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Neil Abercrombie
Governor

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Testimony of
Mike McCartney
President and Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
on
H.B. 1441
Relating to Hawaiian Music and Dance

House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, February 27, 2013
11:30 a.m.
Conference Room 308

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) offers the following comments on H.B. 1441, which proposes to establish the Museum of Music, Dance, and Cultural Arts Design Committee to:

- Invite developers to prepare plans, specifications, and designs for the construction of the Museum of Hawaiian Music and Dance;
- Review the development plans submitted by developers for approval; and
- Supervise the development of the museum pursuant to the development plan approved by the Committee.

In 2007, Act 230, SLH 2007 was signed into law by the Governor on June 13, 2007, establishing the Museum of Hawaiian Music and Dance Committee to determine the appropriate type of institution that should be established, its location, possible financing mechanisms and the completion of an initial business plan. This measure also appropriated funds to HTA to assist the Committee and identified HTA as a member of the Committee. Act 48, SLH 2008 extended Committee through June 30, 2009 and requested a final report to the Legislature on the Committee's findings and recommendations. The report was submitted in January 2009, recommending that: the Museum should be a self-sustaining operation; and the State proceed with the construction of the museum. The report identified a preferred site and addressed concerns related to the project.

A Museum of Hawaiian Music and Dance will support the goals of two initiatives in the 2005-2015 Hawai'i Tourism Strategic Plan:

- Hawaiian Culture and Community: *Honor and perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and community.*

- Tourism Product Development: *Provide a diverse and quality tourism product unique to Hawai'i that enhances the Hawai'i visitor experience and enriches residents' quality of life.*

The HTA does not feel that another Committee is necessary. We have been in discussion with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and others to identify design, operating and financing options for the Museum.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



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**TESTIMONY OF
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
FEBRUARY 27, 2013**

H. B. 1441, H.D.1

Chair Luke and members of the Committee, I am Eva Laird Smith, executive director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, and I am pleased to support the intent of H. B. 1441, H.D.1, provided its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

In 2009, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts chaired a legislatively appointed committee to develop the concept for a Museum of Hawaiian Music and Dance. Preservation, promotion and celebrating the Hawaiian culture have long been priorities and strategic goals of this agency.

Appointing a design committee to carry on the work accomplished thus far, which includes site identification, drafting a business plan, and determining the core functions of the museum, is very much in the interest of SFCA programming. The SFCA would be pleased to spearhead such a committee and welcomes the participation of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and other members appointed by Governor Abercrombie.

With regard to administrative placement of the museum under the SFCA, I respectfully suggest that operations of the museum fall

within the purview of a selected nonprofit organization. The SFCA, like other state agencies, is recovering from staffing and budget cuts from the economic recession. At this time, we have neither the personnel nor the funds to sustain operations of an additional museum.

Moreover, placing a nonprofit in charge of the museum will give the museum and the community some autonomy from government, allowing this new organizational entity to effectively represent the Hawaiian community. The managing nonprofit also would be charged with developing a plan for the sustainability of the museum.

With regard to funding, we recommend the committee expenses at \$50,000 per year be appropriated out of the general revenues of the State and that the development of the design plan ranging from \$25,000 to \$50,000 be supported with CIP funds. Because the funding sources cannot be predicted, we also recommend against imposing specific percentages on committee expenses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2013 9:13 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1441 on Feb 27, 2013 11:30AM*

HB1441

Submitted on: 2/25/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 27, 2013 11:30AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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