



HAWAII

STATE FOUNDATION on
CULTURE and the ARTS

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LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY OF
STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
AND TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
TECHNOLOGY
ON
February 14, 2012

S. B. 2399

Chair Espero, Chair Fukunaga, and members of the committees,

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.

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 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.

LATE

Bill No. SB 2399
Bill Title: Relating to Urban Art

Committee: Economic Development & Technologies
Chair: Senator Carol Fukunaga
Vice Chair: Senator Glenn Wakai

Committee: Public Safety and Military Affairs
Chair: Senator Will C. Espero
Vice Chair: Senator Michelle Kidani

Hearing Date: February 24, 2012
Hearing Location: Conference Room 224
Time: 2:50 PM

Testimony from: Joseph B. Rattner
jbrhawaii@aol.com

Position: In Strong Support

Aloha Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair EDT, Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair EDT & Senator Will C. Espero Chair PGM, Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and distinguished Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am in Strong Support of this Bill because I have seen the kind of damage that tagging can do to destroy property and mislead drivers on roads where they can cause confusion and accidents. Some tags have profanity and disregard for local pride and laws. It is seen by tourists and destroys the beauty that brought them here in the first place.

This Bill creates the opportunity for local artists, to create art, showing local culture and The Aloha Spirit, for all to enjoy. It creates pride, beauty, and shows visitors a warm greeting when they see it. It also gives our vandals the opportunity to show off their talent in a positive way by joining in the effort to express themselves for all to see. Beautifying the islands instead of destroying our image of Paradise is the way to go.

Mahalo
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LATE

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S.B. NO. 2399
In Strong Support of Urban Art Projects

Hawaii is now in the process of diversifying its economy however the prime economic engine of Hawaii continues to be Tourism. People come from all over the world for a Taste of Hawaii.

In the Great State of Alaska, 10% of the construction cost of any project must be devoted to local art to promote Tourism.

Local artists, that paint whales on the sides of buildings have more Art in Canada and Alaska than Hawaii....as there is a conflict in Hawaii between Urban Art and Beautification Projects and the need to control Billboards and unsightly commercial ads....for example, the Wave in Waikiki.

The State has multiple responsibilities in these areas to both promote Art, Urban Beautification Projects, Cultural Expressions and Tourism while controlling billboards, unwanted signage and other commercial or gang related signage and tags.

This bill is a step in the right direction to satisfy the various community needs for Art, Tourism and Urban Beautification Projects....while protecting the Paradise we call Home.

LATE

From: EDTTestimony
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2012 7:45 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: FW: SB2399

From: Janice Farrant [<mailto:jrobinfarrant@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 8:26 PM
To: EDTTestimony
Subject: SB2399

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am a registered voter, State of Hawaii. I am submitting my very positive feelings regarding SB2399.

I completely support passage of this bill. Controlled graffiti turns out to be beautiful, creative art. I have traveled extensively throughout Europe by train and am always impressed and amazed at the terrific graffiti which covers nearly all of the concrete wall entrances to the stations. They paint fantastic art on these walls !! I have always wished that Hawaii could enjoy the same creativity and under supervision I know that it can be done. I've seen it far away.

Thank you for reading my support and please pass this current bill.

Janice Farrant, Pacific Heights Road