

# FilmHawaii

HAWAII FILM OFFICE | State of Hawaii, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism | 250 South Hotel St., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor | Honolulu, HI 96813  
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## Professional Support

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In America's only tropical state,  
the filmmaking comfort level  
looks like Hollywood without smog.

Hawaii is where the world's filmmakers come for universally tropical locations under secure, familiar, and professional production circumstances. In Hawaii, they find more than the diverse looks of Africa, Central and South America, Southeast Asia, and Pacifica. They discover that beyond our natural beauty and unsurpassed weather is an established film industry.

Hawaii is home to three generations of crews, seasoned through nearly 40 years of non-stop Hollywood studio, major network, and world production. There is a stage complex, complete with a soundstage and water tank for filming; state-of-the-art camera, lighting, and grip equipment; rolling stock; and a multi-ethnic talent pool that often amazes people. All of this is in an assertively film friendly environment, where government officials, production professionals, and the diverse population are eager to help.

Plus, it doesn't hurt that tax credits, zero or low location fees, reduced film industry rates from airlines, hotels, and rental companies, and a sophisticated modern American infrastructure all exist in Hawaii.

### **The Film Offices of the Hawaiian Islands.**

The commitment to support the film industry starts at the highest levels of state government, and exists uniformly and enthusiastically through the state's Hawaii Film Office as well as the offices of economic development for each of Hawaii's four counties, encompassing six major islands. So in total, Hawaii has five Film Offices to meet the location and production needs of the industry. Together, they market themselves as "The Film Offices of the Hawaiian Islands," and they work hand-in-hand on the same mission: attracting and supporting film projects for the economic benefit of the people of Hawaii.

***The Hawaii Film Office***, or State Film Office as it is frequently called, helps coordinate services to producers, and acts as the official liaison between film industry professionals and other government agencies. It also serves as the

central coordinator for film permits involving State parks, beaches, airports, harbors and highways. The Hawaii Film Office web site, [www.hawaiifilmoffice.com](http://www.hawaiifilmoffice.com), can provide a valuable introduction to the ease of shooting in Hawaii, and its knowledgeable staff is readily available by phone (808) 586-2570, fax (808) 586-2572, or e-mail to administrator, Georja Skinner, [gskinner@dbedt.hawaii.gov](mailto:gskinner@dbedt.hawaii.gov). The Film Office web site is linked to the *Hawaii Production Index*, a thorough online production directory, located at [www.hawaiifilm.com](http://www.hawaiifilm.com). The Hawaii Film Office also maintains a Location Library of photos in traditional panoramic presentations, and links at [www.hawaiifilmoffice.com](http://www.hawaiifilmoffice.com) to the four county film offices, which maintain extensive online production photo libraries.

**The Big Island Film Office**, on the Island of Hawaii, which hosted the production of Tim Burton's *Planet of the Apes*, provides in-depth information on its services and locations at [www.filmbigisland.com](http://www.filmbigisland.com). From snowcapped mountains to lush tropical valleys, the Big Island is Hawaii's most diverse, with 11 of the world's 13 climatic regions. There are white, black, and green sand beaches, active volcanoes, breathtaking coastlines, dense tropical jungles, rolling pastures on huge cattle ranches, arid deserts, surreal lava fields, and magnificent waterfalls. *Wind on Water*, an NBC series, made beautiful use of coastal ranch lands. Contact Commissioner John Mason at (808) 323-4705, by fax at (808) 323-4701, or by e-mail at [film@bigisland.com](mailto:film@bigisland.com).

**The Honolulu Film Office** supports production in the City & County of Honolulu, which makes up the entirety of the Island of Oahu. Commissioner Walea Constantinou has assisted feature films such as *Fifty First Dates*, *Pearl Harbor*, and *Windtalkers*, and television series such as *The River*, *Hawaii Five-0*, *Lost*, *North Shore*, and *Baywatch Hawaii*. The Honolulu Film Office web site, [www.filmhonolulu.com](http://www.filmhonolulu.com), utilizes panoramic location photos that you can pan, zoom and tilt. The site also allows you to create your own location files, print them out, or e-mail them to colleagues. The Commissioner's office can be reached at (808) 768-6108, by fax at (808) 768-6102, or e-mail at [info@filmhonolulu.com](mailto:info@filmhonolulu.com).

**The Kauai Film Commission** presides over the epic locations of the island where all three *Jurassic Park* films saw production. *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* starring Johnny Depp, the island became the jungle paradise of the fabled *Fountain-of-Youth*. Kauai became Venezuela when Universal shot *Dragonfly* there, starring Kevin Costner. Argyll Film Partners' *To End All Wars*, directed by Hawaii-raised filmmaker David Cunningham and starring Kiefer Sutherland, shot Kauai for Burma in the WWII period film. Commissioner Art Umezu can be reached at (808) 241-4948; fax (808) 241-6399; e-mail [aumezu@kauai.gov](mailto:aumezu@kauai.gov). Apart from the original *Jurassic Park*, the island's most famous film was *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, which is one of the most successful all-time box office hits in the U.S., appears on the American Film Institute's list of "100 Greatest Films,"

and won six Academy Awards. Information on shooting on Kauai can be found at [www.filmkauai.com](http://www.filmkauai.com).

**The Maui Film Office** not only deals with production considerations on the island of Maui, but on the islands of Molokai and Lanai as well. Molokai, which is the most Hawaiian of the major islands in the chain, and the most untouched by modern culture, it has stood in for Isla Sorna, off the Costa Rican coast, for scenes from **Jurassic Park III**. Maui, where tropical templates were shot for Disney's **Dinosaur**, is also a magnet for television commercial production companies and advertising agencies, which find its magnificent looks perfect for national spots. Commissioner Harry Donenfeld can be reached at (808) 270-8237, by fax at (808) 270-7995 or e-mail at [filmmaui@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:filmmaui@co.maui.hi.us). The Maui County Film Office web site is [www.filmmaui.com](http://www.filmmaui.com).

### **The Hawaii Film Studio**

The Hawaii Film Office manages a state-owned studio complex in Honolulu that has served as the headquarters for countless television series, including **Hawaii Five-O**, **Lost**, **Magnum, P.I.**, **Baywatch Hawaii**, and **North Shore**. The studio has also provided production facilities for pilots, movies-of-the-week, major commercials, and feature films. Square USA maintained and utilized a state-of-the-art motion capture facility in the complex for four years while producing **Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within**.

Originally built by CBS for *Five-O*, the facility includes a 16,500-square-foot sound stage with a clear span interior height of 29 feet, a new production office building and construction mill completed in May 2006, five production bungalows, two office trailers, set dressing and props, storage, parking, space for caterers, restroom and shower facilities, and utility hookups for mobile dressing trailers--all nestled in 7.5 quiet acres at the foot of Diamond Head crater.

The studio complex is just ten minutes from the hotels, restaurants and nightlife of Waikiki, and less than 30 minutes from Honolulu International Airport. Additional details about the Hawaii Film Studio can be found at [www.hawaiifilmoffice.com/filmstudio/](http://www.hawaiifilmoffice.com/filmstudio/).

### **The Hawaii Production Index**

Looking for local production coordinators, location scouts, cameras, grip equipment, honeywagons, generators, and a myriad of other production resources? This is where to start. A comprehensive production directory listing the crew members and production services, facilities, and equipment available in Hawaii, is available online at [www.hawaiifilm.com](http://www.hawaiifilm.com). It is also available as a spiral-bound book.

## Screen Actors Guild

The Hawaii Branch of the *Screen Actors Guild* (SAG) represents more than 700 members, many of them accomplished actors with impressive screen credits. As you might expect, Hawaii SAG members reflect the extraordinary ethnic diversity of the state. The islands have SAG-franchised agents and casting directors with years of experience on features, series, movies-of-the-week and commercials. Additionally, in 1996 the Workforce Development Division of the State Department of Labor developed a group of extras, categorized by ethnic group, gender and age, to assist producers and casting directors.

Beyond Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, Hawaii has large populations of Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese, Thai, Cambodian, and Caucasian people. There are also lifelong residents whose ancestors came from Portugal, Puerto Rico, and Mexico. Hawaii's population is amazingly diverse, and many people speak the languages of their ancestors.

Brenda Ching heads the local SAG branch and can be reached at (808) 596-0388 or [bching@sag.org](mailto:bching@sag.org).

## Trade Unions

Hawaii's labor unions consistently display their willingness to negotiate contract terms that reflect a project's budget. The *International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts* (IATSE), has an active Hawaii office, Local 665. A business agent can be reached at (808) 596-0227, or [BA@iatse665.org](mailto:BA@iatse665.org).

*Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers*, Local 996 represents Hawaii's movie and television industry drivers. Business agent Jeanne Ishikawa can be reached at (808) 847-6633, or by e-mail, at [loc996@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:loc996@hawaii.rr.com).

The *International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers* (IBEW) Local 1260 represents production members in Hawaii. Representative Randall A.C. Young can be reached at (808) 941-9445 or [ibewlocal002@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:ibewlocal002@hawaii.rr.com) with more information at [www.ibewninthdistrict.org](http://www.ibewninthdistrict.org).

*Musicians Association of Hawaii* Local 677 is Hawaii's branch of the American Federation of Musicians. Contact: Brien Matson, (808) 596-2121, [AFM677@aol.com](mailto:AFM677@aol.com). Website: [www.livemusicbiz.com](http://www.livemusicbiz.com)

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