



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Hawaii International Film Festival

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### **HIFF VISION IN FILM AWARD PRESENTED TO THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE**

HONOLULU – This Thursday Mayor Mufi Hannemann continued his history of supporting the arts when he presented members of the Hawaii State Legislature with the Hawaii International Film Festival's VISION IN FILM award.

The award was presented to the Hawaii State Legislature to honor its long-term support of the film industry in Hawaii. The Legislature's efforts have included tax incentives and funding for the first film studio developed by a municipality, which helped give rise to the Hawaii film industry.

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The recent Act 88, which provides film and television productions with a 15-20% tax credit, has been credited with igniting interest in Hawaii as a premiere filming destination, resulting the recent spate of Hollywood productions to the state and providing much needed resources to local filmmakers to further the growth and development of Hawaii's indigenous film industry.

Mayor Hannemann said, "The Legislature has been front-and-center in supporting the film and television industry over the years. Legislators over the past quarter-century have been key to constructing the Hawaii Film Studio at Diamond Head and expanding those facilities, creating incubation centers to host fledgling computer graphics companies, streamlining the permit system, funding film offices, enacting the Act 88 tax incentives, backing the creation of the film school at the University of Hawaii, underwriting the Hawaii International Film Festival, and otherwise providing a very receptive and supportive environment for film production. Having worked closely with legislators as director of the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, and now as mayor through the Honolulu Film Office, I can attest to the significance of their contributions to fostering the growth of our film and TV industry."

### **Award Information**

The VISION IN FILM award has been given periodically over the years. Now that the City and County of Honolulu are presenting the award, HIFF looks forward to giving the award annually. The VISION IN FILM award is given to an organization or individual of spectacular achievement in filmmaking.

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Past recipients include the Hollywood Foreign Press (2006), Ang Lee (1997), Zhang Yimou (1995), American Film Institute (1992), and Kawakita Memorial Film Institution (1991).

**Festival Information**

Filled with insight and discovery, HIFF is dedicated to advancing understanding and cultural exchange among the peoples of Asia, the Pacific and North America since 1981. Each year, more than 70,000 attendees throughout Hawaii viscerally experience the sounds and images of filmmaking from around the world. HIFF is the premiere international film event in the Pacific and has won the praise of governments, filmmakers, scholars, educators, programmers and film industry leaders throughout the world. It is also the primary source for the discovery and exhibition of Asian and Pacific feature films, documentaries and videos in the nation. The festival has premiered such movies as CROUCHING TIGER HIDDEN DRAGON, ONCE WERE WARRIORS, THE PIANO, SHINE, SHALL WE DANCE, Y TU MAMA TAMBIEN, VOLVER, BABEL, THE HOST, JOINT SECURITY AREA and TWILIGHT SAMURAI.

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