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GLENN M. OKIMOTO
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
RANDY GRUNE
JADINE URASAKI

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 21, 2012

S.B. 2399, S.D. 2
RELATING TO URBAN ART

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE & ARTS

The Department of Transportation supports the intent of Senate Bill 2399, Senate Draft 2 as an attempt to address graffiti and tagging on public property and would appreciate the opportunity to be included in this process to determine location and maintenance of these expressions of art.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

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

From: Kiersten Faulkner
Executive Director, Historic Hawai'i Foundation

Committee Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2012
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329

Subject: SB 2399 SD2, Relating to Urban Art

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing with comments on SB 2399 SD2, Relating to Urban Art. The bill would establish a pilot program for the creation of urban art under the jurisdiction of the state foundation on culture and the arts.

HHF supports the intent of the bill, which is to provide a creative outlet in a beneficial method as a redirection to the impulse to inflict graffiti and visual blight on public property. The bill includes a specific provision that prior to approving the urban artwork, the state foundation on cultural and the arts shall consult with the state historic preservation division to determine if the proposed art work would have an adverse effect on a historic property. If it would, the urban artwork shall not be permitted.

Since 1974, Historic Hawai'i Foundation has been a statewide leader for historic preservation. HHF's 850 members and numerous additional supporters work to preserve Hawaii's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believe that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, economic viability and environmental sustainability of the state.

The State of Hawai'i, through its administrative departments, is the steward and caretaker for many historic and cultural properties. These include schools, office buildings, museums, bridges, state parks, engineering works, and other structures that are significant for association with historic events or persons, or that embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value. These significant historic properties and cultural resources are entrusted to the State to ensure their preservation, interpretation and appropriate treatment for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Historic Hawai'i Foundation

680 Iwilei Road, Suite 690 • Honolulu, HI 96817 • Tel: 808-523-2900 • FAX: 808-523-0800 • www.historichawaii.org

Historic Hawai'i Foundation was established in 1974 to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, sites and communities on all the islands of Hawai'i. As the statewide leader for historic preservation, HHF works to preserve Hawai'i's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believes that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, environmental sustainability and economic viability of the state.



HAWAII
STATE FOUNDATION on
CULTURE and the ARTS

No. 1 Capitol District Building
250 South Hotel Street
Second Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

Governor
Neil Abercrombie

Acting Comptroller
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Commissioners
Sandra Albano
Mary Begier
Leonard Chow
Teri Freitas Gorman
Clifford Kaponu
Peter Rosegg
Sheryl Seaman

Executive Director
Eva Laird Smith

Telephone
808.586.0305

Fax
808.586.0308

TT: 808.586.0740

Website
<http://state.hi.us/sfca/>

TESTIMONY OF
STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND ARTS
ON
March 21, 2012

S. B. 2399 SD 2

Chair Wooley and members of the committee, I am Eva Laird Smith, executive director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) and I am pleased to offer testimony on S. B. 2399 SD 2.

Urban art, which includes graffiti and tagging, is a form of social commentary, a vehicle of personal expression by young generations of city youth who are continuously looking for ways to have their voices heard. S. B. 2399 SD 2 attempts to turn a problem into a service that benefits the community through assigning specific locations, art supplies, and procedures where young potential artists can express themselves without violating the law. We view this as a viable solution by government officials to encourage urban art, in the spirit of public murals and street art, which have successfully engaged urban populations and diverse audiences in communities around the world.

We are advised that a task force studied the climate and identified conditions and spaces in which youth can work. We are fully supportive of individual State departments following this process, and welcome the opportunity to discuss how the outcomes can be effectively assessed. We also hope to continue this dialog about a more permanent

solution that bridges the creative expression of our youth with the
discovery of art in all of its diverse and wonderful forms.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you.

SB2399 SD2

The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senate Comm. on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
The Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawa i ' i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in strong support of SB2399 relating to Urban Art

Chairs Espero, Fukunaga and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony on SB2399.

This bill opens the door for many projects that will be good for our island community.

Outdoor Circle will tell you that what residents and visitors value most about our islands is the incredible and unique natural beauty. If that were completely true, we would not allow buildings. Progress is inevitable, and why not beautify the buildings and structures we must have, so that art lovers and intellectuals also have much to love about these islands?

Ample proof exists that urban art programs reduce graffiti. Many youth want an opportunity to be creative rather than be destructive. Philadelphia's Mural Art Program started as an anti-graffiti program, and within 15 years under the vision of Jane Golden, became the nation's leading urban art program with a multimillion dollar annual budget. Today Philadelphia stands as the nation's mural capitol and is funded by many large foundations. Murals single-handed transformed the city into an arts and cultural leader.

After school urban arts programs across the country have been proven to guide young people into positive directions, to be voices for their communities.

Outdoor Circle will also tell you that they received dozens of calls complaining about our Water Writes mural by Honolulu Community College. The unveiling of this same mural brought the Governor and other politicians out to celebrate the newest and largest aerosol mural in the islands. It brought out hundreds of local people who cried tears of joy when the central piece, a portrait of Queen Liliuokalani was unveiled.

Our videos have tens of thousands of views world wide; proof of support and desire for more art in public.

In the past two years I have consulted with the San Francisco Arts Commission, the Oakland's Mayor's Office and Redevelopment Agency on using pro-art programs as a more economical and effective deterrent to vandalism than anti-graffiti measures. Supporting urban art tells our youth that we support them, and that they are part of the community. It brings people together rather than separates them. This path of healing is the way to the future.

SB2399SD2WrittenTestimony

Some measure a society by the art that comes out of it. Support this bill and leave a legacy of beauty behind us.

Estria
Creative Director
The Estria Foundation
Reinventing Spaces, Reinventing People

5301 Adeline St.
Oakland, CA 94608
510.698.6640 office
<http://estria.org>

March 16, 2012

The Honorable Representative Jessica Wooley, Chair
House Committee on Culture and the Arts
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony of The Outdoor Circle in opposition to SB2399 SD2 relating to Urban Art

Chair Wooley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony on SB2399 SD2.

The Outdoor Circle believes that this legislation could result in degrading the beauty of Hawaii, lowering the quality of life for our residents and lowering the value of the islands to the same potential visitors that we spend millions of dollars to attract.

While well-intentioned, no evidence has been presented that this legislation will reduce illegal graffiti or create other positive benefits—let alone persuasive evidence. Instead, such results are hoped for. We submit that while the goals of this proposal are laudable, it is the absolute first priority of this legislature and of state government to protect the broad taxpayer investment in state owned property and not allow it to be used for the private interests of a small minority. This is especially when it is easily predictable that a large number of taxpayers will find the displays objectionable—and even destructive.

Throughout Honolulu numerous private building owners who have allowed their property to become the canvas for “urban art.” Their motives and the likelihood that they will be pleased with the results are irrelevant because it is their private property. But it is completely inappropriate for the legislature to take the same approach with public property.

We strongly urge you to reject the current SD2 and amend Sb2399 in a way that will allow the idea to be evaluated, without the widespread consequences likely from this current form. A new draft should require that a small pilot project be carried out on a very limited, yet reasonably visible piece of fee simple public property. Such a project should be approved by the director of the agency responsible for the property and carried out under the direction of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts in a manner described in SB2399 SD2. Such a pilot project should include some reliable mechanism for gauging public reaction. From this effort it could be better determined if larger scale urban art, is appropriate and feasible in Hawaii.

The Outdoor Circle has existed for 100 years to protect the beauty of Hawai'i. During that time we have come to learn what residents and visitors value most about our islands—the incredible and unique natural beauty which is threatened by this proposal.

Mahalo.

Bob Loy
Director of Environmental Program

belatti2 - Kate

From: Janice Farrant [jrobinfarrant@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 3:32 PM
To: CUAtestimony
Subject: SB2399

I am totally for passage of this bill. If the random graffiti scattered everywhere by some very talented artists could be focused to be done at specific sites, I think we all would be amazed by these outstanding artists.

Please pass SB2399

Jan Farrant
Pacific Heights