

Donne Dawson Bio

Donne Dawson is Hawai'i's State Film Commissioner. She has spent close to 20 years building Hawai'i's film industry with her Hawai'i Film Office (HFO) team and collaborating with the County Film Offices across the Hawaiian Islands. Dawson is a fierce advocate for Hawai'i's film industry and its growing creative talent pool. During her tenure the film and digital media industry has generated more than \$4 billion for Hawai'i's economy. Dawson is currently serving her second term on the Board of Directors for the Association of Film Commissioners International (AFCI), the global film commissioner organization representing some 300 film commissions worldwide.

The Hawai'i Film Office is responsible for facilitating **all** film, television and digital media production throughout the Hawaiian Islands. During the time Dawson has managed the state's film office--and overseen several phases of new construction at the state-owned and -operated Hawai'i Film Studio at Diamond Head--she has provided a voice for the industry nationally and internationally; within state government and throughout our community. Dawson was instrumental in securing, implementing and managing the state's first tax credit program in 2006. Currently Dawson is working with a team of Hawaiian Media Makers to establish the first Native Hawaiian protocol guide for media-making in the Hawaiian Islands.

Prior to directing the Hawai'i Film Office, Dawson worked as a journalist, producer and communications professional dedicated primarily to the promotion of film, the environment, native Hawaiian issues, and community building.

Born and raised in Honolulu, Dawson--a native Hawaiian--is a lifelong student of hula, ho'oponopono and 'olelo Hawai'i, the Hawaiian language. She sits on several community and industry boards in Hawai'i.