



**HAWAII**  
STATE FOUNDATION on  
CULTURE and the ARTS

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TESTIMONY OF THE  
STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON  
H. B. 2817, HD 1

February 18, 2010

Chair Oshiro and members of the Committee, I am Ronald

Yamakawa, executive director of the State Foundation on Culture and

the Arts and I am pleased to testify before you on House Bill 2817,

HD1. The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts appreciates the

efforts of policymakers to create new revenue sources for our programs.

However, we have the following concerns with this bill for the

Committee's consideration:

- Hawaii Administrative Rules, Section 3-130-10 already allows for works of art to be auctioned with proceeds being deposited into the works of art special fund;
- Most artworks depreciate in value;
- The SFCA would not want to auction the most valuable works in the collection as they are considered to be treasures that reflect the historic evolution of art in Hawaii and integral to the value of the State Collection;
- Auctioning gifts would be a disincentive to potential donors of artworks and gift offers would cease once a precedent is set;

- Artists in the Collection may be discouraged to have their work(s) identified for sale as this would reflect their work is not a valued part of the Collection.

Moreover, auctioning artworks would put the art into private collections and out of sight of school children and the general public. We are reminded of the auctioning of valuable cultural artifacts from Iolani Palace and how much that loss impacted Hawaii's cultural history. The SFCA Collection is a valuable and irreplaceable part of Hawaii's cultural history and must remain intact for Hawaii's future generations.

While we appreciate the intent of this bill to provide additional revenues for the State Foundation, the preceding concerns lead us to believe that profit from auctioning art from the Collection would not, in the long run, be substantial enough to warrant conducting the process over time nor curtail the threat to maintaining the integrity and public value in the Collection.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on this matter.

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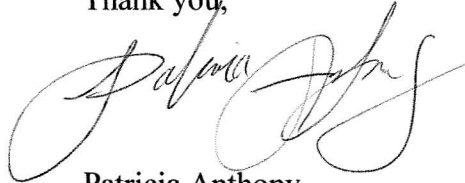
TESTIMONY - FULL SUPPORT  
H.B. 2817 State Works of Art; Sale by Public Auction

Committee on Finance

Dear Chair Oshiro and Finance Committee members,

I support HB 2817 relating to art. Because of the financial challenges that our state is facing this bill will help keep art alive in Hawaii. Please pass this common sense measure.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Patricia Anthony', written in black ink.

Patricia Anthony