



HAWAII

STATE FOUNDATION on
CULTURE and the ARTS

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

Governor
Josh B. Green

Comptroller
Keith A. Regan

Commissioners
Susan Browne
Nalani Brun
Randall Fujiki
Jill Kuramoto
Michael Marshall
Ronald Michioka

Interim Executive Director
Karen A. Ewald

Telephone
808.586.0300

Fax
808.586.0308

Website
sfca.hawaii.gov

**TESTIMONY OF
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
February 22, 2023 Conference Room 308 & Videoconference at 2:30PM
H.B. 478 H.D.1
RELATING TO ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS**

Chair Yamashita and members of the Committee, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), is pleased to offer testimony in **SUPPORT** of H.B. 478 H.D.1.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, established in Chapter 9, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), includes responsibility for recognizing individual artists for artistic excellence through an individual artist fellowships 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 and economic health of the State. 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.

Background on SFCA Fellowships:

From 1995 to 2008, 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 Individual Artist Fellowship Coordinator position was abolished and the general fund budget of SFCA was reduced, eliminating the budget to recognize individual artists of Hawaii. In 2019 the State Legislature appropriated general funds to SFCA for artist fellowships and SFCA recognized twelve teaching artists for artistic excellence and excellence in their teaching artistry.

SFCA was the recipient of American Rescue Plan Act funds through the National Endowment for the Arts in Fiscal Year 2022. A portion of the recovery funds was awarded to individual artists and cultural practitioners statewide. Awarded grantees carried out community impact projects in FY2022.

In 2022, the State Legislature appropriated \$200,000 in Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Relief Funds to the SFCA for artist fellowships. In response, the SFCA developed a call for cultural fellowships but put the project on hold when Governor Ige vetoed the funding. Consistent appropriation of general funds from the legislature such as H.B. 478 H.D.1 proposes in support of the creative arts community will benefit the State's overall economy. When we invest in our cultural economy, we invest in the economic stability of Hawaii.

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

2/20/23

I support HB478 and was one of the hopeful applicants for the fellowship opportunity. I was one of 20 artists in the state to receive an individual artist grant from the SFCA at the end of 2021. I had never seen a grant like it in my career, a \$7,225 grant for an individual artist to conduct a project that positively impacts their community and the underserved. In 2022 my wife and I used the funding to help build Hot Glass Hawaii, a public access education based glass blowing studio in Kappa'u on the northern tip of Hawaii Island. The project initially offered free glassmaking lessons to the community and it successfully reached over 300 participants in 20 days of operation over the course of 6 weeks. Our business has become a location that is accessible for youth from different backgrounds and people of all ages. We have worked with individuals who were recovering from homelessness, drug addiction, youth coming from a hard home life and people who have served time. By consistently being available, right off the main road, 3 days a week from 9 to 9 we have become a location for conversation and gathering. Hot Glass Hawaii has continued to be successful, we are approaching 10 months of being in business and have helped over 1,000 people make objects out of molten glass.

I believe the Fellowship was originally developed as a follow up to these individual artists grants as we have been pre vetted and have measurable results from our community projects. Being selected for one of the 8 available \$25,000 fellowships would dramatically help our business so we could keep operating in rural Hawaii. I have begun teaching art at Kohala High and funding would help me to incorporate glass blowing into the school's art and science curriculum. Our presence has created a draw from around the island as it is the only public access glass studio. This draw should be looked at as an economic driver. If participants drive to rural North Kohala for hot glass, they will stop and participate with other local businesses.

The funding for this program has already been approved by the legislature. There is a 1.9 billion dollar surplus in the state. The \$200,000 this bill is requesting is a small investment in the arts population and will have a large impact on the communities it is concentrated in. A final request would be if you do get this bill approved is there a way to not consider the fellowship non-employee compensation? I recently received a 1099-NEC for the individual artist grant. The money was spent on my community, I did not personally make any money off the grant so having it be taxed creates a financial hardship for my household. Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

Matthew Jakielski

HB-478-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 10:17:02 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Pollock	Ebb & Flow Arts	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is testimony to support the HSFCA’s Artist Fellowship program.

The pandemic hit the arts community very hard. According to one report, “nowhere has the effect been more direct, deep, and immediate than on the performing arts.”

HSFCA’s Artist Fellowship program will help revive the Arts in Hawai’i. Once again the Arts will be a powerful driving force for our economy. According to an authoritative report, “the production of arts and cultural goods (pre-pandemic) and services in the U.S. added **4.3 percent** directly to the nation’s GDP, for a total approaching a trillion dollars (**\$919.7 billion**). This amount is greater than the value added by such industries as construction, transportation and warehousing, mining, and agriculture.”

According to another study, each \$1 in state arts funds leverages over \$3 in state and local revenue.

Einstein said that intelligence is not measured by knowledge but by **imagination**. Vital Creative Artists are essential for a thriving, spiritually healthy community. The Arts cultivate, inspire, induce, stimulate, and foster our **IMAGINATION**. For example, the Honolulu Rail Transit project has languished for many years not primarily because of funding, domain, and political issues. Its failure of completion is because of a fundamental lack of imagination. We need the Arts to help us dream and then act upon our dreams for the future. The stronger our imagination, the more detailed, complex, proactive and powerful will be our vision.

Please help re-vitalize our state after the pandemic with the HSFCA’s Artist Fellowship program. Help fight the stifling, crass commodification and corporatization of our lives by your support of non-conforming, independent minded artists in our community. Their art, music, dance, plays, and poetry enable our imagination to reach its full glory!

HB-478-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 12:36:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise Karabinus	Honolulu Printmakers	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honolulu Printmakers support the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Our artist and community benefit and thrive as a result of the funds that the State Foundation is responsible for distributing. We have been in Honolulu supporting artist for nearly 100 years. These funds support art high quality art programming by supporting promising artist with funding. Creative vibrancy in our downtown community flushes our the drugs and crime that plague our area. Keep funding that focuses on and supports the arts and our community of artists.

Denise Karabinus

Executive Director

Honolulu Printmakers

HB-478-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 12:50:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evan Anderson	Hawai'i Arts Alliance	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members of the Legislature,

I am writing to express the Hawai'i Arts Alliance's enthusiastic support for the bill establishing the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Artist Fellowship Program. As members of the arts community in Hawai'i, we know the wealth of incredible talent and potential of our local artists, and this program will provide a crucial opportunity for these artists to thrive and create.

By providing generous one-time fellowships to promising artists, this bill will enable them to make their art their priority and professional focus--a rare opportunity for all but our most commercially successful artists. This investment in our creative workers will not only benefit the individual artists, but also the broader arts community in Hawai'i, as it will allow for the creation of new and innovative works that will enrich our cultural landscape.

I urge you to support this bill and appropriate the necessary funds to the SFCA to support the artist fellowship program. Thank you for your attention to the arts, and artists, as essential elements of our community and economy.

HB-478-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 4:39:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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HB-478-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 7:47:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Ha'amauliola Makua Aiona	State of HI DOE - Nawahi	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RELATING TO THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS. Appropriates funds to the state foundation on culture and the arts **artist fellowship** program for the awarding of one-time fellowships to promising artists. I am in support of this bill for it will help many other program such as ours: Māhu‘ilani under a Hawaiian Medium Education School at Nāwahī where we develop after school classes, projects, and extra learning opportunities.

HB-478-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 8:30:18 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deb Nehmad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

please support this bill

deb nehmad

HB-478-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:51:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tayler Cobb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a member of the artist community I see this opportunity so valuable. Not only does it encourage young artists to make work, it continues the growth of the artist community. Living in Hawaii has shown me that it can be difficult to make it as a full time artist, as I continue to work other jobs to fully support my life here. This bill would help fund the future of art and I can't see many things more important than continuing the uplifting and education of the arts in Hawaii

HB-478-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 1:54:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Train	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB478 which will support the individual artist fellowships program. My name is Elizabeth Train and I have worked as a teaching artist for the SFCA Artist in the Schools program since the 1990's and the HISAM Art Bento program since 2006. Both of these programs have been extremely important to my ability to earn a living wage and support myself as a teacher and practicing visual artist. Artists in Hawaii often struggle to earn a living by working a number of jobs wherever they can find work. Over the years I also taught at the University of Hawaii art department, Iolani school summer program, Waialae Elementary school, The Contemporary Museum and the Honolulu Museum of Art. Thanks to the SFCA support for living wages, the hourly contract work wage I was paid for teaching in the Artist in the Schools and Art Bento program was the highest hourly payment I received. That being said, the number of hours we were contracted to work was still very limited so not equivalent to a full-time job wage. Many artists find they have to work two or three jobs at once. In 2019 I was fortunate to be one of the twelve teaching artists to receive an SFCA artist fellowship for \$10,000. This fellowship money served as an important reward for many years of dedicated service to teaching and made me feel that my work was valued and appreciated. The money came to me just before COVID shut down all my teaching jobs so it was very helpful for being able to survive the shutdown. Consistent support of funding for the Artist Fellowship program would be an important investment in the cultural economy of the state. Thank you for supporting this bill.

HB-478-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 2:34:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jun Shin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support local artists!

HB-478-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 3:28:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Meredith Buck and I am a lauhala weaver and kumu ulana lauhala living in Hōlualoa, Hawai'i. I am writing to share my support for HB478 HD1.

Last year I applied for the culture fellowship with HSFCA, which would have provided \$25,000 to eight different individuals and organizations engaged in culture and arts work throughout Hawai'i. I was hopeful to gain this financial support so that I could have the resources I need to be able to teach my 30+ weaving students free of charge. However, the grant was canceled when the funds were made unavailable. Nonetheless I have carried on with my weaving work, teaching between 1 and 3 days every week since August. But to be honest with you, I've lost a lot of conviction in terms of being able to do this long-term because financial support is contentious and unreliable. So I am instead planning a career change. If the HSFCA cultural fellowship had been available (granted I be selected), I could have achieved far more for my students and community than I am right now. For this reason, and for the benefit of all the other talented artists and cultural practitioners that make Hawai'i so special, I ask that HB478 be passed.

Mahalo for your time,

Meredith Buck

HB-478-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 12:04:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evelyn Aczon Hao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Artists are so important to a thriving culture. They elevate our imaginations and challenge our thinking. They also bring beauty to our world. We need to support our promising artists so that our culture continues to grow and elevate us in the process. Thank you.

HB-478-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 8:03:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor