



HAWAII

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CULTURE and the ARTS

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LATE

TESTIMONY OF
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS
on March 11, 2014

HB 2593 HD1

RELATING TO URBAN ART.

Chair Wakai and members of the committee, I am Barbara Saromines-Ganne, Chairperson of the Commission of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) and I am pleased to testify in support of HB 2593 HD1.

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. HB 2593 HD1 attempts to provide a creative alternative for youth that ultimately benefits their communities. Offering a program in urban art is a viable solution by government 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 and its historic preservation division, and any other stakeholders deemed appropriate. 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 on this matter.

LATE

HB2593

Relating to Urban Art

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and members of the Committee on Technology and the Arts,

My name is Hailee Kawakami and I support HB2593 relating to Urban Art. I am a 4th grader at Kapa'a Elementary and am learning about the legislative process and I am glad that this bill has made it to your committee.

Graffiti and vandalism is a problem. I think that if we provide a place for people to express their creativity it may reduce the amount of unwanted vandalism. If we can provide a canvas for artists they will have a place to go where they know they are wanted. At my school alone there are many walls that could be the canvas for urban artists. It would help make our schools look better and could make it a more fun place to be.

Recently, Menehune Food Mart partnered with the County of Kaua'i and Kapa'a High School and Kapa'a Middle School in a project to remove all liquor advertisements and we created a beautiful mural outside. We are not allowed to use the whole wall because the county has rules that doesn't allow it. Maybe we should work with the counties to get their rules in line with this project.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Love,

Hailee Kawakami

Uncle Food Man



Uncle MARY



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