



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented to the  
House Committee on Economic Development  
Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

by

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on behalf of

Vassilis L. Syrmos, Vice President for Research and Innovation  
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SB 2167 SD2 – RELATING TO FILM INFRASTRUCTURE TAX CREDIT

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of SB 2167 SD2 to enhance the state's successful motion picture/television/streaming production industry by incentivizing the building of much needed physical infrastructure. The production industry is an essential component of the diversification of Hawai'i's economy. While numbers are not finalized, 2021 is likely to be another record year of positive impact for the local economy, with a direct spend of over \$400 million.

Unfortunately, Hawai'i is limited by having only one stage worthy of a television series -- the state-owned Diamond Head Studio -- which can only accommodate one show at a time and is insufficient for feature films. Blockbusters like *Jumanji*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Godzilla* and *Jurassic Park* are forced to do the bulk of their interior shooting, visual effects and post production elsewhere. It means that Hawai'i is only getting a small portion of the overall spend on a film. As successful as the production industry is currently, it is severely constrained by lack of physical capacity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.