

I submit this testimony in strong support of HB2492 HD2.

The Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa provides a great deal of cultural wealth and academic discipline to the university, our community and throughout the world. The lives and work of the many thousands of students who have studied in this department are forever positively changed.

Support HB2492 HD2!

The Dept. of Theatre and Dance provides 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 the UHM Theatre and Dance production season is unique in Hawai'i: you cannot see this range anywhere else in the state. The 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. Production and curriculum function together.

The international scope is important. In recent years, students studied with master teachers from China (including Taiwan and Hong Kong), Korea, Japan, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, Tahiti, Kiribati, Rotuma, the Philippines, Germany, France, England, and 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 the 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!

The next Kennedy Theatre production is entitled *Shazam! Dance+Science* wherein local and guest choreographers explore the natural nexus of dance and science. The aim is to prove that an "A" needs to be inserted into STEM education to yield *STEAM*.

The production season is enmeshed in the multi-faceted curriculum. The Department's mission is to educate the whole student. The lessons taught are life-lessons, skills applicable in myriad professions. Students are educated to be deep thinkers, doers, and voters, who are contributing citizens to their community.

There has been a significant decrease in system-wide support for the Theatre

and Dance Department. There is so much the Department wants to do to continue its track record of excellence. The challenge to provide greater outreach and relevant productions is accepted. But, we need help.

SUPPORT HB2492 HD2!

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Alexander Munro
5039A Maunalani Circle
Honolulu, HI 96816

Friday, February 26, 2016

SUPPORT for H.B. No. 2492, HD 2 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 2 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 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 2. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT
HB 2492 HD2
By Dennis Ihara
Before the House Finance Committee,
February 26, 2016, 11:00 a.m.

Chair Luke , Vice Chair Nishimoto, 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. The effective date of this Bill is the year 2525, but funds are needed now! This Legislature can make a difference.

Thank you and Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 11:08 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tom1.galli@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM*

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Galli	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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The University Hawai'i's Dance and Theatre program is a jewel of the UH system. They provide the only opportunity for Asian theatre training in the state and are recognized internationally for their value. The recent Blainese Wayang Listrik production of "Battle of the Monkey Kings" is an example of their beautiful work available to the general public.

Please support them in all ways possible. They provide a great program to students and the general public. Their generosity in sharing resources with local nonprofit arts organizations is well known and a great service to the local arts community.

Thank you,
Carlynn Wolfe
1020 Green Street #108
Honolulu, HI 96822
Wolfec004@hawaii.rr.com

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Amy Lynn Schiffner
7012 Hawaii Kai Drive #801
Honolulu, HI 96825
808.343.6992

Friday, Feb. 26, 2016

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

Dear House Finance Committee,

I write in support for **HB 2492 HD2** relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance. The UH Department of Theatre and Dance provides community access to international artists, art forms and performances. Theatre and Dance courses, workshops, festivals and productions bring thousands of students, community members and school children to the department every semester. As a community outreach specialist I can attest that students and faculty of the theatre and dance department earnestly visits K-12 schools across the islands to provide local students with quality arts education experiences. Additionally, the department brings performances and arts education programs to local hospitals, libraries, community centers, assisted living centers, the Honolulu Zoo, the Waikiki Aquarium and more. The department makes significant contributions to the community statewide through outreach activities. The department serves as a central vehicle for perpetuating culture and the arts in Hawaii. Again, as an arts professional, community member and parent I support HB 2492 HD2 relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance

Sincerely,
Amy Lynn Schiffner

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Kaitlyn Patrick
(724) 464-4779

Friday, Feb. 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I am writing this testimony in support of bill HB 2492, HD2 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

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Friday, Feb. 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawaii, Department of
Theatre and Dance

I am urging support and passing of HB 2492, HD2 Relating to the University of
Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance.

Best Regards,

Kara Miller
Honolulu, Hawaii

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Emma Robinson
808-782-9082

Friday, Feb. 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 10:01 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: LuranaO@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lurana O'Malley	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair Committee on Finance Lurana O'Malley 808-956-7677 Friday, Feb. 26, 2016 Support for HB 2492, HD 2 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

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 9:33 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: terryslaughter90@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terry Slaughter	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB2492. The arts are and should be an integral part of education. Through dance, we not only strengthen our bodies, we also strengthen our minds as a result of dance's ability to stimulate students of multiple intelligences.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 9:29 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: vicariousmotion@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM*

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Corbett J. K. Stern	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 9:29 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: katsuyos@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charlaine Katsuyoshi	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please support bill HB 2492, HD2. Arts education is vital for the University of Hawaii, Manoa. Thank you!!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 9:28 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: amybukarau@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support HB2492-HD2. The dance and theatre department at the University of Hawaii creates an academic level of excellency for its students to achieve and then contribute back into the world outside of college. It has been very valuable and educational for me person as a graduate student.

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I would like to support Bill HB2492 regarding the University of Hawaii at Manoa Theater and Dance program. I believe this bill will greatly benefit the university, students, and community.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 9:27 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: cemaxwel@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Maxwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB2492.

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REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT Y. NISHIMOTO, VICE CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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

Friday, Feb. 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 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 HB 2492 HD 2. 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.

I am writing to support the appropriation of funds for the department of theater and dance at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

The University of Hawaii at Manoa is in a unique position due to location and culture. The department of theater and dance celebrates this with their presentations. With a strong faculty qualified to teach Asian, Pacific, and Western theater, the department regularly performs dance and theater from all these areas in a skillful way. They are able to connect to different areas of the world through teachers that they have been able to bring from China, Japan, Java, and Bali. Most recently they performed the *Battle of the Monkey Kings*, a Balinese Wayang Listrik (involving dance and shadow puppetry) which they were able to work on for two years with teachers from Bali. Besides being a wonderful and polished performance, this piece filled the six hundred seat house.

The department also trains students in directing, acting, children's theatre, and playwriting, exposing them to the great Western traditions as well as Asian and Polynesian traditions. In working for my MFA in Western Directing in the department, I was exposed to all of these influences, which have made it possible for me to teach and direct in the community with confidence and flair. The students that come out of the Dance and Theater program come forth with a global point of view they could only have gained through this department, and the community reaps the benefits of having a widened choice of culture and entertainment in the state.

The arts shape our lives and inform everything that we do. Students in the arts discover discipline, the joy of discovering culture and history, reading with discernment, creative ways to solve complex problems, and, most importantly, who they are and where they stand in the Pacific and the world.

Providing funds to the department for the Asian Theatre Program, guest artists/lecturers, general production season costs, two assistant shop positions, and another faculty member in Hawaiian Theatre will make it possible for the department to maintain their consistently excellent work.

SUPPORT OF BILL HB 2492 HD2

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

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

RE: Support for HB 2492, HD 2
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 HD2. 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 Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Robert Matthew Kelty
808rmk@gmail.com
808.888.9028

Friday, February 26, 2016; 11:00 am

STRONG SUPPORT for HB 2492 HD 2
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 2, 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 Korea, Japan, China, 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; in Canada; in Aotearoa and other Oceanic nations; and in multiple locations throughout Asia. Other students have gone on to receive further training at institutions such as Yale University and the Cleveland Playhouse. These artists take their UHM experience 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*

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Rachael Uyeno
808-754-6147

Friday, Feb. 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of
Theatre and Dance

My name is Rachael Uyeno, currently a graduate assistant at UH Manoa in the Department of Theatre and Dance. I strongly support HB 2492 HD 2, which would give much needed support and opportunities to the faculty and students.

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. Without this or a similar position, I would not be able to attend grad school. Limits on lecturers also 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, which defeats the initiative to get students out of college in four years.

Theatre is largely practical in study. Our productions allow our students to hone their skills and practice their art, not just as performers or directors, but also in the areas of lighting, set, prop, or costume design and construction, dramaturgy, stage management, publicity, and house management. These are skills that cannot be taught in a classroom. The ability of the department to put on shows for students to be involved in is vital to our education, to giving us real skills and practical experience to take into a very competitive field of work, but the University does not give us financial support for these productions. To reiterate, those productions ARE our education.

This department is worth investing in. 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. We hosted 1100 people with no help from the University, and at considerable cost. This is simply not sustainable.

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 HD 2. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

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: Friday, Feb. 26, 2016 11:00AM

In support of HB 2492 HD2 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 HD2 – 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 wit, 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 HD2. Thank you for your consideration.

To Whom It May Concern,

In this testimony, I am professing my belief that the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Asian theatre program is an invaluable part of our community. It provides the following services to our community and university: it provides persons of Asian descent a connection to the culture of their families' past; it increases the cultural knowledge of both our community and our nation through research and brand new theatrical productions; it brings prestige to our university and community as the best place to study Asian theatre in the United States; it improves our country and state's relationships with other countries and cultures by inviting cultural experts from other countries to ours; and it offers our university's students a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take part in brand new multicultural theatre experiences. If we don't support the Asian theatre program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, all of these things will be lost. I believe that we can't let that happen.

Thank you very much,

Nicholas Husted

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

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

Friday, Feb. 26, 2016, 11:00 am

Support for HB 2492 HD 2 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 2. 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 16-17, 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.

Over 20,000 people see our events each year. We are a public face of the university and the community we represent. Today, at the hearing before the Committee on Finance, we will feel the absence of 3 of our professors because they are touring our productions and training programs. Our Chinese program is presenting our *jingju* training in Oklahoma with Dr. Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak; our recent production of *Subali-Sugriwa: Battle of the Monkey Kings* is touring to the Big Island with Dr. Kirstin Pauka; and our highly-acclaimed production of *Lā‘ieikawai* is being presented on Kau‘ai with Prof. Haili‘ōpua Baker. Two weeks ago we hosted the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region VIII, with 1100 participants from peer institutions in California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and Guam. It was a mammoth undertaking, only made possible by the sheer persistence and dedication of our faculty, staff and students. We received no help from the university to produce this regional conference, a conference that saw our students win major awards. Again I reiterate—we do amazing work. But there is a huge difference between what we accomplish and what we are funded to do—that difference is made up for in human equity. It is not sustainable. Our staff work 80 hour weeks constantly. Our faculty teach uncompensated overloads and spend inordinate amounts of time teaching and training students for productions. And yet we keep getting cut.

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 2 gives us the opportunity to help them accomplish their potential. We humbly ask for your support.

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Finance Committee

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)

Friday, February 26, 2016, 11:00 am

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I am writing to express the strongest possible support for HB 2492 HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance, and to ask that the funding amounts be restored to the original figures, and the effective date to July 1, 2016.

The curriculum, production program, degrees, and special activities of the Department of Theatre and Dance are essential to the performing arts of this state, and have nurtured generations of artists and technicians in a wide range of forms, including Asian and Pacific theatre and dance, theatre and dance for young audiences, and classical and modern Euro-American dance and theatre. Numerous major performance companies were born in the Dept., including Manoa Valley and Kumu Kahua Theatres, Ballet Hawaii and Monkey and the Waterfall. Graduates staff every theatre in the state, including the Blaisdell and Hawaii Theatre Centers, and most high school and college theatre programs as well. We are a positive, vital force in the lives of our students and our community.

The Department of Theatre and Dance is especially well known for its unique international programs, including those in Dance, Theatre for Young Audiences, Hawaiian Theatre, and Asian Theatre. These programs 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 now focus on the Asian Theatre Program and its funding needs as a specific example.

Asian theatre productions have been regularly performed at the University's Mānoa campus since 1923, decades before the vast majority of universities internationally studied and performed Asian theatre at all. Theatre and Dance's Asian Theatre Program has long been the 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 Asia lead 4 to 8 months of intensive training in a particular form of Asian theatre, undertaken by 40-60 or more students. These are immersive, life-changing experiences that continue to influence and benefit the students throughout their careers and lives.

Additionally, these training 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 then 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 former graduate students now holding University of Hawai‘i MA, MFA, and PhD degrees in Asian theatre who are 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.

UHM provides \$130,000 in annual funding to help with training curriculum and outreach costs, and I believe that UHM is thereby doing what it can to support the Asian Theatre Program. But those costs, which vary with cultural area, frequently exceed that amount by 60-70%, and are accompanied by equivalent production costs. Cuts to Graduate Assistants and Lecturers being planned for the 2016-17 academic year are further and very seriously eroding the infrastructure that makes the training curriculum, outreach, and culminating production a reality, as well. As a result, it is currently not possible for us to negotiate contracts with the artists of Japan’s Kabuki and China’s Jingju or Beijing “opera” unless substantial outside assistance is forthcoming—and these theatre forms are due to be the focus in 2016-17 and 2017-18, respectively. The support UHM is able to provide is therefore not enough to maintain the standard of excellence which the Legislature has honored us by recognizing several times in the past, and which our students and audiences expect and deserve. In its restored form, HB 2492 HD 2 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.

Sincerely yours, with aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

John Oglevee
1-8-12 Honmachi
Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan 151-0071

Friday, Feb. 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of
Theatre and Dance

There is no other program like the UH's Theatre and Dance Department in the world. Those involved in the arts in Asia are well aware of the prominent place the UH Theatre and Department holds. Please keep this legacy alive and provide whatever they need to continue their ability to share the arts with future generations. I too am a graduate of the program and know first hand the profound effects its had on the world of the performing arts.

Thank you for your consideration,

John Oglevee

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

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

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 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 who teaches Introduction to Performance, a local artist, and I support HB 2492, HD 2 relating to the University of Hawai'i, Department of Theater and Dance.

Having recently co-hosted and participated in the 48th Annual Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival for Region 8, UH-Department of Theater came away with awards for its Devised Theater, Acting, Lighting, Applied – Design and Technology, as well as a National Finalist in Directing, the highest distinction in Directing one may be awarded by the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. These awards are one indicator of the excellent performing arts education that students receive from our beloved hardworking faculty despite the limited and consistently shrinking resources with which this department operates. I can only imagine what this department can do with financial support.

As I am one of a handful lucky enough to have a Graduate Assistantship, I am in a position to tell you firsthand a little bit about what teachers in this department deal with. On my first day of class, I did not hand out a syllabus because I could not. The department does not have enough money for paper and ink. On that first day, my twenty enthusiastic students had to squeeze into my designated classroom, the Kennedy Theater Men's dressing room. Here, amidst the occasional locker-slamming, toilet flushing and foot traffic, my students engaged joyfully in confidence-building exercises disguised as theater games. One or two of these twenty stand out as performers, but among them are mostly future entrepreneurs, architects, scientists, senators, engineers, and professional athletes – all of them interested in performance to learn about confidence, speaking in front of people, and presenting their best selves. But don't take my word for it. I encourage all of you to please visit the University of Hawai'i Department of Theater and Dance and experience for yourself all that arts in education has to offer.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair



Committee on Finance

Nicolas Logue
1524 Pensacola St., Apt. 119
Honolulu HI 96822
Phone: 808 780-9785

Friday, Feb. 26, 2016

Support for HD2492, HD2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii Dept. of Theater & Dance

I am writing today in strong support of House Bill 2492 HD 2 - Relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theater and Dance. As a two-time Fulbright Scholar and a graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa's M.F.A. Asian Theatre Program, I can attest to and vouch for the contents of this bill – the extreme importance and positive impact of the Theatre and Dance program at UH Manoa on hundreds of young artists and the world at large.

Upon finishing my second Fulbright in Beijing, China, I began searching for a program that would continue my exploration of Asian Theatre and challenge me as an artist. Every master-teacher I worked with in Beijing urged me to go to Hawaii and study with Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak - world-renowned as a top expert in Chinese Theatre, and a respected name among any theatre company in China.

I was offered spots at NYU, Columbia and other prestigious performance training programs, but Theatre and Dance at Manoa, with its impressive array of faculty and Asian Theatre programs, proved too impressive to pass on.

Thanks to my training and studies at UH Manoa, I was hired by East 15 Acting School in London, England to create the first-ever World Performance BA program – a program that thrives to this day - our graduates helm intercultural performance projects and programs all over Europe.

I know for a fact that my studies at UH Manoa uniquely prepared me for this intense challenge, and my letter of recommendation from Professor Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak was the deciding factor in my hiring at East 15. Our graduates from East 15's World Performance Program are the inheritors of great lessons I gleaned in Kennedy Theatre at UH Manoa.

In the years since, I have returned to the islands and now proudly work alongside my teachers at Manoa, building a strong Performing Arts Program at Windward Community College. The work they do at Manoa is some of the best in the world, but it cannot be done

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

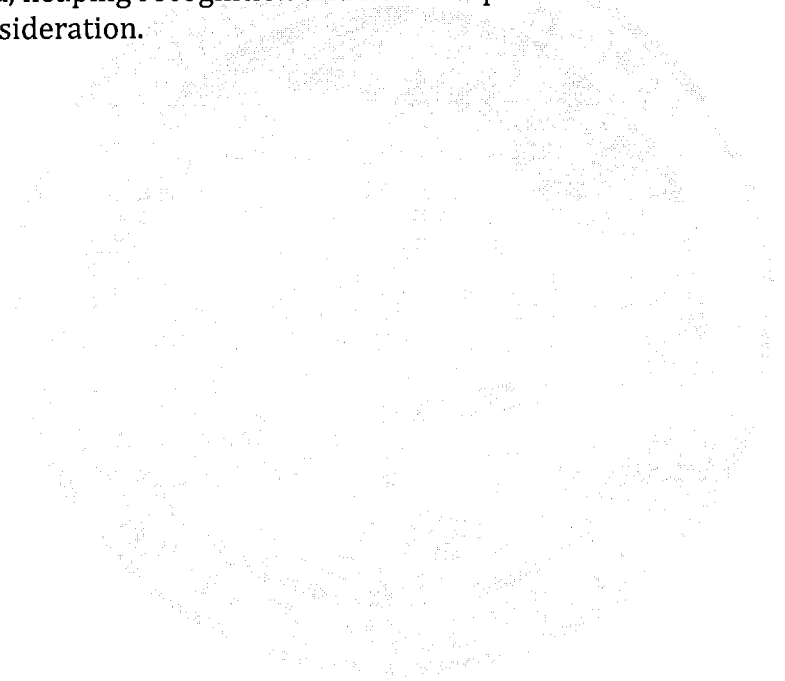
without support and funding. Please support this Bill and ensure that Manoa's internationally lauded Theatre and Dance program continues to sparkle as a jewel in the crown of UHM.

House Bill 2492 HD 2 ensures that Theatre and Dance Dept., which has suffered devastating funding cuts in the past decade, may continue to launch trailblazing performers, directors, and technicians into the world, heaping recognition and honors upon UH Manoa.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicolas Logue
Instructor and Head of Theatre
Windward Community College



LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Chicago Improv Productions
2936 N. Southport Ave, Chicago, IL 60657
(773) 875-6616

Friday, Feb. 26, 2016

Support for HB2492, HD2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii Dept. of Theater & Dance

I am writing to express my support for the passage of HB2492 HD 2. As a 25 year theatre professional with international experience, I make my living through the arts and I was trained in theatre in college, so I know how valuable this kind of academic programs are. The performing arts help supply the foundation for the US entertainment industry that in turn is the United States number 3 exported goods to the world. The arts also helps provide a cultural sense of our history, our present and our future. For every dollar you spend on this program, it will in the long run create and produce \$7 in artistic, cultural, and entertainment experiences for everyone to partake in.

All the best,
Jonathan Pitts
Executive Director

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

LATE

Dylan Lee
Phone: (808)-225-9647
Email: leed7@hawaii.edu

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theater & Dance

When I was a kid, I was always called the weird kid. This was both good and bad. The good part about being the weird kid was being able to make people laugh. Having people laugh is probably the most satisfying thing I have ever had a pleasure doing. Seeing people smile and feeding off of their energy is one heck of a rush. As humans, we are selfish by nature. We enjoy having the spotlight on us at all times. We love to be complimented by others based on our own deeds and endeavors. In short, it feels good to have attention. That is why theatre became so appealing to me. I know this sounds a bit narcissistic but it is true. Theatre has given me the attention that I have always searched for. Like I said earlier, there was both a good and a bad thing about being the weird kid. The good part: being able to make people smile. The bad?

Well the bad thing about being the weird kid is that their will always be critics. People who believe that they are above other people. This system of social hierarchy has been in place for a number of years. Many of you may be familiar with the term stereotypical terms: jocks and geeks. The typical high school will no doubt have these two “classes” of people. It is a no brainer that social conflict may arise between the social classes. It’s inevitable because people do not understand. They don’t understand why we are weird. They don’t understand why we enjoy dressing up. They don’t understand why we spend so much time alone practicing our lines over and over and over. Saying them so often that it is like we are broken record player. That’s why they label us. Weirdos. That old saying that, “sticks and stones will never hurt us” is a complete lie. I remember the day in sixth grade when a classmate told me, “Dylan you do things that make me want to kill myself.” How are you able to respond to that? The way that I act affects people that much? It is even worse when you have a parent who doesn’t understand either. I remember time after time again being told, “STOP BEING WEIRD. YOU ARE EMBARRASSING.” Where am I supposed to go with my weirdness? So for the next few years I spent a majority of my time trying to be something that I wasn’t. I despised the weird people. I hated who I was. I constantly made fun of the theatre people at school. Why not? They were different from who I “was.”

Then in an ironic turn of events, I was placed in intro to theatre at my high school. The first day of class was uncomfortable. No normal person would be okay with interacting with strangers. Especially in a theatre class. However, something weird happened. My teacher, whom I owe a great debt to, used to do a lot of improv exercises. We would create scenes using random sentences that we wrote earlier in class. That’s when the fire was reignited. When I would perform people would laugh. They would smile. But they wouldn’t judge me for being weird. No. In fact, they loved the fact that I was able to feel so comfortable. For the theatre people, being weird was normal. There was no judgment. We were all one big family of misfits trying to find a niche in society to live in. In the theatre, I could be myself. I didn’t have to hold onto this façade of what I wanted others to see me as. I could be me. Theatre became my family when my own family didn’t even support the idea.

When I told my parents that I wanted to pursue theatre as my major, my father looked at

me and asked, "Do you honestly think that you are one in a million?" This hurt. Here I was trying to share my dream with my parents and they couldn't even be behind me to help walk me through. But I knew what I wanted to do. So despite their criticism I decided to pursue theatre as my major in college. Here in my first year at UH, I have expanded my theatre family. They took me in and looked passed all of my imperfections. For theatre, those "imperfections" made me unique. That is why I support the University of Hawaii Theatre and Dance program and support HB 2492 HD 2. At the end of the day we are all part of a grand story that we take in pride in sharing with you; whether it be an evening premier or a closing matinée or on the main performing or in the back stage managing. We are all just one big family. Freaks and geeks.

Dylan Lee

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

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

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I am writing to provide my support of HB2492 HD2, 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 Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

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

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 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 2 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 2.

Sincerely,

Brandann R. Hill-Mann

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Jill Guillermo-Togawa
142 Lunalilo Home Rd, Honolulu 96825

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB 2492, HD 2, 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, HD2.

Sincerely,
Jill Guillermo-Togawa

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

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

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support the bill HB 2492, HD 2. 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

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance



Angie Anderson
808-542-2458
angie@hawaii.edu

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawaii, Department of Theater and Dance

Aloha Representatives and readers,

My name is Angie Anderson and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa in my third year of study, currently pursuing concurrent degrees in English and Theatre. Thank you for taking the time to read my words about the University of Hawaii at Mānoa's theatre and dance department.

It has been just over a year since I declared Theatre as my second major and, since then, I have performed in three different productions within the department and am currently preparing for a fourth. Kennedy Theatre productions come alive through a unique, organic type of charm that originates in the spirit of education and collaboration. The international and intercultural perspectives we learn as students of both Eastern and Western theatre lends to the diverse work we do as performers, designers, and scholars in the field. The impactful and carefully crafted theatre produced in Kennedy Theatre is fueled by artists who seek to explore and share basic, important human experiences. These powerful missions to pursue the spirit of existence in multidimensional fields are only made possible by the artists who, in my humble opinion, truly deserve support and aid.

Students like me are driven, enthusiastic, and determined to create theatre for ourselves and for our community, which results in passionate and novel art. During this part of our lives, we are focused on maturing our practice through constant trial and error and through the guidance of our faculty and staff, who act as our mentors and sometimes overwhelmingly knowledgeable educators, but also as our colleagues, guides, and support system. Undergraduate and graduate students work alongside and with professors to learn, explore, grow, and feed the basic need to create. I am proud to say that my department is incredibly tight-knit and welcoming to anyone who steps through the stage door.

The people within the department are tenacious and fiercely dedicated people, but we need and appreciate the aid that would give us more opportunities to create productions that more accurately reflect the spirit of our artists. Thousands of people see our productions a year. Every experience is unique and new--each show is a singular shout heard by the people present that we are a powerful gathering of unique ideas. Through feedback, participation, and patronage, we know that we truly make an impact on our audience. The monetary situation is

always a stressful and abysmal topic of conversation around the theatre; it is unfortunate that our work as artistic voices for our community is limited by the absence of funds.

Shakespeare needed political patrons to afford to produce his company's plays. I won't go so far as to claim that we are Shakespeare or his company, but we, as a department, follow in his footsteps and in the footsteps of all thespians before us, aspiring to greatness and striving to create art that reflects the human spirit.

I apologize that I will not be able to attend the hearing as I will be in class, but I sincerely appreciate you taking the time to read my testimony. I encourage the committee to sincerely consider HB 2492 and I hope that I can help articulate a very small, but visceral and integral part of the department to you all.

Thank you!

Angie Anderson

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Anna Hamaguchi
94-492 Lehuakona St.
Mililani, HI 96789

Friday, Feb. 26, 2016

Support for HB2492, HD2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii Dept. of Theater & Dance

I am writing in support for HB 2492, HD 2 relating to the University of Hawaii, Department of Theatre and Dance. This bill would give the department desperate needed funds for the myriad of programs they offer that enhance student life and promotes the university. The opportunities for students to not only work together to create a performance for the stage, but also for students to attend the performances adds to the cultural sophistication of the student body. The department's highly-esteemed Asian theatre programs expose students and audiences to new forms and cultures as well as provide highly unique chances that make studying at the University of Hawaii stand out from the mainland. HB 2492 helps these efforts of the department at a time when they are doing everything they can do save money.

Sincerely,

Anna Hamaguchi

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Taurie Kinoshita
1524 Pensacola St., Apt. 119
Honolulu HI 96822
Phone: 808 779-3456

Friday, Feb. 26, 2016

Support for HB2492, HD2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii Dept. of Theater & Dance

I am writing today in strong support of House Bill 2492 HD 2 - Relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theater and Dance.

Everything stated in the Bill is accurate and important. Beyond the many benefits yielded to the students of Kennedy Theatre's wonderful programs, the diverse cultural and artistic performances they offer enrich our community on the island – sharing stories from across Asia, and exposing the young and the old alike to time-honored performance traditions from around the globe.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita
Artistic Director
Cruel Theatre Company

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Matthew Toyama
3219 Paho Ave Honolulu HI 96816

Friday, Feb. 26, 2016

Support for HB2492, HD2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii Dept. of Theater & Dance

I feel like the UH Manoa theater and dance program is unique and gives many young college students opportunities to learn techniques and experiment with styles in a way that no other public university would even dream of hosting. I fully support HB2492 HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theater and Dance.

Matthew Toyama

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

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

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 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 2 Relating to the University of Hawaii, Department of Theatre and Dance.

Sincerely,
Michelle Huynh

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Andrea Gordon
2569 Dole Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

Friday, Feb. 26, 2016

Support for HB2492, HD2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii Dept. of Theater & Dance

Hell, yes I support the bill HB 2492 HD 2 relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theater and Dance

Andrea Gordon

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Emily Hoadley
66-261 Kaamooloa Rd.
Waialua, HI 96791

Friday, Feb. 26, 2016

Support for HB2492, HD2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii Dept. of Theater & Dance

I am writing to say that I fully support House Bill 2492 HD2 in regards to the University of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance.

Emily Hoadley

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

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

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 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 Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Margot Fitzsimmons
646-709-2047

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB 2492, HD 2 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 Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Koa Webster
808-230-1253

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support the HB 2492 and HD2. I believe funding is needed for the many quality theatre programs.

Sincerely,
Koa Webster

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Barbara Craig
314 Hamakua Dr., Kailua HI 96734

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I am in support of HB2492 HD2 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 Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

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

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 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 HB 2492, HD 2 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 Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

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

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 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 Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Julie Li
(808) 382-7025

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I'm writing to support the Bill HB2492 HD2 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 Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Keola Nakamoto
(808) 859-3700

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

Relating to UH Theatre and Dance, I support Bill HB 2492, HD 2 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 Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Tyler Dominick Gentile
808-250-6659

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 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 Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Soonsup Hong
917-385-0870

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I strongly support HB 2492, HD 2 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 Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

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

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB 2492, HD 2 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 Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Sabrina Stegman
719-439-0279

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawaii's Department of Theater and Dance.

Mahalo,
Sabrina Stegman

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Emma Moore
2585 Dole St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the university of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance.

Mahalo,
Emma Moore

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Max Pennington
808-255-5451

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the university of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance.

Mahalo,
Max Pennington

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Brittany Caron
3418 Likini St
Honolulu, HI 96818

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I, Brittany Caron, support the bill HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawaii, Department of Theatre and Dance.

Mahalo,
Brittany Caron

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Jason Mah
2585 Dole St. Honolulu, HI, 96822

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I, Jason Mah, support the bill HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawaii, Department of Theatre and Dance.

Mahalo,
Jason Mah

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Hanae Matsumoto
(808) 234-8445

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I, Hanae Matsumoto, support the bill HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawaii, Department of Theatre and Dance.

Mahalo,
Hanae Matsumoto

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Valerie Nica Ribao
808-227-5565

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I, Valerie Nica Ribao, support the bill HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawaii, Department of Theatre and Dance.

Mahalo,
Valerie Nica Ribao

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Marissa Yee
916-207-0263

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support the bill HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawaii, Department of Theatre and Dance.

Mahalo,
Marissa Yee

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Keiko Ohtake-Gordon
3035268557

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB2492, HD 2 relating to the UH Manoa Department of a Theater and Dance.

Mahalo,
Keiko Ohtake-Gordon

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Gianna Bailey
2569 Dole St #930
Honolulu, HI 96822

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB2492, HD 2 relating to the UH Manoa Department of a Theater and Dance.

Mahalo,
Gianna Bailey

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Ryan Barsatan
809-754-6839

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB2492, HD 2 relating to the UH Manoa Department of a Theater and Dance.

Mahalo,
Ryan Barsatan

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

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

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB2492, HD 2 relating to the UH Manoa Department of a Theater and Dance.

Mahalo,
Keonaona Keliimakanoe Mahi

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Lindzey Ng
808-626-6811

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB2492, HD 2 relating to the UH Manoa Department of a Theater and Dance.

Mahalo,
Lindzey Ng

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Ray Pascual
Contact #: 808 341-7186

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

Aloha. I support HB2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance.

Thank you for your time.

Ray Pascual

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Ian Michael Kelly
2569 Dole St
Honolulu, HI 96822

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support HB2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance.

Thank you.
Ian Michael Kelly

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Robert Louis Gerard Lamakuokana'auao Sassone
1634 Nu'uaniu Avenue

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I wish to show my support for HP2492, HD2.

Sincerely,
Robert Louis Gerard Lamakuokana'auao Sassone

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Shannon Q. Iriarte
(808)683-6379

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I wholeheartedly support the bill HB 2492, HD 2 relating to the University of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance.

Sincerely,
Shannon Q. Iriarte

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

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

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I wish to show my support for HP2492, HD2.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Eccles

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Maseeh Ganjali
1-808-554-3208
Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I wish to show my support for HP2492, HD2.

Sincerely,
Maseeh Ganjali

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Michael Donato
8082338375

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I support the bill HB2492, HD 2 relating to the University of Hawaii, Department of theatre and Dance.

Sincerely,
Michael Donato

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

LATE

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

Friday, February 26, 2016

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 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 2.

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 2 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 Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Mary Susan Mills
919-460-3890

Friday, February 26, 2016

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

I have read the 2016 H.B. # 2492. I agree with all statements contained therein and request that 2016 H.B. # 2492 be passed.

Thank you,

MarySusan Mills

Mother of Joanna G. Mills, Class of 2017, Theater/ Korean

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Nathaniel Niemi
2123 10th Ave #D
Honolulu, HI 96816
903-353-1303

Friday, February 26, 2016

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

I strongly support HB2492 HD2. The Department of Theatre and Dance is an important part of the Honolulu community and positively changes the lives of students who participate in its programs. The outreach and impact that these programs have on the community as far as artistic literacy is invaluable.

Nathaniel Niemi

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Xinruo Wang (808)563-9330

Friday, February 26, 2016

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

**I support HB 2492 HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theater and Dance.
Xinruo Wang**

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

LATE

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

Friday, February 26, 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 Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Danny Mills
919-460-3890

Friday, February 26, 2016

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

I present testimony on behalf of Joanna G. Mills, my daughter, who is a double major in Theatre and Korean Language at the University of Hawaii at Manoa; and on behalf of the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Joanna has been blessed to find the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she can pursue her love of the Asian Theater and the Korean Language among so many wonderful, enthusiastic, and talented students and instructors.

Please take a moment to review the performance of The Battle of the Monkey Kings at this website: <https://wayanglistrikhawaii.wordpress.com> . The performance of Subali-Sugriwa: Battle of the Monkey Kings, a Balinese Wayang Listrik, is an impressive production as you can see from all the uniquely talented performers in the video. This video presents testimony that the Department of Theatre and Dance is committed to providing its students with the finest training and unique performance opportunities in this genre in the world. The Department of Theatre and Dance consistently produces shows that receive rave reviews and positively impact the State of Hawaii.

The Department of Theatre and Dance has created amazing opportunities for Joanna and for many alumni before her. The Department of Theatre and Dance produces versatile graduates who develop the necessary knowledge, skill sets, and experiences expected in their chosen fields. The Department of Theatre and Dance produces graduates who are ready to be citizens of the world and who bring honor and prestige back to the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Please please support of the bill HB 2492 which provides the appropriations needed so that the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawaii at Manoa can continue and even surpass its excellent work.

Thank you,

Danny Mills, parent of Joanna G. Mills who is a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance



Joanna Mills
808-347-5136

Friday, February 26, 2016

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

Dear Representatives,

My name is Joanna Mills and I am pursuing a dual degree in Theatre and Korean language as a Flagship participant. Although we do not have a BFA program and thus undergraduates cannot officially “specialize” in any one form of performance, design, or technical work—at least on paper—I have decided to pursue TYA (Theatre for Young Audiences) and Asian Theatre as a dual focus. This simply means that I am more prone to taking classes focused on stylized South-East and East Asian acting as well as puppetry creation and manipulation. Subsequently, I also tend to audition for shows that are unique to our program, productions you would otherwise find only in their countries of origin such as our recently closed *Battle of the Monkey Kings: Subali-Sugriwa*. We had sold out shows and touched the lives of more than 3600 individuals.

Additionally, we provide many outreach programs where we bring theatre to the students in their classrooms. I have been working with several contemporaries within our *University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Kennedy Theatre* program to devise and perform TYA shows for schools, libraries, and other family-friendly public and private venues. One of our shows, *The Journey Home*, an environmental-awareness piece commissioned by the City and County of Honolulu, was written in February of 2015 and is still touring schools, libraries, and public festivals. The devising, script writing, acting and directing skills necessary to create this piece were founded on opportunities provided by our TYA Program. Looking forward, I am excited to continue to create shows that will foster a sense of community and address deeply humans needs as theatre is known to do.

The *University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Kennedy Theatre* program is crucially significant to my current and future career endeavors, and I urge you to pass HB2492 which will allocate the necessary funds into our production and teaching costs.

Thank you,

Joanna Mills