

HB2492 HD2

Testimony

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Report Title: University of Hawaii at Manoa; Department of Theatre and Dance; Appropriations (\$)

Description: Appropriates funds for various programs and supporting functions for the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. (HB2492 HD2)

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HEA, WAM

Introducer(s): ITO, CHOY, OHNO, TOKIOKA, TSUJI

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: SoundtableEnt@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Mar 17, 2016 13:30PM*
Date: Monday, March 14, 2016 9:47:06 PM

HB2492

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HEA on Mar 17, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

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Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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)

Thursday March 17, 2016, 1:30 pm

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. I would be at the hearing in person, but unfortunately am scheduled to undergo a medical procedure that same afternoon. My colleagues from the department should be able to answer any questions you may raise in the hearing, however, or I can provide written answers the next day.

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 additional, equivalent production costs. Cuts to Graduate Assistants and Lecturers being instituted 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 line extending to the right.

Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak

From: Gregg Lizenbery <lgreg@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 11:50 AM
To: HEA Testimony
Subject: Support for HB 2492 HD2

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

Higher Education and Arts Committee

Gregg Lizenbery, Assoc. Chair, Director of Dance, Department of Theatre and Dance

Support for HB 2492 HD2 Relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theater and Dance

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

Because of an obligation to teach during the scheduled hearing I will unfortunately be unable to attend the Thursday, March 17th session. Nonetheless, I support this bill wholeheartedly and without any reservation.

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. This department's graduates staff every theatre in the state, including the Blaisdell and Hawaii Theatre Centers, as well as most high school and college theatre and dance programs. 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 attract students from around the world, as well.

Contrary to the opinion that the arts are frivolous, several longitudinal studies prove that students who have arts-rich experiences do better across-the-board academically, and they also become more active and engaged citizens, voting, volunteering, and generally participating at higher rates than their peers.

I humbly ask your support of this bill that will allow us to continue to bring vital theatre and dance performances to the community and provide our students with the thorough enriched education they deserve.

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Alexander Munro
5039A Maunalani Circle
Honolulu, HI 96816

Thursday, March 17, 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 – and one that will be reduced even further with next year's budget – is commendable, but I encourage the committee to recognize the strengths and efforts of its professors and students and allocate funds now 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.

From: Brian Bozanich <bbozanich@sj-jester.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 11:14 AM
To: HEA Testimony
Subject: Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Brian Bozanich
11319 Gonsalves Street
Cerritos, CA 90703
562-618-5998

Thurs March 17, 2016 2:30pm

I support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance. I received my MFA in Theatre from UH, Manoa in fall 1999. During my attendance, I was supported by a graduate assistantship as Youth Theatre Coordinator. My position was responsible for outreach to local schools. That support from the university helped over 5000 Oahu elementary, middle, and high school students attend UHM productions each year. Support for these assistants helps the community beyond the university.

The ripples in the pond did not end with my graduation. I am in my fifteenth year teaching theatre in California. I still bring students to my campus to see productions. Providing many underprivileged children their first theatre experience. Also, I am president of the Drama Teachers Association of Southern California. We represent over 150 middle and high school programs in the state. My education about the nature of community, learned at The Kennedy Theatre, supported by the university, is still influencing young people today.

These programs are not luxuries, they are an investment for students today and the community tomorrow.

Brian Bozanich
UHM, Youth Theatre Coordinator 1998-1999
Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator, Saint Joseph High School
President, Drama Teachers Association of Southern California
Director, Summer Theatre Program, Long Beach Playhouse

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Brian Bozanich
Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Carolina Asiatico
(808) 256-0709
asiatico@hawaii.edu

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I support HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawai'i's Department of Theatre and Dance. Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Mahalo,
Carolina Asiatico

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I support HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawai'i's Department of Theatre 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. Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Mahalo,
Nicholas Jeffs

Senator Brian T .Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Sabrina Stegman
719-439-0279

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I support HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawai‘i's Department of Theatre and Dance. Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Mahalo,
Sabrina Stegman

Senator Brian T .Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Soonsup Hong
917-385-0870

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I strongly support HB 2492, HD 2 relating to the university of Hawai‘i Department of Theatre and Dance. As an international student, I love Hawai‘i and this education of UHM. I get a good tuition scholarship from the department and love my facult and want to preserve this department as a future alumni. Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Mahalo,
Soonsup Hong

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Emma Moore
2585 Dole St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

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

Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Mahalo,
Emma Moore

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Max Pennington
808-255-5451

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

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

Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Mahalo,
Max Pennington

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Tyler Dominick Gentile
808-250-6659

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I fully support HB 2492, HDI Relating to the University of Hawai'i Department of Theatre and Dance. It is a unique program that truly diversifies the University. Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Mahalo,
Tyler Dominick Gentile

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Brittany Caron
3418 Likini St
Honolulu, HI 96818

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I, Brittany Caron, support the bill HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawai'i, Department of Theatre and Dance. Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Mahalo,
Brittany Caron

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Keola Nakamoto
(808) 859-3700

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawai'i, 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 Hawai'ian culture in all different aspects, whether it'd be history, art, dance, etc. The Hawai'ian culture is dying, and as citizens of the Hawai'ian 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 Hawai'ians 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. Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Mahalo,
Keola Nakamoto

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Jason Mah
2585 Dole St. Honolulu, HI, 96822

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I, Jason Mah, support the bill HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawai'i, Department of Theatre and Dance. Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Mahalo,
Jason Mah

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Hanae Matsumoto
(808) 234-8445

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I, Hanae Matsumoto, support the bill HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawai'i, Department of Theatre and Dance. Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Mahalo,
Hanae Matsumoto

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Julie Li
(808) 382-7025

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I'm writing to support the Bill HB2492 HD2 for University of Hawai'i, Department of Theatre and Dance. Funding can truly help students achieve their Theatre goal. Please give students a chance to achieve their dreams. Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Sincerely,
Julie Li

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Valerie Nica Ribao
808-227-5565

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I, Valerie Nica Ribao, support the bill HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawai'i, Department of Theatre and Dance. Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Mahalo,
Valerie Nica Ribao

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawai'i, 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. Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mykaela Sterris

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Marissa Yee
916-207-0263

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I support the bill HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawai'i, Department of Theatre and Dance. Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Mahalo,
Marissa Yee

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Keiko Ohtake-Gordon
3035268557

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I support HB2492, HD 2 relating to the UH Manoa Department of a Theatre and Dance.
Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Mahalo,
Keiko Ohtake-Gordon

Senator Brian T .Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Gianna Bailey
2569 Dole St #930
Honolulu, HI 96822

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I support HB2492, HD 2 relating to the UH Manoa Department of a Theatre and Dance.
Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Mahalo,
Gianna Bailey

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Ryan Barsatan
809-754-6839

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I support HB2492, HD 2 relating to the UH Manoa Department of a Theatre and Dance.
Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Mahalo,
Ryan Barsatan

Senator Brian T .Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I support HB2492, HD 2 relating to the UH Manoa Department of a Theatre and Dance.
Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Mahalo,
Keonaona Keliimakanoe Mahi

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Lindzey Ng
808-626-6811

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I support HB2492, HD 2 relating to the UH Manoa Department of a Theatre and Dance.
Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Mahalo,
Lindzey Ng

Senator Brian T .Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Ray Pascual
Contact #: 808 341-7186

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

Aloha. I support HB2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawai‘i Department of Theatre and Dance. Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Thank you for your time.

Ray Pascual

Senator Brian T .Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Ian Michael Kelly
2569 Dole St
Honolulu, HI 96822

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I support HB2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawai'i Department of Theatre and Dance. Furthermore, I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now.

Thank you.
Ian Michael Kelly

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawai'i, 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 to change its effective date to July 1, 2016 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

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Barbara Craig
314 Hamakua Dr., Kailua HI 96734

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I am in support of HB2492 HD2 relating to the University of Hawai'i Department of Theatre and Dance. I truly support this bill. Please also change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now. Please help us out in any way you can. And thank you.

Sincerely,
Barbara Craig

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I wish to show my support for HP2492, HD2 Relating to the University of Hawai'i Department of Theatre and Dance. The department needs the funds now and the bill should be effective July 1, 2016.

Sincerely,
Robert Louis Gerard Lamakuokana'auao Sassone

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Koa Webster
808-230-1253

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I support the HB 2492 and HD2. I believe funding is needed for the many quality theatre programs. The department needs the funds now and the bill should be effective July 1, 2016.

Sincerely,
Koa Webster

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

As a student under the University of Hawai'i 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. Furthermore, the department needs the funds now and the effective date should be July 1, 2016. All of this is why I, Michelle Huynh, a Theatre and English undergraduate student, support the bill HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawai'i, Department of Theatre and Dance.

Sincerely,
Michelle Huynh

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Margot Fitzsimmons
646-709-2047

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I support HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawai'i, Department of Theatre and Dance. Last year we started an MFA in Hawai'ian Theatre 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 Hawai'ian Theatre 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 Hawai'ian Theatre. Finally, please change the bill effective date to July 1, 2016 because the department needs the funds now.

Best,

Margot

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawai'i, Dept. of Theatre & Dance

I support the bill allowing for financial support of the Theatre and Dance Dept. at The University of Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i 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. We need the money now so please change the effective date to July 1, 2016.

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

Mahalo nui loa,
Aubrey Watkins

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Shannon Q. Iriarte
(808)683-6379

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I wholeheartedly support the bill HB 2492, HD 2 relating to the University of Hawai'i, Dept. of Theatre and Dance. Finally, please change the bill effective date to July 1, 2016 because the department needs the funds now.

Sincerely,
Shannon Q. Iriarte

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I wish to show my support for HP2492, HD2 relating to the University of Hawai'i Department of Theatre and Dance. Please change the bill effective date to July 1, 2016 because the department needs the funds now.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Eccles

Senator Brian T .Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Maseeh Ganjali
1-808-554-3208
Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I wish to show my support for HP2492, HD2 relating to the University of Hawai'i Department of Theatre and Dance. We need the money now, please change the bill effective date to July 1, 2016.

Sincerely,
Maseeh Ganjali

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Michael Donato
8082338375

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I support the bill HB2492, HD 2 relating to the University of Hawai'i, Department of theatre and Dance. Also, please change the bill effective date to July 1, 2016 because the department needs the funds now.

Sincerely,
Michael Donato

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawai'i, 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. The department needs the money now so please change the effective date to July 1, 2016. Please support HB 2492, HD 2.

Sincerely,

Brandann R. Hill-Mann

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I am writing to provide my support of HB2492 HD2, relating to the University of Hawai'i, 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 change the effective date to July 1, 2016 and to support this bill to 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

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I support the bill HB 2492, HD and change the effective date to July 1, 2016. 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 Hawai'i.

Sincerely,
Yan Ma

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

Aloha Representatives and readers,

My name is Angie Anderson and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i 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 change the effective date to July 1, 2016 and to sincerely consider HB 2492 HD2 relating to the University of Hawai'i Department of Theatre and Dance. 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

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

Greetings,

My name is Karissa J. Murrell Myers and I am a recent graduate from the University of Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i 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 Assistantships that the Department 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 Hawai'i 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 change the effective date to July 1, 2016 and to vote in support of this measure. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Senator Brian T .Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawai'i, 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. Finally, please change the bill effective date to July 1, 2016 because the department needs the funds now.

Nathaniel Niemi

Senator Brian T .Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Mary Susan Mills
919-460-3890

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I have read the 2016 H.B. 2492 HD 2. I agree with all statements contained therein and request that 2016 H.B. # 2492 HD 2 be passed and to be reflect an effective date of July 1, 2016 because the funds are needed now.

Thank you,

MarySusan Mills

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

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Danny Mills
919-460-3890

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawai'i, 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 Hawai'i at Manoa; and on behalf of the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

Joanna has been blessed to find the University of Hawai'i at Manoa where she can pursue her love of the Asian Theatre 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://wayanglistrikHawai'i.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 Hawai'i.

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 Hawai'i at Manoa.

Please change the effective date to July 1, 2016 and please please support bill HB 2492 which provides the appropriations needed so that the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i at Manoa.

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Joanna Mills
808-347-5136

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawai‘i, 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 change the bill effective date to July 1, 2016 and to pass HB2492 HD 2 relating to the University of Hawai‘i Department of Theatre and Dance which will allocate the necessary funds into our production and teaching costs.

Thank you,

Joanna Mills

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Xinruo Wang [\(808\) 563-9330](tel:8085639330)

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I support HB 2492 HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawai'i Department of Theatre and Dance. I support the immediately effective date of July 1, 2016.

Xinruo Wang

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawai'i, Dept. of Theatre & Dance

I support HB 2492 HD 2 relating to the University of Hawai'i Department of Theatre and Dance and for the immediate effective date of July 1, 2016.

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 EMBARASSING." 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 Hawai'i 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

Senator Brian T .Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

Support for HB2492, HD2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawai'i Dept. of Theatre & Dance

I am writing in support for HB 2492, HD 2 relating to the University of Hawai'i, Department of Theatre and Dance and for the immediate effective date of July 1, 2016. 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 Hawai'i 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

Senator Brian T .Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

Support for HB2492, HD2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawai'i Dept. of Theatre & Dance

I am writing to say that I fully support House Bill 2492 HD2 in regards to the University of Hawai'i Department of Theatre and Dance. Also, I support the effective date to be July 1, 2016.

Emily Hoadley

Senator Brian T .Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Andrea Gordon
2569 Dole Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

Support for HB2492, HD2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawai'i Dept. of Theatre & Dance

Hell, yes I support the bill HB 2492 HD 2 relating to the University of Hawai 'i Department of Theatre and Dance and for the bill effective date to be July 1, 2016.

Andrea Gordon

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

Support for HB2492, HD2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawai'i Dept. of Theatre & Dance

I am writing today in strong support of House Bill 2492 HD 2 - Relating to the University of Hawai'i Department of Theatre and Dance and for its immediate effective date of July 1, 2016.

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

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

Support for HB2492, HD2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawai'i Dept. of Theatre & Dance

I am writing to express my support for the passage of HB2492 HD 2 relating to the University of Hawai'i Department of Theatre and Dance and its immediate effective date of July 1, 2016. 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

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Matthew Toyama
3219 Pahoa Ave Honolulu HI 96816

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30pm

Support for HB2492, HD2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawai'i Dept. of Theatre & Dance

I feel like the UH Manoa Theatre 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 urge you to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 as the funds are needed now and I fully support HB2492 HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawai'i Department of Theatre and Dance.

Matthew Toyama

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Sharon Garcia Doyle
1414 Piikoi Street Apartment F
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

Thurs March 17, 2016 1:30pm

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawai'i, 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 Theatre and Dance.

Having recently co-hosted and participated in the 48th Annual Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for Region 8, UH-Department of Theatre came away with awards for its Devised Theatre, 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 Theatre 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 Theatre 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 Theatre 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.

Furthermore, UHM Theatre and Dance department needs the funds now, so please amend the start date to July 1, 2016.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Keita Beni
808-944-7037

Thursday March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I am Keita Beni, a Masters of Arts candidate in the Department of Theatre and Dance of University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I strongly Support for HB 2492, HD 2, Relating to the Univ. of Hawai'i, Dept. of Theatre and Dance, which would make appropriations for the department of Theatre and dance at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

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

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

Furthermore, more financial support for the students is urgently required, so I agree with this bill including asking for two more assistance positions. We Graduate students currently do not have enough number of Graduate Assistant positions to financially support ourselves, and most of the cases, we need to have additional work to make a living, especially non-resident students like me. However, considering the level of our commitment and from the educational perspective, it is ideal for us students to be secured financially and focus on offering the high level of performances, by having any jobs to further support our shows.

With all of the support the bill requested, I believe our department will be able to maintain its unique role described above to support their students, faculty members and their community. I

urge the committee to pass HB 2492, HD 2, Relating to the University of Hawai'i Department of Theatre and Dance. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Keita Beni

Masters of Arts candidate at the Department of Theatre and Dance

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Yilong Liu
(808) 629-9892
130 16th St. Apt. 3F, Brooklyn, NY 11215

Thursday March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I support HB 2492 HD 2 relating to the Department of Theatre & Dance at University of Hawai'i. I am a recent graduate from China of the department's Master of Fine Arts program. The education and training I received there are so incomparable that I firmly believe I wouldn't be able to get them from anywhere else in the world. Through bringing international artists, offering multi-cultural courses, and hosting Asian theatre arts events, the department has profoundly enriched and influenced my career. The experience was so unique that even in a place as diverse as New York City, I am not able to feel inspired in the same way again. I believe it is extremely important for the department to be funded so it can continue to educate, to inspire and to surpass. I urge the committee to change the effective date to be July 1, 2016 and I strongly support HB 2492 HD 2 relating to University of Hawai'i Department of Theatre and Dance.

Sincerely,
Yilong Liu

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Alissa Joy Lee
95-668 Kelewaa Street
Mililani, Hawai'i 96789

Thursday March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

I urge the committee to change the effective date to July 1, 2016 and I support the bill because the Theatre program and all involved helped enrich my life and expanded not only my Theatre knowledge but knowledge of other cultures in general. Please pass HB 2492 HD 2 relating to the Univ. of Hawai'i Department of Theatre and Dance.

Sincerely,
Alissa Joy Lee
Local Theatre Artist and Improviser

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

HB 2492 HD2

By Dennis Ihara

iharad@hawaii.rr.com

Before the Senate Higher Education and Arts Committee,
March 17, 2016, 1:30 p.m.

Chair Taniguchi , Vice Chair Kahele, 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. In comparison, Hawai'i actors have to go away to develop and prove ourselves. A bright star however, is UH Manoa's International Theatre Programs which attracts 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: Frederick Rogals <rogals@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 7:02 PM
To: HEA Testimony
Subject: Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

From: Alex Rogals

72 Wai Ching Street, Flat 9D

Wah Wai Mansion

Kowloon, Hong Kong

Thurs March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

Dear Hawai'i Senate-

I am writing to express my support for HB 2492, HD 1, **an increase of funding to the University of Hawai'i at Manoa's Department of Theatre and Dance for the 2016 year.** I am currently enrolled as a PhD student with a focus on Japanese Theatre.

Five years into my PhD, I can say I have acted in an **Indonesian Randai**, I have taken classes in the singing and dance of the **Beijing Opera**, I have performed with a horde of zombies in a **Russian Chekhov** play, I have taken a master class with a **Japanese kyogen** master, and I have watched **Japanese Kabuki**, modern **Greek adaptations**, **native Hawaiian performance**, grand **musicals**, and **Balinese Wayang** Shadow Puppet plays. **Not many people can say they got these opportunities all in one place.**

But in order to continue and grow, this ambitious endeavor is in **dire need of funding now, in 2016, not in 2025.** The recent loss of a graduate assistant position and the inability to support a program looking at further cuts in the coming year means a diminished student body and weaker faculty. In contrast, **added resources means a higher quality of education for its students and better opportunities for its graduates. It also means added notoriety** for a program that I sincerely believe will be the benchmark for globally conscious performing arts programs across the United States in the years to come.

Please increase the funding for the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Theatre and Dance Department in 2016 so that they may continue bringing the world to its students and build new bridges within the school's walls, among the people of Hawai'i, and across the globe.

Sincerely,

Alex Rogals

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Jill Guillermo-Togawa
808-799-4033
142 Lunalilo Home Rd,
Honolulu, HI 96825
jguillermotogawa@gmail.com

Thursday, March 17, 2016
9:00 a.m., Conference Room 312

Support for HB 2492, HD 2 Relating to the University of Hawai'i Dept. of Theatre and Dance

I am a professional dancer and choreographer, graduate of the University of Hawai'i and native of O'ahu. I strongly support HB 2492, HD 2, relating to the University of Hawai 'i, which would establish funding the Department of Theatre and Dance. Support for the Dept. of Theatre and Dance would assure that UH can continue to train professional artists and produce award winning productions, which enrich our community. The proposed funding fits under both of the committee's focus areas and would benefit so many in our community now and in the future. The Theatre and Dance Dept face even further cuts in next year's budget so the faux date should be changed to 2016.

Even as a student in the dance department in the 1970's I realized how fortunate I was to be part of a department that had such a richly diverse program. Our chair was able to bring guest teachers from professional dance companies in New York who helped some of us continue our training and begin our professional careers. I went on to further study in New York, and established my own dance company in San Francisco, which received state and national funding. My strong foundation and performance opportunities prepared me for much of what I achieved in my career. When I returned home, I looked forward to giving back to my community and sharing my experience. As a lecturer in the theatre/dance department, I was so pleased to see students from different states and countries drawn to UH because of what this program has to offer. A big part of the draw for students is the international scope of the Departments programs, and its unique geographic setting.

When we can provide our community with amazing performances that transport them to different worlds and views, we create invaluable links to their everyday experience and feed their spirits. These are essential elements to a healthy, vibrant society.

I urge you to pass H.B. 2492. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 1:34 PM
To: HEA Testimony
Cc: kikaupea@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Mar 17, 2016 13:30PM

HB2492

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for HEA on Mar 17, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kealohi Reppun | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: As a teacher I know the value that performing arts has in educating children, adults, families, and communities. I know the value it has in educating character. To love an instrument so much that you speak through it's melody is to experience a discipline for expression vulnerable to the world. To role play is to attempt to be empathetic to another's perspective. To build a set or manage a stage is to put other's needs before your own and to pay attention to detail with no expectation of return. The theatre is where the skill and character of empathy and connection are commonplace. As a Hawaiian, I know the value of storytelling. I know that when you tell stories of a time past, of a people past, of cultures trying to endure, the intention cannot be selfish. When we chant, when we sing, when we dance, and when we speak through our language, our kupuna live. If UH is an institution of learning truly rooted in this place, Hawai'i Aloha, it, and our state, in its support, must give to and lift to a place of honor the very essence of the people it represents; their stories, their voices and their character. I support this bill and all of the possibilities it holds for the further development of the arts amongst our people, ko Hawai'i. For culture, for identity, for responsibility... please support the UH Theatre Department. Aloha nui!

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

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

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Lurana O'Malley
808-956-7677

Thurs March 17, 2016 1:30pm

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

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

FROM: Mark Branner
DATE: Thursday, March 17, 2016
TIME: 1:30pm
PLACE: Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: Support for HB 2492 HD2
Relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance

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

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

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

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

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Paul T. Mitri, Chair, Department of Theatre and Dance, UH-Manoa
(808) 927-7150

Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:30 pm

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 told it'll get worse next year.

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 total income, 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. In the last month, we have presented and toured myriad programs: Our Chinese program presented our *jingju* training in Oklahoma with Dr. Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak; our recent production of *Subali-Sugriwa: Battle of the Monkey Kings* toured to the Big Island with Dr. Kirstin Pauka; our highly-acclaimed production of *Lā'ieikawai* was presented on Kaua'i with Prof. Haili'ōpua Baker; Dr. Betsy Fisher and 4 students are competing now at the American College Dance Festival in Arizona; and Dr. Julie Iezzi is presenting Japanese Noh training in South Dakota. A month 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 70 to 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.

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Rachael Uyeno
808-754-6147

Thursday, March 17, 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. I also propose that the date of effect be changed from July 1, 2525 to July 1, 2016.

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 and others like me 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 recently 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, but we need that help now. I hope you will support us by passing HB 2492 HD 2 with the proposed amendment. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SENATOR BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

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

Thursday, March 17, 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.

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Testimony by Rick Greaver

Thursday, March 17, 2016, 1:30 pm

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

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

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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: Thursday, March 17 2016 1:30

Conference Room 224

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 whit, designing and building the costumes, set, props and lights is a skill that you need to be able to practice as well. It's ludicrous to think that an educational program would be tasked with raising money (through ticket sales, for example) to support the education of its students. That the Department of Theatre and Dance is not the only department in this situation just makes the situation more shameful.

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

Even in this age of increasingly high technology, theatre allows us to viscerally experience other cultures, our own history, and the huge, diverse panoply of the human condition. Supporting a first rate theatre program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa allows it to continue to be a bastion of educational excellence. I urge the committee to approve HB 2492 HD2 and to push for this additional funding to occur by July 2016. Thank you for your consideration.

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Robert Matthew Kelty
808rmk@gmail.com
808.888.9028

Thursday, March 17, 2016; 1:30 pm

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. The department faces additional cuts in the coming year, and so I urge you to amend the date of this bill to provide funding in the coming fiscal year. This bill will help the UHM Department of Theatre and Dance to build upon its previous and current successes; I strongly encourage you to support it.

Mahalo Nui Loa.

~ *Robert Matthew Kelty*

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Ryan Wuestewald
605-660-2802

Thursday, March 17, 2016

I am sending this in to testify in favor of and to show my support for HB 2492 HD2 relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance. I am UH Manoa Theatre alumni, I received my MFA there, and the program is strong, vital, and crucial to the University's excellence, diversity, and representation as a leading education and cultural institution.

I support HB 2492 HD2 relating to the Univ. of Hawaii, Dept. of Theatre and Dance, and I thank you for showing your support as well.

Sincerely,

Ryan Wuestewald

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

FROM: Sherman Warner
P.O. Box 1185
Kamuela, HI 96743

HEARING DATE: Thursday, March 17, 2016
HEARING TIME: 1:30 p.m.
HEARING PLACE: Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of HB2492 , which appropriates funds for various programs and supporting functions for the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

I am Sherman Warner, and I am testifying in favor of HB2492. I am a 1968 graduate of the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawaii at Manoa., a retired Broadway producer, and, currently, a commissioner on the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. This is my personal testimony.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that my experience in the theatre department was life – changing and life-enhancing, but my support for this bill is not about me. I support this bill because it will strengthen the department and, in turn, strengthen the arts community in Hawaii and beyond.

Among my contemporaries at Kennedy Theatre in the mid-1960s were Bette Midler, Georgia Engel (who starred on the Mary Tyler Moore show and will soon be starring on Broadway) Randall Duk Kim (who achieved a distinguished stage, television and film career while becoming one of America's most distinguished Shakespearean actors), Joyce Maltby (who been a leader in the performing arts in Hawai'i for 50 years), and Jean Sadako King (who, with me, stage managed Kennedy Theatre productions and, I believe, transferred some of those stage management skills to her career in politics). There were many others who went on

to careers in the performing arts or to lives that were enriched by the arts at the same time they enriched the communities around them.

I have vivid memories of the professors and instructors who made the theatre department of that era such a vital place—Earl Ernst, Joel Trapido, Richard Mason, Robert Soller, among them. I urge you to strengthen and enhance the department by supporting the additional positions and, by doing so, offering future students the educational opportunities that I, and many of my contemporaries, enjoyed.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of HB2492.