

Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i

We would like to acknowledge February as Hawaiian Language Month, officially designated to promote and encourage the use of Hawaiian language. Incorporating even the smallest use of the language from Aloha and Mahalo are perfect ways to celebrate this month!



MAHALO to the film industry for helping to kick off the 2026 Legislative Session by showing up in person and submitting written testimony for film bills that have been heard. We are diligently monitoring them and others that may be pertinent as an unprecedented amount have been introduced this year. Continue to follow our Instagram and sign up to be a member to receive updates. Staying unified in our messaging of needing a competitive tax credit to support productions to film here will help to push for change.

Hawai'i Industry News:



HFA Casting & Actor Members-Only Industry Night :

We recently hosted a highly successful members-only Industry Night, welcoming nearly 300 attendees from across Hawai'i's acting community. The evening brought together working professionals, emerging talent, and industry leaders for meaningful conversation, education, and connection.

The featured panel included casting directors Rachel Whitley and Katie Doyle, alongside actors Moses Goods, Kai-po Dudoit, Sydney Agudong, Kekoa Kekumano, and Kimmy Balmilero. Panelists shared candid insight into casting, career sustainability, and the realities of working in today's film and television landscape especially from Hawai'i.

Beyond the panel, the strong turnout significantly boosted HFA membership, underscoring the growing demand for spaces that foster education, advocacy, and genuine community within the local industry. The night reaffirmed HFA's role as a connector—bringing people together, amplifying local voices, and strengthening Hawai'i's creative economy.

Mahalo to our members, panelists, and volunteers for making this event such a success. More events like this are ahead as we continue building a united and informed film community in Hawai'i.

Newly Released:

Wrecking Crew is now out on Amazon Prime. A portion of it filmed here in March 2025 showcasing Chinatown, recreating a Chinese New Years Festival and highlighting a local favorite, Zippy's. The community in Chinatown loved the movies recreation so much, they asked for many of the props to use in the real celebration! Zippy's also created the Wrecking Crew Pac available now!

Legislative Update:

A New Resource:

We have created a new page on our website that will keep you up to date on bills that HFA is supporting and opposing.

Also newly created, are step by step instructions to register for an account on the State Capitol website in order to submit testimony. The goal is to make it as easy as possible for you to kokua.

There will be a lot of information over the coming months and we greatly appreciate the time you take to submit testimony. As the legislative session runs through May, we will continue to reach out when bills are heard.

[Bills Tracker Resource](#)

Business Spotlight Series:

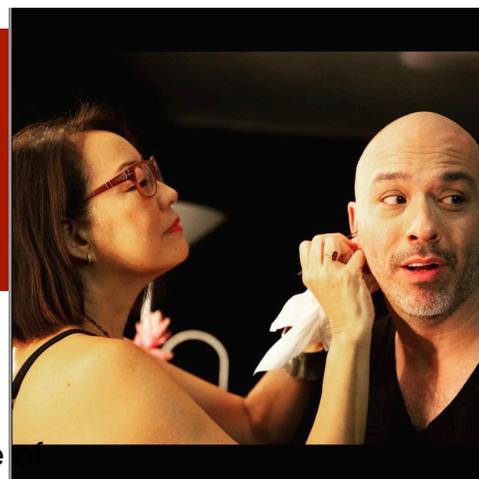
We are looking to highlight local businesses who support the film industry whether it is as a location or supplier.

All departments in production rely on these ancillary businesses for food, production supplies, water, paper, construction materials, props...the list goes on and on.

Visit our instagram to see the current spotlights and reach out to us if interested.
[@hawaiifilmalliance](#)

Member Spotlight: Karen Preiser

Department Head of Makeup



An industry veteran and union member, Karen has played key roles as a Makeup department head and key artist in numerous national and international film projects. Chief of War (Apple), Doogie Kamealoh (Disney) and Monarch/ Godzilla (Apple) are some Karen's most recent projects.

A typical day in the life:

Set up in the makeup trailer for the day, brief makeup artists and go over schedule.

Do makeups on the stars, guest stars, stunt doubles and extras

Meet with producers and directors, go over schedules and budgets.

Design looks for upcoming scenes including special effects, tattoos and specialty makeups; these might include period, aging, fantasy, wounds, dirt and sweat.

When asked what my favorite aspect of my work - I really enjoy the process of collaborating with other artists to create stories that inspire, inform and entertain. Film is such a powerful medium, it's an honor to be a part of this community. In the past I've been incredibly lucky to work with some of the best makeup artists in the business who have been so generous to share their knowledge and skills to help me become a better artist.

Advice from my perspective to those aspiring makeup artists - get as much real life experience actually doing makeup and creating art. Drawing, painting and sculpting will build your skills and will translate to the makeup medium. And go be a PA on a set if you can. One can learn so much about the production process this way and it will help you understand what skills you'll need to work on a set.

Currently, Karen is working as the Head of the Makeup department on the Netflix feature "Protecting Jared".

Do you want to be featured next?



Each month, HFA shines a light on one of our incredible members making waves in Hawai'i's film and creative industries. And now we want to feature you next!

If you'd like to be highlighted in our next newsletter and across HFA's socials, send us your bio and a professional photo to social@hawaiiifilmalliance.org. Tell us about your journey, recent projects, or what inspires your work in Hawai'i's growing film community.

We want to get to know you and can't wait to celebrate your story!

Strengthening our Hawai'i Film Alliance

Our goal is to unify our industry so we can move forward with shared purpose and greater efficiency. We're taking on different aspects of the work—from legislation to infrastructure—to create lasting impact.

There are many ways to be a part of this movement. Becoming a member to receive a copy of our monthly newsletter is one way to stay informed and lend your support. You can also volunteer to join our committees.

- Communications/Social Media
- Website & IT
- Media

Each committee plays a vital role in shaping the future of film in Hawai'i. If one of these speaks to you, we'd love to have you onboard.

Film Offices

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Share your industry photos!

Whether you're on set, in class, behind the scenes, in the writers' room, or working post, we want to see your world. Help us showcase the incredible talent and hustle happening across Hawai'i's film industry.

Submit your photos to be featured on our website, social media, and future newsletters.

- Send your high-res images to socials@hawaiiifilmalliance.com
- Your name & role
- Project name (if applicable)
- Location
- Any credits you'd like included

Contact

Email: social@hawaiiifilmalliance.com



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