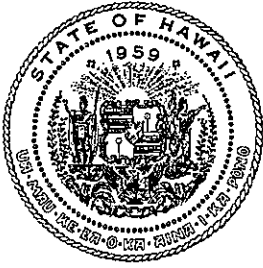


**SB 116**  
**TESTIMONY**



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor

MIKE MCCARTNEY  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer

# Hawai'i Tourism Authority

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Testimony of  
**Mike McCartney**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Hawai'i Tourism Authority  
on  
**S.B. 116**  
**Relating to Culture and the Arts**

Senate Committee on Tourism  
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Monday, February 14, 2011  
1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 016

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) the following comments on S.B. 116, which in the powers and duties of the HTA supporting and promotion of traditional Hawaiian pre-contact arts and cultural activities, and requires that an amount of the moneys in the Tourism Special Fund be used to support and promote traditional Hawaiian pre-contact arts and cultural activities.

We support including in the powers of the Authority the supporting and promotion of traditional Hawaiian pre-contact arts and cultural activities, which the Authority is already doing and has included in our Tourism Strategic Plan.

As a policy-making board, the Authority's board is empowered to make and execute contracts to engage the services of consultants to carry-out its functions under the law, subject to the availability of funds. The Tourism Strategic Plan adopted by the Authority includes in its objectives strengthening the relationship between the visitor industry and the Hawaiian community, nurturing the Hawaiian culture, and supporting Hawaiian programs and cultural practitioners, craftsmen, musicians and artists. As such, HTA funds numerous proposals by organizations engaging in Hawaiian arts and cultural activities. Among the project funded by the HTA are Ahu'ena Heiau Restoration, Pupukahi I holomua (Alu Like cultural workshops, exhibits and demonstrations), Friends of Kahana canoe restoration program, Hana Cultural Center sharing the culture and history of East Maui, Hawaiian Sailing Canoe Association 2011 Huaka'i, Hula Preservation Society Honoring the Ancients, 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Queen Lili'uokalani Keiki Hula Competition, 'A'a i ka Hula: Historical & Contemporary Representations of the Hawaiian Language. Kīpahulu 'Ohana Kapahu Living Farm, and many other projects proposed by organizations.

We support SECTION 1 of S.B. 116, but feel SECTION 2 may restrict the board's policy-making authority when the availability of funds becomes critical, such as during the past three years.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.