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Comptroller

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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  
SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TAXATION  
ON  
February 12, 2008  
S.B. 304, S.D. 1

RELATING TO CULTURE

Chair Fukunaga and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 304, S.D. 1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) opposes S.B. 304, S.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 and income 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 (the 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.

At the meeting the Foundation indicated that it has donations that are designated, but not deposited, as matching funds for the Endowment Fund. The Foundation, if permitted by their own by-laws and/or other internal procedures, can pledge the difference between the matching donations received to date and the \$4 million appropriation. Other matters that were clarified for the benefit of the Symphony and the Foundation were that interest and income from the Endowment Fund can be used for the Symphony's operations.

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 executed a pledge agreement with the State on February 8, 2008. DAGS will process the payment to the endowment fund as soon as practical. DAGS suggests that this bill be held and that the endowment be allowed to achieve its purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TAXATION  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 304, S.D. 1

February 12, 2008

RELATING TO CULTURE

Senate Bill No. 304, S.D. 1, proposes to appropriate \$810,000 in general funds to the Honolulu Symphony to meet the fiscal obligations pending resolution of problems that preclude the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts in fulfilling its obligations to transfer \$4 million into the State of Hawaii Endowment Fund. The bill further mentions that the symphony has not benefited from potential revenues that contributed to the inability to meet both its fiscal obligations and its payroll in a timely manner.

We would like to clarify that the Governor did release \$4 million in general funds to the State of Hawaii Endowment Fund to assist the Honolulu Symphony on December 29, 2006. In her communication to then Chair, Ms. Lynne Johnson, the Governor emphasized that any money deposited into the endowment fund is to be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by private funds (pursuant to legislative requirements) and to contact the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to facilitate the release of these funds. It is our understanding that the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts has not received any request from the Honolulu Symphony Foundation to transfer the funds based on matching funds raised.

A meeting was recently held with the Honolulu Symphony to clarify the requirements and all parties are in agreement on what needs to be done to expedite the transfer of the funds.

THE  
STATE  
FOUNDATION  
ON  
CULTURE  
AND  
THE ARTS



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Comptroller

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Executive Director

TESTIMONY  
OF  
STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND TAXATION

February 12, 2008

S.B. 0304 S.D.1

RELATING TO CULTURE

Chair Fukunaga and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on S. B. 0304.S.D.1.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), as 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. That legislation would substantially increase the Endowment, provided funds appropriated by the State are matched on a 1:1 basis with cash and/or pledges. The matching funds requirement is a condition of the legislation. To date, the SFCA has not received any cash or pledges toward the funds appropriated for the Endowment.

Communications between the Symphony Foundation and the SFCA have clarified that the Governor released the appropriated funds on

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Web Page: [www.hawaii.gov/sfca](http://www.hawaii.gov/sfca)

December 29, 2006 and that the funds would be transferred to the

Endowment following the receipt of matching funds, either all or in part,

through June 29, 2009. In a recent meeting with Symphony representatives, deputy attorneys general for the State, and representatives from the Department of Budget and Finance, the Department of Accounting and General Services, the Symphony's investment firm, and the SFCA, it was again clarified that the funds are available provided that matching funds are received. The SFCA is currently in negotiation with the Symphony Foundation regarding the matching funds.

If the matching funds are received, as Acts 97 and 156 require, the Endowment will be increased and the intent of the legislation fulfilled.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

## Testimony in Support of S.B. 304 S.D.1

for a hearing by the  
Senate Committee on Economic Development & Taxation  
Hawaii State Capitol  
February 12, 2008  
1:30 p.m. - Room 224

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Espero, and members of the Senate EDT Committee. I am please to provide strong and unequivocal testimony in support of S.B. 304 S.D.1, making a State appropriation to meet the shortfall in operational funding for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

The legislation speaks eloquently to the need for this appropriation, as well as to the many benefits our outstanding symphony orchestra continues to contribute to local communities. Aside from space exploration, I can think of no other enterprise that can inspire the human spirit as directly, imaginatively and profoundly as the creation and performance of music – clearly a universal language that evidences the very best of which humankind is capable. There is also a unique dynamic between a live orchestra and audience that no compact disc or television broadcast can engender, and I know first hand of many individuals, of all ages, whose personal lives have been revitalized and indeed transformed by the magic of music in a concert performance.

As the renowned conductor and composer Leonard Bernstein once observed, "Music can name the unnamable and communicate the unknowable." It is an integral and inseparable part of the rainbow of opportunities that can inspire and uplift both our generation and those to come, and we must not lose this powerful and invaluable resource for human development in our State. As such, your support for this measure would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

With Aloha,



Jim Crisafulli

## testimony

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**From:** Lesley A Wright [wright@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 10, 2008 4:01 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Support for Honolulu Symphony

**Attachments:** Card for Lesley A Wright <wright@hawaii.edu>



wright.vcf (348 B)

Dear Legislators of the Senate Committee on Economic Development:

Please add my voice to that of many others asking you to support the Honolulu Symphony with an appropriation of \$810,000 (Senate Bill 304, SB 1). Not only does the Symphony add to Honolulu's cultural life as a group but its members also contribute to our educational institutions and society with their skills and energy and intelligence. The University of Hawaii Music Department depends on them to teach our instrumental students, for example. Some members play chamber music in a widely respected series (Chamber Music Hawaii). Others help in local schools or teach our children privately. The amount of money asked for is not large, given the contributions this group of people make to us all. Without the Symphony, we would lose so much talent from the community since the bulk of these musicians would leave for the mainland. I know that I would rethink my plans to stay here the rest of my life if there were no symphony any more (and as a result an opera company of lesser caliber ). I wonder how many others would rethink their plans to retire here, too.

Please support the Honolulu Symphony.

Aloha,  
Dr. Lesley A Wright

## testimony

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**From:** J. Scott Janusch [jscottj55@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 10, 2008 11:24 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 304, SB1 / Testimony

Dear Ms. Fukunaga, and the members of the Senate Committee on Economic Devt. and Taxation:

As a member of the Honolulu Symphony for 20 years, I have experienced periods of remarkable growth, enthusiasm, and commitment from our community relating to our 104-year old symphony; I have also experienced other periods.

Throughout my tenure here, however, the commitment by our state legislators has not wavered and, as representatives of the people of our state, you all have continued to nourish the growth and artistic excellence of the only full-time professional orchestra in Hawaii. For this I thank you. You now have an opportunity to review a Bill which continues to build upon the direct support shown last December by individuals in this state (and around the world) by passing a bill which sustains the operations of the orchestra through next season so the HSS can continue to build on the artistic excellence demonstrated at recent concerts with our new Music Director, Andreas Delfs. Maestro Delfs has a sterling musical vision which he eloquently communicates to us in the orchestra; musicians and concert-goers alike have remarked on the higher level of performances under his leadership. This musical relationship is now in the 'honeymoon' stage, and if left to grow and blossom, will result in concerts worthy of anything presented at Carnegie Hall in its long and august history.

You all have the opportunity, by passing this bill through your committee for further review, to potentially allow this artistic growth to occur.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Scott Janusch  
Principal Oboe, Honolulu Symphony

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## testimony

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**From:** howard karp [hkarp@wisc.edu]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 10, 2008 6:22 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** keith@honolulusymphony.com  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 304, SB 1

In regard to the above Senate Bill, we, as musicians on the mainland familiar with orchestras in New York, Chicago, Cincinnati, San Francisco, Cleveland, Seattle etc. are amazed that there is even any question as to whether the Honolulu Symphony should be properly funded. It is a first class orchestra, adding greatly to Hawaii's standing as a cultural center.

We strongly urge passage of this bill  
Sincerely,

Wisconsin/ Madison

Howard Karp, emeritus professor, University of

Frances Karp, pianist, chamber-music musician

**testimony**

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**From:** Jackie Mahi Erickson [jmerickson@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 10, 2008 8:06 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** SB 304; Sen Comm on ED&T; hearing Feb 12 Tues @ 1:30

Erickson  
Kaweloka St.  
HI 96782

Jackie Mahi  
1315  
Pearl City,

For hearing: Tuesday, February 12, 2008. @ 1:30pm.

To: Senate Committee on Economic Development & Taxation  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Subject: In **Support of SB304**, Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its Programs

Chairman Fukunaga and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Jackie Mahi Erickson. I am in favor of SB 304 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."

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 of Honolulu Symphony made great leaps.

During the 2006 and 2007 Hawaii Legislative Sessions the Senate and House 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. The musicians' pay was increased. Also 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. With this euphoric dream of the future, it was a terrible disappointment when the legislative appropriations 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.

The worst

situation of all has been the non-payment of the musicians' and staff salaries.

SB 304 would enable the Symphony to pay its musicians and staff and to continue its youth education programs.

I ask for your support of this bill.

Thank you.

Jackie Mahi Erickson

**testimony**

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**From:** Noreen Naughton [noreennaughton@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 10, 2008 6:02 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** keith@honolulusymphony.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for Senate Bill 304, SB1

From: Noreen Naughton  
Professor Emeritus of Art, Kapi'olani Community College

To the Senate Committee on Economic Development  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 1:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 224  
State Capitol

In Support of Senate Bill 304, SB, Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its Programs

My name is Noreen Naughton and I would like to submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 304, SB1 which would appropriate \$810,000 for fiscal year 2008 - 2009 to support 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 State in Senate Bill 304, SB1.

Respectfully,  
Noreen Naughton

**testimony**

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**From:** Sean Quirk [kushkashool@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 10, 2008 6:58 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Orchestra

Sean Quirk  
Juniper Green, LLC  
To the Senate Committee on Economic Development  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 1:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 224  
State Capitol

In Support of Senate Bill 304, SB, Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its Programs

My name is Sean Quirk and I would like to submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 304, SB1 which would appropriate \$810,000 for fiscal year 2008 - 2009 to support the Honolulu Symphony and its programs. The symphony is an important part of the very cultural fabric of Hawaii, or any other state for that matter, and my experiences at the Symphony will be some of the memories that I will cherish until I am old and lose my memories. But they will be some of the last to go.

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 and Pops concerts and youth education 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.

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. It is a travesty that our Symphony musicians and staff have been working without regular pay during the months of December and January, yet it shows enormous resolve, perseverance and unwavering dedication to the community. We have a world-class orchestra that has earned our respect and deserve our support.

Respectfully,  
Sean Quirk

## testimony

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**From:** Laurel Hall [laurelhall@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 10, 2008 9:00 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** keith@honolulusymphony.com  
**Subject:** Honolulu Symphony

To Whom it May Concern,

Please appropriate funds to support the Honolulu Symphony. Hawaii needs a first class professional orchestra of national caliber if it is to take it's place as a first class state. Support for the Symphony shows that our legislature realizes how important and enriching professional classical music is to the people of Hawaii and to the people who visit our state. Professionals of the orchestra deserve to make a living wage for all the joy they bring to audiences and to the musical education they bring to the children through their outreach programs. Classical music is not a luxury - it is a necessity.

I urge you to take positive action to support the Honolulu Symphony.

Mahalo,

Laurel Hall  
965 Prospect St #307  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**testimony**

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**From:** Lisahpr@cs.com  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 10:01 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Honolulu Symphony

Aloha,

There are many here that just love classical music. If you ever went to a concert with our wonderful Symphony, you would completely understand why we really need it.

We are so lucky to have such talented musicians. They all have other jobs to be able to live here.

Here we are in the middle of Pacific Ocean and should be so proud that we have a Symphony.

Visiting conductors and musical artists are always so surprised how wonderful our Symphony is.

Please help keep it here.

Bonnie Lisa Pestana

**testimony**

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**From:** Winnie So [ahbingall@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 8:34 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** keith@honolulusymphony.com  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 304, SB1 Testimony

Winnie So

To the Senate Committee on Economic Development  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 1:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 224  
State Capitol

In Support of Senate Bill 304, SB, Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its Programs

My name is Winnie So, and I would like to submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 304, SB1 which would appropriate \$810,000 for fiscal year 2008 - 2009 to support 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 and Pops concerts and youth education 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.

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. It is a travesty that our Symphony musicians and staff have been working without regular pay during the months of December and January, yet it shows enormous resolve, perseverance and unwavering dedication to the community. We have a world-class orchestra that has



earned our respect and deserve our support.

Respectfully,  
Winnie So

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## testimony

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**From:** TheGatheringHI@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 9:28 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** keith@honolulusymphony.com  
**Subject:** Support for Honolulu Symphony Bill SB304 SD1

James Shiroma, Pastor of The Gathering in Mililani  
 To the Senate Committee on Economic Development  
 Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
 Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 1:30 p.m.  
 Conference Room 224  
 State Capitol

In Support of Senate Bill 304, SB, Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its Programs

My name is [fill in name and association if applicable] and I would like to submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 304, SB1 which would appropriate \$810,000 for fiscal year 2008 - 2009 to support the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

**I am writing in support of the Honolulu Symphony receiving \$810,000. Over the years, the Honolulu Symphony has been neglected and needs greater support. Those working for the symphony do this for the love and commitment to this and not for the money. They love Hawaii and they are committed to the Honolulu Symphony. I know for a fact that most musicians are not here for the money. All they are asking for is to be paid what they were promised. That is only fair. Please consider this bill for the Honolulu Symphony being presented today.**

**On a greater issue, the state and even city need to empower the Symphony the opportunity for success in the future. More than hiring a good conductor and quality musicians, and providing money, the state needs to listen to the needs of the symphony and do the best to meet those needs along with a financial commitment. The state will also need to allow the symphony to come up with its own strategy for success and empower the symphony the opportunity for true success. We cannot leave the symphony in a place where it does not even have the minimum in resources to survive.**

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 and Pops concerts and youth education 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 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.

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. It is a travesty that our Symphony musicians and staff have been working without regular pay during the months of December and January, yet it shows enormous resolve, perseverance and unwavering dedication to the community. We have a world-class orchestra that has earned our respect and deserve our support.

Respectfully,  
James Shiroma

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# ELLEN MASAKI SCHOOL OF MUSIC

February 9, 2008

To: Senate Committee on Economic Development  
From: Ellen Masaki, piano instructor

Dear Committee Members,

In support of the Honolulu Symphony, I implore you to pass Senate Bill 304, SB1. The Honolulu Symphony is too vital to our community and deserves the full support of our City and State. I have had literally hundreds of students who have benefited by the Honolulu Symphony's youth programs and masterworks concerts. Many of my students have been fortunate to perform as soloists with the Honolulu Symphony. This has inspired many to pursue a career in music and others, to embrace their love for music as amateurs, greatly enriching their lives. Attending masterwork concerts with world class guest artists who perform with the Honolulu Symphony gives my students an experience they would otherwise never have. Listening to a CD pales next to a live performance. These concerts ignite a fire under my students and they work harder to achieve the technical finesse and emotional range that excited them when they attended a Honolulu Symphony performance.

Please follow through and **continue** to support the Honolulu Symphony. It is one of Hawaii's greatest cultural assets.

Respectfully yours,

Ellen Masaki

250 Ward Avenue, Suite 226 · Honolulu, HI 96814

Nancy Masaki Hathaway  
1761 Iwi Way  
Honolulu, HI 96816

February 9, 2008

RE: Senate Bill 304, SB1

Dear members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development,

I was born and raised in Hawaii and I am a cellist in the Honolulu Symphony, but I also have a studio of young aspiring cellists whom I teach weekly. Many of my students are members of the Hawaii Youth Symphony and I would like them to see that their pursuit of music is not for naught but could become a wonderful and satisfying profession. It is important that these young musicians see their teachers living a dignified life with a stable salary. As you witnessed on February 7, 2008, members of the Hawaii Youth Symphony rallied in support of the Honolulu Symphony and on a personal level, their teachers. These young musicians expressed deep concern that Honolulu Symphony members were not getting paid, so they came out in force on Thursday, after school, to make it known that **they** support the Honolulu Symphony.

As a former member of the Hawaii Youth Symphony I have the greatest respect for the benefits derived from having a professional orchestra as fine as the Honolulu Symphony in our state. If not for the Honolulu Symphony I would not have had the good training at an early age as I did with members of the symphony, I would not have had the opportunity to perform a solo with a professional orchestra as I did when I was 14, I would not have been exposed to the professional level of music making we have here today. The Honolulu Symphony provided much of the inspiration that led me to pursue a life in music. We cannot even think of depriving our youth of this great cultural asset.

Please support Senate Bill 304, SB1. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hathaway

**testimony**

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**From:** Mark & Carolyn Arnold [arnoldhi@hawaii.rr.com]

**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 8:43 AM

**To:** testimony

PLEASE support the Symphony through this season of 2008. The interest from the State will not do it! Thank you.

Carolyn and Mark Arnold  
279 Makaweli Place (96825)  
Phone: 395-4393

## testimony

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**From:** Amy Healey [amacord@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 10:02 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** keith@honolulusymphony.com  
**Subject:** Hearing Notification: Senate Bill 304, SB1

Amy Healey  
To the Senate Committee on Economic Development  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 1:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 224  
State Capitol

### In Support of Senate Bill 304, SB, Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its Programs

My name is Amy Healey and I would like to submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 304, SB1 which would appropriate \$810,000 for fiscal year 2008 - 2009 to support 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 and Pops concerts and youth education 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.

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. It is a travesty that our Symphony musicians and

staff have been working without regular pay during the months of December and January, yet it shows enormous resolve, perseverance and unwavering dedication to the community. We have a world-class orchestra that has earned our respect and deserve our support.

Respectfully,

Amy Healey

=



**testimony**

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**From:** Helen Chao-Casano [hcasano@punahou.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 10:02 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** keith@honolulusymphony.com  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of the Honolulu Symphony - Punahou Music School

To: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
From: Helen S. Chao-Casano, Punahou Music School  
Hearing date: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 1:30 pm

In Support of Senate Bill 304, SB1 Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its Programs

My name is Helen S. Chao-Casano, Director of the Punahou Music School and I would like to submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 304, SB1 which would appropriate \$810,000 for fiscal year 2007-2008 to support the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

The Honolulu Symphony, it's programs, including performances and educational outreach, as well as each of the professional musicians enhance the quality of life and culture in our state. The impact of the Symphony can not be summed up in mere statistics. It is the audience they reach, the students they teach - these are the lives that they touch. As director of the Punahou Music School, I have many Symphony musicians on my faculty. They serve as exemplary role models and mentors to the students in our program. In fact, many of the students of Symphony members have received national recognition, placing in many state and national music competitions and most recently in January 2008, representing Hawaii on the National Public Radio program, "From the Top." The Symphony musicians also serve as professional coaches in our chamber music program. In December, the coaches voluntarily set up a community service opportunity for their student string quartets, performing at the Oahu Care Facility shortly before Christmas. This generosity of time and talent is an example of Aloha, something we should all recognize, hold dear, and celebrate.

We benefit from having the Honolulu Symphony in our community. At this point, the lack of financial security really does affect the individual musicians greatly, maybe some to the point that they decide they can not stay in Hawaii. It certainly would quickly diminish the Symphony as a whole, which is particularly distressing at this time of musical revival and inspiration with Maestro Delfs at the helm. The Symphony's existence and stability provides our music school and community with a pool of talented performer teachers. These teachers, who pass on on their passion and skill, touch the future, Hawaii's future - the children.

Respectfully,  
Helen S. Chao-Casano

@\*\*@\*\*@\*\*@\*\*@\*\*@\*\*@\*\*@\*\*@\*\*@

Helen Chao-Casano  
Punahou Music School, Director

[hcasano@punahou.edu](mailto:hcasano@punahou.edu)

Punahou School  
1601 Punahou Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
(808) 943-3215  
FAX: (808) 943-3217

## testimony

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**From:** Dianne Brookins [DBrookins@ahfi.com]

**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 7:23 AM

**To:** testimony

**Subject:** SB304, SB1

To the Senate Committee on Economic Development  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Hearing Date Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 1:30 pm

In Support of SB304, SD13, Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its Programs

My name is Dianne Winter Brookins, and I would like to submit this testimony in support of SB304, SD13 which would appropriate \$810,000 for fiscal year 2007-2008 to support the Honolulu Symphony and its programs. I have been a member of the Honolulu Symphony Chorus and a fan of the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra for the past ten years.

The economic viability of our island state depends on attracting new businesses and investments, as well as maintaining our visitor and tourist industry. For the highly-skilled and well-educated population we need in order to create the economy we want, the presence of a quality Symphony Orchestra is a significant lifestyle asset. Were Hawai'i to demonstrate its disdain for the arts by allowing the Symphony to fail, it would send exactly the wrong message to the people we must retain and attract to our islands.

I considered modifying the template testimony provided below, but discovered that it stated very well my own arguments in favor of using tax dollars to support the Symphony. I therefore adopt the following as a portion of my testimony:

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 and Pops concerts and youth education 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.

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. It is a travesty that our Symphony musicians and staff have been working without regular pay during the months of December and January, yet it shows enormous resolve, perseverance and unwavering dedication to the community. We have a world-class orchestra that has earned our respect and deserve our support.

Respectfully,

Dianne Winter Brookins

## testimony

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**From:** Ernest Provencher [erniepro@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 10:24 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** keith@honolulusymphony.com  
**Subject:** Symphony support

Ernie Provencher

To the Senate Committee on Economic Development Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair Tuesday,  
February 12, 2008, 1:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 224  
State Capitol

My name is Ernie Provencher and I would like to submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 304, SB1 which would appropriate \$810,000 for fiscal year 2008 - 2009 to support the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

I am a freelance professional musician and teach band and orchestra ( Hanahau'oli School and Waldorf School) and have private students. I require all my students to attend at least one symphony concert per season ( of course encouraging even more) and they are always enlivened and often transformed by the experience. And my own musical nourishment is well satisfied by having such an excellent orchestra here in Honolulu. Please continue to support this well needed and much appreciated local arts organization.

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 and Pops concerts and youth education 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 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.

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Respectfully,  
Ernie Provencher

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## testimony

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**From:** Ruth Shiroma [rshiroma@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 1:06 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** keith@honolulusymphony.com  
**Subject:** In support of Senate Bill 304, SB1

To the Senate Committee on Economic Development  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 1:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 224  
State Capitol

In Support of Senate Bill 304, SB1, Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its Programs

Aloha Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ruth Shiroma Foster, and I am submitting this testimony in support of Senate Bill 304, 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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## testimony

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**From:** shelly kaya [kayas001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 10, 2008 8:32 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** SB304, SD1 testimony

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair  
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TAXATION Shelley Kaya  
808-261-5238  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Support of SB304, SD1 RELATING TO CULTURE

I am in favor of SB304, which appropriates funds for fiscal year 2008-2009 to meet the shortfall in funding for the operations of the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

Last year's \$4 million appropriation (Act 156) is for a symphony endowment fund and cannot be released for that purpose until matching endowment donations are received by private parties.

Only the interest on that \$4 million endowment fund can be used for operations such as wages and expenses.

If the symphony receives a nominal 5% per year interest on this \$4 million, and if matching funds were obtained and pledged today, they would receive only \$200,000 a year from now.

That is not enough to make up the shortfall created in part by being displaced by the Lion King.

How long can our musicians and their families continue to live in Hawaii?  
\$810,000 is needed NOW to pay the musicians and staff, who have not been paid on time since December and are several weeks behind in pay.

Hawaii cannot afford to lose its world-class symphony.  
Our musicians provide us with artistic excellence and are mentors and teachers to our children.

I strongly urge you to pass SB304.

**testimony**

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**From:** Pauline Bai [paulinebai@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 10, 2008 8:07 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** Keith Kadoyama; Keith Kadoyama  
**Subject:** Re: Please Support the Honolulu Symphony - Hearing Notification: Senate Bill 304, SB1

Please support the Honolulu Symphony by passing SB 304, SB1. The HSO is an integral part of our community and important for the education and culture of Hawaii. The funds contained in this bill can assist the symphony in meeting its payroll obligations to the symphony's musicians and to provide fiscal support to the symphony for its administration and programs. Thank You!

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## testimony

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**From:** Norm Foster, Normzart Cards [normzart@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 7:00 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** Keith Kadoyama; Keith Kadoyama; Paul Barrett; Tom Gulick; Jeff Minter; AFM677@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony In Support of Senate Bill 304, SB 1, Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its Programs

Norman F. Foster  
Second and E-Flat Clarinet  
Honolulu Symphony  
To the Senate Committee on Economic Development  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 1:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 224  
State Capitol

My name is Norman Foster and I would like to submit this testimony in support of SB304, SB 1, which would appropriate \$810,000 to support the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

The 2007 - 2008 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, but for its substandard salaries and financial instability. Late payroll is unacceptable and disrespectful to such valuable members of our community.

However, the situation can change - starting with passage of this bill. Please pass SB304, SB 1, and support the Symphony with your words and with your actions.

Thank you very much,  
Norm Foster  
Makiki  
225-1052

\*[http://www.musicrecordingprnews.com/music\\_and\\_recording\\_articles/2007/03/internationally-renowned-conductor-appointed-to-honolulu-symphonyandreas-delfs-named-new-principal-conductor-25411.htm](http://www.musicrecordingprnews.com/music_and_recording_articles/2007/03/internationally-renowned-conductor-appointed-to-honolulu-symphonyandreas-delfs-named-new-principal-conductor-25411.htm)

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## testimony

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**From:** Nedra Chung [happysong@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 10, 2008 9:57 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** keith@honolulusymphony.com  
**Subject:** In Support of Senate Bill 304, SB, Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its Programs

Aloha,

I am taking this time to voice my support of Senate Bill 304, SB1, which would appropriate \$810,000 for fiscal year 2008 - 2009 for the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

Music is vital to culture and to life. If you, in the next week, find yourself singing, dancing or tapping your foot to a rhythm, you'll understand the importance of music in our lives.

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 and Pops concerts and youth education 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.

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. It is a travesty that our Symphony musicians and staff have been working without regular pay during the months of December and January, yet it shows enormous resolve, perseverance and unwavering dedication to the community. We have a world-class orchestra that has earned our respect and deserve our support.

Respectfully,

Nedra Chung, Realtor  
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USA

## testimony

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**From:** Benoit Weber [bweber@assets-school.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 10, 2008 10:56 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** keith@honolulusymphony.com  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of the Symphony

Benoit Weber, music teacher at ASSETS School

To the Senate Committee on Economic Development  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 1:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 224  
State Capitol

In Support of Senate Bill 304, SB, Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its Programs

My name is Benoit Weber, music teacher at ASSETS School and I would like to submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 304, SB1 which would appropriate \$810,000 for fiscal year 2008 - 2009 to support the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

I have always held the highest respect for musicians of the symphony, and felt privileged to hear them perform, attending their concerts or performing with them as a singer in the Hawaii Opera Chorus. It came as a shock to me to not only realize that the orchestra was in financial hardship, but also to learn, incidentally, that the base salary of a full-time symphony musician was lower than my own as an elementary school teacher. While highly skilled athletes seem to be able to generate an income that is definitely commensurate to their level of performance, it seems that our highly skilled symphony musicians, with little more motivation to stay than a passion for playing quality music together, might start seeking more lucrative careers. Could there still be professional football in America if players were paid \$33,000 a year, with no guarantee of a paycheck after each game?

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 and Pops concerts and youth education 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 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.

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. It is a travesty that our Symphony musicians and staff have been working without regular pay during the months of December and January, yet it shows enormous resolve, perseverance and unwavering dedication to the community. We have a world-class orchestra that has earned our respect and deserve our support.

Respectfully,

Benoit Weber



**TO :** COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TAXATION  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

**FROM:** Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.,  
Member, Honolulu Symphony Chorus

**SUBJECT:** SB 304 SD1 Relating to Culture

**HEARING:** 1:30 pm Tuesday, February 12, 2008  
Conference Room 224, Hawaii State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** Appropriates funds for fiscal year 2008-2009 to meet the shortfall in funding for the operations of the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

**POSITION:** I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL AND URGE YOUR APPROVAL.

**RATIONALE:**

- § The Honolulu Symphony is one of our premier cultural institutions which provides superb musical experiences for our entire state and also is critical for the music education of the young and also essential to the pops concerts, opera, chamber music, and music in general in the life our community.
- § The Honolulu Symphony has had a particularly difficult year due to displacement by the "Lion King" production, which impacted its attendance and revenues.
- § The Honolulu Symphony has a new dynamic music director and conductor, who has an exciting record of accomplishments and vision for Honolulu. We are so fortunate to have someone of his caliber, and additional state support in this transition would signal that the community wants the top quality musical experiences he wishes to create.
- § As a member of the Honolulu Symphony Chorus, I can say that many of us give as generously as we can both financially and in our voluntary support of the life of the symphony.
- § I urge the State of Hawaii to make a statement of its enthusiastic support of our outstanding orchestra and our desire that Honolulu have the kind of cultural life appropriate to a world-class city.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

## testimony

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**From:** E Harada [haradaem@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 10, 2008 9:51 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Support of SB304, SD1 RELATING TO CULTURE

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair  
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TAXATION

Edith M. Harada  
94-178 Paionia Pl.  
Mililani, HI 96789

Tuesday, February 12, 2008  
Support of SB304, SD1 RELATING TO CULTURE

I am in favor of SB304, which appropriates funds for fiscal year 2008-2009 to meet the shortfall in funding for the operations of the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

I understand that last year's \$4 million appropriation (Act 156) is for a symphony endowment fund and cannot be released for that purpose until matching endowment donations are received by private parties. Only the interest on that \$4 million endowment fund can be used for operations such as wages and expenses. Even if the symphony receives a nominal 5% per year interest on this \$4 million, and if matching funds were obtained and pledged today, they would only receive \$200,000 a year from now. That is NOT enough to make up the shortfall.

\$810,000 is needed NOW to pay the musicians and staff, who have not been paid on time since December and are several weeks behind in pay. How long can we expect our musicians to work for free? Hawaii is an expensive place to live.

Hawaii cannot afford to lose its musicians and world-class symphony. Our musicians provide us with artistic excellence and are mentors and teachers to our children. In addition, they provide the musical expertise, underlying culture, and backbone of multiple musical endeavors which invigorate the state's tourist industry. I strongly urge you to pass SB304.

Yours sincerely,  
Edith Harada

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## testimony

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**From:** Donald Womack [dwomack@hawaii.edu]

**Sent:** Saturday, February 09, 2008 9:30 PM

**To:** testimony

To the Senate Committee on Economic Development  
 Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

### **In Support of SB 304, Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its Programs**

I am writing to express my strongest support of SB 304 and HB 3243, which seek to support the Honolulu Symphony by appropriating \$810,000 to fund the orchestra's programs during the 2007-08 fiscal year. This appropriation would provide significant and well-deserved aid to one of the state's most important cultural treasures, an organization that has significant impact on the economy, reputation, cultural life, and education in Hawai'i.

As you know, over the past decade arts funding in general has seen a deep series of cuts, with the result that many private and public arts organizations and programs are struggling financially, even while they shine artistically and culturally. The arts are all too often thought of as a luxury. On the contrary, art is an essential component of any society, as necessary to the well being of a community as food and water are to the well being of the body.

The contributions of the Honolulu Symphony are extensive, and reach deeply into our society to make a positive impact. You are, no doubt, aware of the cultural importance of one of the nation's oldest orchestras. I'm sure you also know that the Honolulu Symphony makes a significant contribution to the state's economy and attracts tourists as well.

You may not, however, be aware of the symbiotic relationship between the Honolulu Symphony and the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Music Department, and of the consequent impact the symphony has on education in the state.

The UHM Music Department owes much of its ability to provide a quality education for our students to the Honolulu Symphony. The majority of our faculty are in some way involved with the symphony. A large number of our part-time faculty are symphony members, and many of full-time faculty also collaborate with the symphony on creative work, community service and educational projects.

The relationship between the Honolulu Symphony and the UHM Music Department is multi-tiered – symphony members teach our students, who, in turn, go on to teach in schools throughout the state. A strong symphony benefits education statewide. A weak symphony – or worse, no symphony – would be a devastating blow to music education (not to mention the economy) statewide.

To put it simply, supporting the Honolulu Symphony also supports the UHM Music Department, which further supports music in the schools. It is widely known that school children perform better in all subjects – reading, writing, math, science, etc. – when they participate in the arts. **The process of creating something new has a profound effect on the human mind. In essence, it helps us learn how to learn, and consequently forms the long-term foundation for a productive and peaceful society.**

Given the Honolulu Symphony's wide-ranging contributions to the cultural, economic, and educational well being of the State of Hawai'i, I ask that you please support this appropriation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Dr. Donald Reid Womack  
Composer and Professor of Composition and Theory  
University of Hawaii-Manoa

On Sabbatical for 2007-08  
Fulbright Senior Research Scholar  
Guest Composer in Residence, AURA-J  
Tokyo, Japan  
(+81) 80 6645 6030

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**Senate Committee on Economic Development**

**Chair: Senator Carol Fukunaga**

**Tuesday, February 12, 2008**

**1:30 p.m.**

**Room 224**

Testimony of Carol White  
1127 Davenport St. #201  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**In support of S.B. 304 S.D. 1:**

The Honolulu Symphony, due to an unfortunate combination of circumstances during the past few years, now finds itself in a situation that could well threaten its survival. The many community benefits that the orchestra provides have been well-described in the bill itself and in accompanying testimony. This bill can help meet the current shortfall and enable the musicians to draw salaries until the State Foundation for Culture and the Arts releases the already allocated funds.

The loss of the Symphony would make Honolulu the only comparable-sized city in the United States, and perhaps in the entire Pacific Rim, without a professional symphony orchestra. Even a small city such as Columbus, Ohio, has an excellent symphony which is larger and better funded than Honolulu's. The fact that the Honolulu Symphony is, nevertheless, at least the artistic equivalent to the Columbus Symphony is a testimony to our orchestra's musicians and management, but reflects badly on Honolulu with its much larger population base. Consider, for example, what might be the reaction of a company which is considering expanding to Honolulu, if they were to discover that our city was not able to support even a medium-sized symphony.

With new management and internationally acclaimed conductor Andreas Delfs now in place, the Symphony is poised to achieve even greater acclaim and increasing popularity which will attract long-overdue support. Honolulu must not allow its orchestra to fold before this is achieved.

**testimony**

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**From:** Jane Campbell [janekailua@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 11:10 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** keith@honolulusymphony.com  
**Subject:** testimony for SB 304

**For the hearing Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 1:30 p.m.**

**To:** Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation  
 Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

**Fr:** Jane Campbell, president, Windward Arts Council; board secretary, Chamber Music Hawai'i; and longtime (former) head of Honolulu Theatre for Youth.

**Re:** **In support of SB 304, Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony**

Chairman Fukunaga and Honorable Committee Members.

I write in support of SB 304. I am particularly concerned about educating our children to understand and appreciate art and to learn arts skills that will serve them throughout their lives.

I have come to realize how inter-related the arts 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 parts of Hawai'i's arts and cultures must be strong. Just as the University of Hawai'i must have strong inter-related programs in all sports in order for each sport to excel, Hawai'i must have strong inter-related programs in the arts in order for each of the arts 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 government's commitment to the rich cultural and artistic mix that is Hawai'i. 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 legislature and the administration 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 SB 304.

Thank you, Jane Campbell

## testimony

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**From:** Alex Pickens [apickens@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 11:09 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** Alex Pickens; Keith Kadoyama  
**Subject:** SB304:SEN COMM ON ED&T ; HEARING FEB12 TUES@1:30pm

Alexander L. Pickens  
1471Kalaepohaku St.  
Honolulu Hawaii 96816

For SB 304 Hearing

**To:** Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
**Subject:** Support of SB304:Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its Programs

Chairman Fukunaga and Honorable Committee Members:

As a resident and taxpayer for the past forty six years I have supported the Symphony in its long transition from playing in McKinley High School Auditorium to its impermanent residency in Blaisdell Concert Hall. I have also witnessed its development into a World Class Orchestra with an Internationally recognized Maestro.

At this time the Symphony is seeking to clarify its fiscal status and compensate the dedicated musicians who have not been paid on a regular basis for an extended period of time. Although none has abandoned the Orchestra, it has become increasingly clear that this is an untenable situation which cannot be continued.

I am asking support from you committee to approve the requested Appropriation which will permit the Symphony to move forward in the re-structuring of its financial plans and regain a stable income which will sustain invaluable musical and educational programs in the State.

I ask for your consideration and support of this Bill.

Respectfully submitted by:

Alex L. Pickens  
Professor Emeritus, University of Hawaii  
Member, Board of Directors  
Honolulu Symphony

**testimony**

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**From:** Valerie Ossipoff [vossipoff@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 10:50 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony - SB 304

Valerie Ossipoff, President Honolulu Symphony Chorus  
To the Senate Committee on Economic Development  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 1:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 224  
State Capitol

In Support of Senate Bill 304, SB, Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its Programs

My name is Valerie Ossipoff, President of the Honolulu Symphony Chorus, and I would like to submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 304, SB1 which would appropriate \$810,000 for fiscal year 2008 - 2009 to support the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

When I returned to Hawaii in 2001, after too many years living in California, securing my Symphony season tickets and applying to audition with the chorus were among my first activities. I had my own season ticket to the Honolulu Symphony from the time I was 6 years old and cannot imagine not having the benefits of the symphony in our community. Significant research has done about the benefits of music for the development of intelligence and mental health. I believe that the support of our local government for our Symphony is necessary on so many levels.

I am sure that you are aware that, 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 and Pops concerts and youth education 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. The support of the young musicians last Thursday is a clear indication of this relationship. 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.

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. It is a travesty that our Symphony musicians and staff have been working without regular pay during the months of December and January, yet it shows enormous resolve, perseverance and unwavering dedication to the community. We have a world-class orchestra that has earned our respect and deserve our support.

Respectfully,  
Valerie Ossipoff

**testimony**

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**From:** Alex Pickens [apickens@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 12:15 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** Alex Pickens; McPhee Sharon  
**Subject:** Fwd: SB304:SEN COMM ON ED&T ; HEARING FEB12 TUES@1:30pm

Begin forwarded message:

> From: Alex Pickens <apickens@hawaii.rr.com>  
> Date: February 11, 2008 11:09:14 AM HST  
> To: <testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov>  
> Subject: SB304:SEN COMM ON ED&T ; HEARING FEB12 TUES@1:30pm  
>  
>  
> Alexander L. Pickens  
> 1471Kalaepohaku St.  
> Honolulu Hawaii 96816  
>  
> For SB 304 Hearing  
>  
> To: Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation Senator  
> Carol Fukunage, Chair  
>  
> Subject: Support of SB304:Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and  
> its Programs  
>  
>  
> Chairman Fukunaga and Honorable Committee Members:  
>  
> At the request of Sharon McPhee, who is unable to present testimony at  
> this time, I am submitting the following:

It is imperative that we support the efforts being made by the management and directors of the Honolulu Symphony Society to stabilize its fiscal policies and compensate the loyal musicians who have remained steadfast in their support of the orchestra and the outstanding educational programs.

As Hawaii's representative to the Kennedy Center National Committee For the Arts, I will be proud to report Hawaii,s continuining support for its outstanding Symphony Orchestra and Music Education PROGRAMS

>  
> Respectfully submitted by{for Sharon McPhee}  
>  
> Alex L. Pickens  
> Professor Emeritus, University ofHawaii  
> Member, Board of Directors  
> Honolulu Symphony  
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## testimony

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**From:** kadoyama@gmail.com on behalf of Keith Kadoyama [keith@honolulusymphony.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 2:42 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** RE: SB 304, SD1

Submitted by Keith K. Kadoyama for Carolyn A. Berry, Board Member

### **For the hearing Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 1:30 p.m.**

**To:** Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

**Fr:** Carolyn A. Berry, Board Member

**Re:** **In support of SB 304, Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony**

To Whom it may concern,

I can not imagine what my life would have been like without music in it. As a small child my mother sang, my father sang and as a family we all sang one way or another. My mother in a ladies quartet, my father at home, my brother is still singing and has sung with the Honolulu Symphony. We sang around the piano at home, we sang in the car on outings, we sang when we were happy.

I was lucky enough to get a piano when I was in the 6th grade and by the time I was graduating from the 8th grade could read music enough to start lessons on the clarinet. I played clarinet and piano all thru my high school years.

From a young age I sang in church. I sang in school, in church and at any event I was invited to go to and sing. Through out my adult years I enjoyed watching my children learn to play the drums, trumpet, tuba, and some of them sing also.

I have always gone to hear the music of the local Symphony Orchestra where ever I lived. The Charleston Symphony, in Charleston, WV when I was growing up. The Detroit Symphony where we lived the last 9 years of my husbands career. I can't imagine what live would be like, if I had not had those experiences.

Everyone knows I am a big sports fan. However, they probably don't know that the band is a big part of every sporting event I have gone to. Since I was once in the high school band, I follow the bands here in Hawaii at the University of Hawaii, they are great!! and the Pride of West Virginia, at West Virginia University. I can say that the Pride is a very outstanding unit that can bring tears to your eyes. They are so good.

If you took away all the music in my life, my life would have been pretty dull. The joy of music in my life has given me so much happiness. Working for five years as Chairman of the Board of the Honolulu Symphony was a very joyous time of my life. We worked hard to make friends of music and we paid the bills. I want to see this happen again.

2/11/2008

In the early 90's the State gave the Symphony, for their Educational Program, enough money to cover most of that program. It has been reduced and reduced over the years. The need is still there and the prices of things have gone up.

Some how, the State needs to understand that the children of Hawaii should have the same chances I had and you had when we were growing up. The opportunity to learn music. For those who were lucky enough to be born with musical talent, to have the very best teachers. Those teachers can be found in the ranks of the Honolulu Symphony.

Thank you for listening. I am respectfully yours, Carolyn Berry

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

## testimony

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**From:** Eric Schank [e\_schank@hawaiiopera.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 5:15 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** keith@honolulusymphony.com  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 304, SB1

Eric Schank  
Education Assistant  
Hawaii Opera Theatre

To the Senate Committee on Economic Development  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 1:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 224  
State Capitol

In Support of Senate Bill 304, SB, Making an Appropriation for the Honolulu Symphony and its Programs

My name is EricShank and I would like to submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 304, SB1 which would appropriate \$810,000 for fiscal year 2008 - 2009 to support the Honolulu Symphony and its programs.

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without regular pay during the months of December and January, yet it shows enormous resolve, perseverance and unwavering dedication to the community. We have a world-class orchestra that has earned our respect and deserve our support.

Respectfully,  
Eric Schank

Eric Schank  
Education Assistant  
Hawaii Opera Theatre  
987 Waimanu Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
(808) 596-7372 ext. 36  
Fax: (808) 596-0379