

TESTIMONY OF
LORI V. THOMAS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM,
CULTURE, AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ON
February 7, 2009

H. B. 946

RELATING TO THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND
THE ARTS

Chair Manahan and members of the committee, I am Lori Thomas, chairperson of the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and I am testifying today as an individual. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on H. B. 946, which I support.

The proposed legislation establishes a state income-tax check-off for the SFCA.

In FY 2004, the SFCA commissioned a study of alternative sources of funding to complement its General and Federal fund appropriations. Establishing a tax credit was one of the proposed ways in which to increase revenues. While it was not an alternative selected for further study, due in part to the uncertainty of public support, we do think this is a viable and constructive solution to ensure sustainability. Therefore, I am in favor of moving forward with this measure and appreciate wholeheartedly the spirit in which it was introduced.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

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