



Date: March 18, 2020

To whom it may concern,

Due to unforeseen circumstance that occurred at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport on March 11, 2020, we regret to inform you that Hawaii International Film Association's (HIFA) Hawaii Film/Video Pilot Program has been temporarily suspended.

It is to our understanding that 6 foreign nationals were deported immediately on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 and another 12 nationals deported on March 12<sup>th</sup> 2020 using the HIFA waiver letter (HFVPP).

We have reached out to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection office at the Honolulu airport immediately but it was determined by the director that our Waiver program was not acknowledged at this time and only the current immigration law is accepted.

It is also not clear why some crew members were allowed entry and others were denied. We have profusely inquired about the deported individuals to understand the reasoning for the deportation but no clear justification was voiced.

We were told that the incident that occurred is a personal matter of the individual that was detained and CBP is not able to comment on their case due privacy laws.

CBP director has also mentioned that all "Film" crews should be obtaining "I", "O" or "P" visa's for lawful entry to Hawaii or the U.S. If this is the decision, the waiver program for film crews to enter Hawaii for TV, commercials, and anything of motion pictures are invalid therefore resulting in our temporary suspension announcement.

Hawaii Film / Video Pilot Program has been in accepted by the Port of entry in Honolulu and Kona since 1998 and there has never been any misunderstanding of any kind of this program.

This Pilot program that was started legally with the acceptance of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Union leaders, U.S. Labor dept. INS port director in Hawaii along with the Hawaii State government and Senator Daniel Inouye.

With all the inconsistencies that has occurred in the last week, HIFA is no longer confident to issue our Waiver program to any International crews coming safely into the port of entry at Honolulu or Kona International airport.

HIFA is working closely with the State of Hawaii Film Commissioner, along with Hawaii Senator on the Federal level to find a solution on this matter.

We hope that we can resolve this situation soon and hope for the speedy recovery of International film productions in Hawaii.

Sincerely yours,



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Harry Ladera  
HIFA President