

GM 679

Testimony

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHERMAN WARNER, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Report Title: State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: TEC

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [TECTestimony](#)
Cc: catherina.m.pratt@hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM679 on Apr 25, 2013 13:15PM
Date: Thursday, April 04, 2013 1:44:20 PM
Attachments: [GM679 Sherman Warner AGS 4.25.13 TEC.pdf](#)

GM679

Submitted on: 4/4/2013

Testimony for TEC on Apr 25, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

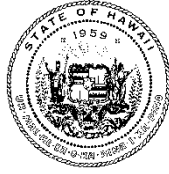
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dean Seki	Department of Accounting and General Services	Support	Yes

Comments:

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



DEAN H. SEKI
COMPTROLLER
MARIA E. ZIELINSKI
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY
OF
DEAN H. SEKI, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS
ON
April 25, 2013

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 679

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STATE
FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS COMMISSION, SHERMAN
WARNER

Chair Wakai and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on G.M. 679. The Department of Accounting and General Services supports the confirmation of Mr. Sherman Warner to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (Commission).

Section 9-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires that the Commission have at least one member who resides in the county of Hawaii. Mr. Warner is a resident of Hawaii and his appointment fulfills the statutory requirement for representation on the Commission. Additionally, Mr. Warner co-founded a Broadway production company which produced more than two dozen Broadway shows and this experience along with his entrepreneurial success provide him with the necessary skills to be a contributing member of the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



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

Governor
Neil Abercrombie

Comptroller
Dean H. Seki

Chairperson
Barbara Saromines-Ganne

Commissioners
Mary Begier
Leonard Chow
Joel Guy
Clifford Kapono
Michael Moore
Peter Rosegg
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Eva Laird Smith

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**TESTIMONY OF
BARBARA SAROMINES-GANNE
TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS
ON
APRIL 25, 2013**

GM 679

Chair Wakai and members of the Committee, I am Barbara Saromines-Ganne, Chairperson of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission, and I am testifying as an individual. I am pleased to support G.M. 679, nominating Sherman Warner to the SFCA Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2017.

Mr. Warner is a resident of Kamuela and attended school at Hawaii Prep and the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, earning a degree in Theatre. As a young man, he gained experience in theatre production, managing houses in Las Vegas, Cincinnati and New York City.

He co-founded Dodger Theatre, an award-winning, not-for-profit Off-Broadway theatre company, which held residence at the renowned Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) and the New York Shakespeare Festival Public Theatre.

For 20 years, Mr. Warner produced more than two-dozen Broadway shows with Dodger Productions, a Broadway producing company that he co-founded. Productions engaged in national tours and were also staged in Europe, Canada and Australia. The company eventually merged with a Dutch entertainment conglomerate.

Our Commission welcomes the addition of expertise in the theatre from both aesthetic and management perspectives. Many of the community programs that the SFCA supports involve theatre production and Mr. Warner's professional experience, travels, and education complement his knowledge of Hawai'i Island, local talent, and theatre as an art form.

Thank you for your consideration of Sherman Warner's nomination and the opportunity to testify before you.

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2013

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2013
TIME: 1:15 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 414
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

A M E N D E D A G E N D A

<u>GM 658</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOEL GUY, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.	TEC
<u>GM 679</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHERMAN WARNER, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.	TEC
<u>GM 784</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	<u>Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, NANCY PEACOCK, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.</u>	<u>TEC</u> [Measure added on 04-09-13]

Decision Making to follow, if time permits.

Click [here](#) to submit testimony to the Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts.

Testimony may be submitted up to 24 hours prior to the start of the hearing.

SENATE NEIGHBOR ISLAND VIDEOCONFERENCE PILOT PROJECT HEARING

If you live on a neighbor island and are interested in testifying via videoconference on any of the measures listed above, please click [here](#) for information and instructions.

FOR AMENDED NOTICES: Measures that have been deleted are stricken through and measures that have been added are underscored. If a measure is both underscored and stricken through, that measure has been deleted from the agenda.

If you require auxiliary aids or services to participate in the public hearing process (i.e. ASL or foreign language interpreter, or wheelchair accessibility), please contact the committee clerk at least 24 hours prior to the hearing so that arrangements can be made.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE COMMITTEE CLERK AT (808) 586-7340.

This hearing will be on Twitter: https://twitter.com/HI_Senate_TEC.

Senator Glenn Wakai
Chair

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [TECTestimony](#)
Cc: cshigemura@hawaiicounty.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM679 on Apr 25, 2013 13:15PM
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 1:29:37 PM
Attachments: [Sherman_Warner.pdf](#)

GM679

Submitted on: 4/17/2013

Testimony for TEC on Apr 25, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mayor Billy Kenoi	Mayor's Office	Support	No

Comments:

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William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Walter K.M. Lau
Managing Director

Randall M. Kurohara
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy., Bldg. C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

April 17, 2013

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Committee on Technology and The Arts
Hawai'i State Senate – Room 216
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Nomination of Sherman Warner to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission

Aloha Senator Wakai and Members of the Committee,

I am pleased to support the nomination of Sherman Warner to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission. Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Mr. Warner is entirely appropriate as it would add to the commission a man with wisdom and extensive experience with a deep love of the arts.

Mr. Warner spent most of his young life on Hawai'i Island, attending Hawai'i Preparatory Academy. He attended the University of Hawai'i at Manoa before moving into major theatre productions on Broadway in both the not-for-profit and for-profit world. He has earned four Tony Awards as a producer.

Leaving show business in 2002, he and his wife "retired" to Waimea. But Mr. Warner's retirement is a testament to community building. While he continues his involvement in the arts, he has led the fight against the spread of the invasive coqui frog and is president of the Waimea Community Association. He has chaired the board of the West Hawai'i Mediation Center and has served as a member of the South Kohala Community Development Plan and Hawai'i County Environmental Management Commission.

Mr. Warner would bring extremely meaningful relationships to the commission. He is well acquainted with respected national leaders in the arts and organizations such as the National Endowment of the Arts. He is not afraid of leadership and knows how to grow and support a vibrant arts community that enriches our lives and cherishes the rich diversity of our state's cultural heritage and traditions.

I strongly support his nomination and humbly urge you to do so as well.

Mahalo,

Billy Kenoi
MAYOR

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [TECTestimony](#)
Cc: lopekana@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM679 on Apr 25, 2013 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, April 09, 2013 11:32:47 AM
Attachments: [Sherman Warner.docx](#)

GM679

Submitted on: 4/9/2013

Testimony for TEC on Apr 25, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George H Robertson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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George H. Robertson

March 4, 2013

Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts

Senator Glenn Wakai
Senator Clarence Nishihara
Senator Mike Gabbard
Senator Jill Tokuda
Senator Sam Slom

Hawaii State Capitol, Honolulu Hawaii 96813

Ref: GM Msg # 679 Nomination of Sherman Warner to State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission

Dear Senators:

I unreservedly recommend Sherman Warner's appointment to this commission.

I know him well having served with him on the South Kohala Community Development Plan Steering Committee for two years. He was an effective and valuable member. He expertly facilitated planning for the community of Puako prior to the formation of the Steering Committee. That's where I first saw him in action and was impressed with his abilities in bringing our community together.

Later on I had the pleasure of joining the board of the West Hawaii Mediation Center, which I once served on and mediated for. Sherman was president and has continued in that office for several years now. He does a great job and the Center has progressed extremely well under his leadership, broadening our services in West Hawaii.

He's board president of the Waimea Community Association, a demanding position which he has mastered. Sherman is a skilled mediator and facilitator. He's a thoughtful person, very intelligent, and a true gentleman.

Despite Sherman's splendid community service during the recent years, his heart has always been in the theater and the arts. I'm sure he will serve the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission in an exemplary way. He will be particularly effective for the neighbor islands and rural communities.

Respectfully submitted,

George H. Robertson

Tel: 882-7598 cell: 217-2597 Email: lopekana@hawaii.rr.com P.O. Box 44490 Kamuela HI 96743

Victor Kobayashi

Professor Emeritus, University of Hawaii at Manoa

1951 St. Louis Drive, Honolulu HI 96816-1954 Tel: 808 752-1560 victor.kobayashi@gmail.com

March 5, 2013

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Senate President
Members of the Senate
Twenty Seventh State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu HI 96813

Re: Gov. Message #679, Nomination of Sherman Warner to SFCA

Dear Senate President Kim and Members of the Senate,

I am a long time associate and friend of Mr. Sherman Warner, an alumnus of the University of Hawaii, who rose to become one of the founding partners of a major New York City theater, Dodger Productions, which has presented not only financially shows, but also artistic successes, including productions that garnered several Tony Awards.

He has had a long time experience in the arts, throughout his career in theatre. I have often visited him in New York, and always enjoyed our discussions not only of theatre, but also of other arts, including painting and photography and architecture. He is one of the talented producers who also gets hands-on involvement in the shows, understands quality in production design, architecture, music, acting, literature, video, photography, all of which are involved in theatre, including productions that go on tour, not only in the U.S. but in other countries.

Mr. Warner also appreciates and understands the complex logistics and finances involved, ion collaborative art, and the importance of integrity in both business and in working with artists, as well as corporate sponsors and political leaders, who often show great interest in the arts, understanding that an important feature of a

vibrant community lies in the appreciation of the arts in everyday life, as they provide inspiration and thought. He also has a working knowledge of science and engineering, as theatre also requires understanding of technology as applied to the nuts and bolts of doing theatre; he understands accoustics, sound engineering, and the importance of lighting.

Mr. Warner grew up in Hawaii and visited Hawaii often and has a great love for the Islands, to which he returned upon his retirement from the New York scene. He has a profound love of the many cultures of contempoary Hawaii--including Hawaiian culture and the arts, both traditional and emergent in new generations of artists and craftsmen. He has been a steady supporter of important community projects as an unpaid volunteer, especially in the Kona-Waimea area of the Big Island. He has served in leadership positions, while also working directly with community members. As a former Dean of Summer Session and Outreach at UH Manoa, I also greatly appreciate his ability to continually raise artistic standards of our community for persons of all ages. He pays attention not only the larger picture, but also the details and the craftsmanship important to quality.

I strongly recommend his appointment to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, Board. Mr. Warner is a man of great intelligience, thoughtfulness, and integrity.

Yours truly,



Victor Kobayashi
Professor Emeritus
Former Dean of Summer Session
Founding Dean of Outreach College

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [TECTestimony](#)
Cc: Bill@JardineRealty.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM679 on Apr 25, 2013 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, April 09, 2013 6:16:49 AM

GM679

Submitted on: 4/9/2013

Testimony for TEC on Apr 25, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Jardine	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Sherman Warner is a community treasure here in Waimea on the Big Island. He has devoted his life to community service and is deeply respected in the community. His background in the Arts is unparalleled, as you have probably seen from his resume and interviews, however it is his wisdom and grace in leadership that will benefit Hawaii the most. You are very lucky to have him as a candidate.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [TECTestimony](#)
Cc: bob@webpatent.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM679 on Apr 25, 2013 13:15PM
Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2013 6:05:39 AM
Attachments: [testimony-03-14-2013.docx](#)

GM679

Submitted on: 4/10/2013

Testimony for TEC on Apr 25, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Hunter	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Robert M. Hunter 65-1116 Hokuula Road Kamuela, Hawaii 96743
Senator Glenn Wakai Chair of Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts Hawaii State Capitol Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Subject: Mr. Sherman Warner's Nomination to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission
Honorable Glenn Wakai, I was happy to learn that Mr. Sherman Warner has been nominated by Governor Abercrombie to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission. I have served with Mr. Warner on the Board of Directors of the Waimea Community Association and on the Steering Committee of the South Kohala Community Development Plan. Mr. Warner has been a thoughtful and energetic member of both of those organizations and has gone on to be an effective leader of the Waimea Community Association. Mr. Warner has impressive experience in the arts. His experienced includes founding a not-for-profit off-Broadway theatre company and a production company that produced four Tony award winning Broadway shows! Since he retired from the theatre in 2002, Mr. Warner has provided invaluable service to the Hawaii island community, and his confirmation will give him the opportunity combine a commitment to service with a lifelong involvement in and love of the arts. Serving on this commission will give him a way to support the arts in Hawaii and particularly to support the arts in rural communities. Please give him the opportunity to sustain and grow a vibrant arts community in Hawaii by making effective use of limited resources. I strongly support his nomination Mr. Warner's to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission based on his extensive experience in the arts, his proven leadership skills and his ability to get things done. Sincerely, Robert M. (Bob) Hunter

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Robert M. Hunter
65-1116 Hokuula Road
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743

Senator Glenn Wakai
Chair of Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Mr. Sherman Warner's Nomination
to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission

Honorable Glenn Wakai,

I was happy to learn that Mr. Sherman Warner has been nominated by Governor Abercrombie to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission.

I have served with Mr. Warner on the Board of Directors of the Waimea Community Association and on the Steering Committee of the South Kohala Community Development Plan. Mr. Warner has been a thoughtful and energetic member of both of those organizations and has gone on to be an effective leader of the Waimea Community Association.

Mr. Warner has impressive experience in the arts. His experience includes founding a not-for-profit off-Broadway theatre company and a production company that produced four Tony award winning Broadway shows!

Since he retired from the theatre in 2002, Mr. Warner has provided invaluable service to the Hawaii island community, and his confirmation will give him the opportunity to combine a commitment to service with a lifelong involvement in and love of the arts. Serving on this commission will give him a way to support the arts in Hawaii and particularly to support the arts in rural communities. Please give him the opportunity to sustain and grow a vibrant arts community in Hawaii by making effective use of limited resources.

I strongly support his nomination Mr. Warner's to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission based on his extensive experience in the arts, his proven leadership skills and his ability to get things done.

Sincerely,

Robert M. (Bob) Hunter

Cc: Senator Malama Solomon

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [TECTestimony](#)
Cc: pej1000@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM679 on Apr 25, 2013 13:15PM
Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2013 9:16:54 AM

GM679

Submitted on: 4/10/2013

Testimony for TEC on Apr 25, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul E. Johnston	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Kekela Farms Kamuela, HI April 10, 2013 Senator Glenn Wakai Chair, Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts, Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair and Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts Dears Senators Wakai and Nisihara: It is with great pleasure that I write to you in support of the nomination of Mr. Sherman Warner by Governor Abercrombie to serve on the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission. For ten years Mr. Warner has been my friend, a fellow board member of the Waimea Community Association, and an associate in various other community activities. He is clearly an individual of great integrity; he will bring a wealth of knowledge and relevant experience to the post for which he is now being considered. Mr. Warner has demonstrated enormous artistic success throughout a career spanning over 30 years in the theatre industry. From that work he will contribute to the Commission specific wisdom, both broad and deep, of the arts world. Further, since his retirement in 2002, he has exhibited an amazing willingness to contribute to our community and he has assumed leadership positions in several important community organizations where he has demonstrated great patience, tact and modesty. This trove of public experience, together with his ten-year background in mediation, will surely prove beneficial to the work of the Commission. I regard Mr. Warner with highest esteem, recommend him highly, and urge you to expedite his nomination to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission. Sincerely, Paul E. Johnston M.D. Kekela Farms Kamuela, HI

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [TECTestimony](#)
Cc: mkkerley@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM679 on Apr 25, 2013 13:15PM
Date: Thursday, April 18, 2013 11:30:55 AM

GM679

Submitted on: 4/18/2013

Testimony for TEC on Apr 25, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marie Kerley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing in support of Sherman Warner's nomination. He would be an asset to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission. He has extensive knowledge of the performing arts and has been a strong community supporter and organizer for many years. Please confirm his nomination. Mahalo, Marie

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [TECTestimony](#)
Cc: geraldkimo@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM679 on Apr 25, 2013 13:15PM
Date: Saturday, April 20, 2013 3:19:22 AM
Attachments: [GM679 Testimony.pdf](#)

GM679

Submitted on: 4/20/2013

Testimony for TEC on Apr 25, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James (Kimo) Gerald	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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March 5, 2013

Senate Committee of Technology and the Arts
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chairman, Vice-chair Senator Clarence Nishihara
and members of the Committee

Dear Senators:

My name is James (Kimo) Gerald, and I write on behalf of Sherman Warner's nomination to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission. I write you from New York City, where I live. I was born and raised in Hilo, graduated from Hilo High School, and have a BA degree from New York University in Humanities.

Until June of last year, when I retired, I served for 29 years as House Manager of Carnegie Hall here in New York. It was a privilege to be part of a 120-year tradition. Before that, I worked for many years as a Company Manager in the theatre, both on Broadway and with national and international touring companies. In several productions I worked together with Sherman, and we have been friends since the mid-60s, before either of us entered the arts field.

I know that Sherman has submitted a detailed resumé, showing his achievements as a Broadway producer and manager, which speak for themselves, together with his experience in regional theatre.

In addition, I ask you to consider a further fund of knowledge and dedication which Sherman would bring to the Commission as a member. He has a huge depth of knowledge in music, including jazz, pop and traditional and modern Hawaiian music. When Sherman and his wife Elaine resettled in Waimea, they entered an intensive study of Hawaiian language with a local kupuna.

Sherman is a gifted photographer, with a long history of study of the art of photography. In Hawai'i, and in his travels to New York, Paris and other places, he closely follows artistic traditions and contemporary developments in painting and sculpture.

As I read the mission statement of the Commission, I am deeply assured that Sherman would provide a singular and focused contribution to the Commission and its goals.

I don't know when a hearing will be scheduled; there would be just a chance that I'd be in Honolulu at the time to testify in person; I'd welcome the opportunity if that happened.

Sincerely,

James (Kimo) Gerald

309 West 76th Street—2A
New York, New York 10023
Cc: SenSolomon@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [TECTestimony](#)
Cc: mkbates40@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM679 on Apr 25, 2013 13:15PM
Date: Monday, April 22, 2013 8:55:15 PM

GM679

Submitted on: 4/22/2013

Testimony for TEC on Apr 25, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael K. Bates	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The following letter has been sent as a signed document to Senator Wakai care of the Technology & the Arts Senate Committee. MICHAEL K. BATES PO BOX 760 KAMUELA, HAWAII 97634 April 21, 2013 Senator Glenn Wakai, Chairman Senate Committee on Technology and The Arts Hawaii State Capital Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 RE: GOV. MSG NO 679, GOVERNOR'S NOMINATION OF SHERMAN WARNER TO THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS COMMISSION Dear Senator Wakai: I have been asked to give you and your committee testimony on the suitability of Sherman Warner serving on this most important State of Hawaii Commission. Sherman and I both share the wonderful community of Waimea (Kamuela) on the Big Island. Since my birth in Paia, Maui 72 years ago I have known, but a very few people that are as dedicated to their Community, Island or State as Sherman Warner. He is a rare individual who has the intelligence and capacity to work so diligently on behalf of his community. One can look at his successful 30 plus year career in the theater in New York and then realize the wealth of experience and knowledge he can bring to the Commission. However, what is truly impressive about Sherman is the giving to his community of his time and talents. Sherman's contributions to this community have been remarkable and I know he will give his new position the same energy, hard work and intellectual prowess he has given to The Big Island and Waimea. I humbly request that you and your committee approve this exceptional individual and present his name to the full Senate for his confirmation. Hawaii Nei will be a much better place because of his contributions to the Commission. Mahalo Aloha, Michael K. Bates Kamuela, Hawaii

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [TECTestimony](#)
Cc: wilsona811@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM679 on Apr 25, 2013 13:15PM
Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2013 11:21:50 AM
Attachments: [Sherm Warner recommendation.docx](#)

GM679

Submitted on: 4/24/2013

Testimony for TEC on Apr 25, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Wilson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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April 24, 2013

I am writing in support of Sherman Warner for his nomination to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission. I was born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i. I have been an active volunteer and strong community supporter my entire life. My focus for the past 8 years has been on mediation as an alternative method of resolving disputes and the President of Ku'ikahi Mediation Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing mediation and other services to the people of East Hawai'i. It is in this capacity I have had the honor of meeting and working with Sherm Warner. Sherm is the President of West Hawai'i Mediation Center. He and I have served on the Board of Directors for the Mediation Center of Hawai'i, a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to the delivery of mediation services throughout the State of Hawai'i. Sherm's background in the arts and theatre give him the particular skill set that will greatly enhance the good work of the Commission. His commitment these past many years to the community through his volunteer activities have demonstrated his ability, skill and aloha to our Hawai'i Island and State. His dedication once he makes a commitment is unwavering. He will make an excellent Commission member. Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew P. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew P. Wilson

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

04-25-2013

GM 679

STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE

SHERMAN WARNER

My name is Gavan Daws. I am pleased to have the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Sherman Warner to the commission of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

My perspective is based on more than fifty years of observation and participation. I knew Alfred Preis, who was responsible for bringing the Foundation into existence, and I had conversations with him about his ideas at the time. As for my own involvement: I have received the Hawai'i Institute for Public Affairs Award for Arts and Culture; the Hawai'i Award for Literature; the Hawaiian Historical Society Centenary Distinguished Historian Award; and the Hawai'i Book Publishers Association's Lifetime Award. I am a co-founder of MELE, an educational program that teaches the business of music and entertainment, now in its eighth year at Honolulu Community College. My documentary films have been shown at the Hawai'i International Film Festival. Beyond Hawai'i, I have been awarded fellowships by the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for Humanities, and I served as the Pacific member of the UNESCO Commission on the Cultural and Scientific History of Humankind.

I have a brief general observation to make about arts and culture in Hawai'i in the twenty-first century--

Hawai'i is uniquely Hawai'i. And the same time, Hawai'i is inextricably connected with the wider world.

So, the challenge is: how to nourish and sustain cultural and artistic creativity that draws its identity, its inspiration and its vitality, from life in Hawai'i?

At the same time, there is unlimited opportunity to draw upon the wider world of culture and the arts, to tap into national and global experience and wisdom, to bring best practices here and get them to work in local conditions--to the benefit of Hawai'i.

This brings us to Sherman Warner.

Sherman is locally grounded: he was born and raised on the Big Island, and he is a graduate of UH.

GM 679 / SHERMAN WARNER / 2

He went on to make a distinguished and highly successful national career in theater—a career that I have followed with great interest and admiration.

That career covers three decades and a wide range of experience, from freelancing in a variety of situations, to working as a producer in prestigious non-profit venues in New York (the Public Theatre Shakespeare Festival and the Brooklyn Academy of Music), and then to being a founding partner of Dodger Productions, one of the most successful producers of Broadway musicals, with an outstanding track record of more than two dozen major productions and four Tony awards. (On a personal note, it has been a recurring pleasure for me when visiting New York to be able to take in shows of Sherman's.)

In the truest sense of the phrase, Sherman has professionally “been there and done that,” dealing repeatedly and successfully with complex issues of artistic vision, large-scale logistics, and real-world viability.

In addition to musical theater, he is greatly knowledgeable about music generally, and about developments in the visual and plastic arts, nationally and globally.

In 2002, Sherman came back to Hawai'i, to live on the Big Island. For the last decade, he has been productively active in a number of community organizations, both as a hands-on volunteer and in leadership roles.

Summing up: he has achieved great professional distinction in the world of theater; he is at very much at home in the wider world of arts and culture; and he is a good and useful citizen of Hawai'i.

In my view—as a candidate for appointment to the commission of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, Sherman Warner offers exceptional value.

Statement from Sherman Warner
Nominee to Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission

- (1) *Why do you wish to be a member of the State Foundation on Culture and The Arts Commission?*

I feel richly rewarded by the community work I have done since retiring a little more than ten years ago, but combining volunteer service with two things that I love deeply—art and Hawai'i—is an opportunity that I would gladly commit myself to.

Although it took me away from Hawai'i, a career in the professional theatre gave me the great good fortune to live in New York City, where, in addition to theatre, I could immerse myself in the seemingly endless resources of other art scenes—dance, music, and the visual arts. I still visit New York and San Francisco a few times a year and spend as much time as possible in museums and galleries or attending plays or concerts, but it is the arts of Hawai'i, with their unique sense of place and their cultural and ethnic diversity, that just feel like home to me.

From my first exposure to the arts—a drawing class at the Honolulu Academy of Arts when I was 8 or 9 years old, or attending Honolulu Symphony concerts with my grandmother—through my study of literature and theatre at the University of Hawai'i, exposure to the arts changed my life. Playing a small part in supporting the arts in Hawai'i would be a way to pay back what the arts have given me.

- (2) *How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the State Foundation on Culture and The Arts Commission?*

I believe that the role of a member of the State Foundation on Culture and The Arts Commission is to support the goals stated in the SFCA mission statement, to evaluate whether those goals are being most effectively carried out with the available resources, and, periodically, to revise or amend those goals.

- (3) *Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the State Foundation on Culture and The Arts Commission, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the State Foundation on Culture and The Arts Commission.*

Working as a producer and general manager in the Broadway theatre, my skills allowed me to combine functions commonly handled by different people or offices. Most producers hire managers to handle the business side of mounting a new production. In addition to working with my two partners on the creative and strategic side of producing, I created and managed budgets in excess of \$10M and was deeply involved in the technical production aspects of mounting large,

complex productions. I was proud of my reputation for handling these managerial roles while being respected by the creative staff for being their best advocate and enabling their best work. I think I was successful because I could facilitate a high-pressure decision making process in which all parties (creative, technical or financial) supported the outcome.

I also served many times as a negotiator representing our multi-employer trade association in negotiations with the industry's major unions. One unusual aspect of these negotiations was that while I was bargaining for the employers' side, I was a member of one of the unions (actors and stage managers) and had worked in the jurisdiction of two others (stage hands and managers). Like producing, being successful in negotiations involved getting the parties to set aside their positions and identify their interests. I served often on union grievance committees, not only because of my knowledge of the contracts and past practices, but also because I had working experience under those contracts.

Except for rare occasions, such as when my firm was hired by Walt Disney Corporation to general manage their first venture on Broadway, I was always my own boss in a business where success depends on being a passionate, stubborn advocate for unique, outside-of-the-box ideas at the same time that you need to be a team builder in a world major talent and ego.

Finally, as a trained mediator and president of the board of the West Hawai'i Mediation Center, I have worked to help parties resolve seemingly irreconcilable differences by finding constructive solutions.

(4) *What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?*

As a representative from an outer island, I will advocate for visibility and support of the arts in places where we lack the artistic resources of Oahu. On the Big Island, for example, the Kahilu Theatre, one of our principal performing arts centers, has taken an "intermission" and is struggling to re-open. Its closing not only deprives audiences of an opportunity to experience the performing arts, it also shuts down an outreach program that reached thousands of Big Island children. I believe that the current emphasis on standardized testing and "teaching to the test" has diminished the role of the arts in our schools; that role needs to be protected and expanded. Finally, I want to explore whether we are maximizing the display opportunities for artworks in the State's collection. I believe that State of Hawai'i's art collection should have an online presence—a publicly accessible, searchable, curated, online, virtual museum.

(5) *Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the State Foundation on Culture and The Arts Commission?*

1. Open-mindedness

2. Integrity
3. Belief that creativity and the arts are a measure of the wellness of a society

I believe that the SFCA Commission would share these qualities and that by having them I would fit in smoothly rather than stand out.

- (6) *Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the State Foundation on Culture and The Arts Commission?*

This is the hardest question of all as it has never been my goal to stand out. I can work tirelessly for the success of a project I'm involved in and then, quite happily, step away from the limelight, letting credit go to others. If there's an experience that makes me stand out (at least in my community), it's the decision, ten years ago, to do in retirement what I could never do while I was working—community service. Very long workdays, seven-day work weeks, an unpredictable schedule, and travel precluded community service while I was working. So, the standout experience was the decision I made shortly after retiring that although I could spend my retirement paddling, diving, fishing, biking, hiking, and traveling, a substantial part of my retirement had to be committed to service. The SFCA Commission would benefit from this decision not just because of my interest in public service but because my commitment would be heightened by a sense of debt, the sense that I owe a debt of gratitude to the arts for making so much of my life, my career, and even my retirement possible.

- (7) *Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the State Foundation on Culture and The Arts Commission? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?*

A conflict of interest that I can imagine might involve the acquisition, commission, or display of art by a friend or acquaintance. If that situation were to arise, I would immediately make the possibility of a conflict known and recuse myself.