

PA'I FOUNDATION

A 501 c 3 non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, perpetuation and education of traditional Hawaiian knowledge and practices.

**Honorable Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Au Bellati,
Members of the Committee on Culture and the Arts**

Re: Strong Support for HB 1556 HD 1 Relating to Culture

PA'I is seeking funding from the state legislature to provide affordable live work rental housing for artists and their families who reside in Hawai'i, a native Hawaiian culture and arts center, commercial and community space for creative industries and businesses and public parking for the community.

PA'I, organized in 2001, is a 501 c 3 organization whose mission is to preserve and perpetuate Hawaiian cultural traditions for future generations. The goal of PA'I is to establish a cultural center on O'ahu to better serve the broader Hawaiian community. PA'I is the non-profit organization of Pua Ali'i 'Ilima, a hālau hula (school of Hawaiian dance) founded by kumu hula (master teacher of Hawaiian dance) Vicky Holt Takamine in 1977. While the organization is centered around and supported by hālau members, the purpose of PA'I is not centered around servicing the needs of the hālau, but to address and serve the needs of native Hawaiians and those who make Hawai'i their home. To accomplish these goals, PA'I has partnered with several organizations to successfully create and implement events, programs and outreach activities to strengthen our native Hawaiian community.

PA'I, with support from the Ford Foundation, has invited Artspace Projects, the nation's leading nonprofit developer for the arts, to Hawaii to explore the space needs of Hawaiian artists. Our goal is to move forward the agenda of Artspace and the PA'I Foundation to pursue the development of a Hawaiian Cultural Center with classroom space, space for teaching and performing hula, music and other traditional practices as well as creative live/work space for artists and their families who reside in Hawai'i.

This project will provide jobs for our community, create affordable live work-spaces for artists and assist with the economic revitalization of our communities. The project will create 72 units of live work space, from studio to three bedroom units. It will also include 10,000 sq. ft of commercial space, 4,000 sq ft. of which will be dedicated to a native Hawaiian cultural center and three floors of public parking in the Kaka'ako area. This project and other Hawaiian projects perhaps to follow are meant to support the growth of the culturally distinct voice and vision of the native Hawaiian community as well as the broader arts community of Hawai'i.

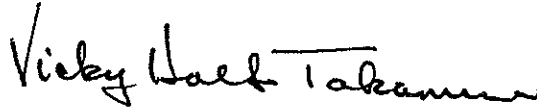
In 2005-2006, with funding from Ford Foundation and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, PA'I conducted a study of native Hawaiian artists and cultural practitioners. The results from that study indicated a need for more opportunities for native Hawaiians to showcase and sell their art. The study also indicated the need for a native Hawaiian culture and arts center. To address these needs, PA'I has been working in the arts community

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PH. 808-237-4555
www.paifoundation.org

for the past ten years. In partnership with the Bishop Museum, PA'I plans and implements, MAMo: Maoli Arts Month, a month long celebration of native Hawaiian art and artists. Artspace mission is to provide affordable housing for artists. We seek funding from the state legislature to fulfill the mission of PA'I and Artspace, to address all of these needs outlined in the needs assessment survey, to provide affordable live work rentals for artists and their families who reside in Hawai'i, a native Hawaiian culture and arts center, commercial and community space for creative industries and businesses and public parking for the community.

Should you have any questions related to this project, please do not hesitate to contact me at 808-237-4555.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vicky Holt Takamine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Vicky Holt Takamine
Executive Director, PA'I Foundation
Kumu Hula, Pua Ali'I 'Ilima
PO Box 17483
Honolulu, HI 96817

MU'OLAULANI

Hālau Hula Ka No'eau

Michael Pili Pang, Executive Director & Kumu Hula
600 Queen Street, Suite 2403, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Email: mpilipang@gmail.com • Phone: (808) 285-4035 • Fax: (808) 544-9915

February 14, 2012

Honorable Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Au Bellati,
and Members of the Committee on Culture and the Arts:

**Subject: Support for HB 1556 1
Relating to the Culture**

It has been brought to my attention that PA'I is seeking funds from the state legislature to create a culturally base art center and provide affordable housing for artists who reside in Hawai'i. I support this project and encourage you to look favorable on passing this bill. This project addresses the need of creating a long overdue native Hawaiian culture and arts center; provides affordable housing for up and coming artist; and, will create a vibrant community in the Kaka'ako area.

As the former Executive Director of the City and County of Honolulu Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts I know there is a need for culturally based programs that promote upward mobility, support economic development and strengthen our creative industry while at the same time provide affordable housing. There has never been a project like this in Honolulu nor in entire State of Hawai'i that combines all of the above. This project will address these needs and be the first of its kind in Hawai'i. I have seen first hand this type of project PA'I is creating with their partner Artspace Project. I have visited two Artspace Project's in Seattle and found that the project sites benefits the community on a number of social, economic and cultural levels.

As a working artist and kumu hula for the past twenty-five years, I can tell you first hand the difficulty of finding affordable studio space to work, places to sell your art pieces and rehearsal space to practice your performing arts while at the same time trying to sustain yourself. This project will create a culturally based art center, promote the creative industries and help to support our local economy and provide affordable housing. One of the outstanding features of this project is that it is more than just housing: it is a "live work space" that will create much needed art studio space, support our art community, and create a space for commerce.

I am asking that you and your committee look favorably on passing HB 1556 HD 1 RELATING TO CULTURE. While I understand the concerns of our current economic situation in Hawai'i I ask you to keep mind that this project is a long-term investment in our future. This project will become an iconic housing project with an economic component that fosters cultural knowledge practices.

I hope you will not hesitate to move forward with this project by contributing funds for it creation and development. Please keep in mind that culture is part of our everyday life and that culture defines who we are. This center and project will help all the people in the State of Hawai'i and support our unique "culture DNA".

Aloha nō,



Michael Pili Pang

belatti2 - Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 8:00 AM
To: CUAtestimony
Cc: Maile@nativebookshawaii.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1556 on 2/15/2012 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for CUA 2/15/2012 3:00:00 PM HB1556

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Maile Meyer
Organization: Native Books/Na Mea Hawaii
E-mail: Maile@nativebookshawaii.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

Mahalo for your support of this important next step for the Hawaiian creative cultural community, and creative industries in Hawaii.

Hawaii State Legislature: House Bill 1556 HD1

February 14, 2012

Dear Honorable House Chair Jessica Wooley, Vice Chair Della Au Bellatti and Members of the Committee on Culture and the Arts

I am writing to you today to urge you to please support HB1556HD1.

The PA'I Foundation is committed to providing space for a thriving native community through economic opportunities and housing. The hard work and vision of Vicky Holt Takamine can be realized with financial support from the Legislature. Our Native Hawaiian community needs a cultural space. Long overdue, this idea has already received support from mainland organizations. I humbly ask you to please support HB1556.

Mahalo piha,

Heather H. Giugni
Juniroa Productions Inc.
808.864.7211

belatti2 - Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2012 10:22 PM
To: CUAtestimony
Cc: Kanekoaks@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1556 on 2/15/2012 3:00:00 PM
Attachments: letter of support for HB 1556 2012.docx

Testimony for CUA 2/15/2012 3:00:00 PM HB1556

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Jonathan K Kukea Shultz
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Kanekoaks@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/14/2012

Comments:

To: Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair, Committee on Culture and the Arts
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair, Committee on Culture and the Arts

Fr:

Date: February 14, 2012

Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bill 1556: RELATING TO CULTURE.

Appropriates funds for capital improvement projects in the 47th representative district relating to cultural practices.

Aloha Chair Wooley, Vice-chair Della Au Belatti and members of the House Committee on Culture and Arts. I am Jonathan Kanekoa Kukea-Shultz, Executive Director of Kakoo Oiwi. I am here to testify in support of HB 1556. House Bill 1556 would allow for the construction and design of a community center. This community center is an instrumental piece to the overall implementation by Kakoo Oiwi for Project Mahuahua Ai o Hoi. With the restoration of 180 acre taro fields, 22 acres of wetlands, 7 acres education ag lands and 80 of fruit trees a central location within Heeia is needed. This center located on the Kealohi road would become the Piko where Students, Makua and Kupuna interact to perpetuate our culture while being protected from the elements in Heeia. The activities that would be housed in this community center range from a certified food prep of Hawaiian and local food to spur economic development and the safe consumption of Hawaiian foods, house Hawaiian Language Classes, Hawaiian Practitioner meetings and classes, and to allow events for members of the community that need use of a small gatherings facilities to bring families and friends together. The planning and construction of a community center would allow for the re-establishment of the cultural activities and reinforce a food and cultural foundation that has supported the Heeia Community in the past and will help to carry our community into the future.

We ask you to please support our community and support the perpetuation of Hawaiian Culture, Farming and Farming. We welcome your support and passage of this Bill.

Aloha,

J. Kanekoa Kukea Shultz

belatti2 - Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 8:46 PM
To: CUAtestimony
Cc: Kealii8@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1556 on 2/15/2012 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for CUA 2/15/2012 3:00:00 PM HB1556

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kealii Makekau
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Kealii8@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/13/2012

Comments:

belatti2 - Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 8:16 AM
To: CUAtestimony
Cc: rsml74@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1556 on 2/15/2012 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for CUA 2/15/2012 3:00:00 PM HB1556

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Sandla
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rsml74@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

A very worthy project and one of great significance to the local arts community. The proponent, Ms Holt, is passionate and disciplined and with her guidance will produce superior results. I recommend your support of this measure.