

# **SB 2620 SD1**

**RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND.**

**Public Art Collection; Display; Public Buildings**

**TEC, PSM/WAM**



**HAWAII**  
STATE FOUNDATION ON  
CULTURE and the ARTS

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TESTIMONY OF  
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
AND THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
on FEBRUARY 26, 2014

SB 2620 SD1

**RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND**

Chair Espero, Chair Ige and members of the committees, 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 on SB 2620 SD1. First of all, the current version of this bill would allow the State's art collection to be displayed in federal and county buildings, in addition to State buildings. We appreciate the intent of the Legislature to increase the appreciation for art and to widen viewing audiences through public display of our collection especially for the neighbor islands.

The Works of Art Special Fund was originally created as The Art in State Buildings Law in 1967. The principle tenet of the law was based on art being integral to the architectural plan for the built environment. An unprecedented partnership was formed between the AIA (American Institute of Architects) and the State of Hawaii through the SFCA wherein one percent of construction and/or renovation costs for State buildings was set aside for art.

The SFCA supports sharing art owned by the State for exhibition purposes in County and Federal buildings where all the protections of insurance, security and climate control are in place. In fact, the Art in Public Places Collection has art

for such purposes and there are loan procedures and agreements already in place. Currently, there are 54 works of art from the State on loan in the offices of U. S. Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono. We do note that to significantly increase the loan process to the nearly 100 federal and county offices in Hawai'i would require more funding than the Art in Public Places Program currently has available. The cash balance of the Works of Art Special Fund is approximately \$2.5 million per year and almost half of that amount supports 15 SFCA positions and 50% of SFCA operations. Both the federal and county governments have their own inventory of works of art and their own respective funding sources. Loan fees or contractual arrangements can be discussed in order to finance the program.

Exchanges of art work from the Art in Public Places Collection is a profound idea that is educational and as well as enriching. We think this is a much needed measure for neighbor island residents to have increased access to the collection. This should be done in a manner that stresses art for the neighbor islands above O'ahu. The HSFC Commission joins me in fully supporting this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you.

# AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

TEC, PSM/WAM  
10.25 am

February 26, 2014

Honorable David Ige, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Honorable Willie Espero, Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs

Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts

Re: **Senate Bill 2620 SD1**  
**Relating to the Works of Art Special Fund**

Dear Chair Ige, Chair Espero, Chair Wakai and Members of the Committees,

My name is Daniel Chun, President of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Hawaii State Council, **OPPOSING** Senate Bill 2620 SD1.

AIA was one of the original supporters of the Works of Art Special Fund legislation in the early days of Hawaii Statehood. For decades architects have defended the original purpose of the statute.

Throughout the years of successfully defending the original purpose and the funding for the Works of Art Special Fund, AIA has had to remind the legislature that the Fund is a "set-aside" from the overall construction budget appropriated for **state-funded** buildings. In other words, we the designers of **state-funded** buildings agree to "set-aside" a small percentage for works of art that have historically and customarily been installed within public architecture in every culture.

We oppose spending the percentage on performing works of art that are not permanently integrated into or exhibited in **state-funded** buildings. The City & County of Honolulu has its own similar program for county-funded buildings. Keep the statute free of the revisions proposed in this bill!

Thank you for this opportunity to **OPPOSE** Senate Bill 2620 SD1.

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The Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State of Hawai'i  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

The Senate

Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
and  
Committee on Ways and Means

SB 2620, SD1- RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND

Testimony by  
David C. Farmer  
February 26, 2014

Aloha Senators, Chairs Espero and Ige, Vice-Chairs Baker and Kidani; Committee Members:

My name is David Farmer, and I speak today as a private citizen in SUPPORT of SB 2620, SD1, which allows works of art acquired using moneys from the works of art special fund to be displayed and maintained in public buildings, including federal, state, and county buildings.

By way of my background, I have been involved with both the visual and performing arts communities here in Hawai'i since 1967.

I have a BFA in painting and drawing and an MA in Asian and Pacific art history from UH-Mānoa, as well as my law degree.

I am active in local community theatre, television and film as an actor and director and currently serve as president of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA), Hawai'i local.

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Finally, I worked at the SFCA as the Contracts Officer under Alfred Preis in the mid-1970s and served as its Executive Director from 2001-2002.

As you may know, with the establishment of the SFCA's Art in Public Places Program in 1967, Hawai'i became the first state to have a percent for art law, later supplemented by the Works of Art Special Fund in 1989 and now codified in Chapter 103-8.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

The stated purposes of the APP Program are lofty:

- enhance the environmental quality of state public buildings and spaces throughout the state for the enjoyment and enrichment of the public;
- cultivate the public's awareness, understanding and appreciation of visual arts in all media, styles and techniques;
- contribute toward the development and recognition of a professional artistic community; and
- acquire, interpret, preserve and display works of art expressive of the character of the Hawaiian Islands, the multicultural heritage of its people, and the various creative interests of its artists.

But there were other more down-to-earth reasons for the program's creation.

Fred Preis wanted to help develop a market to assist established artists like Satoru Abe, Tadashi Sato, Bumpei Akaji, Tetsuo Ochikubo and others to be able to come home from the mainland and to work in their home state.

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He also designed the program to help young local artists to develop viable professional careers and names for themselves.

Beyond all else, all artists – no matter what their chosen medium of expression – want and need their work to be seen and appreciated. Whether measured by gallery attendance and sales, opening night crowds, or Nielsen ratings, visual artists and performers alike need their work to be seen.

And in the fulfillment of that desire, the public and the APP Program goals are also served.

With some estimated 1800 works out of the approximately 7000-piece catalogue in storage, encouraging the SFCA to make these works available for display – not only to state but also to federal and county public agencies – fulfills all the purposes for which the APP Program was created.

Mahalo you for this opportunity to express my support of SB 2620, SD1.