



Hawaii's Technicians for Film, Television, Stage, Projection and Tradeshows Since 1937

NEXT MEETING

Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, June, 27 2020

9:30am Zoom, on the web

General Membership Meeting

Sunday, June, 28 2020

9:30am Zoom, on the web



Presidents Message

Over the past few months, there have been members who have asked what it is that I do with my time. It's been a difficult transition from being in the trenches with many of you to this position, but not for the reason you may think. In the field, as a rank and file rigger or grip, when something needed to be done, the goal was to do it safely and efficiently. I set those flags/made those points because they needed to get done, not for recognition. If someone could see me working, it meant I was doing something wrong. So the transition from stealthily manifesting projects to openly projecting my day to day has been ... different, to say the least. But, alas, such is the nature of leadership.

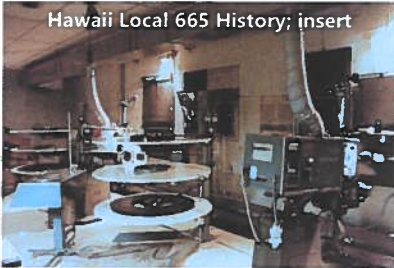
Recently, I've been leaning into the political activism portion of my responsibilities. As some of you may know, I've moderated several half day and several more full day Virtual interview sessions with various political candidates. These candidates seek seats ranging from County Councils to US House of Representatives. The interviews were in participation with the Hawaii Labor Coalition - a group of Hawaii Labor Unions actively engaged in the political arena. The shortest of these interviews lasted 4 hours. The longest sessions were 9 hours. All of which were done via Virtual Conferencing. The cadence was as follows: 1) Candidate joins for 15 minutes (Intro, questions, wrap up), 2) Candidate leaves meeting, coalition members discuss for 10 minutes, 3) repeat for 9 hours. While exhausting at times, it's proved to be invaluable insight to the core values of the people running for office.

As a result of those interviews, I was approached by several members of Emerging Leaders for a Better Hawaii, a progressive political group focused on many of the same goals we have - human rights, better standard of living, etc. I hosted virtual town halls and Talk Story sessions with several candidates as well. The last took place on Friday, June 5th. At the time this article was written, interviews and town halls that I moderated tally approximately 16,000 views. I also attended the State Fed AFL-CIO Council of Affiliates Meeting on Thursday, June 18th. We'll be discussing the recommended endorsements at this month's GM meeting.

In addition to all of that, I've been meeting with various County and State entities as we map the future of our industry through this pandemic. Most notably, Wednesday, June 15th, we were invited to speak with Governor Ige to discuss how the film industry could aid in rejuvenating Hawaii's economy. Chris Lee (Academy for Creative Media) organized this meeting. Mercia Palma Elmore (SAG-AFTRA), Cody Sula (Teamsters Local 996), and I discussed the "Safe Way Forward" document (created by IATSE, SAG-AFTRA, Teamsters, and DGA) with Governor Ige, Georgia Skinner (DBEDT), and Donne Dawson (HFO). Through this, we hope to establish a path for entertainment workers to safely and effectively return to their crafts. Until an effective vaccine becomes available, wear masks, wash your hands, and stay safe out there.

In Solidarity,

Tuia'ana Scanlan



Hawaii Local 665 History; insert



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## Notes on the return to work;

from brother David Griffith,

Member IATSE Local USA 829 & IATSE Local 665 From IA Local USA 829

Many guideline documents have been published recently, by many groups, on safely restarting production. Most of them should be taken with a grain of salt. Some are very complete risk assessments, such as the BECTU guidelines from the UK. Some are very general and one sided and slanted toward shifting the onus for a lot of things onto the workers. If any employer wants to discuss a future job or restarting a job and presents you with a set of guidelines, you should ask them if the union has approved them and immediately send a copy to the business office.

The first thing to be very clear on is that providing a safe and healthful workplace is the responsibility of the employer:

- Creating a plan for the safety of the workers is the responsibility of the employer.
- Providing training required to implement that plan is the responsibility of the employer.
- Providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and training in how to properly use it is the responsibility of the employer.

## Members Voice ...



Aloha Brothers and Sisters,

This has not been a good year for the positive public perception of the labor movement. Numerous scandals in our own district were embarrassing enough, but now mounting frustration over delayed economic relief and a lack of accountability for law enforcement has put public unions in a very unfavorable spotlight.

The pandemic and subsequent civil unrest exposed leadership vacuums in many public and private institutions, and while this presents an opportunity to push through long-overdue reforms, it also means there could be some new faces in our legislature after the November election along with a popular mandate to cut spending in the face of a massive budget crisis. This is not welcome news for our film industry tax credits, which we were forced to regularly defend even in "good" economic times. Our ability to successfully negotiate could be in serious jeopardy.

While it is tempting to point fingers and redirect the blame at external factors, a question that we in the Labor Movement should be asking ourselves is what actions do we need to take in order to stay relevant in this chaotic and increasingly hostile environment? How do we demonstrate to the larger community that we are a positive force in society and not only out for ourselves?

As a small mixed-local hall it may seem like turning the tide of public opinion is an impossible task, but there is plenty we can do in our own jurisdiction to win support starting with our peers in the entertainment industry. Right now we can begin taking the necessary steps to improve the lives of the hundreds of non-union local entertainment workers who were barely getting by even before the "Beerbug" broke out.

The eternal struggle of Capital Vs. Labor continues along predictable patterns, and unfortunately there are companies who will try to push as much of their losses off onto the workers as they can get away with. The problem is that too many of those companies were already paying less-than-living wages so there is no room to budge. Employees were forced to clock massive overtime in order to make ends meet, and salaried workers had been robbed of overtime altogether. The exodus of long-term residents seeking greener pastures will continue, replaced by hopeful migrants from other states who do not understand our cost-of-living trap until it is too late.

This is something we can change, especially now that the mandatory time off has given entertainment workers a chance to reflect on how precarious their position is. Without sufficient savings any sort of crisis could put them on the street almost instantly. Do we find it acceptable to live in a society that treats people this way? If so what guarantees do we have that we won't end up in the same leaky canoe one day?

As successors of our Labor ancestors who sacrificed much (in some cases everything) to give us the protections and benefits that we enjoy today, we have an obligation to pay it forward to current and future generations. It is one thing to say that unions matter, but entirely another to take the often difficult but necessary actions that prove it.

Yours respectfully, Jacob Holcomb

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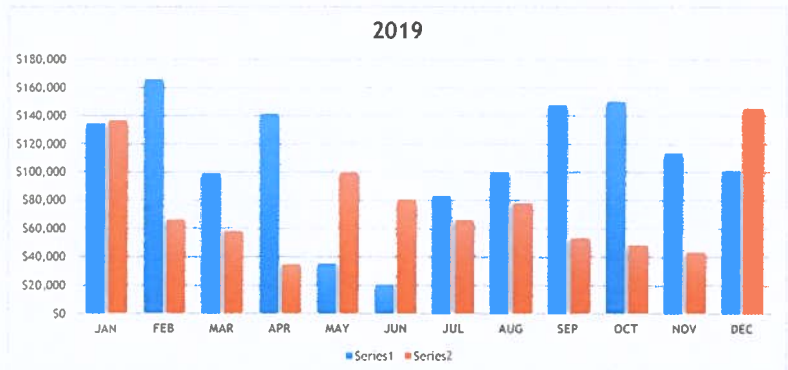
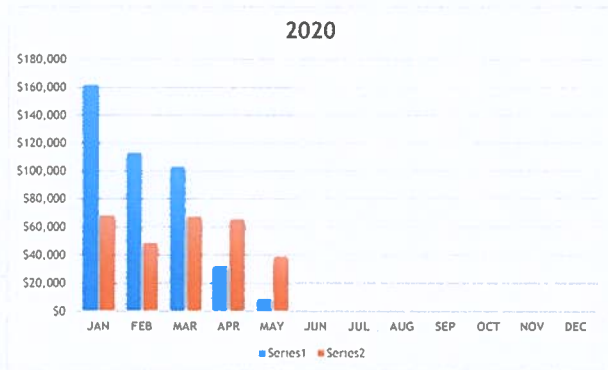
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**Lisa Mitchell Tania Kahale**

# IATSE LOCAL 665

2020	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Income	\$161,793	\$112,871	\$102,804	\$31,978	\$8,852							
Expense	\$68,353	\$48,615	\$67,677	\$65,626	\$38,801							
Total	\$93,440	\$64,256	\$35,127	-\$33,648	-\$29,949							

2019	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Income	\$133,990	\$166,390	\$98,772	\$141,546	\$35,209	\$20,475	\$83,340	\$100,309	\$147,768	\$150,162	\$113,457	\$101,168
Expenses	\$136,999	\$66,274	\$58,407	\$34,762	\$99,507	\$80,530	\$65,942	\$78,158	\$53,359	\$48,264	\$43,167	\$145,339
Total	-\$3,009	\$100,116	\$40,365	\$106,784	-\$64,298	-\$60,055	\$17,398	\$22,151	\$94,409	\$101,898	\$70,290	-\$44,171



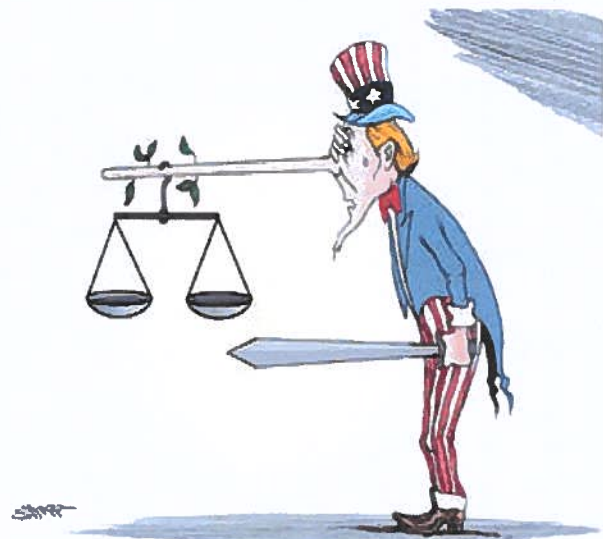
**As your 2020-2022 Secretary-Treasurer, I pledge my word of honor to perform the duties of my office as set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws of this Union to the best of my ability and to bear true allegiance to the International Alliance.**

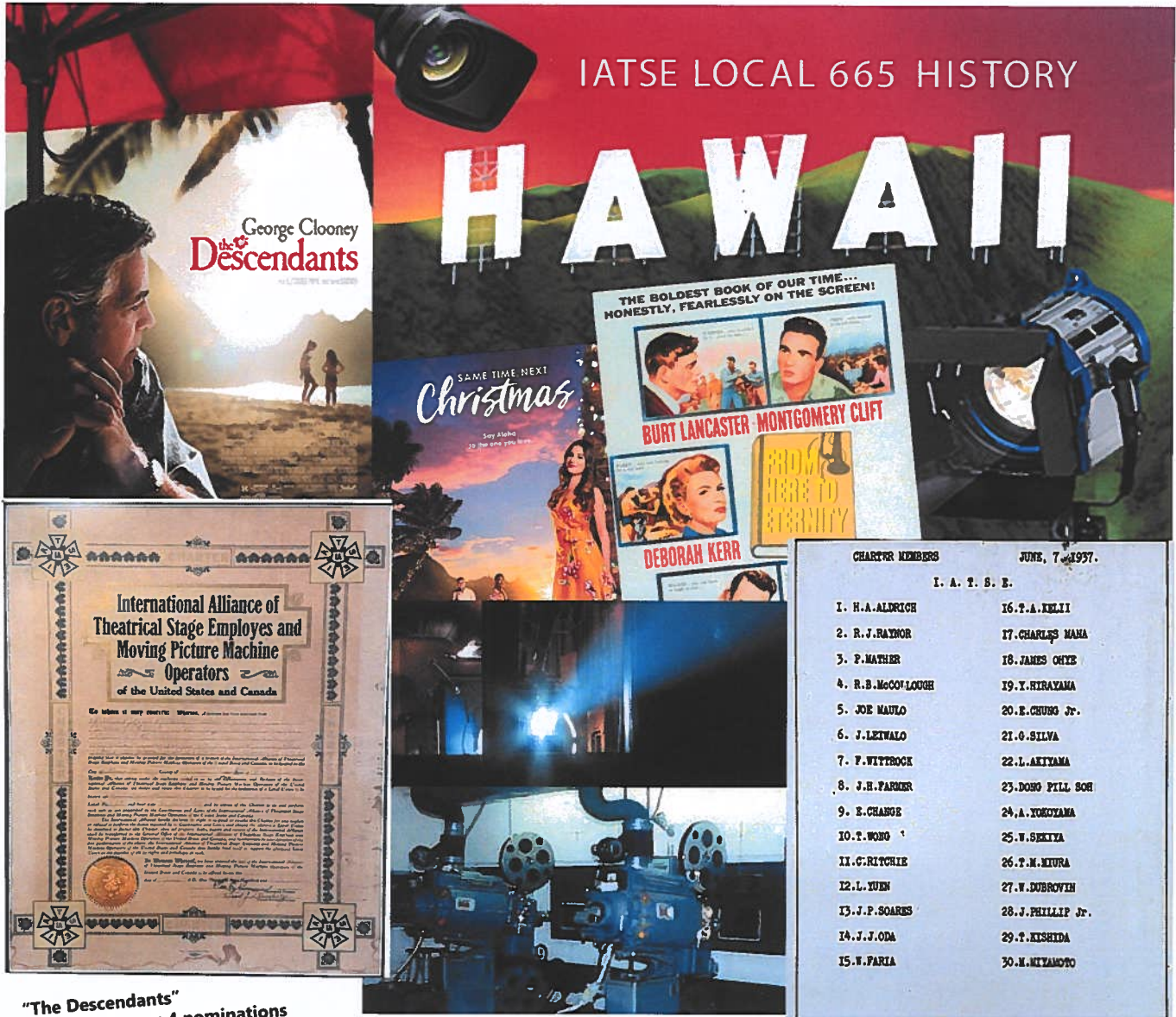
**As a member of IATSE Local 665, you have a right to transparency, and you should have faith that your dues money is being managed wisely.**

**In the Best interest of the Members,**



*[Signature]*  
**Robin Kekuewa Wong**  
 Secretary-Treasurer





**"The Descendants"**  
2011, 1 Oscars 4 nominations

**IATSE Local 665 was established by projectionists on June 7th 1937.**

**"From Here to Eternity"**  
1953, 8 Oscars 5 nominations

The economy was not doing well at that time. It was during the era of the "Great" Depression and World War was again looming on the horizon. It is easy in today's digital world to forget the intensity of the labor involved just less than 10 years ago just to physically bring one film to one screen.

In the late 1970s I worked as a projectionist at an arthouse theater for a short time in San Francisco where I learned that 35 mm film and film cans are very heavy. Each show consisted of approx 4-6 reels which had to be changed on the fly every 20 minutes.

Projectors were not illuminated by bulbs but by carbon arcs which emitted toxic gas and carcinogenic dust. Previews had to be hand spliced and unspliced for each theater for each show. Much film from the early era was extremely flammable.

As the even heavier loop reel 70 mm film was developed the price and logistics of transporting film became even more expensive. Let us never forget how hard those members who created Hawaii IATSE Local 665 worked and how much they sacrificed to create better quality lives and safer working conditions for their families and for ours. And let us always fight to secure fair wages, health and retirement benefits and to provide honest management of our income, properties and investments.

As entertainment continues to evolve and technology continues to advance we must be ready to meet all challenges. As a union our successes are enhanced as we learn to work together more cooperatively. In this way we create opportunities for our children and grand children as our ancestors have done for us.

Tom Curtis

## NEWS & VIEWS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Local 665 News & Views accepts submissions in person, mail, or e-mail (preferred).  
All submissions are subject to review and approval.

- Submissions should be checked for accuracy and spelling. Local 665 News & Views takes no responsibility for errors in submitted content.
- All persons in submitted photographs must be named to be eligible for publication.
- Submissions are subject to revision and editing.

Local 665 News & Views does not guarantee submissions will be printed.

**NEXT DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: JULY 5, 2020**

E-mail: secretary - treasurer@iatse665.org

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Questions? Comments?

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Assistant to Editor..... Tom Curtis



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IATSE LOCAL 665  
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**General Membership Meeting**

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9:30am Zoom video