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**TESTIMONY OF
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS
ON
MARCH 28, 2013**

SCR 68 / SR 36

Chair Wakai and members of the Committee, I am Eva Laird Smith, executive director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. I am pleased to support Senate Concurrent Resolution 141 / Senate Resolution 102, provided passage of these resolutions do not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts situated in the historic No.1 Capitol District Building just across the State Capitol, has been involved in encouraging the growth of cultural tourism since the decision was made to move our agency to its current location in the heart of the Capitol District in 2000. We opened the Hawai'i State Art Museum in 2002. Other significant renovations to the building have resulted in café and gift shop spaces and the 7,500 square foot sculpture garden in 2012.

The SFCA is greatly moved by the encouragement expressed in these resolutions. We have been able to remain stable through the economic recession, surviving the loss of 11 positions, including our museum director, in 2010. In order for HiSAM to be expanded in physical space, programming and services, the SFCA must undertake a strategic planning process specific to the museum, which would also probably include a new business plan. Developing the Capitol District through

culture and the arts was a major tenet of the Warnecke Plan, the far reaching study on revitalization and community development conducted for the administration nearly a half century ago. While this vision is not new, bringing that vision to fruition must take into consideration available resources, community need and support, and practical solutions in staffing, funding, program development and long-term sustainability.

We envision being able to build our education programs for young people by providing workshop space for hands-on art activities, a component sorely lacking in our current facilities. To complement our educational programs, we also hope to expand our reach into the Hawaiian community and work with the cultural resources of many ethnic groups to document and promote the knowledge of our kupuna.

We realize space in the Capitol District is premium and not easily secured. We shall devote every effort to mounting innovative exhibitions and offering program related activities with educational components to further the appreciation of art and the efforts of Hawaii's artists.

At the same time, the philosophical and aesthetic foundation on which the SFCA was founded needs to remain at the forefront of our efforts. These include public art commissions, community grants, arts education and cultural preservation. The SFCA also appeals to the Governor and the Legislature to identify equitable sites for housing the Department of Budget and Finance and Business, Economic Development

and Tourism as they currently occupy the third and fourth floor of the building

The SFCA is committed to provide greater access to its collections, providing a more vibrant use of space in the No. 1 Capitol District building and emphasizing its importance as an integral part of the downtown cultural district. As with other cultural destinations, plans for this to happen need to be well researched, innovative, reflective of Hawaii's people and history and respectful in promoting our host culture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.