



**HAWAII**

STATE FOUNDATION on  
CULTURE and the ARTS

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**TESTIMONY OF THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
Wednesday, February 10, 2021  
Conference Room 329 via Videoconference  
H. B. 755  
RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND**

Chair Cedric Asuega Gates 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 **COMMENT** on H.B. 755.

The percent-for-art law was created in 1967 based on the relationship between art and architecture, where art is included as an essential part of the architectural plan, providing access and education to the people of Hawaii. Together, one percent appropriations from construction and renovation enable SFCA to facilitate the intent of HRS 103-8.5 to carry out the statewide program operations including acquisition, distribution, conservation and interpretation of works of art including the operations of the Hawaii State Art Museum and applicable portions of the Artists in the Schools program and recognition of student art work. For a detailed report on statewide activities administered by SFCA, please reference our [2020 Annual Report \(https://sfca.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/SFCA\\_FY2020-Annual-Report.pdf\)](https://sfca.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/SFCA_FY2020-Annual-Report.pdf).

The source of funds for construction play an important part of understanding the intent and impact of H.B. 755. Excluding the one percent transfer requirement for buildings developed by the Department of the Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for residential use by beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, would be understandable if the buildings were financed by the beneficiaries mortgage or through other private or Federal sources. If the building were financed by State bonds or cash, then it would make sense to contribute the one per cent.

As a community development tool, the Arts bring communities together and perpetuate culture, as documented in the National Endowment for the Arts report on [Creative Placemaking](#). Culture and Arts give voice to our communities. When construction is funded by the State of Hawaii, excluding one percent would not gain a significant difference in the construction outcome, but including a Hawaiian voice in communities through art and culture would make a significant, lifelong impact. The value, or return on investment, of using the one percent towards art in communities far outweighs any small savings in the construction process.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts shares in the responsibility to perpetuate Hawaiian culture and arts. The SFCA welcomes the opportunity to work with DHHL, so that together we can help to ensure the Hawaiian voice is heard and Hawaiian values are built into communities through culture and art.

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

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

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TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
CULTURE, ARTS & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 10, 2021 AT 10:00AM VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

**HB 755 RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND**

February 10, 2021

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair LoPresti, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) supports this bill that excludes appropriations to DHHL for the development of residential buildings from the general requirement that 1% of capital improvement appropriations for state buildings be transferred to the works of art special fund.

Excluding buildings developed by DHHL for residential use by beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended from the general requirement that 1% of capital improvement appropriations for state buildings be transferred to the works of art special fund allows for these funds to be used toward the development for residential use by beneficiaries.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

LATE

**HB-755**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 12:46:14 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/10/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Katherine Don	Hawaii Contemporary	Support	No

Comments:

SFCA is important in its support of the life and vitality of the arts in Hawai'i. We believe that the arts as well as state funding for the arts are crucial to the revitalization of Hawai'i's economy. Not only have artists been hit hard by the pandemic, but organizations have not been able to fundraise through holding in-person events to support programming. We hope you will keep the Works of Art Special Fund as a way to offset these setbacks and reinvigorate the economy through arts support.

LATE

**HB-755**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 12:49:59 PM  
Testimony for CAI on 2/10/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katherine Don	Hawaii Contemporary	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii Contemporary is a Hawaii nonprofit that supports contemporary visual art in Hawaii through programs including the Honolulu Triennial, a periodic multi-state art exhibition throughout Honolulu (previously known as the Honolulu Biennial).

Art is critical. It fosters expression, reflection, and communication. It helps us to find joy as well as to question and challenge the situations we face. In times of turmoil and instability, art promotes understanding and fosters connection. It is, as Pablo Picasso once said, an opportunity to “wash[ ] the dust of daily life off our souls.”

Through this lens, the State Foundation for Culture and the Arts has never been more important to our State and to our community. Its programs, which promote, perpetuate, and preserve culture and the arts in Hawaii, ensure that the arts remain a vital part of our lives and our community. The Foundation keeps art relevant and, most importantly, public. This is increasingly important as other sources of funding for the arts, including private donations, continue to shrink.

Accordingly, although we recognize the current financial position of the State, we believe that these difficult times only reinforce the importance of the Foundation and its role within Hawaii’s art community. This is a time to focus on the State’s most critical needs; we believe that the maintenance of the Foundation is one such need.

**HB-755**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:10:09 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/10/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sean Browne	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Everyone:

My name is Sean Browne and I am a practicing native Hawaiian artist. I am opposed to HB755 RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND(WASF).

I am a beneficiary of the WASF, having completed sculpture commissions throughout the State of Hawaii, including Keaukaha, Kohala and Ma'ema'e Elementary Schools. I have also taught in these schools, as part of the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts(HSFCA) Artist in the Schools Program, in which these schools continue to serve large segments of the native Hawaiian population.

Rather than depleting resources by excluding DHHL from the 1% provision, I see an opportunity to continue building on an existing relationship between DHHL and the HSFCA, that will continue to provide nurturing access to culture and arts statewide, within the native Hawaiian communities.

Thank you, aloha