



# 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  
Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 11:30 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

SCR 172 SD1 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO COLLABORATE WITH UNIVERSITIES IN THE STATE TO CONVENE THE HAWAII CREATIVE INNOVATION GROUP

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

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is in support of SCR 172 SD1, as it continues the Legislature's long time support for building Hawai'i's creative economy through education.

Honolulu Community College's Fashion Technology program, which has been recognized internationally for starting the careers of noted graduates Kini Zamora and Ari South; and its Music & Entertainment Learning Experience (MELE), are examples of innovative creative programs originating at UH. Another example is the Academy for Creative Media, UH System, which has been the recipient of legislative support for twenty years and now offers students access to 16 different programs across UH's ten campuses.

The University of Hawai'i welcomes the opportunity for closer collaboration with the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and other stakeholders through the proposed Hawai'i Creative Innovation Group.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SCR 172 SD1.