



HAWAII

STATE FOUNDATION on
CULTURE and the ARTS

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**TESTIMONY OF
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**March 28, 2018 3:00 p.m.
S. B. 2204, S.D. 1, H.D. 1**

RELATING TO THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAWAII STATE CAPITOL

Chair Luke and members of the Committee, I am Jonathan Johnson, Executive Director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), and I am grateful for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of S.B.2204, S.D. 1, H.D. 1.

In 2019, Hawaii has an opportunity to celebrate one of its unique and historically rich landmarks, our state Capitol. Completed on March 15, 1969, our Capitol is the centerpiece of the Hawaii Capitol Historical District and a testament to our unique state.

Per Senate Concurrent Resolution 81, the 2016 Hawaii State Senate requested the establishment of a task force to plan and coordinate the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Hawaii State Capitol. Examples of activities and events for consideration by the task force include: a content rich and professionally prepared exhibition to celebrate and inform experts and the general public, a symposium on the State Capitols formation and building, and tours of the Capitol. There is also an opportunity to develop products including a professionally produced documentary video and an exhibition catalogue written and illustrated for a general and scholarly audience.

S.B. 2204, S.D. 1, H.D. 1 provides the necessary resources to honor our State Capitol and to inform future generations of this great symbol of the 50th state. This celebration will encourage public understanding of the history and purpose of the Hawaii State Capitol, and through that appreciation, the heritage and character of Hawaii.

This legislation supports the Task Force's future recommendations, implementation, and the ability to lead, manage, produce and deliver a series of events and products. SFCA supports the future appropriation of funding to implement the proposed intent, provided doing so does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive budget.

The Capitols anniversary provides an opportune moment to seek ideas for a vision for the capitol. The symposium proceedings, discussion and feedback can provide direction for an illustrated vision for the future of the complex.

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

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Re: SB2204 SD1 HD1

RELATING TO THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAWAII STATE
CAPITOL.

Appropriates funds to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to fund celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the Hawaii state capitol. Requires the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to use a portion of the appropriated funds to establish a kiosk or shop to disseminate information about the state capitol to visitors to the state capitol.

For hearing on WEDNESDAY MARCH 28, 2018

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT, WITH PROPOSED ADDITION

Dear members of the House Committee on Finance: I support the intent of this bill, and will suggest an amendment to improve it.

But first let me praise the House committee on veterans, military, & international affairs, & culture and the arts for the excellent amendment they made, that "the the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts shall use a portion of the funds for the establishment of a kiosk or shop on the grounds of the Hawaii state capitol to disseminate information and other materials and items, for free and for sale, regarding the Hawaii state capitol and its history to visitors to the state capitol, including tourists."

I recall that in 1992, as a newly arrived permanent resident of Hawaii, I took a tour of the Capitol led by Joe Tassil operating out of a small office in the basement immediately next to the parking lot entrance. As a philosopher, and married to an art historian, I was deeply moved by the beauty of the Capitol and especially by the symbolism of its architectural design and its artistic elements, including the materials and meanings in the Sun and Moon chandeliers in the two chambers, the 8 columns, Aquarius mosaic in the rotunda, the volcano exterior design of the chambers when viewed from the rotunda, the water surrounding the building, the open roof and absence of doors to enter the building, etc. I strongly urged Mr. Tassil to produce a brochure containing the information, and have been disappointed over the years that such a booklet has never been written. This is a perfect occasion to produce it.

Please make a further improvement to this bill by amending it to include celebration of the 60th anniversary of Statehood

Dear legislators, it's wonderful to plan for celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Hawaii state Capitol in 2019.

But of course there would be no state Capitol unless there were a State of Hawaii.

And as it happens, 2019 will also be the 60th anniversary of Hawaii statehood.

Of course the Statehood Day holiday does not come until August. But it will be perfectly OK for the Legislature to celebrate it during the period when the Legislature is in session, as was done in 2009 for the 50th anniversary of Statehood.

Taxpayers will be pleased that you are combining the two celebrations into a single event to be held at a time when you are already present at the Capitol. Save money and appeal to a wider audience.

SB-2204-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 2:57:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: