
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of
2 theatre and dance at the University of Hawaii at Manoa is
3 committed to providing its students with the finest training and
4 performance opportunities in the world, and produces versatile
5 graduates who develop the necessary knowledge, skill sets, and
6 experiences expected in their chosen fields. Due to its award-
7 winning programs and a unique geographical location that bridges
8 the East and the West, the department has also received local,
9 national, and international recognition. The department has
10 received an imperial decoration from the government of Japan; a
11 Rockefeller award from the Asian Cultural Council; a Kong
12 Sanchuan award from China's national xiqu (Chinese opera) music
13 association; a golden chrysanthemum award from China's national
14 festival of jingju (Beijing opera); a 1987 state house of
15 representatives certificate of commendation for "furthering
16 international education and cultural exchange"; a 1990 state
17 house of representatives certificate of congratulations for



1 "enriching the lives of the People of Hawaii" through
2 "extraordinary contributions to Asian theatre"; a 1985 state
3 senate certificate of commendation for "furthering U.S.- China
4 relations"; regional and national awards from the Kennedy Center
5 American college theatre festival; regional and national awards
6 from the American College Dance Festival; numerous Fulbright
7 awards; Ford Foundation grants; Freeman Foundation grants;
8 publication and production awards and support from the Ministry
9 of Culture of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) and the
10 Jiangsu Province Department of Culture (Nanjing); and numerous
11 Hawaii State Theatre Council and Hawaii State Dance Council
12 awards.

13 The department has also participated in national and
14 international dance tours and Asian theatre productions. The
15 Association for Asian Performance named Dr. Elizabeth Wichmann-
16 Walczak, a professor of the department, one of six prestigious
17 "Mothers of Asian Theatre Study in North America". Students
18 from the department have received the prestigious Doyle
19 fellowship from the American Alliance for Theatre and Education;
20 numerous fellowships and recognition by the Confucius China
21 studies program from the Hanban (Ministry of the People's



1 Republic of China, Beijing); the Chiang-Ching Kuo international
2 fellowship for Chinese studies; the Crown Prince Akihito award
3 and scholarship; and the Japan Foundation research fellowship.

4 The legislature further finds that the department's
5 national and international involvement brings recognition and
6 status to the University of Hawaii and the entire State.

7 However, while similar departments at some of the nation's other
8 state universities receive regular state and institutional
9 funding for productions and non-tenure track positions that are
10 essential for those productions, the University of Hawaii at
11 Manoa's department of theatre and dance does not receive
12 comparable support for productions and necessary staffing.

13 Since 1997, the department has experienced a substantial
14 decrease in funding from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, to
15 the extent that its program offerings affect student graduation
16 and, even more severely, its renowned international Asian
17 theatre program. Decreased funding has also resulted in a
18 reduction in equipment, supplies, and staff, which has lowered
19 department morale, student opportunities required for
20 educational theatres, and the number of performances for the
21 community.



1 The purpose of this Act is to support the department of
2 theatre and dance at the University of Hawaii at Manoa by
3 appropriating funds for:

- 4 (1) One full-time equivalent tenure track instructor (1.0
- 5 FTE) in the Hawaiian theatre program;
- 6 (2) Two full-time staff positions (2.0 FTE), one of whom
- 7 shall serve the department's costume shop, and one of
- 8 whom shall serve the department's scene shop;
- 9 (3) The hiring of guest artists and instructors;
- 10 (4) The department's Asian theatre program; and
- 11 (5) Production support, including basic shop supplies.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for one
15 full-time equivalent tenure track instructor (1.0 FTE) in the
16 University of Hawaii at Manoa's Hawaiian theatre program.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
18 Hawaii at Manoa for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for two



1 full-time equivalent staff positions (2.0 FTE) in the University
2 of Hawaii at Manoa's department of theatre and dance; provided
3 that one position shall serve the department's costume shop and
4 other position shall serve the department's scene shop.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
6 Hawaii at Manoa for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for guest
10 artists and instructors for the University of Hawaii at Manoa's
11 department of theatre and dance.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
13 Hawaii at Manoa for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
17 University of Hawaii at Manoa's Asian theatre program.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
19 Hawaii at Manoa for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for
2 production support, including basic shop supplies, for the
3 University of Hawaii at Manoa's department of theatre and dance.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
5 Hawaii at Manoa for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.



Report Title:

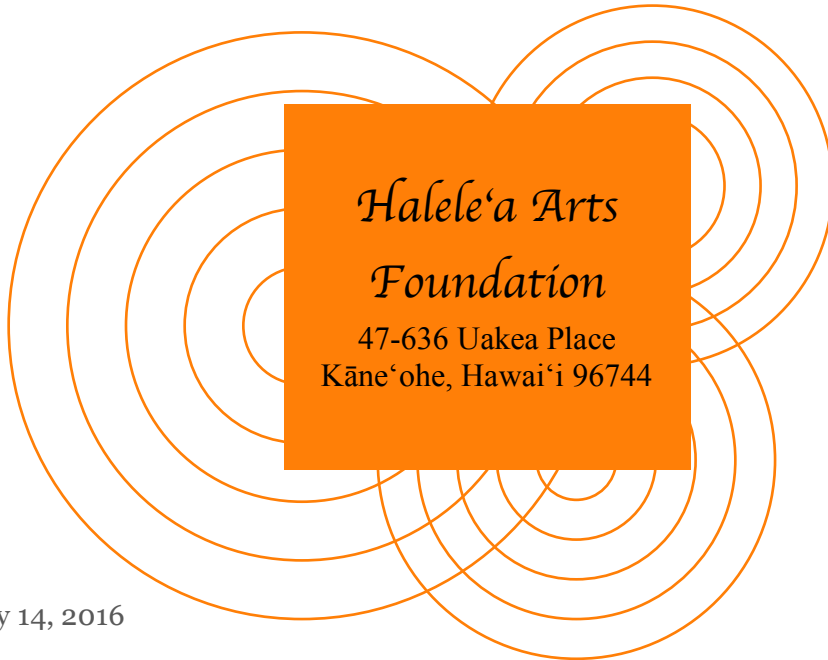
University of Hawaii at Manoa; Department of Theatre and Dance;
Appropriations

Description:

Appropriates funds for various programs and supporting functions
for the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of
Hawaii at Manoa. (HB2492 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is
not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*





*Halele'a Arts
Foundation*

47-636 Uakea Place
Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744

February 14, 2016

To the honorable lawmakers hearing HB2492 HD1, aloha nō kākou!

I, Dr. Kaliko Baker, write on behalf of as the President of Halele'a Arts Foundation in **support** of HB2492 HD1.

Kennedy Theatre is major source for our local theatre scene. The theatre has historically ignored the local and particularly the Kānaka Māoli (Native Hawaiian) communities. Recently with the hiring of Assistant Professor Tammy Haili'ōpua Baker the tides have shifted. This is a conscious effort by the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and the Department of Theatre and Dance to right this historical inequality. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and the Department of Theatre and Dance should be celebrated for this effort. Last February's Hawaiian medium theatre's inaugural production, "Lā'ieikawai" illustrated that our Kānaka Māoli community LOVES the theatre by filling the house every night. "Lā'ieikawai" has to be the most successful Kennedy Theatre Production ever in terms of attendance and rave around the event, particularly by not only the Kānaka Māoli community but also our general local communities as well. There are actually more Kānaka Māoli in Kennedy Theatre now because of the new Hawaiian Theatre program. It is now a space for us too.

The portion of HB2492 HD1 that is most promising to us at Halele'a Arts Foundation, a 501c3 dedicated to the perpetuation of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i through theatre and other media, is the proposed new position for one full-time tenure track instructor, which we at Halele'a Arts Foundation would like to see the title "instructor" changed to "professor", technically an I-3 position. This position will enhance the promising Hawaiian Theatre program and strengthen the University of Hawai'i's commitment to being a Hawaiian place of learning as its recent strategic plans call for. Moreover, production costs funding is critical to the success of not only the Hawaiian Theatre program, but also the Kennedy Theatre in general.

Feel free to contact me with questions should you have any.

'O au nō me ka 'oia'ī'o,

ichiyama2-Brandon

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2016 11:34 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: troyapostol@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 16, 2016 14:01PM

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/14/2016

Testimony for HED on Feb 16, 2016 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy	Hawaii Pacific University Theatre Program	Support	No

Comments: The University of Hawaii at Manoa has an incredible theatre program and it must be given funds to help continue its mission of creating top- notch productions, while bridging cultures from the East and West right here in the gathering place that is Hawaii.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

2-14-16

Laurie Baron
21434 Haena dr
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

2942.HD.1, related to the University of Hawaii at Manoa Dance and Theater program: testimony in support

Aloha Chairman Choy, Vice Chairman Ichiyama and members of the committee,

I'm writing to encourage continued funding in support of the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Theater and Dance program as described in HD2942.1

This program crosses boundaries of language and culture, enriching our society with understanding of the world and ourselves.

One recent example, The Monkey King, was a celebration of Indonesian cultural history and literature. In a brief few hours, the house was transported half way around the world. We build bridges for peace and a better future when with programs such as this one. We are fortunate that earlier generations of leaders in the Hawaii Legislature had the foresight to give us the program that exists now.

Mahalo for your continued support for Theater and Dance at the University of Hawaii.

Aloha,

Laurie Baron
Nohea Gallery

Honolulu, Hawaii

ichiyama2-Brandon

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2016 2:38 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: SoundtableEnt@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 16, 2016 14:01PM*

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/13/2016

Testimony for HED on Feb 16, 2016 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J. Trice	Soundtable Entertainment Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

ichiyama2-Brandon

From: Peggy Adams <adamsp@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 10:17 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: HB 2492 HD1

To: Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair, and Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair, Committee on Higher Education

From: Peggy Gaither Adams, Professor, UHM, phone - 518-231-2008

As an advocate of arts in education and for the community, I am writing in support for HB 2492, HD 1 relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance.

ichiyama2-Brandon

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 12:22 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: sama@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 16, 2016 14:01PM

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for HED on Feb 16, 2016 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sami L.A. Akuna	University of Hawaii at Manoa Theatre and Dance	Support	No

Comments: I am full support of this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

SUPPORT OF BILL HB 2492 HD1

To: Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

From: Tammy Haili'ōpua Baker, Kahalu'u, O'ahu

RE: Support for HB 2492, HD 1
Relating to the University of Hawai'i, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

Aloha mai kākou e nā luna maka'āinana,

Mahalo for your service to our community as luna maka'āinana. Mahalo for making the time to review and listen to our testimony regarding Bill HB 2492 HD1. I write in strong support of this bill calling to allocate funds for the University of Hawai'i Department of Theatre and Dance with the focus on the further development of the new Hawaiian Theatre Program and the allocation of funds for production work and support staff. Currently I am the sole faculty member heading the Hawaiian Theatre Program. In order for this new program to grow and expand it is imperative to hire another kumu/polopeka (professor). Over the past three years we've worked very hard to establish this program to cultivate an environment for the learning and perpetuation of Hawaiian performance. I am proud to say that our department now offers a Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) in Hawaiian Theatre. This MFA is the only graduate level degree in Indigenous theatre in the world. The program is based on the following principals:

- A'o- Study and Analysis of Indigenous Hawaiian Theatre
- Ho'omākaukau- Training in traditional and contemporary Hawaiian performance forms
- Hana Keaka- Original Hawaiian-medium theatre productions
- Mo'olelo- Based on stories, histories, folktales of Hawai'i
- Ho'ohanohano- Honoring the language, traditions, history, and values of Kanaka Maoli
- Kaiāulu- Creating venues for community engagement

Community engagement is paramount to the success of this new program. The Hawaiian Theatre seeks to put forth productions that are relevant to our community. In February 2015 the inaugural Hana Keaka or Hawaiian-Medium production of our program played to sold-out multi-generational audiences for two weekends. In two weekends 4,300+ people experienced *Lā'ieikawai*. It is clear that the positive response from our community reflects the need and desire for this kind of program. For these reasons I humbly ask for your support of this bill.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Tammy Haili'ōpua Baker

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Keita Beni
Masters of Arts candidate at the Department of Theatre and Dance
808-944-7037

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I am Keita Beni, a Masters of Arts candidate in the Department of Theatre and Dance of University of Hawaii at Manoa. I strongly Support for HB 2492, HD 1, Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance, which would make appropriations for the department of theater and dance at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I believe that standardized funding is necessary for our Asian Theatre Program, one of the few programs in U.S. to introduce Asian culture through theatre. It has also a unique characteristic provide culturally authentic shows by easily finding cast and crew who have their backgrounds in related cultures, located in Honolulu, Hawaii, where there are much more people with a variety of ethnicity than other places in U.S. From my experience of being a part of the previous show, Subali and Sugriwa, the program presents great opportunities for people involved to share each other's skills and knowledge with each other and presenting it to the audience through the shows. Since it takes a lot of time and effort, as well as further support from professional people to develop such shows, standardized funding is inevitable to prepare necessary props or instruments, financially secure the lives of people involved, and invite such professionals.

This is also true for all the Kennedy Theatre productions, and the department also needs enough amount of funding as well to constantly offer the same quality of shows to the audience throughout the season. The theatre itself has already become a part of the community in Honolulu, and from the fact that the tickets were sold out for most of this year's main stage shows, even for the ones for K-12 schools, we can feel that our theatre plays an important role for the community not only for their entertainment but also for their cultural maturity with its educational value, and the community itself requires our department to maintain the Kennedy Theatre.

Furthermore, more financial support for the students is urgently required, so I agree with this bill including asking for two more assistance positions. We Graduate students currently do not

have enough number of Graduate Assistant positions to financially support ourselves, and most of the cases, we need to have additional work to make a living, especially non-resident students like me. However, considering the level of our commitment and from the educational perspective, it is ideal for us students to be secured financially and focus on offering the high level of performances, by having any jobs to further support our shows.

With all of the support the bill requested, I believe our department will be able to maintain its unique role described above to support their students, faculty members and their community. I urge the committee to pass HB 2492, HD 1, Relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Keita

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair
Committee on Veterans, Military and International Affairs, and Culture and the Arts

Mark Branner

Monday, Feb. 8, 2016, 9:00 am

Support for HB 2492 Relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance

As the director of the TYA (*theatre for young audiences*) program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Department of Theatre and Dance I write in strong support of HB 2492. Our program's offerings play to several thousand young audience members each year from around Oahu and the State of Hawaii. In addition, many if not most of our state's theatre educators have come through our program. In essence, our program teaches the teachers of tomorrow.

Our program is one of the few in the nation to offer an MFA in TYA, bringing students from across the United States and abroad to study here in Honolulu. These students have been honored at national conferences and go on to vital professional work – several, for example, are currently working at HTY (*Honolulu Theatre for Youth*). Our program has been instrumental in spearheading important community outreach initiatives, including a theatre program for senior citizens at a retirement facility (*Káhala Nui*) and recently among middle school students in Palolo Valley (*Ohana Learning Center at Palolo Homes*).

Despite our national reputation and vital community engagement, the consistent challenge we face when trying to do more – establish touring shows that can reach out to communities with little access to the arts, for example – is that no funding is available. Recently we faced a directive to stop printing syllabi for our classes, not for sustainability issues, but because our department didn't have the funding to cover the cost of paper and ink. When students who have traveled thousands of miles to study in our renowned programs realize that we face funding challenges to cover even paper and ink costs, it is incredibly demoralizing.

Our program creates indispensable links between the University and the diverse communities in our State, reaching young audiences and their families with an immediacy that few departments on campus can match. We create artistic "doers" who go out to work with young people in communities around the world, inspiring them to greatness through the power of creative expression. I strongly support increased support for our Department and urge the committee to pass HB 2492. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Testifier: R. Kevin Garcia Doyle
Alumni, University of Hawaii at Manoa Department of Theatre and Dance (MFA 1992)
Director, School of the Arts, Mid-Pacific Institute

Hearing: Feb 16, 2016 - 2:00 PM

In support of HB 2492 HD1 Relating to the University of Hawaii

As an alumni who has witnessed first-hand how the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Department of Theatre and Dance has impacted the national and international theatre community through its programming and alumni, I stand in firm support of HB 2492 HD1 – Relating to The University of Hawaii.

First, the Department's Asian theatre program is the finest in the country. Theatre productions from this program (including, but not limited to Kabuki and jingju aka Beijing opera) have represented the state with honor and excellence both on the mainland and internationally. Locally, these productions have given the people of Hawaii an opportunity to celebrate their own cultures or to peek through a window into another culture. The students who've had an opportunity to participate in these productions have learned performance skills from practicing artistic masters from Asia. Equipped with these skills, they've been able to help spread detailed, accurate information about the theatre of Asia to students quite literally around the world. Ensuring that this invaluable program is funded will allow future generations of students and audience members to experience the theatre of Asia.

Next, the production program in general is an essential part of the educational program. For student actors, directors, designers and technicians to truly learn their crafts, theatre pedagogy demands that they have an opportunity to practice them in front of audiences. Studying acting, for example, without ever getting to be in front of an audience is akin to studying, for example, football without ever taking the field. By increasing funding to the production program, you will be supporting authentic theatre education – best educational practice in this particular field. Since we are educating designers and technicians as well, an appropriate budget is necessary to allow them to build their designs and see them on stage. To whit, designing and building the costumes, set, props and lights is a skill that you need to be able to practice as well. It's ludicrous to think that an educational program would be tasked with raising money (through ticket sales, for example) to support the education of its students. That the Department of Theatre and Dance is not the only department in this situation just makes the situation more shameful.

Finally, locally written theatre – particularly theatre written in the Hawaiian language – is a burgeoning field. The tremendous success of Professor Tammy Baker's Hawaiian language productions coupled with a booming interest in studying Hawaiian theatre necessitates the addition of a second professor. Supporting this measure will allow a growing population of students to study and perform theatre in the Hawaiian language.

Even in this age of increasingly high technology, theatre allows us to viscerally experience other cultures, our own history, and the huge, diverse panoply of the human condition. Supporting a first rate theatre program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa allows it to continue to be a bastion of educational excellence. I urge the committee to approve HB 2492 HD1. Thank you for your consideration.

ichiyama2-Brandon

From: Christa Eleftherakis <christaintheworld@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 12:50 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawai'i, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Christa F. Eleftherakis
+86-188-967-349-26

No 88 Jihua Lu
Suzhou, Jiangu Province
CHINA

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

Dear Representatives Choy and Ichiyama,

The purpose of this email is to provide testimony in support of HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawai'i, Dept. of Theatre and Dance.

My name is Christa Eleftherakis and I am a two time graduate of the University of Hawai'i's Theatre program.

For close to a decade, I have been an active member of the international education community, working in private international high schools around the globe teaching acting, theatre history, and stagecraft. The inherent diversity in my job has allowed me to work with students across a wide range of ages and cultures. I am currently employed as the Drama and Theatre teacher at Dulwich College Suzhou, where I teach the International Baccalaureate syllabus, a world-renowned university level program, as well as the British IGCSE, International General Certificate of Secondary Education, program. In addition to my tenure at Dulwich, my teaching and theatre management experience includes positions in South Korea, Kuwait and Venezuela. Prior to my arrival in China, I spent four years at Escuela Campo Alegre, the American School of Caracas, Venezuela from 2010-2014 where I was the on-site manager of our school's theatre in addition to running a full schedule of classes. My work experience in international education serves as strong evidence of the community spirit I was instilled with at UH. It is my current plan to return to Kennedy Theatre this fall to pursue my PhD in contemporary Pacific Island Theatre.

The education I received at the University of Hawai'i proved to be the most significant formative influence of my adult life, for the exposure to new genres of Theatre, and specific knowledge of Polynesian arts, directly prepared me for a future in the international artistic world.

I provide this testimony in support of additional funding for the department.

Sincerely,
Christa F. Eleftherakis

REPRESENTATIVE ISAAC W. CHOY, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE LINDA ICHIYAMA, VICE CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Rachel Filbeck
MFA Candidate in Theatre
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in the Department of Theatre and Dance
660-998-5549

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

My name is Rachel Filbeck and I am a graduate student studying theatre at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am testifying in support of a Bill for an Act relating to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Department of Theatre and Dance to gain funding for the continuance of quality education in the performing arts as stated in HB2492. I am providing comments on the importance of the program to the University, the State, and international relationships.

I chose to attend the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa because it was an institution with the potential to put me in touch with my roots as an artist and to teach me how to bring a love of other cultures to the rest of the world. I grew up in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and moved to the mainland when I was 18 for college. The cultural transition presented many challenges, one of the hardest challenges being that my cultural aesthetic did not make sense to the mainland pallet. Though this challenge is clearly identifiable, it speaks to a much deeper challenge not as easy to recognize or put a name to. The deepest challenge I faced was communicating across cultures in such a way where I was thoroughly understood on both a cognitive and visceral level. Learning the ways of Western American Theatre helped me learn how to communicate with my American-born peers – it is the reason for why I am a successful citizen today who is able to hold down a job and build community.

Though I did learn the ways of Western American theatre and experienced success, I felt like my heart was only half-known. There was an entire world of knowledge, color, music, dance, and song that was trapped inside my head, never to be let out because there was no venue, no audience, for its expression. Theatre is a collaborative art form, which means you have to find other people who want to do it with you before anything is achieved. More importantly, the people you partner with must also share and understand the same vision. So, as an attempt to further my knowledge alongside people who are passionate about multi-cultural art, I chose to come to Hawai'i.

The Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is not only putting me back in touch with my cultural roots, but it is also teaching me the artistic languages of other cultures. If we learn how to communicate cross-culturally in a way that speaks to the

heart as well as the mind, as the arts are known to do, we might find quicker paths to peace in the midst of global conflict.

What we do as a department is also extremely important to the international community present in Hawai'i. Without the opportunity to learn the art forms of other cultures and perform with excellence, entire cultural backgrounds present on O'ahu would go underrepresented. The colorful expressions of diversity would begin to fade away. Not only would Hawai'i suffer, but so would the rest of the world. I do not plan on staying in Hawai'i when I finish my degree. I plan to return to the mainland, or perhaps teach overseas, in such a capacity that would allow me to take what I've learned here and advance a multicultural understanding across the globe. I plan to take this knowledge and teach children from all over the world what it means to be global citizens and cultivate an appreciation of diversity. If I teach for a total of 20 years, reaching a minimum of 20 students a year, I have impacted the lives of 400 students. If each of those 400 students impacts at least 5 people a year for 20 years, that is an additional 40,000 students whose mindsets promote world peace. If those 40,000 go on to impact another five students each for 20 years after that, an additional 4,000,000 students will have the potential to end global conflict. What this department can do in the life of one person could change the world.

Though the Department of Theatre and Dance has the potential to offer an amazing cross-cultural experience, opportunities to learn would not be abundant enough to support a program with our current financial position. All of us must meet requirements to graduate and we are limited in what we are able to do if funding is in short supply. These requirements that are in place are the standard for the industry, and to change them would severely affect our ability to compete, which would limit job opportunities after graduation. I would like to finish my degree with a top notch education in both Western and Asian theatre because my future students deserve my best. Please do not allow a lack of funding to be the reason why I cannot offer my future students the best education possible. Thank you for giving this opportunity to testify.

Aloha. I am in support of House Bill 2492 HD1. I am a Professor of Dance in the Dept. of Theatre & Dance, a position I've held since 1994.

Our department's Kennedy Theatre is the "face" of the university. We provide first-rate performances in Dance, Asian Theatre, Hawaiian Theatre, Theatre for Young Audiences, and Western Theatre. Discounted tickets are available to seniors, military, and UH students, alumni, faculty and staff.

The diversity and scope of our production season is unique in Hawai'i: you cannot see this range anywhere else in the state. Our productions are not simply entertainments. Each production is carefully chosen to meet two basic goals: how to best educate our students, and how to best enrich our community. Our productions are not separable from our curriculum.

Our international scope is important. In recent years, students studied with master teachers from China (including Taiwan and Hong Kong), Korea, Japan, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, Germany, France, England, Israel, When dancers and theatre students work with these guest artists, they have a special inroad into each distinct culture. They learn through active interaction—the very best way to learn.

I want to draw attention specifically to our new Hawaiian Theatre program, whose spectacular production of *Lā'ie'ikawai* brought an expanded audience base to our theatre, and provided a full production in Hawaiian language. What a profound and remarkable achievement! I hope you saw it, and will come to future productions.

I invite each of you to attend our next Kennedy Theatre production, one that I am directing, entitled *Shazam! Dance+Science* wherein local and guest choreographers explore the natural nexus of dance and science. As I write this testimony, a guest choreographer from NY, Jody Oberfelder, is working with our students for this concert. Oberfelder is an expert in dance and neuroscience. Her work makes visible neural pathways of the brain. Other works for this concert explore properties of physics and biology. Our aim is to prove that an "A" needs to be inserted into STEM education to yield *STEAM*.

I tell you these things because it's imperative that you know the depth of what we do in the Dept. of Theatre & Dance. Our production season is enmeshed in our multifaceted curriculum. Our mission is to educate the whole student. The lessons we teach are life-lessons, skills applicable in myriad professions. We educate students to be deep thinkers, doers, and voters, who are contributing citizens to their community.

During my nearly 22-yr. tenure at UHM, there has been a significant decrease in system-wide support for our department. We are a dynamic, engaged, and active faculty—there is no dead wood here. There is so much we want to do to continue

our track record of excellence. We accept the challenge to provide greater outreach and relevant productions. And, we need help.

HB 2492 HD1 will assist us enormously. Please support HB 2492 HD1.

Dr. Betsy Fisher

Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Testimony by Rick Greaver

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016, 2:01 pm

Support for HB 2492 Relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance

I am writing in support for HB 2492. The Department of Theatre and Dance at University of Hawai'i at Manoa is quite simply put one of the most unique programs in the world. There is a combination of theater and dance forms from across the world that is all brought together in one place, allowing students a breadth of education unparalleled anywhere else. But that very strength is also tested by the demands of creating so many experiences. The costs of creating these unique experiences grow every year, while the funding has continually shrunk. Much of that has been helped in the past by the use of a once world class facility, the Kennedy Theater. But the fact is that while the Kennedy Theater is utilized to present productions and train the students, it was never designed as an educational structure to begin with. This has necessitated using rooms as classrooms that were never designed as classrooms and creating rooms out of spaces that were never designed to have rooms, again to use as classrooms. This creates additional challenges in terms of space and maintenance in updating and maintaining a 50 year old facility to keep it in the modern age. The only way to be able to do so is reliable funding. Without reliable funding we are faced every year with the question, do we give our students the best possible education we can in the form of training, productions, and classes, or do we fix up the theater and modified classroom spaces? Of course the facility is part of that training, but when you are forced to only look at the short term year after year just to keep up the basic needs of the department programs, the facility ends up falling by the wayside. Eventually this neglect adds up and begins to add to the slow draining of available reliable resources. Reliable funding would make all the difference in the world in terms of planning and continuing to create the world class theater and dance that we have all along.

ichiyama2-Brandon

From: Michelle Hurtubise <mihurtubise@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 8:08 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: Support for HB 2492, HD 1 relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Michelle Hurtubise
206-778-4901

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

I am sending this in to testify in favor of and to show my support for HB 2492, HD 1 relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance. I am UH Manoa Theatre alumni, and know that the program is strong, vital, and crucial to the University's excellence, diversity, and representation as a leading education and cultural institution.

I support HB 2492, HD 1 relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance, and I thank you for showing your support as well.

Sincerely,

Michelle Hurtubise

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT
HB 2492 HD1
By Dennis Ihara
Before the House Higher Education Committee,
February 16, 2016, 2:01 p.m.

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, members of the Committee, I am Dennis Ihara, an Unclassified Graduate Student, leisurely taking classes at the University of Hawai'i (UH) Manoa's Theatre and Dance Department. I have earned three degrees, two from UH and one from the California Western School of Law in San Diego, as well as been a long time Lecturer or Adjunct Professor, respectively at UH Manoa, Hawai'i Pacific University and Chaminade University and thus, have experienced higher education as a student and faculty.

I have almost completed half of the requirements for another Masters, but I recently found that UH Manoa's Theatre budget has been steadily diminished through the years, to the point that paper could not be purchased. This created great cause for concern as UH Theatre's sterling reputation particularly its international theatre programs will naturally be affected. International theatre projects involves years of prior planning and without adequate funding, there will soon be none.

As a professional actor, I have acted on stage in Los Angeles as well as in films. No doubt, graduates of USC, UCLA and other well financed schools play a big part in the California stage and screen industry. While filming in Hawai'i cannot be compared to California standards, UH Manoa's International Theatre Programs draw students from throughout the world. I have enjoyed talking to foreign students to hear how acting is done in their countries. I believe our international emphasis is what places us on equal to, or higher status than other well financed theatre schools. Another unique example is the new Hawaiian Theatre Program which is the only one of its kind. Its world premiere show last season played to sold-out audiences at Kennedy Theatre. Besides programs, limited funding will ultimately affect students and we will simply not be able to draw students, much less talented students, who make an impact.

To wit, graduates of UH Manoa Theatre and Dance Department will have difficulty in the job market and being proud of their degrees if their Department is continuously strapped by dwindling resources. This Legislature can make a difference.

Thank you and Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Education

Robert Matthew Kelty
808rmk@gmail.com

Tuesday, February 16, 2016; 2:01 pm

STORNG SUPPORT for HB 2492 HD 1
Relating to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Department of Theatre and Dance

To the Members of the Committee:

I strongly support HB 2492 HD 1, and efforts to fund the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Department of Theatre and Dance. The department of theatre and dance contributes to the state of Hawai'i in many ways. For example:

- 1) The department teaches local residents and visitors to the state about the history and culture of Hawai'i; this is particularly true with the recent creation of degree programs in Hawaiian Theatre. Topics covered in departmental courses include not only local performance traditions, which are rich and deeply rooted in this land; but also history, traditional religious belief, social issues, and even language — as with the recent performance of *Lā'ieikawai*, which was performed (to sold-out houses) entirely in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.
- 2) The department teaches students in Hawai'i — the most diverse state in the nation — about cultural traditions and creative innovations from around the globe. Classes and performances expose students to international work from China, Japan, Korea, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Vietnam, Aotearoa, Samoa, Tahiti, and nations in Africa and Europe, among others. It also teaches students about American theatrical movements such as Asian-American, African-American, Native American, and Chicano theatre. Much of this exposure comes from the Asian Theatre program; but many dance, “Western” theatre, and general studies courses offer this material as well. The department also offers a model for intercultural collaboration.
- 3) The department offers rare opportunities to work with guest artists and lecturers. Hawai'i's location means that the Department of Theatre and Dance is able to bring in guest artists from both continental America (recent years have brought artists from both the continental U.S. and Canada) and from the Asia-Pacific region. Perhaps a *kyōgen* master from Japan will come to run a workshop for a few weeks; or perhaps guests will come to train students for months, culminating in a production — as was the recent case with *Subali-Sugriva*, a *wayang listrik* from Indonesia that played to full houses throughout its run.) This level of practical training is unheard of in continental U.S. theatre programs, and is one of the things that makes the department and the university so unique.
- 4) The department trains artists who increase awareness about the state and the university. Former UHM students are currently achieving success in the continental U.S. in cities such as New York,

Los Angeles, and Chicago; and they have received further training at institutions such as Yale University and the Cleveland Playhouse. These artists take their experiences with them, and they are spreading positive word in the creative community about both the state and the university.

5) The department attracts people from other states and nations to the islands; these students contribute to the state economy through tuition, through large and small purchases, and through their taxes. The department helps to bring in tax and revenue that wouldn't otherwise be placed into the local economy.

These are just some of the ways in which the UHM Department of Theatre and Dance helps the students, the university, and the state. These programs are strong and successful; but they need adequate, consistent funding to continue to succeed. This bill will help the department to build upon its previous and current successes; I strongly encourage you to support it.

Mahalo Nui Loa.

~ *Robert Matthew Kelty*

TO: Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
TO: Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Kara Miller
3029 Lowery Ave
Honolulu, HI 96822

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

Dear Representative Choy and Representative Ichiyama,

I support HB 2492 HD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our program. We are from the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, but we do not represent the university—we are here as individuals, as people who care deeply about the power of the arts to change people's lives, and how that potential has been progressively eroded.

Our department, combining the arts of theatre and dance, is also a combination of two distinct yet symbiotic elements: the academic side, with research and training, and the production side, where all that training is put into practice and presented to the public. In effect we are two organizations—an academic department and a theatre company.

We offer BA, BFA, MA, MFA and PhD degrees, and we're proud that most of the theatre and dance teachers and practitioners in the state have come from our programs. Our classes serve over 2000 students each year all together, and our faculty are incredibly dedicated and internationally recognized specialists in their fields.

Publicly, we are the face of the university, and yet we are incredibly underfunded.

This department has the most courageous students and faculty in the world. They are working to make systematic and institutionalized change. They deserve to be allowed to flourish and not be saddled with the woes of other units.

Best Regards, Kara Miller

Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Paul T. Mitri, Chair, Department of Theatre and Dance, UH-Manoa

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016, 2:01 pm

Support for HB 2492 HD 1 Relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance

Thank you for this opportunity to present our program and show support for House Bill 2492 HD 1. I am the Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, but I do not represent the university—I am here as someone who cares deeply about the power of the arts to change people's lives, and how that potential has been progressively eroded.

Our department, combining the arts of theatre and dance, is also a combination of two distinct yet symbiotic elements: the academic side, with research and training, and the production side, where all that training is put into practice and presented to the public. In effect we are two organizations—an academic department and a theatre company.

The academic department has between 75 to 100 undergraduates and 35 to 50 graduate students. We offer BA, BFA, MA, MFA and PhD degrees, and we're proud that most of the theatre and dance teachers and practitioners in the state have come from our programs. Our classes serve over 2000 students each year all together, and our faculty are incredibly dedicated and internationally recognized specialists in their fields.

The production side of our department is our Living Laboratory—just as the sciences need their laboratories to put their research into practice, so we have our performances. And these performances have the most breadth and depth of any theatre in the world. We do more in-house productions than any other theatre in the state. We present Hawaiian theatre, Chinese theatre, Japanese and Indonesian theatre forms, dance forms from all over the globe, theatre for young audiences, and the entire gamut of Western theatre from Shakespeare to musicals. The bill that has been put forward lists some of the many international, national and local awards that our faculty, students, staff, and alumni have garnered. In short, we do amazing work.

We are here because that work is getting harder and harder to present with our expected excellence. While costs have skyrocketed, our budgets (meager to begin with) have been slashed. On the academic side, in 1997 our institutional budget was \$45,303, for the academic side alone (there is no institutional budget for the production side, but that will be addressed later). Our academic budget this year,

2015: \$36,057. That \$45K in 1997, equals \$67K in today's dollars. That's a cut of 46%. In November we found ourselves not even able to buy paper or printer ink. Our lecturer budget has been similarly decimated. In 1997 we had an allotment of \$92,503, or \$136,904 in today's dollars. This year we were expected to make do with \$79,385, or a cut of 42%....and lecturers in 1997 made much less than they do now. We are having to use donations from our supporters to cover basic operating costs. That's the academic side—and we've been warned it'll get worse.

The production side is run like a professional theatre, with earned and contributed income. Usually earned income, the box office, accounts for about 30% of our total, with contributed income (grants, sponsors, donations) covering the other 70%. In Higher Education, that 70% is usually subsidized by the state or the institution. By doing so, we guarantee that the focus can be on the students and what the students should be learning, rather than chasing whatever we think might be popular at the box office. We plan our programming on curricular needs, as well as giving our community audience the opportunity to see the range we teach—to see tradition and innovation.

However, unlike our peer universities, we have never had a standardized subsidy for our productions. Indeed, we are largely left to raise the money ourselves, although we have been supported by the Student Activity and Program Fee Board. We have received some support for the curricular and outreach core of our renowned Asian Theatre Program, but the funding amounts do not always cover those aspects, let alone production costs. But other places that we look for money—from internal grants to the UH Foundation—have either been cut or are off-limits to us. Outside grants have also dried up, or are available in only lessening amounts, such as the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts grants. Theatre is a notoriously labor-intensive endeavor, and the costs of materials are constantly rising. We know that we'll spend \$130K to \$160K a year on normal production overhead, not including expenses for each individual show. If that amount is subsidized, we are able to make up the difference with our box office income and other grants. In the proposed bill, we are asking for funds to support this amount.

The other amounts in the bill are aimed at allowing us to be able to serve the community better. We are woefully understaffed—indeed, our staff does so much uncompensated overtime that they could take off the rest of the year with their comp time. Our scene shop and costume shop each have one manager—in the past we had an assistant for each of the shops. We are requesting funds for those two positions again, which would allow us to not only function better, but give us the ability to produce more shows with the public in mind—perhaps a Christmas show or summer musical.

Our guest artists and lecturers are the backbone of our unique Asian/Pacific programming, but are also the most difficult to fund. We are requesting funds to be split mainly between Asian Theatre, Dance, and our new Hawaiian Theatre Program.

Our Asian Theatre Program, which has won many of the awards mentioned in the bill and has toured internationally, is in a precarious state. The original annual funding was intended to cover its curricular costs, amounting to approximately 50% of its average total costs. In 2001, that was \$50,000 funded with \$100,000 total costs. Today, curricular costs are approximately 2/3 of total annual costs, which average \$275,000. We request that \$130,000 be mandated by the state for this program, which has been designated “a program of excellence” and “a key area of excellence” in documents including university strategic plans, mission statements, and accreditation reports.

Finally, in spite of cuts, we have forged ahead with our newest program in Hawaiian Theatre, which debuted last year to sold out audiences. We have only one professor trying to handle all of the classes in the first MFA program in indigenous theatre in the world. Starting in FY 17-18, we request another tenure-track faculty position to grow this program into what it should be, representing our community and helping make UH a Hawaiian Place of Learning.

We have the most adventurous and courageous students in the world. They deserve to be allowed to flourish and not be saddled with the woes of other units. HB 2492 HD 1 gives us the opportunity to help them accomplish their potential. We humbly ask for your support.

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Alexander Munro
5039A Maunalani Circle
Honolulu, HI 96816

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

SUPPORT for H.B. No. 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I am a Ph.D. student with the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Department of Theatre & Dance testifying in support of H.B. No. 2492, HD 1 which would allocate funds necessary to strengthen the department's world-renowned Eastern and Western theatre programs, as well as the new Hawaiian theatre program (which recently performed its inaugural production, *La'ieikawai*).

I originally chose the Department of Theatre & Dance at UH Manoa because of its unique Asian theatre program. Having access and exposure to *jingju*, *randai*, *wayang listrik*, *kyogen*, and other Asian styles develops globally aware students who respect and embrace cultural forms of expression otherwise unrepresented at other theatre departments across the country. Furthermore, our Western theatre program provides students with the analytical, technical, and artistic skills necessary to successfully audition for regional theatres across the country, as well as television and film opportunities here on island. Our Theatre for Young Audiences program delights children all over Oahu and engages them through workshops; I recently performed for a group of low-literacy students from Kailua Intermediate School. The director of this performance, a fellow graduate student, funded a majority of this production from his own wallet. This is the level of dedication one finds amongst the theatre and dance students at UH Manoa.

Our theatre students are not only learning theatre and dance skills; they are intimately involved with the training of nursing students. In the spring of 2013, the School of Nursing and the Department of Theatre and Dance established a relationship wherein theatre students are coached to perform as patients at the Translational Health Science Simulation Center. This program, HealthCAST, started with only three scenarios, but it quickly expanded to involve actors in simulations throughout the undergraduate and graduate nursing curriculums. HealthCAST allows nursing students to strengthen their communication and empathy skills as the theatre students bolster their talents in improvisation and realistic acting. My involvement as the graduate assistant for HealthCAST inspired me to stay at UH Manoa after graduating with my Master of Fine Arts degree so that I may write about my experiences in a doctoral dissertation.

That the department has been able to succeed this far on a shoestring budget is commendable, but I encourage the committee to recognize the strengths and efforts of its professors and students and allocate funds that would allow for additional faculty, staff, and guest lectures to ensure that the University of Hawaii at Manoa continues to serve as an ideal destination for theatre and dance students around the world. I urge the committee to pass H.B. No. 2492, HD 1. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I support this measure for funding for the Theatre Department. My major argument in support is that the UH Theatre Department is doing wonderful things to support literacy and creative thinking in classrooms all over Oahu. We do outreach. Students recently visited our department for a production of an adaptation of Hansel and Gretel. This school is made up of students with a quite a low literacy level. Not only did they see the show but experienced pre and post workshops centered around critical thinking and literary interpretation. The arts are an amazing tool to promote learning. UH believes in this power and spreads it to classrooms all over Oahu.

Nathaniel Niemi

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Lurana O'Malley
808-956-7677

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

Thank you for your time in considering this bill, which I support. It is meant to redress a long and slow decline in the support of the theatrical arts at UHM. There are many reasons for this decline, but rather than address those, I would like to instead focus on the positive: what UHM Department of Theatre and Dance (T&D) provides to its students and state and to the international community.

T&D's educational effort is felt all over the islands; a great number of the primary and secondary school theatre and dance educators in our state are graduates from T&D, so the effect is like ripple in a pool. Through T&D's educational outreach, thousands of schoolchildren are exposed to international forms of theatre and dance.

But beyond our islands, T&D is world-renowned for its training and performances in world theatre. International scholars come to observe classes and training there; international master artists do arts residencies; international students do undergraduate and graduate degrees and bring their knowledge, and word of the University's reputation, back to their home nations. Simply put, T&D is one of the jewels of our state. The bill would be of enormous aid in bolstering its fine work, and helping it to expand in the promising new area of Hawaiian Theatre.

Theatre students--which includes the thousands of primary, secondary, and college students who see performances at Kennedy Theatre each year--make great citizens:

“Students who study the arts seriously are taught to see better, to envision, to persist, to be playful and learn from mistakes, to make critical judgments and justify such judgments,” --Ellen Wenner and Lois Hetland, in *Studio Thinking* (a study on the value of arts education)

Thank you. Lurana D. O'Malley

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Kaitlyn Patrick
(724) 464-4779

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

To the Committee on Veterans, Military and International Affairs, and Culture and the Arts,

I am writing this testimony in support of bill HB 2492, HD1 that moves to provide state funds for the Theatre Department at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am a current graduate student in this department, and I can say with confidence that program offered here is truly unique. Due to its location and singular cultural history, the state of Hawai'i, and by extension, the University of Hawai'i provides opportunities for cultural exchange, experience and education that simply do not exist elsewhere. In our increasingly interconnected world, nothing is more valuable than the ability to form connections and foster understand between people of diverse cultural backgrounds. One of the most effective way to do this is through the sharing of traditional and cultural arts.

During my time in the UHM Department of Theatre and Dance, I have met artists from China, Japan, Bali, and Native Hawai'ians with whom I have formed personal connections and from whom I have experienced first-hand the beauty and vibrancy of these cultures and their artistic traditions. The richness of opportunities for cultural exchange offered by this department can be found nowhere else in the country. I, and many students like me in the past, present and hopefully continuing into the future have come here specifically for this unique experience.

With this additional funding we will be able to better ensure this future, as well as continue to nurture the creative working relationships we have already established with artists and professionals from countries all around the world. Please help us to keep this cultural exchange alive.

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn Patrick
MFA Candidate in Costume Design
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

ichiyama2-Brandon

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 9:03 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: kpauka@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 16, 2016 14:01PM

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for HED on Feb 16, 2016 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kistin Pauka	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

ichiyama2-Brandon

From: Kiana Rivera <kianar@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 12:28 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: HB 2492 HD 1

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Kiana L. M. Rivera
1508 Kewalo St. 103B
Honolulu, HI 96822
808-286-1614

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance:

Aloha! My name is Kiana "Kiki" Rivera. I am a proud graduate of Wai'anae High School ('01) and University of Hawaii at Mānoa ('07) with my BA in Theatre & Dance. Eight years later I find myself back at UHM once again to pursue my MFA in Hawaiian Theatre with a focus in Playwrighting. One might wonder why, in such challenging economic times in Hawai'i, would anyone with an Arts degree return to school to pursue yet another advanced degree in the Arts? With the limited amount of jobs in theatre, the idea sounds preposterous! The answer is: *kuleana*. As an accountable artist, it is my *kuleana* (responsibility) to serve my community using my talents, but talents are gifts from above that can be deemed worthless without sharpened skills. My MFA in Hawaiian Theatre/Playwrighting will only sharpen my skills and make my talents useful to our Hawaiian/Indigenous communities. Your support of **HB 2492, HD 1** and the support of those with power to make changes is an important investment not only to me, but to the community at large.

My professional and personal goal is to use Pacific Theatre to empower these communities to make individual changes. I believe stories can save the world. I have almost 10 years of work experience in social services. My time with Kalihi-Palama Health Center, Waikiki Health and Gregory House Programs have deepened my understanding of Hawai'i's homeless, healthcare system and the importance of education. Currently I am the Operations Manager at Save The Food Basket, the only food distribution on the west coast providing hot meals and free groceries to survivors of HIV & AIDS. During the summer I also volunteer as a Director for a teen cancer camp. I know what theatre can accomplish for the communities I work with. Denying this bill is denying a right to access a social service via the arts.

Denying **HB 2492, HD 1** would be a HUGE disservice for all of us.

Mahalo for your time,

Kiana "Kiki" Rivera

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Emma Robinson
(808) 782-9082

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I am writing this testimony in support of bill HB 2492 HD1 that moves to provide state funds for the Theatre Department at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am a student of this program and it has benefitted me enormously being able to experience Hawai'i's unique culture through theatre, as well as contribute my own views (as a New Zealander) to the theatre we make (and by extension, Hawai'i's larger communities).

This department is vitally necessary for the continuation of the arts culture on Oahu. Not only does the department engage the community with its own high-quality performances, it also produces a great number of skilled graduates. These students and alumni, whether actively studying at UH or not, are always willing to lend their skills to local productions that also help enrich the communities. Without the help of students, ex-students, staff, and faculty, a great many productions would not have been able to happen at Manoa Valley Theatre, Kumu Kahua Theatre, Diamond Head Theatre, and innumerable others.

The changes proposed in this bill would be a huge help to our department, and would enable us to continue creating high-quality, engaging, provocative, political, and culturally important theatre. Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony of support.

Yours sincerely,
Emma Robinson

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Rachael Uyeno
808-754-6147

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

My name is Rachael Uyeno, and I received my BA in Theatre from the UH Manoa Department of Theatre and Dance. I am currently a graduate assistant with the department, and recently represented them in competition in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. I strongly support HB 2492, which would give much needed support and opportunities to the faculty and students, and ultimately enrich the community at large.

We as a department are overworked and underfunded. We lose funding for lecturers and graduate assistants with each passing year. I did not think I was going to get this job, because I was told there was a good chance the position would be cut as soon as it opened up. Limits on lecturers mean limits on what classes are offered in a given semester, which can mean unnecessary extra semesters for students who can't get the classes they need. The school does not wish to invest in the education of our students, and this discourages our investment and is frustrating for the faculty who want us to succeed and grow.

This department has so much to offer. We just hosted this year's Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, during which our students received awards and recognition in areas of design, performance, direction, and devised theatre. Our students are often prevented from attending this festival because it has always been held on the mainland, and unlike other schools, we do not receive financial support from UH to attend said festival, and so lose the opportunity to see what's going on in the larger world of theatre, make valuable connections, and represent our department.

Through the HealthCAST program, our students work with the school of nursing, acting as patients or the relatives of patients in

simulations for nurses, doctors, and social workers to develop their skills and bedside manner in a safe environment, giving them human beings to work with and relate to rather than plastic dummies. Theatre is an exercise in empathy for actors as well as audience, and this a unique way to utilize that to the benefit of people far beyond the scope of theatre-goers. We are looking to expand and create similar programs with other departments, and the additional support would help make this possible.

This bill would help revitalize our department in terms of morale and resources, allowing students to more fully realize their education and grow as artists and people. I hope you will support us by passing HB 2492. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

ichiyama2-Brandon

From: Markus Wessendorf <wessendo@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 9:07 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: HB 2492 HD 1

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Your Name: Markus Wessendorf
Contact number or address: wessendo@hawaii.edu

Re: Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

Dear Representatives Choy and Ichiyama,

I strongly support the bill HB 2492 HD1 since the Department of Theatre and Dance at UHM, where I teach as a Professor of Western Theatre, has been strongly underfinanced and understaffed at least since the last recession in 2008. We are still a major "public face" not only of UH but also of the State of Hawaii to the larger world, particularly with regard to the performing arts: just during the past 5 days we co-hosted (with Chaminade University) the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (Region 8) with more than 1100 participants (students as well as faculty) from the mainland. The festival was highly successful not only with regard to the awards that many of our students won in different categories but also in terms of showcasing our very distinct local theatre work to a mainland audience (Haili'opua Baker's production of *Laiekwaii*). Unfortunately, however, the understaffing of our department (despite hundreds of volunteer hours put in by our theatre majors) was also plainly apparent throughout this entire event... But this is only one reason why I strongly support bill HB 2492 HD 1.

Sincerely,

Markus Wessendorf

--

Dr. Markus Wessendorf
Professor
Dept. of Theatre and Dance
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
1770 East-West Rd
Honolulu, HI 96822
Office: Sakamaki Hall A404
Phone: (808) 956-2600
Email: wessendo@hawaii.edu

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak
(Director of Theatre in the Department of Theatre and Dance, UHM;
Director of the Asian Theatre Program;
But testifying as a private citizen)

Tuesday, February 16, 2016, 2:00 pm

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

Although I am a Professor of Theatre at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and have been Director of its Asian Theatre Program since 1985, I am not here as a representative of the university, but as a private citizen, to speak in support of House Bill 2492, HD 1. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

The Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawai'i is a remarkable institution that has educated most of the state's teachers of theatre and dance, as well as a majority of the working professionals at those institutions and others, including the Blaisdell and Hawai'i Theatre Centers. Its unique international programs, including those in Dance, Theatre for Young Audiences, Hawaiian Theatre, and Asian Theatre, win international awards, bring master artists from around the world to train our students, and draw students from around the world, as well. I will speak a bit on the Asian Theatre Program and its funding needs.

Asian theatre productions have been regularly performed at the University of Hawai'i's Mānoa campus since 1923. This was decades before the vast majority of other North American universities were studying and performing Asian theatre forms and plays at all, let alone on a regular basis. The demographics of our state provide an important and practical reason for this. Since a major portion of our population is of Asian or part of Asian ancestry, the theatre of Asia should naturally be featured at our state university.

The early beginnings of the Asian Theatre Program at UHM has have been followed by steady and imaginative growth. It has developed into the largest and most respected center for Asian theatre study outside of Asia itself. In addition to a *24-course* undergraduate and graduate curriculum provided by three faculty specialists in Asian theatre, every year master artists from a particular Asian culture and form of theatre within it lead a 4-8 month-long intensive training program, preparing our students to perform a specific play. That culminating play is then publicly performed for Honolulu audiences at Kennedy Theatre for 2-3 weeks, to very full and often standing-room-only houses.

Students are drawn to the Asian Theatre Program quite literally from around the world—at various times we have had students from every continent, many of our graduate students are

from Asia, and most training programs involve students from at least several nations. Each training program and its culminating production involves a substantial number of students—for instance, 55 were in the performances of *Subali-Sugriwa: Battle of the Monkey Kings*, the Balinese dance and puppet drama that we presented last month. These students are provided with training that is as close as possible to the training undertaken by pre-professionals in Asia. This means that they are immersed in cultural norms and practices ranging from interpersonal relations to aesthetics and techniques. Cumulatively, their cultural and artistic awareness is expanded and enriched. These are life-changing experiences that continue to influence and benefit these students throughout their careers and lives—and I have first-hand knowledge of this as both a teacher and a student, because I was one of those students myself, in the 1970s.

These programs have resulted in some of the most outstanding Asian theatre productions seen outside of their respective countries of origin, including numerous English-language world premieres of classic plays. Our outreach work takes part or all of these productions and many aspects of the training programs to neighbor islands, and the impact of the Asian Theatre Program extends far beyond the shores of Hawai‘i, through invited national and international tours and awards, to the more than 100 masters and doctoral graduates of the Asian Theatre Program currently active as directors, teachers, actors, and arts administrators not only in Hawai‘i, but also in 18 countries throughout Asia and Europe, and in 17 states in the U.S.A.

In fact, the Asian Theatre Program educates a highly skilled, flexible, world-class labor force for multicultural theatrical performance—which is rapidly becoming one of the major international arenas of professional, commercial theatrical endeavor—making the UHM Department of Theatre and Dance one of only two institutions in the world consistently fulfilling this need (the other is in Singapore; a private school and performance company, The Theatre Practice—founded and run by our MFA graduate, Jianhong Kuo). At the undergraduate level, the Asian Theatre Program provides extensive opportunities for research through the yearly training residencies, and for creative scholarship through the rehearsals and performances in which these programs culminate. And it does so with an international focus, and in a broadly multicultural context. At the graduate level, it offers one of the only two Ph.D. degrees specifically in Asian Theatre in the world (the other is brand new, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison), and the only masters degrees: the M.F.A. in Asian Performance/Acting, and the M.F.A. in Asian Performance/Directing.

In sum, The Asian Theatre Program is nationally and internationally recognized, drawing students, scholars, and artists from around the world. The high visibility of its unique resident training programs and culminating productions results in exceptionally positive international publicity for the university and the state on a regular and frequent basis. The Asian Theatre Program contributes substantially to the national and international stature and presence of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, and brings considerable distinction to its reputation. And the Asian Theatre Program provides an extraordinary, eye-opening and life-changing education for its students.

UHM of course covers the cost of the Asian Theatre Program’s 3, full-time faculty members. Additionally, it provides annual funding of \$130,000 to help cover the cost of curriculum and outreach. In years like this one, with Bali Indonesia as the cultural focus, that funding does

indeed just meet those needs. But there is nothing left for the production costs, which given the authentic costuming, makeup, stage properties, and musical instrumentation for our Asian theatre productions is generally about equal to the curricular and outreach costs. In years with Chinese or Japanese focus, curricular and outreach costs run to approximately \$190,000, with close to the same amount again required for production costs. I believe that UHM is doing what it can to support the Asian Theatre Program. But clearly, the \$130,000 it has been able to provide is no longer enough to maintain the standard of excellence for which the Program is known, which the Legislature has honored us by recognizing several times in the past, and which our students and audiences expect and deserve. HB 2492 HD 1 offers that much-needed support. On behalf of the current and future students, faculty, and audiences of the Asian Theatre Program, I humbly ask for your support of this bill, and thereby of Asian Theatre study, training, research, and performance in Hawai'i.

ichiyama2-Brandon

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2016 5:43 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: cchun@midpac.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 16, 2016 14:01PM*

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/13/2016

Testimony for HED on Feb 16, 2016 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
celia chun wright	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

ichiyama2-Brandon

From: Ryan <ryanwuesty@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 8:01 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: Support for HB 2492, HD 1 relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Ryan Wuestewald
605-660-2802

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

I am sending this in to testify in favor of and to show my support for HB 2492, HD 1 relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance. I am UH Manoa Theatre alumni, I received my BFA and MFA there, and the program is strong, vital, and crucial to the University's excellence, diversity, and representation as a leading education and cultural institution.

I support HB 2492, HD 1 relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance, and I thank you for showing your support as well.

Sincerely,

Ryan Wuestewald

LATE

My name is Sandra Fong and I would like to submit my testimony in support of HB 2492. I am a 1996 University of Hawaii graduate with a bachelor's degree in Dance. The theater and dance program is a small, but mighty department at the University of Hawaii, and the program changed my life.

I spent several years at Leeward Community College aimlessly taking classes, because I did not know what I wanted to do with my life-then I found dance. On a whim, I took a dance class at Leeward and found out I could get a degree doing something that I loved to do.

As soon as I was able, I transferred to UH and found my way to the dance department. I was awkward as a high school student, and didn't have many close friends. My UH Dance Ohana embraced me with open arms, and the positive bolster to my self-esteem was priceless. It was through the environment created by faculty and students, that I discovered myself, and led me to my current occupation.

The creative and nurturing atmosphere made me the artist that I am today. The dance program at UH allowed me to discover other facets of theatre and dance. Through my studies at UH, I was able to explore lighting design, stage management, costume design, and technical production.

As I've matured, explored the world, and met different people along the way, I learned how lucky I was to have the learning experiences the University of Hawaii and what an excellent program the University offers in dance and theatre. During my educational years I was able to attend master classes by Donald McKayle, Joe Goode, Sharpiro and Smith, Darryl Thomas (formerly with Pilobolus and UH alum), and other guest lecturers. I participated in productions with guest choreographers and lecturers such as Kei Takei, Betty Jones, and Judy Allen, to name a few. The theater department's incredible diversity let me experience Beijing Opera, Balinese dance, Korean dance, Japanese Kabuki theatre, and so much more. The result of the unique experiences at UH put me on a path to earn a master's degree in lighting design from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

What does one do with degrees in dance and lighting design? These degrees have allowed me to travel the world on tour, work for one of the largest concert producers in the music industry, and work for one of the largest convention /trade show producers in the U.S. I have worked for Peepshow and Stomp Out Loud, large-scale professional theatrical productions on the Las Vegas Strip. I currently work as the lighting designer/production manager for The Las Vegas Contemporary Dance Theater (an up-and-coming professional dance company), and I also work for Cirque du Soleil.

Having a strong background in dance has given me a professional edge when applying for theatrical production jobs. The techniques, ideals, and practices that I learned at UH have followed me throughout my career and helped me to succeed. The encouragement and learning opportunities that the faculty provided cannot be measured, other than in gratitude. I have been consistently working in theater and dance for 20 years. If not for the UH dance program, the faculty and classmates, I don't know what I would have done with my life or career. I am proud to say that I am a University of Hawaii alumnus with a degree in dance, passionately working in my chosen field for 20 years.

With these thoughts in mind, I urge you to pass House Bill 2492 to support and sustain the arts education in Hawaii.

ichiyama2-Brandon

LATE

From: Yining Lin <yining@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 3:05 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: HB 2492 HD1

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Yining Lin
(510) 917-1554, +86 13051519685

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I am writing in support of HB 2492 HD1, which standardizes funding for the Asian Theatre program and its productions at the University of Hawai'i, Manoa.

I am a doctoral candidate with the Asian Theatre program and have been lucky to have been a part of four Asian Theatre productions, both as an actor and as a part of the production team. The experience I have had with the productions and guest artists and lecturers has had a great impact on my work as an academic, not just in terms of professional value, but also on a personal level.

In 2013-2014, I was given the opportunity to be a part of an intense 6-month training in *jingju* (Beijing Opera) from two first-ranked teachers from the Jiangsu Jingju Company in Nanjing for the role of Mu Guiying (Lady Mu) in that year's production of *Lady Mu and the Yang Family Generals (Mu Guiying Gua Shuai)*, an opportunity that I relished. This is not just because I was in the lead role, but also because I understood that this opportunity could only come from a program such as the Asian Theatre program at UH. I was taught how to control my voice, my body, and, most importantly, I was given a chance to be a part of something that I could never get at another university. The chance to study with people who have been a part of this theatre form all of their lives and were willing to impart a little bit of that knowledge onto me doesn't have any value. I learned so much during that year and was able to take what I had learned with me to China, where I am currently conducting my own fieldwork in *jingju*.

Outside of training, I watched my advisor, Dr. Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak, selflessly work her self to the bone in order to secure funding to not only ensure that our production was the best that it could be, but also to make sure that our teachers were as comfortable as possible and that they didn't want for anything. Even after the production was over, she was attending meetings and filling out forms to make sure that all grant institutions were satisfied that their money was used in the correct manner. In rehearsals and classes, she made sure that everything ran smoothly so that we could concentrate on our characters and the production, but outside of rehearsals, it was more obvious that money was a constant concern. Watching both sides of the production gave me a chance to see what it's really like to be blissfully unaware of the money issues, while also being acutely aware that what we were doing had to not only satisfy us, artistically, but also had to satisfy our "backers" and "investors", so to speak.

The use of a “backer” and an “investor” is not unusual in theatre, but that is in professional theatre, where tickets are sold at a ridiculous price in order to make back the money that was spent. As an academic institution, we shouldn’t be charging an arm and a leg for our shows because students are not able to afford \$100+ for one ticket. In order to create the best production we can, money has to come from somewhere and standardization of money from the State of Hawai’i ensures that we will get money to create more Asian Theatre productions and be able to invite teacher artists and lecturers, which will give our students the best experience possible. Applying for grants is never not going to be an issue, but as representatives of the University and probably one of the more visible departments on campus, it is vital that we get some sort of standard funding to make sure that UH can attract more students and that our Asian Theatre program can continue to be the forerunner of Asian Theatre in the United States.

The Department of Theatre and Dance at UH is the most unique department I have ever had the privilege to be a part of and I am always proud to say, whether I am in the US or in China, that I am a doctoral candidate from UH because I have been given an opportunity to learn first hand from teaching artists from all over Asia and pick their brains. I would not be able to do that anywhere else.

Yining Lin 林亦寧
Doctoral Candidate (ABD)
Chinese Theatre
Department of Theatre and Dance
University of Hawaii, Manoa

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Karissa J. Murrell Myers
1412 W. Morse Ave
Chicago, IL 60626
808.227.0309

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

Greetings,

My name is Karissa J. Murrell Myers and I am a recent graduate from the University of Hawaii at Manoa Department of Theatre and Dance's Master of Fine Arts in Western Performance program. I am writing to you today to testify in support of HB 2492, HD 1.

The Department of Theatre and Dance at University of Hawaii at Manoa provided me with a quality education, unique training, and artistic experiences that I would not have been able to obtain anywhere else in the world. It features the only Asian theatre program in the United States and seeks to train students in these art forms by bringing in internationally renowned masters and teachers. In addition to getting formal training in these forms, we as students are also offered the opportunity to combine these forms with Western practices, something that makes this program entirely unique. The loss of this would be exceptionally profound.

Theatre and dance students at UH are not only trained to be proficient at their craft, but are also given the great opportunity of learning how to instruct others as well in their respective art forms. I was given the immense privilege of one of several Graduate Assistships that the Dept of Theatre and Dance offers to graduate students. During my stint as a GA, I taught a number of undergraduate level performance classes, including acting, movement, and voice. This was one of the strongest reasons that I came to UH in the first place: to get teaching experience so that I may be able to apply for teaching jobs on the mainland after graduation. There are so few masters theatre programs in the country that allow graduate students the opportunity to teach undergraduates, which is a great shame as we are the next generation of professors and educators. Without this program, I personally, along with a great number of other theatre GA's that have come through the Dept of Theatre and Dance, would have been set back in my professional career. We are that much closer to our academic goals solely because of UH and this program.

In closing, I hope that you will seriously consider supporting HB 2492, HD 1 so that generations of students to come will not be deprived of such wonderful training and teaching opportunities that they cannot receive anywhere else. The legacy of the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Department of Theatre and Dance program resonates throughout our entire world as we, the graduates, carry our experiences with us and share them with others around the globe. I strongly urge you to vote in support of this measure. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

Representative Isaac Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Gregg Lizenbery, (as an individual) also Assoc. Chair, Director of Dance, Department of Theatre and Dance

Support for HB 2492, HD1, Relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theater and Dance

Thank you for the opportunity to show support for House Bill 2492, HD1. I started teaching at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 1991 and am currently Associate Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance. However I do not represent the university. I am here as passionate supporter of the value of Arts in society, especially in Hawaii. The arts develop students' talents and potentials to service the community here, on the mainland, and internationally. Unfortunately, the institutional support to guide and encourage students has diminished markedly in the 25 years I have been at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

The vital theatre and dance offerings in the Honolulu community, and throughout the state, are, almost solely, directed by graduates of the UHM Department of Theater and Dance. This department is the lynchpin keeping theatre arts alive within the state. There is significant data supporting the benefits of an Arts Education that is enlivened in elementary school, continues through middle and high school, and carries through college and university educations (Preparing Students for the Next America: The Benefits of an Arts Education <http://www.aep-arts.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Preparing-Students-for-the-Next-America-FINAL.pdf> April 2013 Arts Education Partnership).

This department is unique and has capitalized on our central Pacific position by instituting a successful Asia Pacific Dance Festival during the summer that attracts national and international artists, students, and donors. Last summer performances were sold out including local and international companies: Ballet Philippines, Oceania Dance Theatre from Fiji (directed by Hawaii artist Peter Rockford Espiritu), and Halau I Ka Wekiu (directed by Michael Lanakila Casupang). The audiences were primarily composed of local community people excited by the prospect of seeing something related to their particular ethnic background. This tremendous success is an important component of our ongoing outreach efforts.

Thank you so much. We are so grateful for your support of HB 2492, HD1!

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Nicholas Jeffs
808-234-4036 or njeffs@hawaii.edu

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the University of Hawaii's Department of Theater and Dance. The program we have here is incredibly unique in what we study. The exploration and preservation of Asian performance is something no other program offers. I cannot fully elaborate on just how much I value this department, but it has given me a place to express myself through my art and there isn't anywhere else on this island for a student like me to do so to this extent.

Mahalo,
Nicholas Jeffs

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Sabrina Stegman
719-439-0279

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the University of Hawaii's Department of Theater and Dance.

Mahalo,
Sabrina Stegman

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Soonsup Hong
917-385-0870

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I strongly support HB2492, HD1 relating to the university of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance. As an international student, I love Hawaii and this education of UHM. I get a good tuition scholarship from the department and love my faculty and want to preserve this department as a future alumni.

Mahalo,
Soonsup Hong

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Emma Moore
2585 Dole St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB2492, HD1 Relating to the university of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance.

Mahalo,
Emma Moore

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Max Pennington
808-255-5451

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB2492, HD1 Relating to the university of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance.

Mahalo,
Max Pennington

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Tyler Dominick Gentile
808-250-6659

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I fully support HB 2492, HDI Relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance. It is a unique program that truly diversifies the University.

Mahalo,
Tyler Dominick Gentile

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Brittany Caron
3418 Likini St
Honolulu, HI 96818

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I, Brittany Caron, support the bill HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the University of Hawaii,
Department of Theatre and Dance.

Mahalo,
Brittany Caron

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Keola Nakamoto
(808) 859-3700

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

Relating to UH Theatre and Dance, I support Bill HB 2492, HD 1 because it is important for people to have the opportunity to learn about the Hawaiian culture in all different aspects, whether it'd be history, art, dance, etc. The Hawaiian culture is dying, and as citizens of the Hawaiian Islands, it is our responsibility to get the culture back on its feet, so we can keep the aloha spirit alive and well for both native Hawaiians and visitors alike. We've been told to malama the aina, and preserving a fine arts aspect of the culture is one way of doing so in addition to keeping the land as beautiful as it is.

Mahalo,
Keola Nakamoto

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Jason Mah
2585 Dole St. Honolulu, HI, 96822

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I, Jason Mah, support the bill HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the University of Hawaii, Department of Theatre and Dance.

Mahalo,
Jason Mah

LATE

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Hanae Matsumoto
(808) 234-8445

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I, Hanae Matsumoto, support the bill HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the University of Hawaii,
Department of Theatre and Dance.

Mahalo,
Hanae Matsumoto

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Julie Li
(808) 382-7025

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I'm writing to support the Bill HB2492 HD1 for University of Hawaii, Department of Theater and Dance. Funding can truly help students achieve their theater goal. Please give students a chance to achieve their dreams.

Sincerely,
Julie Li

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Valerie Nica Ribao
808-227-5565

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I, Valerie Nica Ribao, support the bill HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the University of Hawaii,
Department of Theatre and Dance.

Mahalo,
Valerie Nica Ribao

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Mykaela Sterris
(714) 478-7598
Hale Aloha Lakeland Room 1059
2579 Dole Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Department of Theatre & Dance is crucial to my everyday learning experience. Every aspect of my life is consumed by the performing arts and I would not be the person I am today without this department. The staff are integral members of my life as artistic and personal mentors. I support this department with my entire self and would be thrilled to see it thrive even more with the help of the state.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mykaela Sterris

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Marissa Yee
916-207-0263

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support the bill HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the University of Hawaii, Department of Theatre and Dance.

Mahalo,
Marissa Yee

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Keiko Ohtake-Gordon
3035268557

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB2492, HD 1 relating to the UH Manoa Department of a Theater and Dance.

Mahalo,
Keiko Ohtake-Gordon

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Gianna Bailey
2569 Dole St #930
Honolulu, HI 96822

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB2492, HD 1 relating to the UH Manoa Department of a Theater and Dance.

Mahalo,
Gianna Bailey

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Ryan Barsatan
809-754-6839

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB2492, HD 1 relating to the UH Manoa Department of a Theater and Dance.

Mahalo,
Ryan Barsatan

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Keonaona Keliimakanoe Mahi
(808) 597-0675
1312 8th Ave Apt A
Honolulu, HI 96816

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB2492, HD 1 relating to the UH Manoa Department of a Theater and Dance.

Mahalo,
Keonaona Keliimakanoe Mahi

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Lindzey Ng
808-626-6811

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB2492, HD 1 relating to the UH Manoa Department of a Theater and Dance.

Mahalo,
Lindzey Ng

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Ray Pascual
Contact #: 808 341-7186

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

Aloha. I support HB2492, HD 1 Relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance.

Thank you for your time.

Ray Pascual

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Ian Michael Kelly
2569 Dole St
Honolulu, HI 96822

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB2492, HD 1 Relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance.

Thank you.
Ian Michael Kelly

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Neil Scheibelhut
2369 Liloa Rise, Honolulu, HI, 96822
808-785-4426

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I am a graduate student in the Molecular Biosciences and Bioengineering program. I am also a disabled veteran of the Iraq war who struggles with anxiety and depression. Being able to participate in productions through the theatre department has been a way for me to express my creative side, and has been instrumental in helping me in my struggle. The theatre department is in desperate need of funding to continue. I fully support HB2492, HD1 and on behalf of all students who use the department of theatre and dance as an aid to help their anxiety and depression, I hope it passes.

Sincerely,
Neil Scheibelhut

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Barbara Craig
314 Hamakua Dr., Kailua HI 96734

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I am in support of HB2492 HD1 relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theater and Dance. I truly support this bill. Please help us out in any way you can. And thank you.

Sincerely,
Barbara Craig

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Robert Louis Gerard Lamakuokana‘auao Sassone
1634 Nu‘uanu Avenue

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I wish to show my support for HP2492, HD1.

Sincerely,
Robert Louis Gerard Lamakuokana‘auao Sassone

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Koa Webster
808-230-1253

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support the HB 2492 and HD1. I believe funding is needed for the many quality theatre programs.

Sincerely,
Koa Webster

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Michelle Huynh
224 Andrews Lane, Honolulu, HI, 96813
(808) 256-9177

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

As a student under the University of Hawaii at Manoa and this creative department, I am fully aware of our program's needs for financial stability and educational growth. I am enrolled in college in order to receive a higher education of my passions which this bill will fully support my wishes in order to attain my wants. That is why I, Michelle Huynh, a Theatre and English undergraduate student, support the bill HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the University of Hawaii, Department of Theatre and Dance.

Sincerely,
Michelle Huynh

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Margot Fitzsimmons
646-709-2047

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the University of Hawaii, Department of Theatre and Dance. Last year we started an MFA in Hawaiian Theater but we need more support. We currently only have one professor, but now we need two to enhance our programming and to bring it to a new level. Laieikawai our Hawaiian Theater Performance last year performed to sold out performances, educational performances for students and performed at KCACTF. With your support we can continue our programming and be the leading University in Hawaiian Theater.

Best,

Margot

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Aubrey Watkins
3488A Manoa Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96822
aubreygw@hawaii.edu

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the University of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre & Dance.

I support the bill allowing for financial support of the Theatre and Dance Dept. at The University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Being a Graduate student within the Theatre and Dance department, I am proud of the wide range of valuable artwork we put forward to the community. It is difficult being a member of this department and seeing the power it carries within the larger Hawaii community while also seeing the lack of support from the institution we are in. The department struggles to support its students and staff and yet we continue to present powerful work and achieve a wide-ranging, supportive audience that values us. Our audience support and continued determination is a testament to the power of theatre and dance and also to the strength that we carry as a community. Imagine what we could do with more support and the growth that could be accomplished in our future.

Thank you for your time and attention to this bill as well as for the work you do everyday.

Mahalo nui loa,
Aubrey Watkins

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Shannon Q. Iriarte
(808)683-6379

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I wholeheartedly support the bill HB 2492, HD 1 relating to the University of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance.

Sincerely,
Shannon Q. Iriarte

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Jennifer Eccles
2222 Citron Street Apt. 1502
Honolulu, HI 96826

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I wish to show my support for HP2492, HD1.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Eccles

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Maseeh Ganjali
1-808-554-3208
Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I wish to show my support for HP2492, HD1.

Sincerely,
Maseeh Ganjali

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Michael Donato
8082338375

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support the bill HB2492, HD 1 relating to the University of Hawaii, Department of theatre and Dance.

Sincerely,
Michael Donato

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Brandann R. Hill-Mann
(808) 799-4537
92-1133 Panana Street Apt #1003
Kapolei HI, 96707

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

As a disabled U.S. Navy veteran going back to school after a thirteen year hiatus, I support the bill HB 2492, HD 1 and what it means to my education in the UH Department of Theatre and Dance. Without this program I would not be bettering myself through education following my active duty service. Please support HB 2492, HD 1.

Sincerely,

Brandann R. Hill-Mann

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Jill Guillermo-Togawa
142 Lunalilo Home Rd, Honolulu 96825

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB 2492, HD 1, relating to the University of Hawai'i, Department of Theatre and Dance. I am a graduate of UH Manoa's Department of Theatre and Dance and the quality of teachers and training I received have served me throughout my professional career as a choreographer, dancer and teacher of the Alexander Technique. The Department of Theatre and Dance creates and presents productions that benefit our whole community, through the stories and cultural experiences expressed.

Mahalo for your support of HB 2492, HD1.

Sincerely,
Jill Guillermo-Togawa

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Melisa Orozco Vargas
(808) 753-5612
915 Alewa Place, Honolulu, HI 96817

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I am writing to provide my support of HB2492 HD1, relating to the University of Hawaii, Department of Theatre & Dance. In August, I joined the department as a graduate student in Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA)--something I had never imagined in my life--and in this short time I have been deeply inspired by the possibilities that an advanced degree in theatre can do for me and therefore my family and our community. When we have theatre in our lives, we are living and doing, we are communicating with others, we are feeling, we are creating, and we are making the world a better place; because in doing theatre we reflect on who we are as individuals in relation to other living and non-living things around us. Theatre for me is an opportunity to bring together interests in health, language, sustainability, and the arts so that I can create awareness and learning about issues in each of these areas, especially for the keiki, our future, without simply stating facts or throwing out numbers. We are people, we like stories. We are transformed by stories we tell about ourselves and by those about others. Please support this bill and allow the department to continue to offer opportunities for quality training and education which will greatly impact students and our local and global communities.

Thank you.
Melisa Orozco Vargas

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Sharon Garcia Doyle
1414 Piikoi Street Apt. F
Honolulu, HI 96822

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I am a graduate student of UH Manoa's Department of Theatre and Dance, a candidate for the Master of Fine Arts in Acting, a Graduate Assistant and local artist, I support HB 2492, HD 1 relating to the University of Hawai'i, Department of Theater and Dance.

UHM – Theater and Dance are world renowned for their Asian and Pacific Theater program. Also having just co-hosted this weekend and participated in the 48th Annual Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival for Region 8, UH-Department of Theater came away with National awards for its Devised Theater, Acting, Lighting, Applied – Design and Technology, and Directing. University of Hawai'i-Theater and Dance is a great place to get a solid education and professional training.

Sincerely,
Sharon Garcia Doyle

LATE

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Yan Ma
PhD Student
Department of Theatre and Dance
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Address: 2311 Dole Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
Contact number: 808 551 5822

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 1 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support the bill HB 2492, HD 1. I started my study in UHM Department of Theatre and Dance in spring 2010 as an international student. While pursuing the MA degree with a focus of Asian Theatre, I gained a deep understanding of Chinese theatre theory and performance principles. I also became very familiar with Japanese theatre, the theatre of South and Southeast Asia, and Western theatre. My PhD degree studies since August 2012 have given me a deeper knowledge of both Asian and Western theatre theories. While enrolled at UH, I have grown from being only a jingju enthusiast to caring for theatre traditions of many types, and I have gone from being only an amateur actor to becoming a professional performer and researcher in theatre. However, my original goal has not changed—to transmit traditional Chinese theatre and culture to the world. To achieve the goal, I have been involved in many jingju and kunqu performing activities. For example, in spring 2014, I participated in the English-language jingju production, *Lady Mu and the Yang Family Generals*, as assistant director, a lead performer for the eight public performances, and an interpreter and teaching assistant for the training classes. The English-language jingju performance as well as other multicultural productions produced by my department have provided theatre practitioners and audiences with unique and exciting opportunities for performing and appreciating the indigenous theatre and culture of China, Japan, Indonesia, and Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Yan Ma