

**LATE**



**HAWAII**

STATE FOUNDATION on  
CULTURE and the ARTS

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TESTIMONY OF  
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON  
FEBRUARY 21, 2013

**H. B. 494, 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 H. B. 494 H.D.1, providing that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

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, including the department of accounting and general

services, the department of land and natural resources, DLNR's state historic preservation division and any other stakeholders deemed appropriate by the SFCA. Collectively, we 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.