

# GM 773

# Testimony

**Measure Title:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, JULIA STEELE, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

**Report Title:** State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission

**Description:**

**Companion:**

**Package:**

**Current Referral:** TEC

**Introducer(s):**

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM773 on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Friday, April 05, 2013 12:08:10 PM  
**Attachments:** [GM773 Julia Steele AGS 04.16.13 TEC.pdf](#)

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**GM773**

Submitted on: 4/5/2013

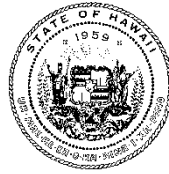
Testimony for TEC on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments:

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**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 16, 2013

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 773

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STATE  
FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS COMMISSION, JULIA STEELE

Chair Wakai and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on G.M. 773. The Department of Accounting and General Services supports the confirmation of Ms. Julia Steele to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission (Commission).

Ms. Steele has been the Editor and Editor at Large for the Hana Hou! magazine for the last ten years. In this position, Ms. Steele has conceived, developed, and written stories about creative individuals and movements, all with an eye to deepening an understanding of modern-day Hawaii and her articles have received various awards. Additionally, Ms. Steele is an attorney licensed in the State of California. Her successful creative writing talents combined with her legal abilities provide her with the necessary skills to be a contributing member of the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM773 on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Sunday, April 07, 2013 2:49:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [Julia Steele Confirmation.pages](#)

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**GM773**

Submitted on: 4/7/2013

Testimony for TEC on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert B. Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM773 on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 09, 2013 8:11:44 AM  
**Attachments:** [Steele April 6.docx](#)

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**GM773**

Submitted on: 4/9/2013

Testimony for TEC on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maile Meyer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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April 6, 2013

Senator Glenn Wakai  
Senate Chair  
Committee on Technology and the Arts  
Hawaii State Capitol

*Aloha mai to Senate Chair Wakai and  
the members of the Committee on Technology & the Arts,*

Mahalo to each of you for your service to our communities through your work on this committee.

I am writing in full support of Julia Steele's nomination to be a commissioner on the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. I have known Ms. Steele for many years and know her to be a thoughtful, balanced, informed advocate for all forms of creative expression through the arts. Through her work and volunteerism, she has deep knowledge of the nature and needs of our creative communities and how the arts can work in communities to expand the presence of diversity, creativity, resilience and joy. Julia will do an excellent job in championing the state organization that has this beautiful mandate of sharing Hawaii based arts with our people and by extension the world.

Me ka mahalo kakou,

Maile Meyer

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM773 on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2013 7:59:27 AM  
**Attachments:** [testimony for Julia.docx](#)

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**GM773**

Submitted on: 4/12/2013

Testimony for TEC on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maile Yawata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Maile Yawata  
3414 Kalua Road  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816  
808-734-3501

April 11, 2013

This is a letter of recommendation for Julia Steele who was recently nominated by Governor Abercrombie to serve as a board member of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

Initially, I met Julia through her writing for *Hana Hou* magazine, a top rated inflight magazine for Hawaiian Airlines (also available in bookstores) known for its authentic portrayal of Hawaii and the local culture. She has written stories about Hawaii and its people that have impressed and stayed with me over time. Some of my favorites have touched on varieties of breadfruit throughout the Pacific and ways to prepare it, and an interview with a Russian artist who founded an art school on Maui whose focus is on teaching art in a classical, European manner.

Julia writes with a great deal of cultural sensitivity and concern for greater issues. She is a humanist and humorist as well, making personal connections with people who are doing interesting things and are willing to share their stories with her. She is a keen and astute observer, as any good writer would have to be.

I also know Julia as a fellow Iyengar yoga student. In class, a quiet bond develops between practitioners. I have come to know and respect her in this environment

I am an artist and have worked with some of the SFCA staff as a volunteer on the acquisitions committee, have been awarded several state funded public art grants and have taught with the Artists in the Schools residency program for many years. I have some knowledge of what various committees do through the auspices of the SFCA. I feel Julia Steele would make an excellent board member. She is very intelligent, talented, resourceful, disciplined, down to earth, curious about everything and a pleasure to be with. I sincerely hope her nomination is approved forthwith.

Sincerely,  
Maile Yawata  
Artist/educator



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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM773 on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2013 1:02:07 PM  
**Attachments:** [Julia Steele support.docx](#)

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**GM773**

Submitted on: 4/10/2013

Testimony for TEC on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeannette Hereniko	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Dear Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair; Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair;  
and Members on the Committee on Technology and the Arts:

It is with great pleasure that I write to give my strong support for the confirmation to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission, the Gubernatorial Nominee, JULIA STEELE.

I have known Ms. Steele both professionally and personally since the early 1990's, starting when she worked as Editor of the Hawaii International Film Festival's program guide. At that time I was the Director of the Film Festival, and the program guide was a major undertaking with essays by film critics and scholars.

She was Editor when the Festival made the transition from sponsorship by the East West Center to an independent non-profit arts organization. Her role of Program Guide Editor demanded skill in more than soliciting and editing articles by internationally acclaimed writers. She needed to create a Program Guide that appealed to people fully knowledgeable about film as well as members of the general public who had little knowledge about film as an art form. Ms. Steele successfully demonstrated she had the unique skill to conceive and manage the transformation and to communicate to all levels of audiences.

Her experience as editor of the Hawaiian Airlines' Hana Hou publication has strengthened and proven her abilities to communicate about Hawai'i's distinct culture and art to the masses while at the same time providing insights and knowledge to those who are more informed.

Because of her achievements communicating about the arts, her personal knowledge about artists and cultural leaders from Hawai'i, her informed sensitivity about the various rich dimensions of culture in Hawaii, her training in law, and her reputation for fairness and respect for justice for all, I believe that Julia Steele would make a superior member of the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission.

Should you have any questions regarding Ms. Steele or my recommendation of her, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration to my letter of support.

Sincerely,  
Jeannette Paulson Hereniko  
President, Asia Pacific Films  
Founding Director of Hawaii International Film Festival (1981 to 1996)

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM785 on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Monday, April 15, 2013 9:11:18 PM  
**Attachments:** [GM785.pdf](#)

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**GM785**

Submitted on: 4/15/2013

Testimony for TEC on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Julius Soria	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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April 14, 2013

**TO:** Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Committee on Technology and the Arts  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 414  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**FROM:** Julius Soria, PhD  
Ilokano Language and Literature Program  
Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literature  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

**RE: Eva Rose Washburn-Repollo Nomination to the State Foundation  
on Culture and Arts Commission (GM 785)**

My name is Julius Soria and I am an instructional faculty at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Dr. Washburn-Repollo has been a trustworthy and valued colleague and friend, as well as a highly regarded resource in the community. She is a dedicated steward, who guides, teaches and engages high school and college youth to become not only college and career-ready, but life-ready. Her work has been highly regarded not only in Hawaii but also in the Philippines.

Dr. Washburn-Repollo's scholarly works highlight the diversity of Hawaii and social justice. In addition, her expertise on drama and theater has been evident in her pedagogical practice. She has directed, coordinated, and performed in numerous mini-plays in Hawaii and in the Philippines.

I strongly support Dr. Washburn-Repollo's nomination and confirmation to the State Foundation on the Culture and the Arts Commission. She is widely respected for serving as a volunteer and mentor for organizations that serve our community. She brings in the knowledge, experience, and dedication in fostering and promoting the diverse cultures and peoples of Hawaii.

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM773 on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2013 2:38:38 PM

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**GM773**

Submitted on: 4/12/2013

Testimony for TEC on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Clifford J. Nae'ole	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha: It is with confidence that I support the nomination for Julia Steele. For years, she has worked with me on "The Celebration of the Arts", recipient of the coveted "Keep it Hawaii" kahili award from HTA. She is certainly a hard worker with a definite passion for attention to detail. Her appreciation of the art(s) and culture runs deep with ALL cultures found on these islands. I find her to be very sensitive to concerns both spiritual and artistic. Hawaii should be honored to have a representative as Julia to help define the parameters for Hawaii's Culture and the Arts.

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April 15, 2013

From: Julia Steele  
Nominee, State Foundation on Culture and The Arts Commission

To: Senator Glenn Wakai  
Chair, Senate Committee on Technology and The Arts

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

Hawai'i is home to a wide range of cultures and a vital art scene. The State Foundation on Culture and The Arts plays an important role in fostering an understanding and appreciation of Hawai'i's rich cultures and its varied art scenes. To be a part of supporting artists and cultural practitioners in the Islands would be an honor.

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

To ensure support for the arts, to increase the visibility and relevance of the arts, to foster appreciation of the arts, to champion Hawai'i's cultural diversity—all seem like key responsibilities. In addition, it seems important to make sure that the SFCA runs as efficiently and effectively as possible and to make sure that its decisions are made with fairness and transparency.

(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.*

I have been the editor of *Hana Hou!* magazine for the last ten years. *Hana Hou!* is Hawai'i's most widely read magazine and it reports in depth on the Islands' arts and culture scene. As editor, I have spent a great deal of time traveling throughout the Islands and meeting people, and I have written and edited literally hundreds of stories focusing on the varying cultures of the Islands and the artists who live here. I believe that this rich experience makes me a particularly well-informed individual to sit of the SFCA Commission. I also have a BA from the University of Hawai'i Manoa, where I majored in Pacific history and journalism, so I am well versed in the histories and cultures of the Pacific, and a JD from Stanford University.

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

To make Hawai'i's art scene that much more vibrant and to make Hawai'i's cultural diversity that much better understood.

*(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?*

I am curious and inquisitive—part of the reason I am a journalist—and am always interested in learning more. I believe this quality would benefit the SFCA because I have a natural inclination to know and understand as much about Hawai‘i as I can and to bring that knowledge to bear in useful ways.

I am committed to justice—part of the reason I am a lawyer—and would endeavor to see that all decisions made by the board were made in a spirit of openness and fairness and for the benefit of all.

I am creative and decisive and in my work at the magazine, constantly coming up with innovative ways to approach culture and the arts in Hawai‘i—creativity and decisiveness I would hope to also employ on the SFCA Commission.

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

I do believe that my ten years at *Hana Hou!* magazine have been an excellent preparation to sit on the SFCA Commission.

*(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?*

I am not aware of any existing conflicts of interest that would interfere with my service on the SFCA Commission. If a conflict did arise, I would immediately take steps to address and eliminate it, whether that meant declining participation in the conflicting endeavor or removing myself from the SFCA Commission.