

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AGRICULTURE, AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

November 16, 2012

**Committee
Report No.** _____

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Economic Development, Agriculture, and Recreation Committee, having met on November 1, 2012, makes reference to County Communication 12-3, from Councilmember Mike White, transmitting the matter relating to a request for an update on the County's current and long-range plans for film projects.

A representative of the Office of Economic Development informed your Committee that the Maui County Film Office has established a new website. He provided a brief overview of the films and crews that have utilized the website. The representative also provided your Committee with a presentation of the Maui County Film Office's future goals and objectives.

The Hawaii State Film Commissioner informed your Committee that in 2007, the State of Hawaii approved a film tax incentive, which provides a 20 per cent and 15 per cent tax credit on all film production related expenses on the neighbor islands and Oahu, respectively. The Commissioner noted that any company seeking to obtain a permit to film in Hawaii must provide workshops, hands-on training, or cash contributions to further the development of Hawaii film crews or school curriculum in the State.

The Commissioner also informed your Committee that another film studio is needed in the State. However, a film studio is an expensive undertaking, since it generally operates at a net loss and is not a net revenue producer. Tax incentives are a more effective way of enticing films to utilize Hawaii locations.

Your Committee voted 6-0 to recommend filing of the communication. Committee Chair White and members Baisa, Carroll, Couch, Hokama, and Pontanilla voted "aye". Committee Vice-Chair Cochran was excused.

Your Economic Development, Agriculture, and Recreation Committee **RECOMMENDS** that County Communication 12-3 be FILED.

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This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



MIKE WHITE, Chair

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