



IOLANI PALACE

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TESTIMONY OF KIPPEN DE ALBA CHU

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Representative Mele Carroll, Chair
Representative Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 25, 2009
9:30 am

SB 602 SD2

Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify **in support** of Senate Bill 602, with some amendments.

As amended by the Senate Ways and Means Committee, this measure now includes funding for collections management at Bishop Museum and Iolani Palace.

However, the measure should clearly state that both institutions are responsible for the selection, exhibition, and care of art works in their respective collections. Language to this effect is already present in H.B. 963, HD1.

In these times of economic hardship, we need to think creatively in trying to fund some of our State's most important cultural treasures.

Thank you again for allowing us to testify in support of this measure.



BISHOP MUSEUM

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March 24, 2009

**TO: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair
Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs**

**FR: Bishop Museum
Timothy Johns, President & CEO**

**RE: Committee on Tourism, Culture, & International Affairs
Wednesday, March 25, 2009; 9:30 a.m. Rm. 329
Support of SB 602, SD2 Relating to the Arts**

Bishop Museum supports SB 602, SD2, which authorizes use of bond proceeds deposited into the State's works of art special fund to support operations of culture and art organizations; and provide financial assistance for Bishop Museum and Iolani Palace for costs associated with works of arts.

Founded in 1889, Bishop Museum's mission is "to study, preserve and tell the stories of the cultures and natural history of Hawai'i and the Pacific." As the State Museum of Natural and Cultural History, we have a responsibility to be stewards of the priceless treasures of the host culture. Bishop Museum's founding collection includes the family heirlooms held by Princess Pauahi, Princess Ruth, and Queen Emma. Today, our cultural collection includes objects from Hawai'i and the Pacific. Our library and archives house Hawaiian Kingdom documents, Hawaiian language newspapers, among other valuable historical information, and an art collection of paintings and etchings of Hawai'i.

The State has already recognized the historical significance and important role of 'Iolani Palace and Bishop Museum as caretakers for Hawai'i's heritage. Bishop Museum's collections impart knowledge of the Native Hawaiian people – their culture, their values, and their history. Cultural practitioners, teachers, students, and families visit Bishop Museum because we are a resource to learn about Hawaiian history and culture. There are 56,000 people in our membership program who participate in Bishop Museum events and activities.

Bishop Museum also offers tourists an opportunity to learn what makes Hawai'i uniquely special from any other state in the union and from any other place in the world. It is one of the greatest

attractions for the state's Asian visitors and a top attraction for mainland tourists. Over 300,000 visitors come to Bishop Museum annually.

In this rapidly changing world, it is more important than ever that we remember what makes Hawai'i so special and unique. Passage of this bill will allow our institutions to further our work – to care for our collections and historical buildings – and that in turn allows us to continue as Hawaiian ambassadors to the community and the world.

As you know, earlier this year, Bishop Museum was forced to make cutbacks and underwent a restructuring effort to better ensure the Museum's sustainability and long-term growth. Because of the challenging economic climate facing our State, the community, and especially non-profits in Hawaii, the Museum's restructuring included a reduction in staff by 14 positions. The staff reductions included management and non-management personnel, and represented approximately 6% of the Museum's staff.

Bishop Museum strives to stay true to its mission. This means making sure that the hard working individuals who work to achieve this remain employed.

If passed, this measure would allow financial assistance to Bishop Museum and 'Iolani Palace by providing a funding source via the special art fund. While this is not a conventional funding mechanism, Bishop Museum is actively searching all avenues of funding that may be or become available. It is also important to note that we continue to work on efforts to cut costs in ways that do not threaten our operations.

We thank you for your ongoing support during this session and for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 602, SD2.



AIA Hawaii State Council

A Council of The American Institute of Architects

March 25, 2009

Honorable Mele Carroll, Chair
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Re: **Senate Bill 602 SD 2**
Relating to the Arts

Dear Chair Carroll and Members of the Committee,

My name is Daniel Chun, Government Affairs Chair of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). AIA is **OPPOSED** to both the intent and language of SB 602 SD 2 that revises the current Art in Public Places Program.

Page 4 lines 4 through 7 Works of art for Bishop Museum and Iolani Palace.

The current one percent is a transfer that AIA was instrumental in passing into law and that we continue to support. There seems to be a misconception that this one percent is a surcharge upon construction. Instead it is a deduction from building budgets that we architects are supposed to be controlling.

The law's intent is to enhance NEW public construction and renovation with NEW works of art contemporaneous with a building's architectural design. So AIA is opposed to diverting Program funds for otherwise worthy purposes.

In my personal experience as an architect, the works of art commissioned for public buildings have used local artists in the Hawaii arts community. This may not be the case for historic works of art bought from international auction houses and other non-artist sources who may own the objects coveted by these institutions.

Page 6 lines 6 through 9 Defines "works of art" to include live performances

It is amazing to architects how this legislature would approve using bond funds to support the activities listed on Page 6. A bond is a commitment for future generations to pay for an improvement that they themselves will be using in their lifetimes. Buildings, with expected long service lives, are perfectly suitable for bond funding. Would anyone take out a home mortgage to pay for a live performance at the housewarming party?

If you want to support other culture and arts activities, these can be separate appropriations or from other sources. Some private organizations also have the better ability to raise private funds, such as from ticket fees, for performance programs. By its broadly accessible settings, permanent public art cannot do this.

Stimulus funds and the current Art in Public Places Program

Revising the current law will have two long-term detrimental effects on the current Program. Firstly the anticipated high level of CIP funds will not occur in every future budget cycle. Secondly the larger number of new buildings that are likely to result from a larger CIP package will be deprived of larger funding to provide for a commensurate scale of newly commissioned public art. We request that you hold this bill in your Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to **OPPOSE** SB 602 SD 2.

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**TESTIMONY OF
PETER ROSEGG**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
March 25, 2009
S. B. 602, SD 2**

RELATING TO THE ARTS

Chair Carroll and members of the committee, I am Peter Rosegg, an Oahu commissioner on the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission, testifying as an individual. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S. B. 602, SD 2.

I urge you to use caution in approaching the estimable intent but uncertain methods of the proposed bill.

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' support for the visual arts. Over the years, the Art in Public Places (APP) Program has grown in curatorial integrity, programmatic value and the professional expertise of its staff. One mark of its stature is that highly respected Hawaii artists now donate their works to the care of the APP program for display in public buildings.

Today, the Art in Public Places Program is a model for public art programs in at least 24 other states and more than 300 federal, state and county level public art programs.

The founding principle of the one-percent-for-art law is that art humanizes and beautifies the built environment. Art completes the architectural plan of a building and enhances the aesthetic vision of its designers. The law, in effect, reinforces the fundamental relationship between the architect's creativity and the way the building functions for the benefit of the public, making the use of that public building an aesthetic, educational and humanitarian experience. ...more

The fact that more bond proceeds may be directed to the special fund as the result of the state's proposed economic stimulus package is welcomed with caution. Revenues to the special fund from construction and renovation of state buildings have averaged \$2.8 million per year over the last 18 years. Most repair and maintenance projects are not assessed the 1% and therefore do not result in revenues to the fund.

Expenses from the fund have averaged about \$2.5 million per year, well below our \$4.4 million budget ceiling. This difference is due to a determined effort to manage the fund prudently in accordance with average yearly revenues.

While I commend the intent of the legislation to provide additional funding for the Bishop Museum and 'Iolani Palace, revising the Works of Art Special Fund compromises the ability of the State Foundation to maintain, conserve and grow the State Art Collection.

Direct funding to 'Iolani Palace and the Bishop Museum would undermine the founding principle of Section 103-8.5, HRS, that art should enhance state buildings. It would compromise our mission to enhance the experience of the public who use these public buildings and state employees who work there.

Moreover, the collections of 'Iolani Palace and the Bishop Museum differ dramatically from the State Art Collection. Our collection comprises carefully selected, outstanding examples of contemporary, Hawaii-themed art by Hawaii-based artists. The 'Iolani Palace and Bishop Museum collections are by nature historical and do not in the same way contribute to the livelihood or encouragement of artists most of whom work in Hawaii, often teaching art to our children from elementary schools to colleges.

More than \$1 million of the Special Fund is currently dedicated to staff salaries for the Art in Public Places Program, the Hawaii State Art Museum, and beginning FY2010, 50% of the SFCA's three administrative positions. If the fund must absorb additional costs, fund revenues will be totally depleted within 2 years, if not sooner. This is likely to result in staff layoffs and/or significantly curtailing and compromising operations in our primary mission – to make the art collection available to be seen and enjoyed by the public in their buildings and the state art museum.

...more

The SFCA, through the Biennium Grants Program, has been distributing approximately \$500,000 to performing arts projects in communities statewide on an ongoing basis. The grants program uses a highly-respected peer review system to disperse funds in the most equitable way possible.

As an alternative to compromising the integrity of the Works of Art Special Fund, the Art in Public Places Program and the Hawaii State Art Museum, may I suggest a study into finding alternative funding sources for the performing arts be undertaken. As available, such alternative funding could be dispersed through the established, tested and highly respected Biennium Grants Program with its categories of Arts Education, Community Arts, Heritage and Preservation, Presentation (that includes literary, visual and media arts), and Performing Arts.

The intent of S. B. 602, SD 2 to enable the performing arts of Hawaii to thrive and prosper, especially during tough economic times, is commendable. However, meeting a new need by compromising the meeting of an existing one is not advisable. It is sure to result in an outcry from the general public and the visual arts community and pit supporters of one art form against another.

Thank you for your kind attention and for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter.

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