



HAWAII
STATE FOUNDATION on
CULTURE and the ARTS

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**TESTIMONY OF
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO
THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY &
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS & CULTURE AND THE ARTS
ON
FEBRUARY 6, 2013**

H. B. 459

Chair Takai 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 H. B. 459 provided its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget..

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, like other state agencies, has contributed its share of General funds to meet the demands of a balanced budget during these years of economic recession. In 2010, we lost 11 positions -- more than a third of our staff -- and all of our salary support in General funds. This year we stand to lose an additional 8% in Federal funds, bringing that decrease to \$100,000 in two years.

We respectfully appeal to you to help us sustain our support for the arts and cultural life of our communities by restoring a modest amount in General funds for the following purposes:

1. Enabling seventeen (17) Title I schools to participate in the

Artists in the Schools Program, which brings a professional artist into the classroom to support subjects upheld by curriculum standards;

2. Completing educational outreach of a cultural project to preserve the art of kapa-making by continuing a partnership between the SFCA, the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation, and the University of Hawai'i; and
3. Support of community funding for arts and cultural programming statewide through the Biennium Grants Program, which has lost 67% of its funding. The Biennium Grants Program provides support for community projects and grass roots organizations throughout our islands through its grants in heritage and preservation, presentation and the performing arts, and arts education.

All of these projects are at the core of SFCA programming and support to our communities. Hardest hit are the neighbor islands and small, grassroots nonprofits. Our cultural resources must share their knowledge and skill before Hawaiian culture is lost.

We are compelled to restructure our grants programs to enable our funds to reach organizations in rural and urban areas; diverse communities; and small and established arts organizations. Our nonprofits, cultural, and community leaders look to government to demonstrate its support of their efforts,

especially in view of the hardships they have weathered in the lean years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you.

vmitestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 7:01 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: crystalkpaul@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB459 on Feb 6, 2013 08:30AM*

HB459

Submitted on: 2/5/2013

Testimony for VMI on Feb 6, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Kia Paul	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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