

LATE

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

H. B. 1441

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, 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.