

TESTIMONY OF  
LORI V. THOMAS

**LATE**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON  
April 7, 2009

S. B. 602, SD 2 HD 1

RELATING TO THE ARTS

Chair Oshiro and members of the committee, I am Lori Thomas, Chairperson of the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission and I am testifying as an individual. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on S. B. 602, SD 2 HD1.

The one percent for art law enacted in 1967 and the Works of Art Special Fund established in 1989 have long been the cornerstones of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts' (SFCA) support for the visual arts. The Works of Art Special Fund was developed in partnership with leaders in the architectural field. The basis for the one percent for art law is that art completes the architectural plan of a building. The law, in effect, reinforces the intrinsic relationship between the architect's creativity and how the building functions for the benefit of the public, not as a static construction, but as an aesthetic, educational and humanitarian statement.

In view of these developments, I believe this measure as proposed and amended is in opposition to the intent of the law. Further, the definition of "permanent display" does not include film used for documentation purposes as documentary footage does not constitute part of the artistic statement. The intent of S. B. 602, SD 2, HD 1 to enable the performing arts of Hawaii to thrive and prosper, especially during tough economic times,

is commendable. However, crafting a new law by compromising the integrity of an existing one with invalid reasoning and faulty definitions is not advisable

Although I support the intent of the legislation to provide additional funding for the collections of the Bishop Museum and 'Iolani Palace, revising the Works of Art Special Fund compromises the intent of Section 103-8.5, HRS in that direct funding to 'Iolani Palace and the Bishop Museum denies adherence to art as an aesthetic component of the architecture of a state building.

Finally, supporting the operations of Hawaii's culture and arts organizations with the Works of Art Special Fund is also not advisable for the reasons previously discussed because doing so would not be true to the intent of the law.

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