

**TO: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair, and Members of the Committee  
EDT Committee**

**DATE: February 4, 2008**

**FROM: Gig Greenwood**

**RE: Senate Bill 2583, Relating to the Hawaii Capitol Cultural District;  
Appropriation; No. 1 Capitol District; Kamamalu Building**

**TO BE HEARD: Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at 1:15 p.m. in Conference Room 224**

**My name is Gig Greenwood and I am in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 2583.**

**I am a past president and trustee of the Hawaii Watercolor Society and co-founder of the Hawaii Consortium of the Arts and of The Arts at Marks Garage. I graduated from the University of Hawaii with a BFA and am a self-employed, lifelong artist.**

**Hawaii has the fourth largest population of artists in the United States behind only New York, California and Florida. Each of these states has many art museums and galleries dedicated to local arts, yet, in Hawaii there is no art museum dedicated to local artists. It is fitting that the Legislature establish the Hawaii Capital Cultural District's major art museum dedicated to the artists of Hawaii at the No. 1 Capitol District Building at 250 South Hotel Street at the conclusion of the renovation of the Kamamalu Building and that the state agencies at No.1 Capitol District Building transfer to the Kamamalu Building.**

**The arts community of Hawaii applauds the action of the Legislature for establishing the Hawaii State Art Museum and dedicating the No. 1 Capitol District Building exclusively to the arts. The facility will provide desperately needed gallery space to local artists and allow the State's vast collection of art currently in storage to be displayed to Hawaii residents and visitors. This venue will help to inspire all ages of the Hawaiian community with an understanding of our great artistic heritage and to carry on this important legacy.**

**Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill.**

TESTIMONY -- Senate Bill 2583

TO: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair, and Members of the Committee,  
EDT Committee  
DATE: February 4, 2008  
FROM: Diana Tusher  
RE: Senate Bill 2583, Relating to the Hawaii Capitol Cultural District;  
Appropriation; No. 1 Capitol District; Kamamalu Building  
TO BE HEARD: Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at 1:15 p.m. in Conference Room 224

My name is Diana Tusher, President of Hawai'i Craftsmen, a statewide membership organization serving Hawai'i artists for over 40 years. I am in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 2583 with qualifications.

Making the No. 1 State Capitol District Building available exclusively for the Hawai'i State Art Museum has the potential of providing the State of Hawai'i with a unique venue that can increase much deserved recognition for the Hawai'i art community and offer all residents and visitors an enriched appreciation for our Hawai'i. This is an opportunity that should be embraced with enthusiasm, and with an implementation plan.

This increased physical space would provide HISAM with the possibility of increasing outreach to and working cooperatively with Hawai'i artists and art organizations to create a world class Art Museum that is unique to our multi-cultural environment.

Having participated as a volunteer with planning HiSAM's current Uncommon Objects exhibition, I know the HSFCA staff charged with responsibility for HiSAM is talented and dedicated. I also know that HiSAM and HSFCA have struggled with minimal staffing and financial resources.

IF having the No. 1 State Capitol District Building available exclusively for the Hawai'i State Art Museum leads to greater interaction with the Hawai'i art community and its established art organizations; offers more opportunities for all Hawai'i artists to participate and display work; and HiSAM is given the staffing and financial resources necessary to do this well, THEN all of Hawai'i will benefit.

Utilizing the entire No. 1 State Capitol District Building for the arts with adequate resources and outreach is an opportunity that needs to be actively pursued and has the potential to provide both cultural and economic benefits to all Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill.

aloha/dianaTusher

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill.

# LATE TESTIMONY

FROM: Emily DuBois

RE: Senate Bill 2583, Relating to the Hawaii Capitol Cultural District;  
Appropriation; No. 1 Capitol District; Kamamalu Building

My name is Emily DuBois and I am in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 2583.  
[DISCUSSION]

I'm an artist, art teacher, and art museum supporter. This is a unique collection linked I believe with the excellent Percent for the Arts Program that began in Hawaii and was an inspiration for other states to have similar programs. What better way to enrich our diverse contemporary visual arts scene, than to support local artists and exhibit their work for the education and pleasure of residents and visitors of all ages!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill.

TO: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair, and Members of the  
Committee/EDT Committee  
DATE: February 4, 2008  
FROM: Herb Conley  
RE: Senate Bill 2583, Relating to the Hawaii Capitol Cultural  
District; Appropriation; No. 1 Capitol District; Kamamalu  
Building

TO BE HEARD: Tuesday February 5, 2008 in Conference Room 224

I am writing in support of SB 2583. I currently serve as President of the Friends of the Hawaii State Art Museum.

I believe there are four important reasons to enact this bill.

1. The potential economic and cultural benefit to the State of Hawaii. We have the ability to brand Hawaii as an art destination for visitors. They can learn from, enjoy and acquire world class art from artists of Hawaii. Many of our artists are collected by the finest museums in the United States. The Guggenheim Museum in New York, the Whitney Museum in New York, and the Yale University Art Gallery in New Haven, all have artists from Hawaii in their collections. The present size of our museum is not large enough to create a brand for the Hawaii artists community and to create another visitor industry. The state also owns many pieces now in storage that could easily be displayed in an expanded museum. The Hawaii art industry is vibrant and alive. The state has an opportunity to create a venue to take advantage of something that is already here and only needs to be exposed and branded to add another reason for tourists to come to Hawaii and learn about our culture and add to our economic base.
2. There is nominal cost to create this new visitor industry brand compared to creating the infrastructure for potential new industries. The state already owns all the real estate and art needed to create the expanded museum. Our 1% art law enables the state to acquire many more pieces than can be shown through the Art in Public Places program and the museum. In fact showing this art collection was the original basis for the Museum. Now we have the opportunity to show many more works in a building we already own and to move non-museum departments to another building we currently own.
3. The educational value of an expanded museum to the people of Hawaii and our visitors. A larger museum has the ability to tell the history and evolution of Hawaii through the eyes of our artists. They not only portray their views of our incredible natural beauty, but they tell the story of our changing society. An expanded museum would enable us to tell a more complete story to demonstrate our unique culture.
4. The ability to keep our best and brightest artists in the islands. With a branded art industry, our artists would not need to move to the mainland to support themselves in their chosen career. Our artists could pursue their creative talents while staying in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

**Subject: Senate Bill 2583 Testimony**

**Date:** Monday, February 4, 2008 12:44 PM

**From:** Reed & Diane Glover <kupuna2@hawaii.rr.com>

**To:** <senfukunaga@capitol.hawaii.gov>

**Conversation:** Senate Bill 2583 Testimony

February 4, 2008

To: Senator Fukunaga and Members of the Committee

I would like to voice my support for the appropriation of funds relating to Senate Bill 2583, for the use of The Kamamalu Building in the No. 1 Capitol District to expand the use of the building's Art Museum exhibits. Art is to be displayed for the pleasure and education of the public and not stored out of sight in back rooms. Enhanced flexibility in art exhibits is desirable wherever possible. Please consider the importance of this use of the Kamamalu Building and its central location to the citizens of Oahu.

Thank you, Diane I. Glover  
1284 Aloha Oe Drive  
Kailua, HI 96734

kupuna2@hawaii.rr.com

**Subject: SB2583; Expressing Strong Support**

**Date:** Monday, February 4, 2008 10:43 AM

**From:** Melly Wilson <mellyewilson@gmail.com>

**To:** "senfukunaga@Capitol.hawaii.gov" <senfukunaga@Capitol.hawaii.gov>, <senespero@Capitol.hawaii.gov>, <senbaker@Capitol.hawaii.gov>, <sendige@Capitol.hawaii.gov>, <senslom@Capitol.hawaii.gov>

**Conversation:** SB2583; Expressing Strong Support

Dear Senators,

I write in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2583: Appropriating funds to renovate the Kamamalu Building and renaming the No. 1 Capitol District Building the Hawaii State Art Museum to be used exclusively by the museum. This Bill will be heard by EDT tomorrow, February 5, 2008 at 1:15pm. I respectfully urge you to consider supporting this Bill.

This Bill is good news long term for museums and historic sites and cultural amenities of all types in our state. By maximizing downtown Honolulu's physical, economic and cultural attributes, this Bill recognizes the importance of a first class, well housed, and free Museum for the peoples of our state. It recognizes that cultural amenities serve as magnets to revitalize urban areas. It recognizes Hawaii's artists and the importance of making the Hawaii State Art Museum's full collection available to the public.

This essential legislation will provide a crucial opportunity for the State of Hawaii and the State Foundation of Culture and Arts to be better stewards of the outstanding collections in their care by providing an expanded venue to showcase the full collection of Hawaii's art currently in care of the Hawaii State Art Museum. It will provide expanded free arts education opportunities for our children, our seniors, and our general public. In all, it is good, forward-looking legislation.

With passage of SB2583, we can make sure Hawaii's only free and publically funded museum is well-funded, well-housed, and protected for our children and our grandchildren. I'd especially like to thank the sponsors of this legislation – Senators Taniguchi, English, Hanabusa, Ige, Kokubun, Nishihara, Sakamoto, and Tokuda for their strong support and willingness to introduce this important Bill. Thank you in advance for your support of the arts, arts education and the Hawaii State Art Museum.

Sincerely,  
Melly E. Wilson