

GM 764

Testimony –

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAREN POLIVKA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

Report Title: State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

Description:

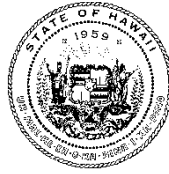
Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: HEA

Introducer(s):

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK
Comptroller

AUDREY HIDANO
Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
DOUGLAS MURDOCK, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS
ON
APRIL 16, 2015

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 764

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STATE
FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
KAREN POLIVKA

Chair Taniguchi and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on G.M. 764. The Department of Accounting and General Services supports the confirmation of Ms. Karen Polivka to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA).

Ms. Polivka has held numerous executive positions in various opera organizations across the county including serving as executive director of the Hawaii Opera Theatre from December 2003 through June 2013. During her tenure at the Hawaii Opera Theatre, she led the organization to numerous awards for fiscal and organizational management. Her experience in the opera field and in executive management will provide her with the necessary skills to be a valuable and contributing member of the SFCA.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this matter.



HAWAI'I

STATE FOUNDATION on
CULTURE and the ARTS

No. 1 Capitol District Building
250 South Hotel Street
Second Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

Governor
David Y. Ige

Comptroller
Douglas Murdock

Chairperson
Barbara Saromines-Ganne

Commissioners
Joel Guy
Rai Saint Chu
Michael Moore
Dean Sakamoto
Karen Tiller Polivka
Sherman Warner
Eva R. Washburn-Repollo
Jane Clement

Executive Director
Jonathan Johnson

Telephone
808.586.0300

Fax
808.586.0308

Website
www.hawaii.gov/sfca

**TESTIMONY OF
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS
APRIL 16, 2015**

GM 764

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STATE
FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
KAREN POLIVKA**

Chair Taniguchi and members of the Committee, I am Jonathan Johnson,
executive director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, and I am
pleased to testify in support of the nomination of Karen Polivka to our Commission.

Karen Tiller Polivka is well-known in Hawaii's arts community because of
her strong leadership of the Hawaii Opera Theater (HOT). Ms. Polivka served
successfully as executive director of HOT, keeping it at the forefront of Hawaii's
cultural programs by securing substantial private and government support. Her
experience includes an understanding of both the nonprofit and government
sectors.

The SFCA welcomes Ms. Polivka's expertise in performing arts, her
knowledge and experience in arts administration and passion for the arts as an
artist in her own right. We are confident Ms. Polivka's ability to make a positive
contribution in support of the SFCA and its mission to promote, perpetuate,
preserve, and encourage culture and the arts for the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Polivka's
nomination.



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Executive Director
Jonathan Johnson

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808.586.0300

Fax
808.586.0308

Website
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**TESTIMONY OF
BARBARA SAROMINES-GANNE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS
APRIL 16, 2015**

GM 764

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STATE
FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
KAREN POLIVKA**

Chair Taniguchi and members of the Committee, I am Barbara Saromines-Ganne, current chairperson of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), and I am testifying as an individual in support of the nomination of Karen Polivka to the SFCA Commission.

The SFCA Commission is fortunate to have Karen Tiller Polivka on board. Well-known and well-respected for her management of the Hawaii Opera Theatre (HOT), Ms. Polivka is pro-active, enthusiastic, and knowledgeable. Sustaining a producing arts organization is a challenge anywhere in the world, especially in view of today's economic conditions. To Ms. Polivka's credit, HOT under her management, maintained the same standard of excellence administratively as it did artistically. Always on the cutting edge of dazzling.

The SFCA has funded HOT for many years, consistently awarding Hawaii's only opera season with high panel ratings and its largest grants year after year. This is a compliment to the artistic quality of the organization as well as to the integrity and capacity of its management and the esteem it has earned from the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Polivka's nomination.

April 13, 2015

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
And Members
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 764: Nomination of Karen Polivka to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts
Hearing: Thursday, April 16, 2015, 1:30PM, Conference Room 224

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

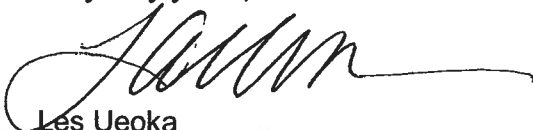
I write in support of the nomination of Karen Polivka to an At-Large, City and County of Honolulu seat on the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. I got to know Karen well while serving two terms on the board of Hawaii Opera Theatre and as a member of HOT's Development, Real Estate, Steering and Finance Committees while she served as HOT's Executive Director. Karen's curriculum vitae speaks for itself, and I will not try to add to them here, other than to state the obvious: her accomplishments are impressive.

In my time at HOT, I was able to observe first-hand her passion for and unwavering commitment to the arts. While many view opera as intended for a small, select audience, Karen worked hard to ensure that everyone was able to experience it. Under Karen's leadership, HOT brought opera to the schools, working with Waikele, Aina Haina and other schools, to put on student productions. HOT also offered and continues to offer middle and high school students viewings of HOT dress rehearsals in the concert hall. In these efforts, Karen's broader vision that art is most valuable when made available to the widest audience shone through.

Combined with her love of art is Karen's keen business intellect and ability. This was tested during the recent economic downturn following 2007, which greatly affected the arts, including HOT. Key, and sometimes difficult, decisions needed to be made, and Karen handled them with clear reason and grace. What could have caused HOT to fracture has instead made it stronger and more cohesive. Karen's vigilance and acumen helped HOT not only to survive but to grow.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your serious consideration of my strong support of the nomination of Karen Polivka to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

Very truly yours,



Les Ueoka
Honolulu, HI