



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 COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

April 5, 2023 Conference Room 211 & Videoconference at 10:00AM

H.B. 478 H.D.1, S.D.1

RELATING TO THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Chair Dela Cruz 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., S.D.1 which specifies the qualifications for members of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts appropriates funds for the Artist Fellowship Program.

It is important for State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to have criteria for commission appointments, ensuring the individuals have demonstrated accomplishments or expertise in the fields of culture, the arts, history, and the humanities. The SFCA prioritizes Hawaii's underserved, both geographic and economic, and has made gains over the past few years in the priorities education and support for Native Hawaiians. Qualified board appointments are critical to ensure the organization continues in a strong direction.

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. 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 Hawai'i. 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 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 Hawai'i.

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



HAWAI'I FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

P. O. Box 66 ❖ 'O'ōkala, HI
96774 Phone: 808-933-9411
Email: hfia@hawaiiiforest.org
Website: www.hawaiiiforest.org

Date: 04/01/2023

TO: WAM Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and WAM Committee Members

FROM: the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA)

SUBJECT: In Support of HB478 HD1 SD1 Relating to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Directors and members of the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA), please support HB478 HD1 SD1 Relating to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA).

HFIA has long been a recipient of funds from the SFCA for our flagship event, Hawaii's Woodshow, in which participating HFIA members display their work in a juried show. HFIA recognizes woodworking as an art form and the hardships that come with choosing a career route in the arts. Fellowships allow artists to focus on their craft, while reducing the financial strain often felt by artists. with reduced financial strain, allowing for creative output, for a brief period. HFIA understands that the broader community is enriched by the arts, and therefore is supportive of funding for the artist fellowship program.

For these reasons, please support HB478 HD1 SD1 Relating to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Guy Cellier, Acting President

Hawaii Forest Industry Association

Established in 1989, HFIA's is a nonprofit organization founded by people committed to sustainable forest management. HFIA's mission is to promote healthy and productive forests and a sustainable forest industry through management, education, planning, information exchange, and advocacy. HFIA has over 120 members including woodworkers, landowners, sawyers, foundations, foresters, growers, educators, environmentalists, architects, millers, ranchers, and others interested in HFIA's mission and goals.

HFIA Board of Directors

Officers: Acting President/Vice-President Guy Cellier, Secretary Peter D. Simmons, Treasurer Wade Lee
Directors: Thomas Calhoun, Jeremy Campbell, Aaron Hammer, Nickolas Koch, Tai Lake, Michael Sowards, Irene Sprecher, Michael Tam, Jorma Winkler, Ron Wolfe, Aileen Yeh

HB-478-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 11:30:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danelle Watson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We believe supporting artists to create will make a difference to the growth of the artist and make a positive impact to our community.

HB-478-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 11:45:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Douglas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill however challenge the state foundation to ensure that each island is proportionally funded.

HB-478-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 1:28:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,
I support this bill.
Mahalo nui,
Cards Pintor

HB-478-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 2:13:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Rich	Testifying for East Hawaii Cultural Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support!

HB-478-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 8:07:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margo Vitarelli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of all funding that goes to the arts. I support all three bills: HB 478, HB475, and HB473.

The arts are an important part of what makes Hawaii attractive to visitors. Our arts organizations and museums are visited by tourists. The dances people perform, the theatre, the music, and the visual arts enhance a place and celebrate the creativity of its citizens. The arts are also extremely important for children. They make it easier to learn all the content areas, they allow for self expression and increase self confidence. Our indigenous culture is imbedded in the traditional arts of kapa making, tool making and canoe building, to name a few. To ignore the arts is to ignore who we are. The wall murals at the Convention Center, the colorful walls at the International airport, and the interiors of our banks and places we visit daily show off the art of Hawaii. We are a unique state, a beautiful state and our art makes us proud of being in Hawaii. In addition, many of us make a living from our art, either by teaching art, making art to sell, designing theatre sets, doing landscaping, fashion design, creating products for sale, or by performing. The arts are an important part of our economy. Our national dance, the hula, for which we are world famous, needs support. Most halau have to support themselves. Artists provide joy and pleasure, self-discovery and entertainment to everyone engaged in it or just watching it. No matter the form of the arts, it should be supported. Thank you, Margo Vitarelli



HB-478-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 8:48:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Wast of Money .Tax payer Moneys should be Use for the Betterment of the People of Hawaii
Not just for a Special Group of People!!!!!!

HB-478-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 7:44:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support all three bills: HB 478, HB475, and HB473.

HB-478-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 8:34:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Pollock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is testimony to support the HSFCA’s Arts 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.”

The HSFCA’s Arts 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 Arts 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 8:56:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alejandro Salinas-Nakanishi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Lawmakers,

I am writing to support [**HB 478, HD1, SD1**](#) that would create fellowships for promising artists. Artists play an integral role in society. They help us solve problems creatively and confront challenges like climate change. With the support of [**HB 478, HD1, SD1**](#), Hawai'i could foster a community of emerging artists in the islands. These artists will go on to have a positive impact on the economy, education system, and our community throughout the state.

Please support [**HB 478, HD1, SD1**](#)

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Alex



Ashiya K. Carter
Hana Martial Arts and Dance
AshiyaK@icloud.com

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Ashiya K. Carter, Ms. Ashiya to my students. I am a teaching artist with 18 years of experience teaching the arts in our Maui, Lana'i, Moloka'i, and Kaua'i Communities. I am testifying in support of HB478.

The role of an artist is to illuminate the world from a unique vantage point. The artist takes a journey of discovery and then shines the light on paths that others can follow to their own discoveries. As artists it is clear to us that Hawaii is currently on a path of discovering how our connections to our fellow humans influence every aspect of our day to day lives. Without a guide on that path we find dead ends that lead us to ignorance, discord, and indifference which is the antithesis of Hawaii's Nā Hopena A'ō learning outcomes that give meaning and culture to classroom teachings in Hawai'i. When a society believes as we do here in Hawaii that we want to instill within each of us a strengthened sense of belonging, responsibility, excellence, aloha, and total well-being we must take a profound introspective look at the fissures within us and our society. Though in many ways Hawaii seems to be "ahead of the curve"; we cannot see the parts of our lived experiences that are kept in the dark because we do not have a platform upon which to discuss, share, and process them. The art of dance is that platform. Through dance and actively participating in contributing life experiences into storytelling and then creating choreography to tell this story; people who take part in this process develop an empathic understanding of ideas and strengthen bonds and connections within the classroom.

Artists like myself in our community are connecting the dots between perception, emotion, and the ability to communicate. I vote in support of this resolution because we should support the people who are in the community doing this work right now! We are positively affecting the lives of thousands of school children through the support of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts' programs and can do so much more with your support and funding. Artists are in our communities doing the work of healing and filling in the empty spaces of care, connection, and aloha within our society. Please support us to continue.

Sincerely,

Ashiya K. Carter
Teaching Artist

LATE

HB-478-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 2:49:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Weissman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 478.

Mahalo

LATE

HB-478-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 3:40:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing in extremely strong support of HB478 HD1 SD1.

Members of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts must be qualified and experienced with the arts. Awarding fellowships to promising artists is a vital step in ensuring a strong, diverse, kind and open-minded community.

Please pass this important bill.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita, lifelong resident