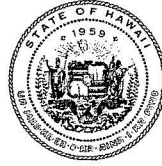


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



RUSS K. SAITO
Comptroller
BARBARA A. ANNIS
Deputy Comptroller

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
AND GENERAL SERVICES**
P.O. BOX 119
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY
OF
RUSS K. SAITO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
FINANCE
ON
February 27, 2008
H.B. 3243, H.D. 1

**MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE HONOLULU SYMPHONY AND ITS
PROGRAMS**

Chair Oshiro and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 3243, H.D. 1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) opposes H.B. 3243, H.D. 1, because it is unnecessary. The Honolulu Symphony Endowment Fund (the Endowment Fund) was established by Act 97, SLH 2006 (Act 97) and Act 156, SLH 2007 (Act 156). On December 30, 2006, in keeping with the extent of Act 97, the Governor allotted \$4 million to DAGS to deposit into the Endowment Fund for the Honolulu Symphony. Act 97 stipulated that the interest from the endowment fund be used for the Honolulu Symphony, "provided that the funds appropriated....are matched, dollar-for-dollar, by private funds." Thus, by law, the Honolulu Symphony can only receive the interest from the \$4 million if it raises matching private donations. To further

help the Honolulu Symphony, this past legislative session, the law was amended (Act 156) to include matching pledges.

On January 23, 2008, a meeting was held with individuals from the Symphony Society (Symphony), the Honolulu Symphony Foundation (Foundation), the Department of the Attorney General (AG), DAGS, Merrill Lynch, and the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. The Symphony and the Foundation gained an understanding that matching funds can include pledges.

As a result of the January 23, 2008 meeting, the staff of the Symphony and the Foundation now understand the requirements of Act 97 and Act 156. The Foundation has determined to fulfill the matching funds requirement through pledges. They have provided the information, we have verified it, and are moving to deposit the funds into the Endowment Fund. Thus, the actions required to draw the interest from the endowment to cover expenses will soon be completed.

DAGS recommends that this bill be held.

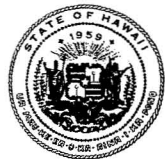
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

THE
STATE
FOUNDATION
ON
CULTURE
AND
THE ARTS

TESTIMONY
OF
STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 27, 2008

H.B. 3243 HD 1



MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE HONOLULU
SYMPHONY AND ITS PROGRAMS

LINDA LINGLE
Governor

Chair Oshiro and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H. B. 3243 HD1.

RUSS K. SAITO
Comptroller

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), as

LORI V. THOMAS
Chairperson

Hawaii's state arts agency, encourages and supports programming in arts and culture, history and the humanities, as central to the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. The SFCA supported both Acts 97 and 156, which appropriated \$4 million to the State of Hawaii Endowment Fund, in support of the Honolulu Symphony. We are pleased to verify that the transfer of the \$4 million to the Endowment will take place by Friday, February 29, 2008.

Commissioners:
SANDRA ALBANO
SANDRA AU FONG
MARY BEGIER
BINA CHUN
MARIA JO FARINA
DAVID E. HELDER
PETER ROSEGG
GEORJA SKINNER

RONALD K. YAMAKAWA
Executive Director

We understand the challenges that arise when administering as complex an operation as the Honolulu Symphony and we stand by the quality of artistry and performances that the Symphony continues to provide. While the SFCA is not in a position to request additional funds for either itself or its constituents, we wholeheartedly support the fine

No. 1 Capitol District Building
250 South Hotel Street, 2nd Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Administration: (808) 586-0300
Art in Public Places: (808) 586-0304
Contracts: (808) 586-0302
FAX: (808) 586-0308
TT: (808) 586-0740
E-mail: sfca@sfca.state.hi.us
Web Page: www.hawaii.gov/sfca

musical tradition that the Honolulu Symphony has established in Hawaii and the need to keep it flourishing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

The Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers Local 996

1817 Hart St.
Honolulu, Hi. 96819

Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice-Chair
Committee on Finance

Date: Wed., Feb. 27, 2008, 1:30pm, room 308

Re: Support of HB3243, HD1, Making an Appropriation to the Honolulu Symphony and it's Programs.

The Hawaii Teamsters Local 996 negotiates and enforces over 50 contracts serving 6000 members in various industries in Hawaii and Guam.

We support the proud Union Musicians of the Honolulu Symphony.

I believe that the Symphony Experience enriches the educational programs for our children and is also a great entertainment alternative for adults. You can enjoy symphonic music on national public radio, FM 88.1.

The Hawaii Teamsters Local 996; Supports HB3243, HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Glenn Ida
Local 996 PAC Co-Chair
295-1280

Hawai'i
Arts
Alliance



*A member of
the Kennedy Center
Alliance
for Arts Education
Network*

February 26, 2008

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair, Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 306

Dear Chair Oshiro,

We are writing in support of HB 3243 HD 1 - Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and it's Programs.

The Honolulu Symphony is at a critical point in its history. It has seen many changes over recent years, but none more significant than today. Through hard financial times, our Symphony has endured, restructured, and now with new leadership is well on its way to forging a future build on sustainability, excellent community programming, and educational outreach.

State support is necessary for this fine organization to make this transition. The community at large is the beneficiary. Music concerts alone do not fully characterize the impact the symphony has on this community. With new education directions, and top-notch musicians, The Honolulu Symphony reaches mentors students, assists in leading music development in the classroom, and exposes countless others to music excellence in this state.

Please support the arts by supporting The Honolulu Symphony.

Mahalo,

Marla Musick

Communications Director
Hawaii Arts Alliance
533-2787
marla@hawaiiartsalliance.org

*Visit our
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www.artsatmarks.com*

P.O. Box 3948
Honolulu, Hawai'i
96812-3948
Phone: (808) 533.2787
Fax: (808) 526.9040
arts@hawaiiartsalliance.org
www.hawaiiartsalliance.org

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: Renie Wong Lindley for a hearing by the
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
1:30 p.m. – Room 308
Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

From Hawaiian 'oli to high school marching bands to the classical and popular compositions performed by the Orchestra, music is human expression at the highest level that communicates across the generations, cultures and geographic locations. For over a century, our Symphony has been recognized for its diverse musical entertainment offerings, including *MasterWorks*, *Pops* concerts, and youth education and outreach performances. Its mission is to “enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawai‘i by sustaining a symphony orchestra of the highest artistic quality, and to serve as a community leader for musical activities that include concerts, operas, ballet and educational programs”.

The members of our Orchestra form the cornerstone of the performing arts in this community, ensuring the availability of highly trained professional musicians to the Hawai‘i Opera Theatre, Ballet Hawai‘i, Chamber Music Hawai‘i, the Maui Pops, and for numerous touring artists year-round.

Equally as important, these musicians serve as the backbone of music education in our State. According to the Hawai‘i Music Educators Association, less than 50% of public elementary schools in the state have an active music program. Most classroom teachers have little training, few resources, and no time to offer a music curriculum to their students. Budget constraints often prevent Hawaii’s schools from providing students with any meaningful exposure to music education. The Honolulu Symphony fills this need through Education and Community Outreach programs that introduce young people to symphonic music and promote a life-long love of music and music-making.

For more than 20 years I was an active member of the Marin Symphony, San Rafael, California, both as a performer and member of the administration. I know first-hand of the difficulties of trying to raise private donations for a big cultural endeavor such as a symphony orchestra, and I applaud the State of Hawaii’s acknowledgement that such a valuable cultural asset must be protected and promoted with state funds. I am currently a music teacher on Oahu and see the wonderful work the Honolulu Symphony does with its youth programs.

The Honolulu Symphony impacts every facet of life within our community. It enhances the reputation of our state nationally and internationally, adds to the cultural diversity of our State, and positively affects the local economy. The legislation before you speaks of the importance of this organization to the State, and reaffirms the many benefits our outstanding orchestra continues to contribute to local communities. We must not lose this powerful and invaluable resource for human development in our State.

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: Robert G. Peters, EdD
Head of School, Hanahau1oli School
HSS Education Committee, Chair

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B.3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

The Honolulu Symphony is a vital part of our community without which the quality of life in our state would be diminished. Not only does it offer diverse and rich experiences for our own community members, the Symphony reaches out to visitors as well adding to the appeal of our Islands. Without doubt, the Honolulu Symphony is the foundational arts organization in our state.

Of particular importance to me is the value it renders to children through its education programs. Fewer than 50% of our schools have active music programs and the Symphony often is the only musical outlet for our youngsters as they attend Youth Concerts. Ensembles which visit the schools and often integrate with the curriculum have wide appeal to our students as they have up-close experiences with real musicians who inspire them. In recent years, the Symphony has sponsored a program with Carnegie which invites children to learn to play recorders and ukulele, and invites them to play along with the Symphony members at one of their concerts. The enthusiasm expressed by local children, both from Oahu and neighbor Islands, speaks for the success of the program.

Additionally, members of the Honolulu Symphony provide models for our children of real people playing in orchestras. We have one of the most active youth symphony programs in the country, I suspect, and it is the Symphony musicians who often teach and guide these young people. They offer themselves as examples for our young people eager to pursue a career in music.

Ours is a state of many cultures with one thing common to all: musical expression. The Symphony with its diverse programming offers that expression a venue for enjoyment as well as education. We must not lose this powerful and irreplaceable resource that so naturally exemplifies the diversity and richness of our state of Hawaii.

VALERIE OSSIPOFF
3771 LURLINE DRIVE – HONOLULU HI 96816
808-735-4311 CELL: 510-547-0447 VOSSIPOFF@YAHOO.COM

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by Valerie V. Ossipoff, President Oah`u Choral Society
for a hearing by the
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
1:30 p.m. – Room 308
Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

From Hawaiian `oli to high school marching bands to the classical and popular compositions performed by the Orchestra, music is human expression at the highest level that communicates across the generations, cultures and geographic locations. For over a century, our Symphony has been recognized for its diverse musical entertainment offerings, including *MasterWorks*, *Pops* concerts, and youth education and outreach performances. Its mission is to "enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawai'i by sustaining a symphony orchestra of the highest artistic quality, and to serve as a community leader for musical activities that include concerts, operas, ballet and educational programs".

The members of our Orchestra form the cornerstone of the performing arts in this community, ensuring the availability of highly trained professional musicians to the Hawai'i Opera Theatre, Ballet Hawai'i, Chamber Music Hawai'i, the Maui Pops, and for numerous touring artists year-round.

Equally as important, these musicians serve as the backbone of music education in our State. According to the Hawai'i Music Educators Association, less than 50% of public elementary schools in the state have an active music program. Most classroom teachers have little training, few resources, and no time to offer a music curriculum to their students. Budget constraints often prevent Hawaii's schools from providing students with any meaningful exposure to music education. The Honolulu Symphony fills this need through Education and Community Outreach programs that introduce young people to symphonic music and promote a life-long love of music and music-making.

The Oah`u Choral Society, performing as the Honolulu Symphony Chorus, likewise benefits from the superb quality and musicianship of our Orchestra. We can testify to the value of music in one's life as has been demonstrated by considerable research. The shortfall that resulted from the interruption of the

use of the Blaisdell concert hall has created a very difficult situation for all of the staff and performers. Our own General Manager, along with all the staff and musicians performed without pay over the Christmas holidays. Greater dedication is hard to find and it is only right that it should be supported by making up for the shortfall and alleviating the ongoing anxiety felt by the musicians and staff. We cannot, from any perspective, afford to lose this valuable asset or these dedicated individuals from our community.

The Honolulu Symphony impacts every facet of life within our community. It enhances the reputation of our state nationally and internationally, adds to the cultural diversity of our State, and positively affects the local economy. The legislation before you speaks of the importance of this organization to the State, and reaffirms the many benefits our outstanding orchestra continues to contribute to local communities. We must not lose this powerful and invaluable resource for human development in our State.

Thank you for your courtesy, consideration and attention.
Valerie Ossipoff, President
Oah'u Choral Society.

FINtestimony

From: Tracy Jefferson [tracyjefferson@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 11:49 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Symphony Testimony

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: (Tracy Jefferson, supporter
for a hearing by the
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
1:30 p.m. – Room 308
Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

From Hawaiian 'oli to high school marching bands to the classical and popular compositions performed by the Orchestra, music is human expression at the highest level that communicates across the generations, cultures and geographic locations. For over a century, our Symphony has been recognized for its diverse musical entertainment offerings, including MasterWorks, Pops concerts, and youth education and outreach performances. Its mission is to "enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawai'i by sustaining a symphony orchestra of the highest artistic quality, and to serve as a community leader for musical activities that include concerts, operas, ballet and educational programs".

The members of our Orchestra form the cornerstone of the performing arts in this community, ensuring the availability of highly trained professional musicians to the Hawai'i Opera Theatre, Ballet Hawai'i, Chamber Music Hawai'i, the Maui Pops, and for numerous touring artists year-round.

Equally as important, these musicians serve as the backbone of music education in our State. According to the Hawai'i Music Educators Association, less than 50% of public elementary schools in the state have an active music program. Most classroom teachers have little training, few resources, and no time to offer a music curriculum to their students. Budget constraints often prevent Hawaii's schools from providing students with any meaningful exposure to music education. The Honolulu Symphony fills this need through Education and Community Outreach programs that introduce young people to symphonic music and promote a life-long love of music and music-making.

The Honolulu Symphony provides a service to everyone in Hawaii and all those who visit. It is important to have such an organization that provides so many things besides music, from education in the schools, to outreach. All I keep thinking is what if people come to visit and want to attend a musical event, how does it look for them to find out that Honolulu has no symphony? It's a thought that is very close to being true...which is scary. What will the schools do? What will their current patrons do? What will tourists do? Will they decide to visit another locale just so they can attend symphonic events?

The Honolulu Symphony impacts every facet of life within our community. It enhances the reputation of our state nationally and internationally, adds to the cultural diversity of our State, and positively affects the local economy. The legislation before you speaks of the importance of this organization to the State, and reaffirms the many benefits our outstanding orchestra continues to contribute to local communities. We must not lose this powerful and invaluable resource for human development in our State.

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: Napualani V. Wong, parent
for a hearing by the
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
1:30 p.m. – Room 308
Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

The mission of the Honolulu Symphony to “enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawai‘i by sustaining a symphony orchestra of the highest artistic quality, and to serve as a community leader for musical activities that include concerts, operas, ballet and educational programs.”

My family’s quality of life has been enhanced “big time.” Because of the Symphony’s participation in the various operas and visiting shows, such as “The Phantom of the Opera,” my children became hooked on the joy of music – the natural high. My daughter played at the highest level of the Hawaii Youth Symphony and is studying music business in college. My youngest son plays the clarinet and wants to expand to other instruments. My nephew has competed at the highest level nationally in ballet. I attribute all of this to their exposure to the wonderful music provided by the Honolulu Symphony.

The members of our Orchestra form the cornerstone of the performing arts in this community, ensuring the availability of highly trained professional musicians to the Hawai‘i Opera Theatre, Ballet Hawai‘i, Chamber Music Hawai‘i, the Maui Pops, and for numerous touring artists year-round.

Without the example these gifted musicians offer our children, they would get their information from TV or movies. There’s nothing entirely wrong with that but seeing that instrument being played, watching the music flow through the musicians’ bodies, enjoying the thrill of the ride, now that’s priceless.

Equally as important, these musicians serve as the backbone of music education in our State.

My son is being mentored by Norm Foster, clarinetist supreme! And he’s loving every minute of it! He actually listens to musical scores in movies and understands progressions in rock music. He belongs to his band at Maryknoll School, but without the Honolulu Symphony setting the example for him, he’d have very little idea of the heights he could achieve.

Please, please, please, lend your legislative weight to this priceless resource and put some of the money where it belongs to sustain this incredible family of musicians. Be the body that takes “politically correct” into “correct politics” and keep the music alive and well!

Thank you!

FINtestimony

From: Jane Campbell [janekailua@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 12:35 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: HB 3243 H.D. 1

For the hearing Wednesday, February 27, 2008, 1:30 p.m.

To: House Committee on Finance
 Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair; Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair
Fr: Jane Campbell, president, Windward Arts Council; board secretary, Chamber Music Hawai'i; former head, Honolulu Theatre for Youth.
Re: **In support of HB 3243 H.D. 1, Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs**

Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chairman Lee and Honorable Committee Members:

I write in support of HB 3243 H.D. 1. I am particularly concerned about educating our children to understand and appreciate their rich heritage of arts and to learn arts skills that will serve them and enrich them throughout their lives.

I have come to realize over the many years I have worked in arts education in Hawai'i how inter-related our arts programs are. If we are to maintain and grow our rich cultural heritage and ensure that it will be broader and richer when our children become adults, all Hawai'i's arts and cultures must be strong. Just as the University of Hawai'i must have strong programs in all sports in order for each sport to excel, Hawai'i must have strong programs in all arts in order for each program to excel.

When I came to Honolulu in 1957, the Honolulu Symphony under Maestro George Barati had a strong music for youth program that operated through the public schools. It was the model for Honolulu Theatre for Youth's theatre and drama outreach programs that have since earned national and international recognition. HTY's work, in turn, has been model for similar arts education work here on Oahu and on Neighbor Islands.

Chamber Music Hawai'i, Hawai'i Opera Theatre, Ballet Hawai'i, Maui Pops all formed within the past 50 years. It is difficult to imagine that happening had there been no symphony as the musical cornerstone – or to imagine them continuing to exist were there no longer a symphony.

Yes, a symphony orchestra is tremendously expensive, but the money spent goes to people whose lives – and taxes – in turn enrich Hawai'i. Quickly following statehood, we became famous nationally for our state government's commitment to our cultural heritage. Now in the midst of sharply rising costs, all of Hawai'i's arts are in the midst of the hard work it takes to develop that same sense of commitment in all of us personally, that we all may come to understand that funding must be a partnership between government and individuals.

This will happen, I am certain of it. In the meantime, I beg your understanding of the critical need for the State Legislature to keep government support at the level still needed for the arts to thrive and our children to have arts and culture part of their lives. I ask for your support of HB3243 H.D. 1.

2/26/2008

Thank you, Jane Campbell

FINtestimony

From: Kaori Yoshida [kaoriysd@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 2:21 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Honolulu Symphony

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by Kaori Yoshida, violinist with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra

for a hearing by the

House Committee on Finance

Hawaii State Capitol

1:30 p.m. - Room 308

Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

From Hawaiian 'oli to high school marching bands to the classical and popular compositions performed by the Orchestra, music is human expression at the highest level that communicates across the generations, cultures and geographic locations. For over a century, our Symphony has been recognized for its diverse musical entertainment offerings, including MasterWorks, Pops concerts, and youth education and outreach performances. Its mission is to "enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawai'i by sustaining a symphony orchestra of the highest artistic quality, and to serve as a community leader for musical activities that include concerts, operas, ballet and educational programs".

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The Honolulu Symphony impacts every facet of life within our community. It enhances the reputation of our state nationally and internationally, adds to the cultural diversity of our State, and positively affects the local economy. The legislation before you speaks of the importance of this organization to the State, and reaffirms the many benefits our outstanding orchestra continues to contribute to local communities. We must not lose this powerful and invaluable resource for human development in our State.

Sincerely,
Kaori Yoshida
917-733-9569 (cell)

Windows Live Hotmail is giving away Zunes. Enter for your chance to win.
http://www.windowslive-hotmail.com/ZuneADay/?locale=en-US&ocid=TXT_TAGLM_Mobile_Zune_V3

FINtestimony

From: tgulick3@gmail.com on behalf of Thomas Gulick [tom@honolulusymphony.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 1:59 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 3243 H.D. 1

Thomas J. Gulick, Executive Director, Honolulu Symphony
To the House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Hearing date: Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 1:30 p.m., Agenda #4

In Support of HB 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08), Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its Programs

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I would like to submit this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs, however we ask for the deletion of provisions listed in Section 2(1) and Section 2(2).

Many of you have heard the recent press regarding the financial plight of the Honolulu Symphony. The past several months have been extremely trying for the organization. Our musicians have played despite not knowing when their next paycheck will come, and our administrative staff has made the same sacrifice to ensure the continuation of this organization.

We thank the State for recognizing the importance of a professional symphony orchestra in Hawaii and for its wish to support this cultural and educational asset. Through Act 156, this legislative body, has made provisions for an increase in the long term funding and support off the Honolulu Symphony through an increase in its permanent endowment. The distinction between the provisions of Act 156 and the current request in HB 3243 HD1 must not be confused.

In clarification of the relationships that exist, the Honolulu Symphony Society is the administrative entity that is tasked with the daily operations of the organization. The Honolulu Symphony Foundation is a separate entity charged with the maintenance and administration of funds for the perpetuation of a professional symphony orchestra in Hawaii.

Act 156 allows for a transfer of up to \$4 million to the Symphony Endowment Fund, managed by the Honolulu Symphony Foundation. The funding must be matched on a 1-to-1 basis and only the interest gained may be utilized for operational needs. Interest income through Act 156 is estimated to generate approximately \$200,000 a year which may be transferred to the Honolulu Symphony Society for its operations, however, this revenue would not be realized until a year after funds have been placed in endowment. Additionally, even if these funds were available immediately, they would be insufficient to meet the current operational shortfall of the Honolulu Symphony Society.

The original intent of HB 3243 seeks a direct appropriation of \$810,000 to the Honolulu Symphony Society's operations in support musician's salary and ongoing programming. This bill specifically addresses a critical shortfall in revenues and requests immediate operational support to sustain the organization and its many educational programs, such as the recent education and outreach tour to the island of Maui.

Over the course of four days, ensembles from our orchestra visited schools from around the island to share their special gift and love of music. The highlight of this tour was a free community concert held at the Maui Arts and Cultural Center. In its first full-orchestra concert on Maui in over 15 years, the Honolulu Symphony performed before a capacity crowd of over 1,200 individuals in a program that offered both recognizable classics as well as the beautiful voice of local leo ki'eki'e artist, Raiatea Helm.

The addition of the provisions in Section 2(1) and 2(2) in HD1 confuses the operational support requested in HB 3243 with the long-term endowment support provided by Act 156. These provisions further negate any immediate financial relief should the full amount of \$4 million be transferred to the Symphony Endowment Fund by making null and void the operational request in HB3243.

As executive director, these are the times we hope to never face. Through this difficulty, however, I have seen what this orchestra and the Honolulu Symphony mean to our community. In December, our community stepped forward to show their support. Through an incredible outpouring of aloha the Honolulu Symphony raised over half a million dollars in just over three weeks. Over 1,000 individuals from across our state, the mainland, and as far away as Singapore made a commitment to the see the continuation of the oldest orchestra west of the Rocky Mountains. These funds allowed the organization to meet its immediate payroll and critical operational needs, however, the Honolulu Symphony still faces a significant operational shortfall which threatens its existence.

The operational funding requested is critical to the continuation of the Honolulu Symphony, and we request the removal of language in Sections 2(1) and 2(2) of HB 3243 HD1 placing provisions upon this request of \$810,000.

The Honolulu Symphony is a cultural and educational asset which is in serious financial jeopardy at this time, and I respectfully request the support of this committee of HB 3243, HD 1 with the requested deletions.

FINtestimony

From: Jackie Mahi Erickson [jmerickson@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 8:50 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: HB 3243 HD1; House Finance Committee; hearing Feb 27 Wed @ 1:30, Conf Rm 308

Jackie Mahi Erickson

1315 Kaweloka St.

Pearl City, HI 96782

For hearing: Wednesday, February 27, 2008. @ 1:30pm.
Conference Room 308

To: House Finance Committee
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

Subject: **In Support of HB3243 HD1 (HSCR368-08)**, Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its Programs

Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chairman Lee, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Jackie Mahi Erickson. I am in favor of HB 3243 HD1 and ask for your support of this important bill which would appropriate "\$810,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 to meet the shortfall in funding for the operations of the Honolulu Symphony and its programs."

Section 1 of this Bill explains the importance of the Honolulu Symphony to Hawaii and the need for State support. Throughout the USA and all over the world we see that diversity of culture and arts, including music, are important indicia of a community's soul and quality of life. Internationally, nationally and locally, Hawaii's diverse cultural stature has improved over recent years and, in spite of difficult economic situations which resulted in the Symphony musicians and staff suffering pay cuts, the ever improving musical reputation

2/26/2008

of Honolulu Symphony made great leaps.

During the 2006 and 2007 Hawaii Legislative Sessions the House and Senate acknowledged the desirability and the difficulties a community our size has to provide

quality classical music to Hawaii's public and to educate our children to the wonders and beauty of such music.

Hence, in 2007, the legislature appropriated \$4m in support of the Symphony.

In 2007, the Symphony was fortunate to have renowned Maestro Adreas Delfs agree to join the Symphony

as its Conductor, to lead its musicians, to bring his experiences and to share his vision so Hawaii can further

enhance the enjoyment and quality of classical music in Hawaii. It was a terrible disappointment when the

legislative appropriations pursuant to Act 97 were not delivered, and, at the same time the Symphony's concert revenues and donations weren't enough to make up for losses resulting from months

of performances at smaller and less desirable substitute music halls instead of the NBC concert hall.

HD 1 of this Bill has been changed significantly from the original bill by the addition of Section 2(2).

I believe that the original appropriation of \$810,000, without the potential reduction proposed in HD1, Section 2(2) would better accomplish the stated purposes of HB 3243.

HB 3243 HD1 would enable the Symphony to continue its youth education programs and support operational expenses.

I do request that this committee consider amending HD1 by deleting Section 2(2).

I ask for your support of this bill.

Thank you.

Jackie Mahi Erickson

FINtestimony

From: Constance Uejio [cuejio@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 10:12 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Honolulu Symphony

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: Constance H. Uejio, Prinicipal Harpist of the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra

for a hearing by the

House Committee on Finance

Hawaii State Capitol

1:30 p.m. – Room 308

Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

From Hawaiian ‘oli to high school marching bands to the classical and popular compositions performed by the Orchestra, music is human expression at the highest level that communicates across the generations, cultures and geographic locations. For over a century, our Symphony has been recognized for its diverse musical entertainment offerings, including *MasterWorks*, *Pops* concerts, and youth education and outreach performances. Its mission is to “enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawai‘i by sustaining a symphony orchestra of the highest artistic quality, and to serve as a community leader for musical activities that include concerts, operas, ballet and educational programs”.

The members of our Orchestra form the cornerstone of the performing arts in this community, ensuring the availability of highly trained professional musicians to the Hawai‘i Opera Theatre, Ballet Hawai‘i, Chamber Music Hawai‘i, the Maui Pops, and for numerous touring artists year-round.

Equally as important, these musicians serve as the backbone of music education in our State. According to the Hawai‘i Music Educators Association, less than 50% of public elementary schools in the state have an active music program. Most classroom teachers have little training, few resources, and no time to offer a music curriculum to their students. Budget constraints often prevent Hawai‘i’s schools from providing students with any meaningful exposure to music education. The Honolulu Symphony fills this need through Education and Community Outreach programs that introduce young people to symphonic music and promote a life-long love of music and music-making.

This is my 27th season as Principal Harpist. Throughout the years, I have witnessed the impact our

music has on the children at the youth concerts, at our smaller ensemble performances in school libraries/classrooms, etc. When we ask the question, "Do you have a music teacher at your school?", we are usually told no. For many of our Hawaii children, the Symphony is the only "up close and personal" contact they have with musicians and instruments. How special that makes all our performances!

The Honolulu Symphony impacts every facet of life within our community. It enhances the reputation of our state nationally and internationally, adds to the cultural diversity of our State, and positively affects the local economy. The legislation before you speaks of the importance of this organization to the State, and reaffirms the many benefits our outstanding orchestra continues to contribute to local communities. We must not lose this powerful and invaluable resource for human development in our State.

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: Charles W. Crumpton
1251 Heulu St. #1001, Honolulu, HI 96822
for a hearing by the
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
1:30 p.m. – Room 308
Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee,

As one of those blessed by the Symphony and its wonderful contributions to our State and community, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

From Hawaiian ‘oli to high school marching bands to the classical and popular compositions performed by the Orchestra, music is human expression at the highest level that communicates across the generations, cultures and geographic locations. For over a century, our Symphony has been recognized for its diverse musical entertainment offerings, including *MasterWorks*, *Pops* concerts, and youth education and outreach performances. Its mission is to “enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawai‘i by sustaining a symphony orchestra of the highest artistic quality, and to serve as a community leader for musical activities that include concerts, operas, ballet and educational programs”.

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Like the music, history and international cultures it shares, the Symphony touches lives and hearts, young and old, in unique and countless ways. It truly is, in the words of the Mastercharge commercial, priceless. It reaches and opens the best aspects of our humanity and civility, and connects us through music and culture that are timeless and without borders. The contribution proposed by this bill to enable the Symphony’s valuable outreach and offerings to continue is, in

its best essence, an investment in the best qualities of ourselves, and in a legacy and heritage that connects and betters each and all of us.

The Honolulu Symphony impacts every facet of life within our community. It enhances the reputation of our state nationally and internationally, adds to the cultural diversity of our State, and positively affects the local economy. The legislation before you speaks of the importance of this organization to the State, and reaffirms the many benefits our outstanding orchestra continues to contribute to local communities. We must not lose this powerful and invaluable resource for human development in our State.

FINtestimony

From: Norm Foster, Normzart Cards [normzart@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 1:27 AM
To: FINtestimony
Cc: Keith Kadoyama; Keith Kadoyama; Jane Murakami; Tom Gulick; Paul Barrett; AFM677@aol.com; Stephen Dinion
Subject: Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: Norman F. Foster,
Clarinetist, Honolulu Symphony
for a hearing by the
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
1:30 p.m. – Room 308
Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee,

I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

Today, the New York Philharmonic performed for the people of that North Korea. The concert was broadcast live throughout that nation. Music is a universal language which can bring people, nations, and the world together. What an honor it would be for the Honolulu Symphony to represent Hawaii in another country some day in a similar way.

The Honolulu Symphony's 2007 - 08 season began as the most exciting of my 22 years playing in the Honolulu Symphony - after Andreas Delfs' interpretation of Tchaikovsky's Fifth brought the house down with an explosive standing ovation, numerous curtain calls and deafening cheers. Obviously, the audience heard that Delfs can bring out the real potential of the Honolulu Symphony, inspiring the musicians and shaping the music in ways never heard before in Hawaii. A buzz was created and the ovations were repeated with Delfs' conducting of Beethoven's First, Brahms' Fourth, and a stunning Beethoven's Ninth. Perhaps it should be no surprise that he is able to do this, considering his qualifications - he is currently Music Director of the Milwaukee Symphony but has also been Music Director of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, General Music Director of Hannover Symphony and Assistant Conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra under Lorin Maazel. He studied music at the Hamburg Conservatory and holds a masters degree from Juilliard School of Music. These are impressive credentials.

What's surprising is that Delfs is here - as Hawaii's new Principal Conductor of the Honolulu Symphony. This should be seen as a great honor for the City of Honolulu and the State of Hawaii to have a person of his caliber, background and experience, choose to dedicate himself to leading and building Hawaii's only professional symphony and to improving music education in the state. The fact that Delfs was even interested in the position is a testament to the quality of the orchestra and the potential he heard after conducting the musicians only once.

Regarding the orchestra, Delfs said, "The combination of artistic excellence, enthusiasm and ambition that defines the Honolulu Symphony is a rare commodity these days. And the immediate and tangible chemistry between an orchestra and a conductor does not come along often. It is a privilege and great joy to join this superb American orchestra and help unleash its unlimited potential. I also look forward to contributing to the unique culture of the Hawaiian Islands and join the community in the celebration of the arts."

Musicians around the world started to take notice of the Honolulu Symphony like never before when Delfs was appointed, especially when he made statements like that. There was a new interest and excitement in what was happening in Honolulu. This was a situation to watch.

Unfortunately, what people around the world have been watching is an unraveling of the organization due to an unbelievable lack of sufficient support for Delfs and the Symphony, demonstrating that many in Hawaii don't appreciate what Hawaii has got. We have achieved a new height artistically, yet there is a new depth in financial support. If there ever was a situation where one would ask, "What's wrong with this picture?" - this is it.

This situation is so serious that we are in danger of losing some of our best musicians because they simply can't pay the rent. Hawaii is famous for its high cost of living. The Symphony is famous, sadly, not for its artistic achievements or tours to foreign countries, but for its substandard salaries and financial instability. Late payroll is unacceptable and disrespectful to such valuable members of our community.

The chief operating officer of the Halekulani Hotel, Peter Shaindlin, recently stated, "If we continue on this path of unproductive distraction, we stand to become the first major city in the United States without a symphony orchestra. That would not only be a blemish on our magnificent state, but a cultural tragedy that will have been of our own doing."*

However, the situation can change - starting with passage of this bill. Please pass HB 3243, HD 1, in the full amount requested and support the Symphony with your words and with your actions.

Thank you very much,
Norm Foster
Makiki
225-1052

*<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2007/Dec/25/op/hawaii712250310.html>

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FINtestimony

From: Stelio [sscordilis@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 1:06 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: H.B 3243 H.D.1

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: Stelio Scordilis
for a hearing by the
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
1:30 p.m. – Room 308
Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

From Hawaiian ‘oli to high school marching bands to the classical and popular compositions performed by the Orchestra, music is human expression at the highest level that communicates across the generations, cultures and geographic locations. For over a century, our Symphony has been recognized for its diverse musical entertainment offerings, including MasterWorks, Pops concerts, and youth education and outreach performances. Its mission is to “enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawai‘i by sustaining a symphony orchestra of the highest artistic quality, and to serve as a community leader for musical activities that include concerts, operas, ballet and educational programs”.

The members of our Orchestra form the cornerstone of the performing arts in this community, ensuring the availability of highly trained professional musicians to the Hawai‘i Opera Theatre, Ballet Hawai‘i, Chamber Music Hawai‘i, the Maui Pops, and for numerous touring artists year-round.

Equally as important, these musicians serve as the backbone of music education in our State. According to the Hawai‘i Music Educators Association, less than 50% of public elementary schools in the state have an active music program. Most classroom teachers have little training, few resources, and no time to offer a music curriculum to their students. Budget constraints often prevent Hawaii’s schools from providing students with any meaningful exposure to music education. The Honolulu Symphony fills this need through Education and Community Outreach programs that introduce young people to symphonic music and promote a life-long love of music and music-making.

Please, support our great orchestra!

Stelio Scordilis

Stelio Scordilis
The Phaeacian Chorus
750 Kaheka Street #1106

2/26/2008

Honolulu, Hawaii, 96814
808-955-0433

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February 26, 2008

House Finance Committee

HB 3243

February 27, 2008

1:30 pm.

Conference Room 308

Testimony in support of HB 3243 Providing \$810,000 to the Honolulu Symphony
From: Cha Smith

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

This testimony is in strong support of HB3243. This legislation would provide public support for The Honolulu Symphony. The symphony is world-class organization that provides an essential educational role to communities throughout our Islands by introducing classical music to youth and by making fine music accessible to thousands of people. Hawai'i would be much deprived without this organization.

This bill reflects the importance of providing public support to the arts and underscores the significant role that music plays in shaping community spirit and cultural appreciation. The Symphony is deeply tied to Hawai'i's unique culture. It is up to us to give back to the Honolulu Symphony at this critical time. Please vote to assist this essential organization.

Sincerely,

Cha Smith
4117 Black Point Road
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816

FINtestimony

From: James T Decker [jdeck911@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 7:37 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: H.B. 3243 H.D. 1.(HSCR368.08)

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: James T. Decker, member, Musicians' Association of Hawaii,
for a hearing by the
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
1:30 p.m. – Room 308
Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

From Hawaiian 'oli to high school marching bands to the classical and popular compositions performed by the Orchestra, music is human expression at the highest level that communicates across the generations, cultures and geographic locations. For over a century, our Symphony has been recognized for its diverse musical entertainment offerings, including MasterWorks, Pops concerts, and youth education and outreach performances. Its mission is to "enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawai'i by sustaining a symphony orchestra of the highest artistic quality, and to serve as a community leader for musical activities that include concerts, operas, ballet and educational programs".

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The Honolulu Symphony impacts every facet of life within our community. It enhances the reputation of our state nationally and internationally, adds to the cultural diversity of our State, and positively affects the local economy. The legislation before you speaks of the importance of this organization to the State, and reaffirms the many benefits our outstanding orchestra continues to contribute to local communities. We must not lose this powerful and invaluable resource for human development in our State.

2/26/2008

FINtestimony

From: barbara dyer [makdyer@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 9:02 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Symphony Testimony

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: Barbara M. Dyer, President, Hawaii Music Teachers Association
for a hearing by the
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
1:30 p.m. – Room 308
Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

From Hawaiian 'oli to high school marching bands to the classical and popular compositions performed by the Orchestra, music is human expression at the highest level that communicates across the generations, cultures and geographic locations. For over a century, our Symphony has been recognized for its diverse musical entertainment offerings, including *MasterWorks*, *Pops* concerts, and youth education and outreach performances. Its mission is to “enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawai‘i by sustaining a symphony orchestra of the highest artistic quality, and to serve as a community leader for musical activities that include concerts, operas, ballet and educational programs”.

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FINtestimony

From: Don_Child@datahouse.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 8:08 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08) - Appropriation for Honolulu Symphony

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: Dr. Donald A Child, Health Coach and Senior Technical Writer
for a hearing by the
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
1:30 p.m. – Room 308
Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

From Hawaiian 'oli to high school marching bands to the classical and popular compositions performed by the Orchestra, music is human expression at the highest level that communicates across the generations, cultures and geographic locations. For over a century, our Symphony has been recognized for its diverse musical entertainment offerings, including *MasterWorks*, *Pops* concerts, and youth education and outreach performances. Its mission is to "enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawai'i by sustaining a symphony orchestra of the highest artistic quality, and to serve as a community leader for musical activities that include concerts, operas, ballet and educational programs".

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I grew up around symphony orchestras, and have listened to numerous world-class musicians in venues as diverse as the Aspen Music Festival and the Royal Albert Hall. From such a perspective, I have been pleased to watch the Honolulu Symphony evolve over the years until, today, it rivals the very best orchestras in the world! They have become a real gem in our local culture, and are one of the institutions that make Hawaii more than just beaches and surf. Please support them to ensure that they are fully funded and can continue to grow in quality, and through their outreach efforts they can continue to stimulate a full spectrum of musical culture.

The Honolulu Symphony impacts every facet of life within our community. It enhances the reputation of our state nationally and internationally, adds to the cultural diversity of our State, and positively affects the local economy. The legislation before you speaks of the importance of this organization to the State, and reaffirms the many benefits our outstanding orchestra continues to contribute to local communities. We must not lose this powerful and invaluable resource for human development in our State.

Thank you.

Don Child
531 Hahaione Street #2E
Honolulu HI 96825
(808) 395-0060

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: Laurel Hall Oahu resident
for a hearing by the
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
1:30 p.m. – Room 308
Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

From Hawaiian ‘oli to high school marching bands to the classical and popular compositions performed by the Orchestra, music is human expression at the highest level that communicates across the generations, cultures and geographic locations. For over a century, our Symphony has been recognized for its diverse musical entertainment offerings, including *MasterWorks*, *Pops* concerts, and youth education and outreach performances. Its mission is to “enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawai‘i by sustaining a symphony orchestra of the highest artistic quality, and to serve as a community leader for musical activities that include concerts, operas, ballet and educational programs”.

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Please help our symphony in it’s time of need. Oahu would be a much lessor place without it.

The Honolulu Symphony impacts every facet of life within our community. It enhances the reputation of our state nationally and internationally, adds to the cultural diversity of our State, and positively affects the local economy. The legislation before you speaks of the importance of this organization to the State, and reaffirms the many benefits our outstanding orchestra continues to contribute to local communities. We must not lose this powerful and invaluable resource for human development in our State.

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: Pierre Grill, Owner of Rendez-Vous Recording Studio (27 years in Hawai'i)

for a hearing by the
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
1:30 p.m. – Room 308
Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

From Hawaiian 'oli to high school marching bands to the classical and popular compositions performed by the Orchestra, music is human expression at the highest level that communicates across the generations, cultures and geographic locations. For over a century, our Symphony has been recognized for its diverse musical entertainment offerings, including *MasterWorks*, *Pops* concerts, and youth education and outreach performances. Its mission is to “enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawai'i by sustaining a symphony orchestra of the highest artistic quality, and to serve as a community leader for musical activities that include concerts, operas, ballet and educational programs”.

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We have right now an outstanding orchestra in Honolulu, that I personally enjoy very much. Music is special and irreplaceable in our life.

The Honolulu Symphony impacts every facet of life within our community. It enhances the reputation of our state nationally and internationally, adds to the cultural diversity of our State, and positively affects the local economy. The legislation before you speaks of the importance of this organization to the State, and reaffirms the many benefits our outstanding orchestra continues to contribute to local communities. We must not lose this powerful and invaluable resource for human development in our State.

FINtestimony

From: Noreen Naughton [noreennaughton@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 10:07 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: Noreen Naughton-Nash, Professor Emeritus of Art. Kapi'olani Community College
for a hearing by the
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
1:30 p.m. – Room 308
Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

Some of the reason for the financial problems of the Symphony is because of being displaced from the Blaisdell Concert Hall this past season by the Lion King Production. The Concert Hall was built as the home base for the Honolulu Symphony. I know because I was a 'cellist in the Honolulu Symphony in the late 1960's when the symphony first moved into the Blaisdell Concert Hall. All acoustic specifications of this concert hall were designed for the HSO.

No outside commercial group should have ever taken the Blaisdell Concert Hall over during the prime Symphony Season. This indicates a callousness and greediness on the part of the City and County of Honolulu. Not only the professional musicians of Hawaii have suffered. The whole culture of Hawaii suffers because of this decision. The problem needs to be remedied with this assistance from the H.B. 3243 H.D. 1.

February 26, 2008

House Finance Committee

HB 3243

February 27, 2008

1:30 pm.

Conference Room 308

Testimony in support of HB 3243 Providing \$810,000 to the Honolulu Symphony
From: Colleen Kelly

To Chair Oshiro and Committee Members,

This testimony is in very strong support of HB3243. The legislation would provide public support for The Honolulu Symphony. The Honolulu symphony is a world-class organization that provides essential educational roles to communities throughout our Islands by introducing classical music to youth and by making fine music accessible to thousands of people. Hawai'i would be terribly deprived without this organization.

This bill reflects the importance of providing public support to the arts and underscores the significant role that music plays in shaping community spirit and cultural appreciation. The Symphony is deeply tied to Hawai'i's unique culture. It is up to us to give back to the Honolulu Symphony at this critical time. Please vote to assist this essential organization.

Sincerely,

Colleen Kelly
4117 Black Point Road
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816

FINtestimony

From: Shirley Stone [sstone4@wi.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 3:20 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: testimony

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: Shirley Stone
for a hearing by the
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
1:30 p.m. - Room 308
Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

From Hawaiian 'oli to high school marching bands to the classical and popular compositions performed by the Orchestra, music is human expression at the highest level that communicates across the generations, cultures and geographic locations. For over a century, our Symphony has been recognized for its diverse musical entertainment offerings, including MasterWorks, Pops concerts, and youth education and outreach performances. Its mission is to "enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawai'i by sustaining a symphony orchestra of the highest artistic quality, and to serve as a community leader for musical activities that include concerts, operas, ballet and educational programs".

The members of our Orchestra form the cornerstone of the performing arts in this community, ensuring the availability of highly trained professional musicians to the Hawai'i Opera Theatre, Ballet Hawai'i, Chamber Music Hawai'i, the Maui Pops, and for numerous touring artists year-round.

Equally as important, these musicians serve as the backbone of music education in our State. According to the Hawai'i Music Educators Association, less than 50% of public elementary schools in the state have an active music program. Most classroom teachers have little training, few resources, and no time to offer a music curriculum to their students. Budget constraints often prevent Hawaii's schools from providing students with any meaningful exposure to music education. The Honolulu Symphony fills this need through Education and Community Outreach programs that introduce young people to symphonic music and promote a life-long love of music and music-making.

The Honolulu Symphony impacts every facet of life within our community. It enhances the reputation of our state nationally and internationally, adds to the cultural diversity of our State, and positively affects the local economy. The legislation before you speaks of the importance of this organization to the State, and reaffirms the many benefits our outstanding orchestra continues to contribute to local communities. We must not lose this powerful and invaluable resource for human development in our State.

Mari Yoshihara
Associate Professor of American Studies
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

To the Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Hearing Date: **Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 1:30pm**

[I will not be able to attend the hearing in person; therefore I am submitting this testimony in writing.]

In Support of HB3243, Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its Programs

My name is Mari Yoshihara. I am an associate professor in the Department of American Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, specializing in the history of American culture and the arts. I am the author of the book, *Musicians from a Different Shore: Asians and Asian Americans in Classical Music*, recently published by Temple University Press. I submit this testimony in support of HB3243 which would appropriate \$810,000 for fiscal year 2007-08 to support the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

The Honolulu Symphony is facing a severe financial crisis, and the musicians have gone without regular pay since December. Despite this situation, this season the symphony has given some of the best performances in recent years. The new conductor Andreas Delfs's artistic leadership is clearly infusing the musicians with renewed energy. Their energetic performance with the Hawai'i Opera Theatre this month has exemplified the musicians' dedication to world-class performance.

As a longtime supporter of the Symphony, I know that the orchestra's financial difficulty is nothing new. For many years the Symphony's finances have suffered seriously, culminating in the 20% cut in the musicians' already modest salary in 2003 which has only been restored this season. As a scholar who has studied the history and economy of classical music in America, I also know that such a situation is not unique to the Honolulu Symphony. The structural issues facing the Symphony—e.g., the cuts in public funding for the arts, the rising cost of performances, the aging and shrinking audience for classical music—are shared by orchestras everywhere in the United States.

But the Honolulu Symphony also plays unique roles in our community that distinguish it from the nation's other orchestras. Although some people may feel that the Symphony represents a form of elite high culture and that going to a symphony concert is an unaffordable luxury, these perceptions are mostly false. The Honolulu Symphony indeed serves as a key node of Hawai'i's cultural life, its work extending far beyond classical music.

Its Masterworks Series features both classical European masterpieces and the innovative works of living composers from various backgrounds—Tan Dun, whose music bridges the East and the West; young composer Kenji Bunch, who merges his classical training with his versatility in pop, rock, and bluegrass, for instance—and performs them at the highest professional level. It brings world’s best soloists—ranging from conductor Seiji Ozawa and soprano Renée Fleming to pianist Jon Nakamatsu and violinists Midori and Sarah Chang. The Pops Concerts bring superstars of diverse genres—Dianne Reeves, Diana Krall, Pat Benatar, Kenny G, to name a few—who would not come to the islands if it were not for the Symphony. In the Pops concerts, the Symphony also collaborates with local Hawai‘i musicians—such as Keali‘i Reichel, the Brothers Cazimero, Jake Shimabukuro, and Amy Hanaiali‘i Gilliom—and merge the traditions of orchestral music with Hawai‘i’s unique musical cultures.

The Symphony works hard to make these performances available to the general public. The full-priced tickets for its regular concerts start at a mere fourteen dollars, with discounts available to students, seniors, and military personnel. The Symphony gives free concerts in the parks, educational concerts in public schools, and performances in the neighbor islands. The Symphony also provides the music for the performances of Hawaii Opera Theatre and Ballet Hawaii every year. The Symphony musicians play a major role in music education across the state, both through private lessons and school programs from elementary to university levels. In other words, the Honolulu Symphony is the centerpiece of the performing arts, musical life, and arts education in the state. It is rare to see an institution that brings such diverse cultures together as the Honolulu Symphony does.

Yet for me, the islands’ rich cultural and artistic life is not just about being able to attend these wonderful performances. It is about knowing that there are many musicians in town who are every day striving for the highest level of artistic achievement. The exciting and moving moments of the concerts are made possible only through the many solitary and frustrating hours of daily practice and rehearsals that the musicians dedicate themselves to. Yet the financial difficulty makes it impossible to sustain such a commitment. Already some of the symphony musicians are having to take on a second or third job in order to pay the bills, cutting into the time and effort they can devote to music and thus impoverishing the cultural life for all of us on the islands.

It is important for Hawai‘i to support the Symphony, not because the music the Symphony performs is any more important than any other cultural form that exist in Hawai‘i, but because the Symphony is one of the centerpieces of the rich and diverse cultural life of the islands. By letting the Symphony not only survive but also flourish, we also sustain and enrich the arts and cultures of Hawai‘i as a whole. Please pass this bill so that the musicians can continue the priceless work they have done for many years. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mari Yoshihara

FINtestimony

From: MARCNSUEMACHBITZ@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 9:55 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by:
Suzanne and Marc Machbitz: Honoluu Symphony Associates Members
for a hearing by the
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
1:30 p.m. - Room 308
Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, we are pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

From Hawaiian 'oli to high school marching bands to the classical and popular compositions performed by the Orchestra, music is human expression at the highest level that communicates across the generations, cultures and geographic locations. For over a century, our Symphony has been recognized for its diverse musical entertainment offerings, including MasterWorks, Pops concerts, and youth education and outreach performances. Its mission is to "enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawai'i by sustaining a symphony orchestra of the highest artistic quality, and to serve as a community leader for musical activities that include concerts, operas, ballet and educational programs".

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Equally as important, these musicians serve as the backbone of music education in our State. According to the Hawai'i Music Educators Association, less than 50% of public elementary schools in the state have an active music program. Most classroom teachers have little training, few resources, and no time to offer a music curriculum to their students. Budget constraints often prevent Hawaii's schools from providing students with any meaningful exposure to music education. The Honolulu Symphony helps fill this need through Education and Community Outreach programs that introduce young people to symphonic music and promote a life-long love of music and music-making.

The Honolulu Symphony impacts every facet of life within our community. It enhances the reputation of our state nationally and internationally, adds to the cultural diversity of our State, and positively affects the local economy. The legislation before you speaks of the importance of this organization to the State, and reaffirms the many benefits our outstanding orchestra continues to contribute to local communities. We must not lose

this powerful and invaluable resource for human development in our State.

*

Ideas to please picky eaters. Watch video on AOL Living.
([http://living.aol.com/video/how-to-please-your-picky-eater/rachel-campos-duffy/2050827?
NCID=aolcmp00300000002598](http://living.aol.com/video/how-to-please-your-picky-eater/rachel-campos-duffy/2050827?NCID=aolcmp00300000002598))

FINtestimony

From: shelly kaya [kayas001@hawaii.rr.com]
Jent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 1:15 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: Shelley Kaya, Board member, Honolulu Symphony Associates for a hearing by the House Committee on Finance Hawaii State Capitol 1:30 p.m. - Room 308 Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

However, I strongly urge you to remove the language that subtracts \$810,000 from the \$4 million endowment fund appropriation (Act 156) to pay for this shortfall. Even if this were legal, any reduction in the endowment fund will adversely affect the future financial viability of the symphony.

I am a member of the all-volunteer Honolulu Symphony Associates, a long-time symphony supporter, and an avid classical music lover. Nothing can quite compare to the experience of live orchestral music done well; and we are so fortunate to have immediate access to such music here in Hawaii. We benefit, and our children benefit, from this valuable resource.

It is a travesty that our Symphony musicians and staff were forced to work without pay during December and January - partly because of the additional cost of being displaced by The Lion King. How long can our excellent local musicians and their families continue to live in Hawaii without regular paychecks? \$810,000 is needed NOW to pay the musicians and staff, who have not been paid on time since December and are now four weeks behind in pay.

I strongly request that \$810,000 be provided to meet the current financial crisis, but without adversely impacting the endowment fund. This will enable the symphony to continue serving the people of Hawaii on a firmer financial basis.

Please make copies for Finance Committee Hearing February 27, 2008

Mahalo nui loa,
Cha Smith
277-5362

House Finance Committee
HB 3243
February 27, 2008
1:30 pm.
Conference Room 308

Testimony in support of HB 3243 Providing \$810,000 to the Honolulu Symphony
From: Cha Smith

Aloha Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee,

This testimony is in strong support of HB3243. This legislation would provide public support for The Honolulu Symphony. The symphony is world-class organization that provides an essential educational role to communities throughout our Islands by introducing classical music to youth and by making fine music accessible to thousands of people. Hawai'i would be much deprived without this organization.

This bill reflects the importance of providing public support to the arts and underscores the significant role that music plays in shaping community spirit and cultural appreciation. The Symphony is deeply tied to Hawai'i's unique culture. It is up to us to give back to the Honolulu Symphony at this critical time. Please vote to assist this essential organization.

Sincerely,

Cha Smith
4117 Black Point Road
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816

FINtestimony

From: Louise Ching [ljching@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 8:26 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: Louise Ching, cellist
for a hearing by the
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
1:30 p.m. – Room 308
Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

From Hawaiian 'oli to high school marching bands to the classical and popular compositions performed by the Orchestra, music is human expression at the highest level that communicates across the generations, cultures and geographic locations. For over a century, our Symphony has been recognized for its diverse musical entertainment offerings, including *MasterWorks*, *Pops* concerts, and youth education and outreach performances. Its mission is to "enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawai'i by sustaining a symphony orchestra of the highest artistic quality, and to serve as a community leader for musical activities that include concerts, operas, ballet and educational programs".

The members of our Orchestra form the cornerstone of the performing arts in this community, ensuring the availability of highly trained professional musicians to the Hawai'i Opera Theatre, Ballet Hawai'i, Chamber Music Hawai'i, the Maui Pops, and for numerous touring artists year-round.

Equally as important, these musicians serve as the backbone of music education in our State. According to the Hawai'i Music Educators Association, less than 50% of public elementary schools in the state have an active music program. Most classroom teachers have little training, few resources, and no time to offer a music curriculum to their students. Budget constraints often prevent Hawaii's schools from providing students with any meaningful exposure to music education. The Honolulu Symphony fills this need through Education and Community Outreach programs that introduce young people to symphonic music and promote a life-long love of music and music-making.

My personal contribution to the musical education of Hawaii's youngsters includes 25 years of teaching private cello lessons to between 25 and 30 youngsters each year, directing the Hawaii Youth Symphony's Beginning String Program for 13 years and providing special coaching sessions to various school orchestra programs.

The Honolulu Symphony impacts every facet of life within our community. It enhances the reputation of our state nationally and internationally, adds to the cultural diversity of our State, and positively affects the local economy. The legislation before you speaks of the importance of this organization to the State, and reaffirms the many benefits our outstanding orchestra continues to contribute to local communities. We must not lose this powerful and invaluable resource for human development in our State.

FINtestimony

From: Ruth Shiroma [rshiroma@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 12:43 AM
To: FINtestimony
Cc: keith@honolulusymphony.com
Subject: In support of HB 3243 HD1

In Support of HB 3243 HD1, Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its Programs

Aloha Members of the Committee:

My name is Ruth Shiroma Foster, and I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 3243 HD1, Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its Programs.

I am a kama'aina who grew up in Waianae, went on to the University of Hawaii, worked professionally on the Mainland and finally returned to Honolulu to call this place home.

Throughout my years in Hawaii, the Honolulu Symphony has been a source of inspiration. It was the Honolulu Symphony that played for me my first ever live classical music concert. I was in the fifth grade, and we were bused in from Nanakuli to hear this special concert. The concert was about possibilities, and up to that point I had never seen so many kinds of instruments on stage nor heard so many sounds coming together to make such glorious music. When you are but 10 years old, these impressions never leave you.

Years later, when I returned to Hawaii after having traveled to cities like New York, Chicago, Atlanta and Washington, D.C., I felt a need for richer, deeper experiences in my day-to-day life. I began going to Symphony concerts. The Symphony opened me to the world of Mozart and Brahms. The Symphony showcased homegrown talents like The Cazimero's, C&K, Amy Hanaiali'i Gilliom and Keali'i Reichel. It was as if my mind became wide open. As a non-profit artistic organization, the Symphony provides artistry in a pure, unadulterated form. Its artists are not bound to gimmicks or "hooks" or flash. I felt so lucky that in my personal quest for a deeper experience, I could find it at the Symphony.

So what will become of Honolulu if we cease to have a Symphony? I truly believe we will begin to lose our soul. Where we could have Beethoven ringing through our halls, would we rather choose silence?

As leaders, you have the power and duty to not let this thing of irreplaceable valuable and beauty slip through your hands.

Please support our Symphony. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Ruth Shiroma Foster
1687 Pensacola St. #803
Honolulu, HI 96822
PHONE: (808) 277-5630

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FINtestimony

From: Ethel Iwasaki [eciwasaki@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 11:01 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB3243 Template.doc

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: Ethel Iwasaki, HMTA Immediate Past President
for a hearing by the
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
1:30 p.m. – Room 308
Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

From Hawaiian ‘oli to high school marching bands to the classical and popular compositions performed by the Orchestra, music is human expression at the highest level that communicates across the generations, cultures and geographic locations. For over a century, our Symphony has been recognized for its diverse musical entertainment offerings, including *MasterWorks*, *Pops* concerts, and youth education and outreach performances. Its mission is to “enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawai‘i by sustaining a symphony orchestra of the highest artistic quality, and to serve as a community leader for musical activities that include concerts, operas, ballet and educational programs”.

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FINtestimony

From: lespeetz [lespeetz@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 10:26 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Re: H.B. 3243 H.B. 1

To: Members of the House Finance Committee
Re: H.B. 3243

I have testified before in writing on behalf of further funding for the Honolulu Symphony, regret not being able to be physically present during the hearing this Wednesday. As I mentioned earlier, I am a jazz musician. I maintain close personal ties with members of the Honolulu Symphony, as well as a few professional ones. The members of the Symphony have undergone a year of great setbacks and discouragement, for which none is to blame. Their training and musicianship, individually and as a group, are impeccable, and an asset to Hawai'i in every way. I am not familiar enough with the overall financial structure of the administrative side of the Symphony, but I have a strong feeling that with tight management which seeks to minimize needless overhead, that the musicians in the Symphony will be properly (and promptly) paid for their work.

What should not be minimized is the importance of the Symphony to our lives in Hawai'i. It has been, for over a hundred years, part monument, part travelling university, and, to a large degree, one of the few organizations that can bring all of us valuable hours of culture, education and enrichment. The financial losses over the last year--some of which were the unfortunate result of the Blaisdell's preemption--may or may not be regained. The cultural and educational loss is one that can be remedied--slowly, perhaps, but with a realization that it is part of a community that gets larger and busier every day, and therefore, needs the Symphony more than ever.

And, as I mentioned in my last letter, the beauty of the Symphony is the fact that nearly all of the revenue stays here in Hawai'i, where it is most needed. Honolulu is a first-rate city; we should continue to have a first-rate symphony.

Again, please feel free to contact me should you have any questions, and thank you.

Les
Peetz

FINtestimony

From: kadoyama@gmail.com on behalf of Keith Kadoyama [keith@honolulusymphony.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 1:48 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: In support of HB 3243 HD1

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: Keith K. Kadoyama, Director of Development
for a hearing by the
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
1:30 p.m. – Room 308
Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs. I would also like to provide further information regarding the nature of this request and its differences from Act 156.

I am grateful for the support of Legislature in showing their support of the Honolulu Symphony through their passage of Act 156, which provides for \$4 million dollars to be placed in the Symphony Endowment Fund which is managed by the Honolulu Symphony Foundation. This dedicated endowment funding is critical to the long-term sustainability of the organization as interest from the Symphony Foundation's endowment may be used for operational capitol by the Honolulu Symphony Society. The increase in the size of the endowment through the transfer of Act 156 funding will provide an annual increase in interest of approximately \$200,000 which may released to cover the operational expenses of the Honolulu Symphony Society.

A distinction must be that the Honolulu Symphony Foundation is an entity separate from the Honolulu Symphony Society. The Foundation is charged with the stewardship of endowed funds whose interest are to be used to sustain a professional symphony orchestra in Hawaii. The Honolulu Symphony Society is the administrative body which manages the daily operations of the Honolulu Symphony which include concert presentations as well as a vibrant education and outreach program which reaches out to entire state.

HB3243 requests direct operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony Society in the amount of \$810,000 to address a critical shortfall in revenues. This funding request is distinct and separate from the long-range support provided by Act 156.

The language in Section 1 of HB 3243 eloquently acknowledges the Honolulu Symphony as one of the state's major cultural, educational and entertainment resources and shows the sincere wishes of this legislative body to support this cultural treasure. As a member of the administration, I have witnessed the joy that a concert can bring to individuals and families. I have seen children entranced during in-school ensemble visits as musicians of our orchestra share their special gift of music. I have witnessed gratitude of concertgoers who have waited nearly 15 years for the orchestra to have an opportunity to visit the neighboring islands.

Our orchestra is made up of a special group of individuals who have chosen to make Hawaii their home. Despite recent financial difficulties, their wish to remain and share their talents and gifts with the community through concerts, as teachers, mentors and role models must never be forgotten. They have made sacrifices and have continued to perform despite the uncertainty of their next paycheck so that we are not deprived of the wondrous gift of music they have to offer. As a group, this world-class orchestra has earned and deserves the respect and support of every member of our community.

HB 3243, HD 1 contains amendments which would tie the immediate funding request of \$810,000 with the \$4 million in endowment funding provided by Act 156. I would urge this committee to delete the language contained in Section 2(1) and Section 2(2) as it confuses the request for immediate operational support with that of long-term endowment support.

It further causes the current operational funding request to be null and void if the Honolulu Symphony Foundation receives the full transfer of \$4 million provided by Act 156. These provisions overlook the immediate need for operational support as only the interest from Act 156 funding can ever be used for operations. Additionally, the interest gained would not be released for at least four quarters from the date of transfer, a time period that far exceeds the immediate needs of the Society.

I thank the members of this committee for their time and ask for their support of the Honolulu Symphony and HB 3243 HD1 and the request for removal of language from the bill in Section 2(1) and 2(2).

--

"If it's good enough to call, then it's good enough to raise"

FINtestimony

From: Paul Barrett [pbarrett@lava.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 1:33 PM
To: FINtestimony
Cc: Keith Kadoyama; Keith Kadoyama; Jane Murakami; Tom Gulick; Paul Barrett; AFM 677; Stephen Dinion
Subject: Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: Paul Barrett,
 Bassoonist, Honolulu Symphony
 for a hearing by the
 House Committee on Finance
 Hawaii State Capitol
 1:30 p.m. – Room 308
 Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee,

I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

Today, the New York Philharmonic performed for the people of that North Korea. The concert was broadcast live throughout that nation. Music is a universal language which can bring people, nations, and the world together. What an honor it would be for the Honolulu Symphony to represent Hawaii in another country some day in a similar way.

The Honolulu Symphony's 2007 - 08 season began as the most exciting of my 22 years playing in the Honolulu Symphony - after Andreas Delfs' interpretation of Tchaikovsky's Fifth brought the house down with an explosive standing ovation, numerous curtain calls and deafening cheers. Obviously, the audience heard that Delfs can bring out the real potential of the Honolulu Symphony, inspiring the musicians and shaping the music in ways never heard before in Hawaii. A buzz was created and the ovations were repeated with Delfs' conducting of Beethoven's First, Brahms' Fourth, and a stunning Beethoven's Ninth. Perhaps it should be no surprise that he is able to do this, considering his qualifications - he is currently Music Director of the Milwaukee Symphony but has also been Music Director of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, General Music Director of Hannover Symphony and Assistant Conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra under Lorin Maazel. He studied music at the Hamburg Conservatory and holds a masters degree from Juilliard School of Music. These are impressive credentials.

What's surprising is that Delfs is here - as Hawaii's new Principal Conductor of the Honolulu Symphony. This should be seen as a great honor for the City of Honolulu and the State of Hawaii to have a person of his caliber, background and experience, choose to dedicate himself to leading and building Hawaii's only professional symphony and to improving music education in the state. The fact that Delfs was even interested in the position is a testament to the quality of the orchestra and the potential he heard after conducting the musicians only once.

Regarding the orchestra, Delfs said, "The combination of artistic excellence, enthusiasm and ambition that defines the Honolulu Symphony is a rare commodity these days. And the immediate and tangible chemistry between an orchestra and a conductor does not come along often. It is a privilege and great joy to join this superb American orchestra and help unleash its unlimited potential. I also look forward to contributing to the unique culture of the Hawaiian Islands and join the community in the celebration of the arts."

Musicians around the world started to take notice of the Honolulu Symphony like never before when Delfs was appointed, especially when he made statements like that. There was a new interest and excitement in what was happening in Honolulu. This was a situation to watch.

Unfortunately, what people around the world have been watching is an unraveling of the organization due to an unbelievable lack of sufficient support for Delfs and the Symphony, demonstrating that many in Hawaii don't appreciate what Hawaii has got. We have achieved a new height artistically, yet there is a new depth in financial support. If there ever was a situation where one would ask, "What's wrong with this picture?" - this is it.

This situation is so serious that we are in danger of losing some of our best musicians because they simply can't pay the rent. Hawaii is famous for its high cost of living. The Symphony is famous, sadly, not for its artistic achievements or tours to foreign countries, but for its substandard salaries and financial instability. Late payroll is unacceptable and disrespectful to such valuable members of our community.

The chief operating officer of the Halekulani Hotel, Peter Shaindlin, recently stated, "If we continue on this path of unproductive distraction, we stand to become the first major city in the United States without a symphony orchestra. That would not only be a blemish on our magnificent state, but a cultural tragedy that will have been of our own doing."*

However, the situation can change - starting with passage of this bill. Please pass HB 3243, HD 1, in the full amount requested and support the Symphony with your words and with your actions.

Thank you very much,
Paul Barrett
Kailua
263-0021

*<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2007/Dec/25/op/hawaii712250310.html>

FINtestimony

From: AFM677@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 1:28 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 3243 HD.1 (HSCR368-08)

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: Brien Matson,
President, Musicians' Association of Hawaii Local 677
for a hearing by the
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
1:30 p.m. – Room 308
Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee,

I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

Today, the New York Philharmonic performed for the people of that North Korea. The concert was broadcast live throughout that nation. Music is a universal language which can bring people, nations, and the world together. What an honor it would be for the Honolulu Symphony to represent Hawaii in another country some day in a similar way.

The Honolulu Symphony's 2007 - 08 season began as the most exciting of my 22 years playing in the Honolulu Symphony - after Andreas Delfs' interpretation of Tchaikovsky's Fifth brought the house down with an explosive standing ovation, numerous curtain calls and deafening cheers. Obviously, the audience heard that Delfs can bring out the real potential of the Honolulu Symphony, inspiring the musicians and shaping the music in ways never heard before in Hawaii. A buzz was created and the ovations were repeated with Delfs' conducting of Beethoven's First, Brahms' Fourth, and a stunning Beethoven's Ninth. Perhaps it should be no surprise that he is able to do this, considering his qualifications - he is currently Music Director of the Milwaukee Symphony but has also been Music Director of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, General Music Director of Hannover Symphony and Assistant Conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra under Lorin Maazel. He studied music at the Hamburg Conservatory and holds a masters degree from Juilliard School of Music. These are impressive credentials.

What's surprising is that Delfs is here - as Hawaii's new Principal Conductor of the Honolulu Symphony. This should be seen as a great honor for the City of Honolulu and the State of Hawaii to have a person of his caliber, background and experience, choose to dedicate himself to leading and building Hawaii's only professional symphony and to improving music education in the state. The fact that Delfs was even interested in the position is a testament to the quality of the orchestra and the potential he heard after conducting the musicians only once.

Regarding the orchestra, Delfs said, "The combination of artistic excellence, enthusiasm and ambition that defines the Honolulu Symphony is a rare commodity these days. And the immediate and tangible chemistry between an orchestra and a conductor does not come along often. It is a privilege and great joy to join this superb American orchestra and help unleash its unlimited potential. I also look forward to contributing to the unique culture of the Hawaiian Islands and join the community in the celebration of the arts."

Musicians around the world started to take notice of the Honolulu Symphony like never before when Delfs was appointed, especially when he made statements like that. There was a new interest and excitement in what was happening in Honolulu. This was a situation to watch.

Unfortunately, what people around the world have been watching is an unraveling of the organization due to an unbelievable lack of sufficient support for Delfs and the Symphony, demonstrating that many in Hawaii don't appreciate what Hawaii has got. We have achieved a new height artistically, yet there is a new depth in financial support. If there ever was a situation where one would ask, "What's wrong with this picture?" - this is it.

This situation is so serious that we are in danger of losing some of our best musicians because they simply can't pay the rent. Hawaii is famous for its high cost of living. The Symphony is famous, sadly, not for its artistic achievements or tours to foreign countries, but for its substandard salaries and financial instability. Late payroll is unacceptable and disrespectful to such valuable members of our community.

The chief operating officer of the Halekulani Hotel, Peter Shaindlin, recently stated, "If we continue on this path of unproductive distraction, we stand to become the first major city in the United States without a symphony orchestra. That would not only be a blemish on our magnificent state, but a cultural tragedy that will have been of our own doing."*

However, the situation can change - starting with passage of this bill. Please pass HB 3243, HD 1, in the full amount requested and support the Symphony with your words and with your actions.

Thank you very much,
Brien Matson
285-2495

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Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: Lori Arizumi,
President, Honolulu Symphony Associates,
for a hearing by the
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
1:30 p.m. – Room 308
Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

A president of the all-volunteer Honolulu Symphony Associates, I urgently ask that you pass out this bill. HSA has for over 60 years provided community support and funding for music education for our youth. We offer educational and networking opportunities to our members through concert previews and social events; provide volunteer support to the youth education program by helping out at youth concerts volunteer administrative help and assistance in the symphony office; raise money for and conduct the scholarship and Concerto competitions; and promote financial support for the symphony with fundraisers. We benefit, and our children benefit, from these intrinsic valuable contributions. AND, without the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra and its musicians, we would suffer immeasurable loss in estimation as a viable, complete, desirable community in which to live, do business, retire or visit.

The Honolulu Symphony Orchestra's mission is to "enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawai'i by sustaining a symphony orchestra of the highest artistic quality, and to serve as a community leader for musical activities that include concerts, operas, ballet and educational programs." This orchestra is more than men and women, instruments and a conductor. It is a vital and critical thread...woven into the fabric of our community. The Honolulu Symphony services school children, senior citizens, youth music organizations, music students of all ages, concert goers, the neighbor islands, tourists...with programs ranging from teaching children at youth concerts, to jazzy and rockin' Pops series, to innovative contemporary compositions as well as the Masterworks of classical genre. It is essential that this organization continue as it has for the past 107 years in Hawaii. It's not an option to lose this vital part of our cultural richness.

The members of our Orchestra form the cornerstone of the performing arts in this community, ensuring the availability of highly trained professional musicians to the Hawai'i Opera Theatre, Ballet Hawai'i, Chamber Music Hawai'i, the Maui Pops, and for numerous touring artists year-round. Equally as important, these musicians serve as the backbone of music education in our State. According to the Hawai'i Music Educators Association, less than 50% of public elementary schools in the state have an active music program due to budget constraints. The Honolulu Symphony fills this need through Education and

Community Outreach programs that introduce young people to symphonic music and promote a life-long love of music and music-making.

Our Symphony musicians and staff were forced to work without pay during December and January - partly because of the additional cost of being displaced by The Lion King. How long can our excellent local musicians and their families continue to live in Hawaii without regular paychecks? \$810,000 is needed NOW to pay the musicians and staff.

I strongly request that \$810,000 be provided to meet the current financial crisis, but without adversely impacting the endowment fund. However, I strongly urge you to remove the language that subtracts \$810,000 from the \$4 million endowment fund appropriation (Act 156) to pay for this shortfall. Any reduction in the endowment fund will adversely affect the future financial viability of the symphony. This will enable the symphony to continue serving the people of Hawaii on a firmer financial basis.

Thank you.

FINtestimony

From: Lesley A Wright [wright@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 10:23 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)



wright.vcf
(348 B)

Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: Dr. Lesley A. Wright, Professor of Music (UH Manoa) for a hearing by the House Committee on Finance Hawaii State Capitol 1:30 p.m. - Room 308 Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

For over a century, our Symphony has been recognized for the many ways it interacts with the community. Its mission is to "enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawai'i by sustaining a symphony orchestra of the highest artistic quality, and to serve as a community leader for musical activities that include concerts, operas, ballet and educational programs".

The members of our Orchestra form the cornerstone of the performing arts in this community, ensuring the availability of highly trained professional musicians for the Hawai'i Opera Theatre, Ballet Hawai'i, Chamber Music Hawai'i, the Maui Pops, and numerous touring artists year-round.

These musicians also serve as the backbone of music education in our State. According to the Hawai'i Music Educators Association, less than 50% of public elementary schools in the state have an active music program. Most classroom teachers have little training, few resources, and no time to offer a music curriculum to their students. The Honolulu Symphony fills this need through Education and Community Outreach programs that introduce young people to symphonic music and promote a life-long love of music and music-making.

As a music educator myself, I see the importance of these musicians in the community every day. As a music lover, I know that the institutions I support would be damaged substantially by the departure of these people. How would the Music Department be able to provide the highest caliber lessons to our students? For example, this semester, I believe eight of our lecturers are Symphony members. And with the private studios these musicians maintain (to supplement the minimal income the Symphony is able to provide them) K-12 children benefit on a daily basis.

The Honolulu Symphony impacts every facet of musical life within our community. Please support their request for assistance.

FINtestimony

From: JoAnn Ottley [ottleyja@byuh.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 10:40 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1 (HSCR368-08)

Submitted by: JoAnn Ottley, Special Instructor,
Brigham Young University Hawaii

for a hearing by the

House Committee on Finance

Hawaii State Capitol

1:30 p.m. - Room 308

Agenda #4

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee, I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of H.B. 3243 H.D. 1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

From Hawaiian 'oli to high school marching bands to the classical and popular compositions performed by the Orchestra, music is human expression at the highest level that communicates across the generations, cultures and geographic locations. For over a century, our Symphony has been recognized for its diverse musical entertainment offerings, including MasterWorks, Pops concerts, and youth education and outreach performances. Its mission is to "enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawai'i by sustaining a symphony orchestra of the highest artistic quality, and to serve as a community leader for musical activities that include concerts, operas, ballet and educational programs".

The members of our Orchestra form the cornerstone of the performing arts in this community, ensuring the availability of highly trained professional musicians to the Hawai'i Opera Theatre, Ballet Hawai'i, Chamber Music Hawai'i, the Maui Pops, and for numerous touring artists year-round.

Equally as important, these musicians serve as the backbone of music education in our State. According to the Hawai'i Music Educators Association, less than 50% of public elementary schools in the state have an active music program. Most classroom teachers have little training, few resources, and no time to offer a music curriculum to their students. Budget constraints often prevent Hawaii's schools from providing students with any meaningful exposure to music education. The Honolulu Symphony fills this need through Education and Community Outreach programs that introduce young people to symphonic music and promote a life-long love of music and music-making.

MY LIFE HAS BEEN SPENT AS A PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING ARTIST, AND I HAVE WATCHED THE EFFECTS OF MUSIC ON PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY LIVES FOR MANY YEARS. RELATED TO THAT PROFESSIONAL WORK, MY PERSONAL PURSUITS FOR A LONG TIME HAVE BEEN A SEARCH FOR AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE FUNDAMENTAL ROLE OF THE ARTS IN SOCIETY ... ANY SOCIETY. THAT HAS INCLUDED KNOWLEDGE OF MANY ANCIENT SOCIETIES, WHO RECOGNIZED THE ARTS AS A MATRIX OF ALL LEARNING, WHERE THE ANCIENT GREEKS, FOR INSTANCE, REQUIRED THAT A MAN BECOME A MUSICIAN BEFORE HE COULD BE A PHYSICIAN. I HAVE COME TO BELIEVE THAT WHERE THE ARTS HAVE NOT BEEN RECOGNIZED AS AN ULTIMATELY REFINING FORCE, THE SOCIETY ITSELF CANNOT BECOME A REFINED (CIVILIZED) SOCIETY;

THAT IF THOSE IN CHARGE COULD SOMEHOW COME TO UNDERSTAND THE UNDERLYING, OVER-ARCHING POWER OF THE ARTS, THE LIVES OF ITS CITIZENS WOULD BEGIN TO CHANGE IMMEDIATELY TOWARD THE KIND OF LIFE WE ALL YEARN FOR. HOW EASY TO DISMISS THE ARTS AS PERIPHERAL. AND HOW SURPRISED WE WOULD BE TO DISCOVER THAT THOSE ARTS REPRESENT, IN SCIENTIFIC AS WELL AS AESTHETIC REALITY, NOT MERELY THE CORE, BUT IN THIS VIBRATORY UNIVERSE THE MATRIX FROM WHICH ALL ELSE SPRINGS.

The Honolulu Symphony impacts every facet of life within our community. It enhances the reputation of our state nationally and internationally, adds to the cultural diversity of our State, and positively affects the local economy. The legislation before you speaks of the importance of this organization to the State, and reaffirms the many benefits our outstanding orchestra continues to contribute to local communities. We must not lose this powerful and invaluable resource for human development in our State.

FINtestimony

From: Virginiaeskin@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 7:13 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: (no subject)

HB 3243

Dear sir/Madam:

I am horrified to think that all the great support, years of active cultural contributions, could be wiped away in some small moment.

In my childhood the Honolulu Symphony was always a beacon- San Diego suffered and didn't have a real Symphony, but somehow Hawaii did!

Don't let a resource disappear- a community, city, culture is judged by its Museums, Schools, Libraries and certainly the Music resources. Hawaii is so incredibly multi cultural- the real buzz these days, in all disciplines. I hope it can be resolved, budgets re-structured, and your great tradition, continued.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Eskin, concert pianist
Professor of Music
Northeastern Univ.,
Boston, Mass.

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To Whom It May Concern:

It is distressing to hear that one of the central pillars in the cultural life of Honolulu, the island of Oahu, and the state of Hawaii is struggling for its existence. Since the general well-being of a society hinges upon a balance of cultural offerings for all of its citizens, it is imperative that the health of the symphony be treated with at least a portion of the enthusiasm and treasury that is dedicated to the general community infrastructure. Streets, rails, ships and football stadiums are important, but they represent a road to nowhere if the aesthetic qualities of life are neglected.

This is a fine orchestra! It surpasses many that exist in more populous areas. The musicianship is surprising considering the remoteness of these islands from the major art centers of the country. The orchestra represents a bastion of culture in a society that might otherwise be overwhelmed by the prevalent siren of baser values and activity. Sociological studies prove that all elements of a community are enriched by the arts whether or not they choose to participate in them. The arts draw people to the community who bring exceptional skills in business, government, and an astounding array of talent to the institutions within the society.

One of the questions that should be asked is “how does the loss of an orchestra of this caliber affect the support needed by other institutions, e.g. opera, ballet, choirs, pops concerts, and even the traveling troupes of entertainers and shows that come to the islands? And even more importantly, “how would such a loss reflect the values of one of the world’s great cities?”

I urge government, philanthropies, and citizens at large to consider the long term ramifications of the apathy that is apparent toward this community treasure, especially in the shadow of the resources that are directed to the football and Las Vegas manias.

With respect and hope,

Jerold Ottley
Visiting Professor of Music, Brigham Young University Hawaii
Music Director, Salt Lake Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Retired
Music Professor, University of Utah, Retired