

HAWAII
STATE
FOUNDATION
ON
CULTURE
AND
THE ARTS

TESTIMONY OF THE
STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM
ON

March 19, 2009

H. B. 754, HD 1

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RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY

Chair Nishihara and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on H. B. 754, HD 1.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts opposes this bill.

The seat that I occupy on the Board of the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) was created to provide direct communication to the HTA Board on matters relating to cultural tourism and to build collaborative efforts between our agencies to infuse Hawaii's visitor industry with diverse artistic and cultural attractions. At the same time, the SFCA stands for preserving cultural integrity in products and experiences. This viewpoint needs to be represented while decisions are being discussed and courses of action determined.

While an advisory committee serves a purpose to allow input into the decision-making process, it is decidedly not as immediate and therefore has less authority and impact on matters at hand.

I do not believe the contributions of the State Foundation or those of the other State agencies serving in an ex-officio capacity should be subordinated or further removed from the HTA Board. Our participation

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as Board members has been beneficial to both the HTA and our respective agencies. I hope that such relationships can continue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.