**

Clarification is needed on whether productions may receive both tax credits and grants. If allowed, stacking limits and priority rules must be established.

## **Tax Credit Cap Authority**

Authority to waive or modify per-production caps should be limited strictly to cap waivers, not base rate changes.

## **Implementation & Oversight**

With staffing delayed until December 31, 2027, strong transparency and reporting safeguards are needed to prevent operational disruption.

CID sees SB 2578 SD1 as a catalyst which has the potential to advance our film industry, accelerate strategic business development, expand our workforce and develop facilities through a structure which is properly resourced and staffed and meets the needs of a rapidly changing industry - for today and tomorrow.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



---

March 3, 2026

Committee on Ways and Means  
Chair Dela Cruz  
Vice Chair Moriwaki

The Senate  
The Thirtieth-Third Legislature  
Regular Session of 2026

[RE: SB 2578 SD1 RELATING TO THE FILM INDUSTRY.](#)

DATE: Tuesday, March 3, 2026

TIME: 10:17 am

PLACE: Conference Room 211

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu HI

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer **comments** on [SB 2578 SD1 RELATING TO THE FILM INDUSTRY.](#)

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.

The film and television/digital media industry is too economically important, logistically complex, and globally far reaching to not have a film commission. This is an idea that is long overdue. Creating a film commission will go a long way to ensuring transparency, fair play, and effectiveness.

A dedicated film commission provides the necessary industry expertise the state needs to provide stability in our film industry. The proposed board structure, which includes representatives from labor, global production, and indigenous storytelling, ensures that the state's strategy is informed by actual practitioners and cultural stewards.

---

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

While we recognize the vital importance of establishing the Commission, we respectfully defer to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) regarding the specific administrative and fiscal restructuring proposed in the measure.

We believe DBEDT is best positioned to comment on the operational feasibility of these transfers, the fiscal impact of diverting fees between special funds, and the internal logistical requirements of transitioning the Hawaii Film Office's duties to the new Commission.

We are grateful for the legislature's continued support of our industry. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our offices for more information on how this measure impacts our members, your constituents.

Respectfully,

*Mericia Palma Elmore*

Mericia Palma Elmore, Executive Director SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local

State of Hawai'i  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
State Senate  
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Tuesday, March 3, 2026  
10:17AM – Room 211, HI State Capitol

**SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS REGARDING SB 2578 SD 1**  
**RELATING TO THE FILM INDUSTRY**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony for **SB 2578 SD 1 in SUPPORT, IF AMENDED**.

The Hawai'i Film Alliance (HFA) is a member-based organization comprised of Hawai'i film and television professionals, entertainment union members, creative workers, production companies, small businesses, and allied industry partners who live and work in the State of Hawai'i. Our members span the full spectrum of the production ecosystem that enables films to operate locally.

HFA supports the intent behind this measure which creates a statutory Hawai'i Film Commission, transferring existing film office duties into a dedicated governance structure, and establishing a Film Industry Development Special Fund to support incentives, workforce development, industry promotion and infrastructure.

Film production is no longer “just arts.” It is a capital-intensive sector tied to infrastructure, permitting speed, workforce pipelines and public-private partnerships. Other jurisdictions use commissions or media authorities to integrate these functions, and that governance capacity and certainty determine where production goes.

In an increasingly competitive global environment, jurisdictions are modernizing their film support systems by creating integrated authorities that can respond efficiently to industry needs, invest in next generation technologies and align workforce development with emerging modes of content creation. SB 2578 SD 1 presents an opportunity for Hawai'i to strengthen its economic development strategy by improving coordination, accountability, and operational efficiency within this sector.

At the same time, SB 2578 SD 1 needs targeted amendments to become a workable, accountable modernization rather than a symbolic vehicle.



To minimize disruption during active production and ongoing operations, HFA respectfully offers the following considerations as this measure advances:

1. That current film office staff be given the first right of refusal for positions under the new Hawai'i Film Commission, preserving institutional knowledge and operational continuity.
2. That clarification on who does what in administering the film tax credit under HRS 235.17 is provided so roles and responsibilities of staff and commissioners are clear.
3. That the permitting system be streamlined across all government properties in a consistent and equitable manner to reduce delays and improve cost predictability for productions.
4. That the ability to waive or modify the \$17M per production cap come with parameters, guardrails and transparency. We urge the Legislature to require criteria such as local hire targets, workforce investments, minimum in-state spend thresholds and public reporting on waiver decisions and their impact on the annual cap distribution.
5. That representation for labor unions be increased, with appointments informed by input from their respective memberships, ensuring workforce perspectives are included. There are Hawai'i residents who are members of the following entertainment local unions: IATSE 665, SAG-AFTRA, Hawai'i Teamsters 996, Musicians Local, Directors Guild of America, Writers Guild of America (East & West) and Producers Guild of America. Some have offices located in Hawai'i.
6. That the number of county film commissioners be expanded to more accurately reflect and serve the residents and economic conditions of each county.
7. That if the role of the Hawai'i Film Commission extends beyond an advisory capacity, commission members and/or staff be compensated fairly in recognition of their responsibilities and contributions.

With these considerations, SB 2578 SD 1 can enhance Hawai'i's economic development goals by strengthening a high-value, export-oriented industry that supports local jobs, small businesses, and workforce development statewide.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure. Please consider implementing the above **AMENDMENTS BEFORE PASSING SB 2578 SD 1.**

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 7:19:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Soraya-Elena Perez	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Soraya- Elena Perez and I have the following comment on this Bill. I believe this bill modernizes our industry's governance by establishing an independent Hawaii Film Commission and a dedicated development fund.

Mahalo

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 7:42:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shereen Balles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Shereen Balles and I am offering comments on Senate Bill 2578 SD 1.

This bill modernizes our industry's governance by establishing an independent Hawaii Film Commission and a dedicated development fund.

Mahālo nūnui for hearing SB 2578 SD1.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana Pau'ole,

Shereen Balles

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 8:25:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Casey Merrill	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No. Talk about a headache. This is going to make things worse. This isn't going to change what needs to be done. This doesn't help local entertainment crew.

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 10:34:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Romano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill.

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 9:11:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in strong opposition to SB 2578 SD1. I can say plainly: this is not a new commission. It is the same office, the same people, the same chain of command — with a new name, civil service exemptions that never expire, and a dedicated special fund with broad discretionary spending authority and no meaningful accountability to match.

It is structurally identical to what it replaces. Section 9 transfers all rights, powers, functions, duties, officers, and employees of the Hawaii Film Office directly to the new commission. No one is removed. No one is evaluated. The same staff that presided over multi-year credit delays and lax local hiring enforcement simply continues — now insulated from civil service protections that would otherwise provide oversight. The executive director is appointed by the DBEDT Director. The DBEDT Director chairs the commission. The Governor appoints the remaining members. This is DBEDT all the way down.

The special fund is a blank check. All revenues and fees from processing the film tax credit — currently flowing into the broader creative industries fund — are redirected into a new Film Industry Development Special Fund controlled by this same DBEDT-led structure. The fund can be spent on “financial assistance and seed capital,” “industry promotion,” and broadly defined “infrastructure support.” There are no performance benchmarks tied to disbursements, no independent auditor, and no clawback mechanism if the money fails to produce results. This is handing a dysfunctional office a dedicated revenue stream and calling it reform.

The commission can waive the per-production credit cap — unilaterally. Under Section 201-E(2) and the amended Section 235-17(1), the commission gains authority to waive or modify the \$17 million per-production credit cap. A politically appointed body, chaired by the DBEDT Director, with no independent oversight, can now grant unlimited credits to a single production without legislative approval. That is not a feature. That is the most dangerous provision in this bill.

What accountability exists is cosmetic. The annual report requirement lists what was awarded — credits, grants, waivers, partnerships — but sets no benchmarks those awards must meet. There is no requirement to report resident versus non-resident payroll ratios. No vendor expenditure certifications. No return-on-investment analysis. No consequence if the program underperforms. A real accountability structure publishes that data in real time, ties cap expansion to demonstrated ROI, and includes clawback authority with teeth — none of which appears here.

A genuine Hawaii Film Commission would be structurally independent from DBEDT, led by professionals with direct production industry experience rather than political appointees, and funded based on performance — not a redirected fee stream with no strings attached. It would have mandatory clawback authority, a public data dashboard, and a per-production cap that cannot be waived by the same people who benefit from waiving it.

SB 2578 SD1 is not that. It is a repackaging of the status quo with more money and fewer guardrails. I urge the Committee to hold this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 7:55:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christopher Wiecking	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Christopher Wiecking and I am a 27 year member of IATSE Local 665 Hawaii. I submit my testimony in support of SB2578. Thank you for your time. Aloha.

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 8:00:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jean Simon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I suport SB 2578, the formation of a Film Commission.

This would modernize the Hawaii film industry, helping it to be more competitive. Hopefully, it would simplify the process, give it clarity, and support the film industry in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Jean Simon

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 7:27:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Debra Grey	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

My name is Debra Grey, and I am a member of the Fandom of MagnumPI.

I offer comments on SB 2578.

I support the concept of a Film Commission provided that labor has meaningful representation and

that implementation is streamlined to avoid delays affecting local jobs.

Ensuring workforce inclusion and administrative efficiency will protect Hawai'i workers and industry

stability.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 7:55:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Vincent Laurent Loïc LEQUERTIER	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

My name is Vincent LEQUERTIER and I am a member of the Fandom of MagnumPI.

I offer comments on SB 2578.

I support the concept of a Film Commission provided that labor has meaningful representation and

that implementation is streamlined to avoid delays affecting local jobs.

Ensuring workforce inclusion and administrative efficiency will protect Hawai'i workers and industry

stability.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Vincent LEQUERTIER

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 8:05:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
fabienne lequertier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

My name is Fabienne Lequertier, and I am a member of the *Magnum P.I.* fandom.

I respectfully offer comments on SB2578. I support the concept of establishing a Film Commission, provided that labor has meaningful representation and that the implementation process is streamlined to avoid delays that could negatively impact local jobs.

Ensuring strong workforce inclusion and administrative efficiency will help protect Hawai'i's workers while maintaining stability and competitiveness within the industry.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
Fabienne Lequertier

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 8:40:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hounsa Léonce Peace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

My name is HOUNSA Léonce Peace and I am a member of the Fandom of MagnumPI. I live in the Republic of Benin, located in Africa. And I'm a huge fan of the Magnum P.I. series. We miss it terribly.

I offer comments on SB 2578.

I support the concept of a Film Commission provided that labor has meaningful representation and

that implementation is streamlined to avoid delays affecting local jobs.

Ensuring workforce inclusion and administrative efficiency will protect Hawai'i workers and industry

stability.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 8:44:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tara LauLu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs & Members,

My Name is TARA F. LauLu & I'm a Member of Fandoms of MagnumPI

I offer Comments on SB2578.

I support the concept of Film Commission provided that Labor has Meaningful Representations & That Implementation is Streamlined to Avoid Delays affecting Local Jobs.

Ensuring Workforce inclusions & Administrative Efficiency will protect HAWAII Workers & Film Industry Stability.

Mahalo Nui Loa for Consideration.

Tara F.LauLu

Fandoms of MagnumPI

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 9:49:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
claudia kühn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hallo,

wir unterstützen die Idee mit einer Filmkommission zu arbeiten, Jeder Übergang muss rationalisiert werden und Verzögerungen zu vermeiden die lokale Arbeitsplätze kosten könnten Jobs und Löhne, Arbeit muss einen Platz am Tisch haben und Hawaii braucht eine stabile Filmindustrie dies möchte ich hiermit unterstützen, Mahalo

Claudia kühn

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 11:57:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaipu Seales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

My name is Kaipu Seales and I am a member of IATSE Local 665.

I respectfully support SB 2578 because it empowers local labor at the table in decision making for our film industry. Any transition must be streamlined to avoid delays that could cost local jobs. Hawai'i needs efficient and stable film policies.

Supporting local labor ensures productions continue hiring Hawai'i crew and investing in our workforce. This is so important for keeping local families in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Kaipu Seales

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 12:43:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Phyllis Bruce	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am a member of The Fandom of Magnum PI and am support of this bill. Any tool that can be implemented to insure the film industry can avoid costly delays when filming in your beautiful state is essential. It will avoid workers being affected which in turn affects all businesses on the island. It is a win-win for everyone involved.

Thank you!

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 8:09:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Lee Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lisa Lee Mitchell. I am a member of both IATSE Local 665 and the Hawaii Film Alliance.

While I support the concept of establishing a formal Film Commission to advocate for our industry, this support is contingent upon two critical factors: 1. It is important that the commission is comprised of individuals with significant, hands-on experience in the film and television industry. Representation should include active workers and technicians who understand the day-to-day realities of production in the islands. 2. The implementation of this commission must be streamlined. We must ensure that a new administrative layer does not create delays in permitting or incentive processing, as such delays directly threaten local jobs and industry stability.

Ensuring workforce inclusion and administrative efficiency will protect Hawai'i workers and ensure that our industry remains competitive in a global market.

I respectfully ask the committee to consider these points as the measure moves forward to ensure the commission serves as an accelerator for the industry, not a hurdle.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Lee Mitchell

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 6:26:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying in support of SB2578.

I agree with the findings of the previous committee in that instead of having an office that interacts with film projects, Hawaii needs a commission to be building the film industry in Hawaii, focusing on workforce development, infrastructure development, and industry development. We need to be building the industry so that we are telling our stories, not just other people's stories being told in Hawaii.

The film industry is another economic driver that can help us move away from tourism, and we need to support that. It can build our own people up to have sustainable and meaningful employment, if we support it the right way, and I believe a commission will be able to do that.

Mahalo for your consideration,  
Keoni Shizuma

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:37:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
HENRY IAN CUSICK	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I'm the President of SAG-Aftra Hawai'i local representing 1,400 actors, recording artists, and media professionals 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.

The film and television/digital media industry is too economically important, logistically complex, and globally far reaching to not have a film commission.

Creating a film commission will go a long way to ensuring transparency, fair play, and effectiveness.

A dedicated film commission provides the necessary industry expertise the state needs to provide stability in our film industry. The proposed board structure, which includes representatives from labor, global production, and indigenous storytelling, ensures that the states strategy is informed by actual practitioners and cultural stewards.

Mahalo

HI Cusick

President Sag-Aftra Hawa'i local.

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:50:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tiffany Tavares	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

My name is Tiffany T Tavares. I was born and raised here in Kalihi and I am a member of I.A.T.S.E.Local 665.

I support the concept of a Film Commission provided that labor has meaningful representation and that implementation is streamlined to avoid delays affecting local jobs.

Ensuring workforce inclusion and administrative efficiency will protect Hawai'i workers and industry.

I am hopeful that a film commission will be a step in the right direction to create a sustainable film industry here.

Mahalo,

Tiffany T Tavares

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 10:41:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thomas h. Penny	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and members of this Committee.

My Name is Thomas Penny, and I have worked in the film industry as a member if IATSE Local 665 for 22 years. I am submitting my testimony in support of SB2578 . Thank you for your time.

**LATE**

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 7:33:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mariann Tesauro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and members of this Committee.

My Name is Mariann Tesauro and I have worked in the film industry as a member of IATSE Local 665 for 10 years. I am submitting my testimony in support of (Bill Name). Thank you for your time.

**LATE**

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:08:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Genaro Hale Gualdarama	Testifying for Hawaii Teamsters Local 996	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of bill SB2578.

**LATE**

**SB-2578-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:13:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and members of this Committee.

My Name is Kevin Kersting, and I have worked in the film industry as a member if IATSE Local 665 for 40+ years. I am submitting my testimony in support of SB2578.

Mahalo for your time.