

SB 2399

RELATING TO RELATING TO URBAN ART

Description:

Authorizes a director of a state department to permit an individual or individuals to create urban art on property owned in fee simple by the State that is under the jurisdiction of the director's department. Requires a director who authorizes urban art, in consultation with the state foundation on culture and the arts, to select individuals to create the urban art.

HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

To: Sen. Will Espero, Chair
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs

Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology

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

Committee Date: Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012
2:50 p.m. p.m.
Conference Room 225

Subject: SB 2399, Relating to Urban Art

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing with comments on SB 2399, Relating to Urban Art. The bill would authorize a state department to permit the creation of urban art on property owned in fee simple by the State that is under the jurisdiction of the director's department.

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.

The proposed measure that would allow departments to permit urban art on state-owned property, but does not take into account the effect that such a program could have on historic properties. In some cases, the proposed art work would not harm—or could even enhance—a historic site. However, it could also create an adverse effect if it were not carefully considered and designed to avoid impacts to historic resources.

HHF recommends that the bill be amended to require that prior to permitting any urban art work, that the director of the department consult with the historic preservation division to review the proposal and determine whether it would cause an adverse effect to a historic property, following the same process and standards used for other public projects as covered by HRS 6E-8. If the historic preservation division finds determines that a proposal would adversely affect a historic or cultural property, the artwork should not be permitted.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Historic Hawai'i Foundation

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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.

February 13, 2012

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
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

Chairs Espero, Fukunaga and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony on SB2399.

The Outdoor Circle believes that this legislation will likely 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, we believe the legislation is misguided. There is no persuasive evidence that this legislation will reduce illegal graffiti.

If private property owners allow their buildings to be painted over with art, that's their business as long as it is done within the law. But public property is just that—it belongs to the public who would have no say in whether this bad idea moves forward or what our homeland might look like if it does. Allowing public property to become the canvass for art work, regardless of the style or subject matter, is completely inappropriate and is sure to bring pressure from other groups to be allowed to do the same.

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.

We strongly urge you to reject this ill-advised legislation.

Mahalo.

Bob Loy
Director of Environmental Programs

From: Estria Miyashiro [estria@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 4:04 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in support of Bill #SB2399

Testimony Submittal Date:
2/13/12

Bill#: SB2399

Support or Oppose: Support

Committee Name, Hearing Date/Time, Rm.#:
Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, Military Affairs
Tuesday, February 14, 2012
2:50 p.m.
Conference Room 224

Submitted by:
Estria Miyashiro

Testifier will be present: yes/no
No

Email: estria@gmail.com

Phone#: 510-325-6021

Comments:

Art in Public is one of the best methods of communicating to larger audiences, while building community pride, and preserving and developing culture. A community with stories on its walls is wealthy, as well as healthy with discourse on issues of importance.

Studies have shown that art programs increase students' performances in other areas of study. With budget cuts in arts and sports, we are developing young adults with less-open minds. This bill helps our people be more balanced.

This bill is an important step for the advancement of Art in Public. It can lead to the growth of the arts industry here in the islands, making Hawai'i a leader and a hub for creativity and innovation. Bare walls cannot do this.

It is difficult to envision this kind of growth unless one has witnessed Art in Public projects in other cities. The art literally shifts to social consciousness of the community to openness, beauty and joy.

Someone once told me the job of government is to keep people happy. This is a fantastic way to achieve this. Allow free speech to have its place, and everyone benefits from it.

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Estria Miyashiro

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