



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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

by

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on behalf of

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

### SB 732 SD2 – RELATING TO FILM INDUSTRY

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

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of SB 732 SD2 which seeks to enhance and sustain the state's existing production tax credits which are essential for workforce development, a diversified economy, and to ensure jobs for our many graduates in the production industry.

Defining "streaming platform" is essential given the changes in technology and how shows and films are delivered directly to the consumer. By recognizing that most streaming shows have six, eight or 10 episodes per season and much higher production budgets than the outdated 20-episode season definition -- means that \$100 million blockbusters like *Chief of War* might have had a better chance of staying in Hawai'i instead of shooting primarily in New Zealand.

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.