

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



Testimony of  
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DIRECTOR

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 6, 2013  
8:30 A.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

**H.B. 494**  
**RELATING TO URBAN ART**

House Committee on Veterans, Military, International Affairs  
and Culture & the Arts

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House Bill 494 establishes a pilot program for the creation of urban art under the direction of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, to be repealed on June 30, 2016.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the intent of the bill as an attempt to address graffiti and tagging on public property and would appreciate the opportunity to be included in this process to determine location and maintenance of these expressions of art.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.





**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. 494**

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. 494.

Urban art, which includes graffiti and tagging, is a form of social commentary, a vehicle of personal expression by young generations of city youth who are continuously looking for ways to have their voices heard. H. B. 494 attempts to turn a problem into a service that benefits the community through assigning specific locations, art supplies, and procedures where young potential artists can express themselves without violating the law. We view this as a viable solution by government officials to encourage urban art, in the spirit of public murals and street art, which have successfully engaged urban populations and diverse audiences in communities around the world.

We are advised that a task force studied the climate and identified conditions and spaces in which youth can work. We are fully supportive of individual State departments working with the SFCA in this process and welcome the opportunity to discuss how the outcomes can be efficiently assessed. We also hope to continue this dialog about

a more permanent solution that bridges the creative expression of our youth with the discovery of art in all of its diverse and wonderful forms.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you.

## Medicine Buddhas and Bodhisattvas



Support HB494 RELATING TO URBAN ART.

With additional language for urban art on private property not just on public property.  
Let's beautify public and private property with Art not Ads.

Culture and the Arts are the spice of life and the essence of life.

The Value of Art is beyond limit—just try to buy one piece at Auction at Christie's Auction House or at Sotheby's Art Auction, and have a check for millions of dollars as a down payment.

Who are the #1 richest people? Entertainers and Artists that “make it”.

Isn't that why we are so happy to give tax breaks to Movie makers. We want the money and income for Hawaii from Art.

In Alaska, contrary to Hawaii, 10% of the Constructions Costs must go towards Cultural Art for the Tourists! As a result, Whalen has more Art on Walls in Alaska than in Hawaii. Politics chase Art out of Hawaii blaming it as an ad or an eye sore.

Urban Art is an established Artistic genre; tattoos, piercing, clothing, entertainment, music, photography and Art Sculptures, paintings, murals all Urban Art.

The Great Middle Way free of the Extremes of the Outdoor Circle banning any Art or the tagging Public Property with graffiti. The City and County of Honolulu has commissioned a few sculptures depicting Native Hawaiian Traditions and Practices for beautification. So we are not breaking new ground just building up Hawaii's Tourist Economy and Hawaii's Artistic Community while preserving Culture and Tradition through Art.

Let's Beautify our Urban Centers  
It is like a Home Makeover.

**The Bill should also include authorizing Urban Art on Privately Owned Buildings and Structures under guidelines established by the state foundation on culture and the arts.**