

LATE
Testimony



HAWAII
STATE FOUNDATION on
CULTURE and the ARTS

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TESTIMONY OF
STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEES ON CULTURE & THE ARTS
AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

ON
February 2, 2011

H.B. 1137

Chair Wooley, Chair Hanohano, and members of the
committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on
HB 1137. The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA)
opposes this bill.

The one percent for art law was established in 1967, the first
such law in the nation and a model for the legislation of other states that
followed. The Works of Art Special Fund was created in 1989 to
support the Art in Public Places Program and the Hawai'i State Art
Museum, which have developed significantly as a result of careful
management, hiring competent leadership, and sustaining public interest
in and support of the State Art Collection. Passing this legislation would
threaten the continued existence of the Art in Public Places Program and
the Hawai'i State Art Museum. The elimination of these institutions
would sadly destroy the vanguard for contemporary local art; the
economic vitality this art brings to the state; the many fine educational
and cultural programs related to the collection; and most of all, the
presence of government's investment in the creative vision and
expression of Hawaii's people.

While cutbacks in FY 2010 have strained our energies and resources, the impact of our losses in quantitative measures has been marginal. Visitor counts and participation in various educational and arts programming have been strong, and, in fact, growing. This has only been possible through a hardworking and knowledgeable staff, the dedication and expertise of our commission, the integrity of our programs and the artists we represent, and most importantly, public support.

We caution against compromising the integrity of the one percent law, a law that has survived because of its dedication to providing an aesthetic complement to the built environment through art. The fund was established to ensure the beautification and aesthetic value of public buildings through the placement of art in the architectural plan. HB 1137 makes provisions for two cultural resources that are privately supported. Moreover, the collections of 'Iolani Palace and the Bishop Museum differ dramatically from the State Art Collection, which is largely dedicated to support living local artists. Our collection is a unique contribution to the economic vitality of our state. Funding these institutions would quickly deplete the approximate \$2.5 million in revenues that the Works of Art Special Fund receives each year. We stand to lose everything: our staffing, the quality of the collection, and our valuable programming and services.

Instead, we appeal to your creativity and resourcefulness to identify new funding sources, partnerships and economic arenas for our arts and cultural institutions. The Works of Art Special Fund was never intended to serve as a vehicle for multiple art forms or multiple cultural institutions. It is a fund dedicated to a public art program for the enrichment and education of the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Testimony to the House Committee on Culture & the Arts
and
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 2, 2011
10:45 a.m. – Conference Room 329

HB1137: Relating to the Arts, Culture, and Heritage

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB1137 Relating to the Arts, Culture, and Heritage which would change the name of the Works of Art Special Fund to an Arts, Culture, and Heritage Special Fund, expand the uses of the fund to include site modifications, display, interpretive work, and specific renovations and repairs for the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, 'Iolani Palace and Washington Place for the period of July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2015, and requires report and long-range plan.

Bishop Museum strongly supports HB1137. Enactment of HB1137 will allow Bishop Museum to make Hawai'i a better, more competitive destination, consistent with the strategic initiatives adopted by the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

Mary Kawena Pukui, Bishop Museum's sage of Hawaiian culture, taught, "*A'ohē pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi – Not all knowledge is learned in school alone.*" As one of Hawai'i's premier institutions of art, culture and heritage, Bishop Museum exemplifies this adage. The edification afforded to visitors by Bishop Museum extends beyond the four corners of a classroom, reaching into the very past of Hawai'i and the Pacific. However, the efficacy with which Bishop Museum fulfills its charge as the State of Hawai'i's Museum of Natural and Cultural History is under siege by the economic challenges of our times. As the preamble to HB1137 observes, the economic downturn has had a devastating effect on arts, culture and heritage programs and Bishop Museum is no exception. The anticipated eradication of federal earmarks by Congress has severely compounded an already grave situation.

Despite these dire circumstances, Bishop Museum strives to fulfill its charge to study, preserve and tell the stories of the natural and cultural history of Hawaii and the Pacific. The restoration of Hawaiian Hall, completed in August of 2009, illustrates the Museum's continued and long term commitment to its mission. The potential efficacy of HB1137 is clearly illustrated by the financial support the 2010 Hawai'i State Legislature allocated to the Museum for a slate of capital improvement measures. Upon release by the prior Administration in the latter half of 2010, those funds were immediately put to use by Bishop Museum to improve its aging infrastructure. The appropriations also contributed to Bishop Museum's ongoing restoration of Hawaiian and Polynesian Hall, providing work for a number of local contractors and ancillary professionals.

Like a treasured *kupuna*, the facilities constituting Bishop Museum are a revered and proud emblem of Hawai'i's past. 2012 will bring with it the unveiling of a restored Polynesian Hall to compliment Hawaiian Hall, which many consider the *piko* of Bishop Museum. A recent grant has allowed the Museum to commission a professional evaluation concerning restoration of the long neglected Bishop Hall, the original home of the Kamehameha School for Boys. The corporeal effects of time necessitate vigilant care and maintenance because although institutions such as Bishop Museum are popularly held as timeless, they are not immutable.

Page Two

HB1137 exemplifies the State of Hawai'i's recognition of this fact and its commitment aid in the preservation and dissemination of Hawai'i's history for the benefit of generations to come.

Bishop Museum was founded in 1889 by Charles Reed Bishop in honor of his late wife, Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, the last descendent of the royal Kamehameha family. Bishop Museum is designated the State Museum of Cultural and Natural History and is a non-profit corporation with the mission to study, preserve and tell the stories of the cultures and natural history of Hawai'i and the Pacific.



IOLANI PALACE

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LATE
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TESTIMONY OF KIPPEN DE ALBA CHU

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE & THE ARTS

Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Faye P. Hanohano, Chair
Rep. Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 2, 2011
10:45 am

HB 1137

Chairs Wooley and Hanohano, Vice Chairs Belatti and Lee, and members of the joint Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify **in strong support** of this measure **with a technical amendment**.

The expansion of the existing Works of Art special fund to include culture and heritage recognizes our indigenous history. Hawaii's uniquely complex artistic and cultural legacy from the time of the monarchy is enshrined in Bishop Museum, Iolani Palace, and Washington Place. While not exclusive to these three historical sites, this legacy represents the adoption of Western visual forms to serve as emblems of an independent nation on equal status with colonial powers of that time. This 19th century trend, which occurred throughout the world, witnessed the creation of national museums, monuments, palaces, and stately residences that represented a formal, public expression of the character of a nation to its own citizens as well as to foreigners seeking political influence.

The State's support of Hawaii's artistic and cultural heritage, and especially our indigenous culture, is in everyone's best interest if we call the "Aloha State" our home.

Technical Amendment:

As a clarification, we ask that page 5, line 18 be revised to state that the comptroller along with "The Friends of 'Iolani Palace" shall decide on the projects to be undertaken.

Thank you.