



HAWAI'I

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 WAYS AND MEANS
FEBRUARY 23, 2017

S. B. 1073

RELATING TO THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE
ARTS

Chair Tokuda 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. 1073.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, established in Chapter 9, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), includes responsibility for recognizing individual artists for artistic excellence through an individual artist fellowships program. This responsibility is outlined below:

§9-3 Duties. The foundation shall:

13) Establish an individual artist fellowship program to encourage artists to remain and work in Hawaii and to reaffirm the importance of Hawaii's artists and their cultural and economic contributions to the State by:

- (A) Recognizing and honoring Hawaii's exceptionally talented visual and performing artists for their outstanding work in and commitment to the arts; and*
- (B) Enabling these artists to further their artistic goals;*

From 1995 to 2008, The SFCA provided fellowships in the areas of visual and performing arts. These fellowships provided for recognition and financial support for individual artists, celebrating Hawaii's creativity. In 2010, the administration abolished the Individual Artist Fellowship Coordinator position and reduced the general fund budget of the SFCA. SB1073 would once again fund the recognition of Hawaii's creative talent through the SFCA Fellowship program.

As a community, it is important that we recognize and celebrate how the artistic endeavors of individuals contribute to Hawaii's rich cultural landscape. Public recognition through programs such as the Individual Artist Fellowship are a reminder of the need to seek out creative solutions to our society's most complex issues.

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