

Aloha kākou,

My name is 'Aukai Ogomori. I am from Waipi'o, 'Ewa, O'ahu, Hawai'i. I am pursuing a BA in Hawaiian Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am also a student of Kumu Māpuana de Silva in Hālau Mōhala 'Ilima. I support SCR57. I support SCR57 because the exhibition of aboriginal cultures in Oceania (Polynesia/Pacific) is more than vital to the people of these cultures.

Furthermore, I support this exhibition in our "mainland", Hawai'i. Oceania consists of sacred land masses which have been colonized. Colonization suffocates native. Their people, culture, language, history, etc. have been desecrated. If these elements have been treated as such, how does culture survive? Culture is the base, the foundation. The people of Oceania (Polynesia/Pacific) have faced numerous problems regarding the decay of their culture due to colonization. Culture is identity and these people have nearly lost their identity. We cannot undo the past and we cannot choose whether to be colonized or not. However, we have the choice to practice culture to ensure the life of our people. This festival, in which SCR57 is in support of, not only gives a people to showcase their culture, but also to learn about others in Oceania. We can relate as oppressed people through this festival, and we are assuring to ourselves, that our identity has not been revoked. The government has the power to hinder cultural practices. Therefore, I humbly ask that it not hinder this festival in Hawai'i. Hawai'i is a great venue for this festival; this will be more than beneficial to Hawai'i. Please consider supporting SCR57. Thank you for your time.