



# 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  
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism  
Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 1:01 p.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

### SB 1629 – RELATING TO TAXATION

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

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of SB 1629.

This measure seeks 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; change 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.