



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Economic Development and Technology  
Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Christopher Lee, Founder/Director, Academy for Creative Media, UH System  
on behalf of

Vassilis L. Syrmos, Vice President for Research and Innovation  
University of Hawai'i System

### HB 1498 – RELATING TO TAXATION

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

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 1498 to increase the motion picture, digital media, and film production income tax credit for qualified productions that utilize qualified production facilities located within the state; changes the cap amount and aggregate cap amount of the motion picture, digital media, and film production income tax credit to unspecified amounts; and exempts a motion picture project employer from the general excise tax reimbursement for employee wages, salaries, payroll taxes, insurance premiums, and employment benefits.

As Hollywood has moved more and more shows overseas where the incentives exceed our own and the currency exchange rates make us far less competitive than we were five years ago, it is important for the state to continue to support this vital industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.