

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

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

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

Support for HB 2492 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. I am the Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, but I do not represent the university—I am here as someone who cares deeply about the power of the arts to change people's lives, and how that potential has been progressively eroded.

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

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

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

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

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

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

However, unlike our peer universities, we have never had a standardized subsidy for our productions. Indeed, we are largely left to raise the money ourselves, although we have been supported by the Student Activity and Program Fee Board, and some support for our renowned Asian Theatre Program. 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 \$135,000 per year towards 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 \$140,000 to be split between Asian Theatre, Dance, and our new Hawaiian Theatre Program.

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

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

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

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

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

Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak
(Director of Theatre in the Department of Theatre and Dance, UHM;
Director of the Asian Theatre Program)

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

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

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

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

The early beginnings of the Asian Theatre Program at UHM has have been followed by steady and imaginative growth. It has developed into the largest and most respected center for Asian theatre study outside of Asia itself. In addition to the full curriculum provided by three faculty specialists in Asian theatre, every year master artists from a particular Asian culture and form of theatre within it lead a 4-8 month-long intensive training program, preparing our students to perform a specific play.

Students are drawn to the Asian Theatre Program quite literally from around the world—at various times we have had students from every continent, many of our graduate students are from Asia, and most training programs involve students from at least several nations. Each training program and its culminating production involves a substantial number of students—for instance, 55 were in the Balinese dance and puppet drama *Battle of the Monkey Kings* that we presented last month. These students are provided with training that is as close as possible to the training undertaken by pre-professionals in Asia. This means that they are immersed in cultural norms and practices ranging from interpersonal relations to aesthetics and techniques. Cumulatively, their cultural and artistic awareness is expanded and enriched. These are life-changing experiences that continue to influence and benefit these students throughout their careers and lives—and I have first-hand knowledge of this, because I am one of those students myself, from the 1970s.

These programs have resulted in some of the most outstanding Asian theatre productions seen outside of their respective countries of origin, including numerous English-language world premieres of classic plays. Our outreach work takes part or all of these productions and many aspects of the training programs to neighbor islands, and the impact of the program extends far beyond the shores of Hawai'i, through invited national and international tours and awards, to the more than 100 masters and doctoral graduates of the Asian Theatre Program currently active as directors, teachers, actors, and arts administrators in 18 countries throughout Asia and Europe, and in 17 states in the U.S.A.

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

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

I believe that UHM is doing what it can to support the Asian Theatre Program. But this is not enough to maintain the standard of excellence for which the Program is known, which the Legislature has honored us by recognizing several times in the past, and which we are absolutely determined to provide for our students and audiences. HB2492 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

During my nearly 22-yr. tenure at UHM, there has been a significant decrease in system-wide support for our department. We are a dynamic, engaged, and active faculty—there is no dead wood here. There is so much we want to do to continue our track record of excellence. We accept the challenge to provide greater outreach and relevant productions. And, we need help.

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

tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 8:56 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: stacyray@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacy Ray	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a full-time faculty member of the UH Manoa - Department of Theatre and Dance, I submit this testimony in full support of HB2492.

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Thank you for the time to present my views on HB 2492.

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Hannah Schauer, I am the Costume Shop Manager at the University of Hawaii's Department of Theatre and Dance. I have been in this position since January of 2000. Over my time here, I have seen what wonderful, hard workers we have in our department; students, faculty and staff. Also in my time here, I have seen budgets cut; positions not renewed in a timely enough manner to keep our diverse programs properly active; and how these things have affected the people who call the department "home".

Some particulars that may be of some interest:

- As budgets have been cut, student help costs have risen; therefore our shops are woefully understaffed. Not only can we not grow our practical, hands on learning; we are forced to cut back time spent with each student worker and lab student, as we are all picking up more projects to keep the productions running. This is underserving our students, particularly our MFA design students who will leave UH expected to have highly developed skills in both design and construction.
- As faculty and staff continue to have more time commitments to committees and the like, we have seen the overall guidance in our shops diminish. At one time (some years ago), both the designer and the shop manager were able to work in unison with the shop students. However, now it is a rare day for both to be available. We have been able to put a Band-Aid on for part of this academic year with a part time hire in the costume shop (pulling bits of money from other production areas) to help ease the strain, however, the strain remains without full time help.
- As a very diverse department of both traditional and modern forms of Dance and Theatre, the needs of each student and each production vary widely. In recent years, this has meant an increase in requested overtime for the staff, as we must prepare outreach projects after the normal workday is over, to ensure we keep student projects on track.
- We have been scraping by with fewer lecturer dollars. This is detrimental to our department. We are so fortunate to have highly skilled people in our own back yard with training in many forms of traditional Asian dance, without this, our dance students cannot possibly achieve a well-rounded education. We have also been pinching pennies to be able to keep the few lecturers we have to teach performance based classes. Fewer classes mean fewer students are being introduced to the important aspects of performance.
- As budgets have been cut, we are having more and more trouble keeping our computers running. We are woefully out of date in our department. It is difficult to teach our students new programs when our computers will not handle the work load. This is, of course, how many theatrical designers are expected to work – with computer aided rendering systems.

Though these are only a few items of concern, I felt it best to talk from "my side" of the theatrical world. Our students, faculty and staff are so important to our home community, across the country, and abroad. We present at festivals, bringing UH's name with us. We have students performing and teaching all over the world, proud that they attended the programs at UH. We send students into schools and to libraries on a regular basis, to perform and bring young people the importance of art.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Hannah Schauer

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

Mark Branner

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

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

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

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

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

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

LATE

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

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

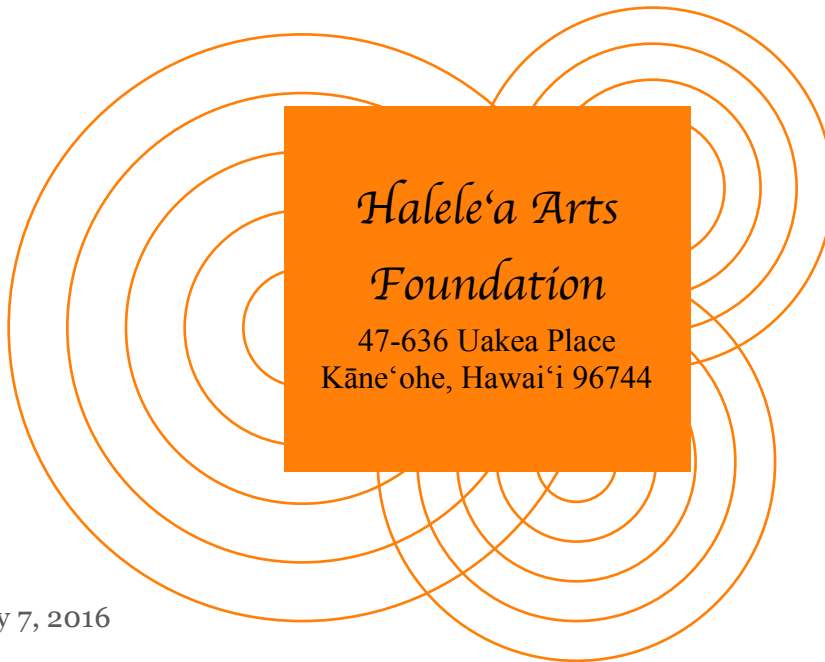
Support for HB 2492 Relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theater and Dance

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

We continue to be proud of our ability to maintain national educational standards and to uniquely offer courses in Japanese, Okinawan, Korean, and Philippine Dance forms that most other American dance university programs cannot. From 1991-2001, we had essential funding in our budget to expose our students to teachers and guest artists who broadened their perspectives and expanded their talents, gifts, and aspirations. That support has continually eroded since that time.

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

Thank you so much. We are so grateful for your introduction and support of HB 2492!



*Halele'a Arts
Foundation*

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

February 7, 2016

To the honorable lawmakers hearing HB2492, aloha nō kākou!

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

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

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

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

'O au nō me ka 'oia'ī'o,



LATE

www.Paliku.com

Theatre Office: (808) 235-7330

Re: H.B. NO. 2492. Chairman Ito, Chairman Tokioka and distinguished members of the committee:

My name is Tom Holowach and I am the Manager of Palikū Theatre at Windward Community College. I am testifying in support of House Bill Number 2492. There are probably few people besides me who perfectly understand the exact funding dilemma that this bill addresses, because Windward Community College and Palikū Theatre are in the same financial predicament. When the Humanities Building and Palikū Theatre were opened in 2001, we discovered that not one single cent had even been allocated to WCC to operate and maintain the theater. Being a newcomer to the UH system, I turned for advice to the Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance at UH Manoa thinking that, of course, they were well funded. I was shocked to find out that, no, they weren't; they were on almost as much of a shoestring as us, but not quite as bad because at least they have degree programs in Theatre, which had to be worth *something*. Since that time 14 years ago, cut after cut after cut has slowly brought them to their knees. So now it's really come to this? One college of the UH system has to individually come to you, begging for funding for their program. How far we have fallen. How sad.

I received my Theater degree from one of the colleges of the State University of New York system. They gave our department enough funding to fully pay for excellent student productions and for them to teach me how to be a professional Theatre person. When I visited my Alma Mater after 40 years, and spoke to Drama students, they were happily amazed to learn that I actually had a full-time job that was directly related to my major in school. What a concept! I told them that there is absolutely no better training ground than theater to learn what you actually encounter in the real world when you graduate.

Where else but theatre will you get thrown together with a group of total strangers, told that you have to work together cooperatively on a major project which invariably has too little budget and too much to accomplish with too little time, and has an absolute deadline, at which time you will be immediately judged by your peers, often harshly. If that isn't the best training for real life, I don't know what is.

During my two-year term as President of the Hawaii State Theatre Council, one of my proudest accomplishments was convincing UH Manoa to rejoin HSTC and be part of the adjudication process, and it was Paul Mitri, the current chair of the Drama and Dance Department who made that excellent decision. Consequently, adjudicators and audience members could now see that their student productions were certainly equal to, and often better than dozens of other stage productions on 'Oahu, and worthy of awards. In my opinion, one of their greatest recent achievements was *Lady Mu and the Yang Family Generals*, a remarkable partnership between UHM and professional Chinese Jingju performers, and was the culmination of extensive training in this traditional art form. It was a fitting production to mark Kennedy Theatre's 50th Anniversary, and it also marked the 50th anniversary of Jingju (Beijing "Opera") performances at the University of Hawai'i.

The other was *Lā'ieikawai*, the inaugural production of UH Mānoa's new Hawaiian Theatre program. This stage adaptation of the traditional Hawaiian mo'olelo (story) of Lā'ieikawai featured hula, oli (chant), mele (song) and was performed entirely in Hawaiian. Both shows were perfectly accurate and authentically designed intra-cultural experiences, which might not continue to be possible without legislative appropriations.

To be perfectly frank, I wouldn't blame you for being left with a bad opinion of UH because of your experiences with past Administrations, but can we please put the past behind us now, and help the newest, competent leaders at UH rise from the ashes of the now departed? I implore you not to tar our great teachers with the same brush soaked with your past disappointments. Don't spoil the fruits of our students' creativity, simply because of a few bad apples in the barrel. I personally know there are many, many great friends of the performing arts in our Legislature, and I believe that this bill should be successful in crossover.

In the past at UH, the performing arts were quite often treated like the poor scullery maid, overshadowed by the arrogance and ignorance of the overbearing stepsisters, Athletics and Administration, looking down their noses. We must you hope that your understanding and benevolence allows our students' work to shine... and pray that it doesn't go "poof" when the clock strikes midnight. Thank you.

University of Hawai'i

Windward Community College

45-720 Kea'ahala Road, Kāne'ohe, Hawaii 96744-3528

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REP. KEN ITO, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE 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

Monday, February 8, 2016

In support of a Bill for an Act relating to the University of Hawai'i, HB2492

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

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

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

The Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is not only putting me back in touch with my cultural roots, but it is also teaching me the artistic languages of other cultures. If we learn how to communicate cross-culturally in a way that speaks to the heart as well as the mind, as the arts are known to do, we might find quicker paths to peace in the midst of global conflict.

What we do as a department is also extremely important to the international community present in Hawai'i. Without the opportunity to learn the art forms of other cultures and perform with excellence, entire cultural backgrounds present on O'ahu would go

underrepresented. The colorful expressions of diversity would begin to fade away. Not only would Hawai'i suffer, but so would the rest of the world. I do not plan on staying in Hawai'i when I finish my degree. I plan to return to the mainland, or perhaps teach overseas, in such a capacity that would allow me to take what I've learned here and advance a multicultural understanding across the globe. I plan to take this knowledge and teach children from all over the world what it means to be global citizens and cultivate an appreciation of diversity. If I teach for a total of 20 years, reaching a minimum of 20 students a year, I have impacted the lives of 400 students. If each of those 400 students impacts at least 5 people a year for 20 years, that is an additional 40,000 students whose mindsets promote world peace. If those 40,000 go on to impact another five students each for 20 years after that, an additional 4,000,000 students will have the potential to end global conflict. What this department can do in the life of one person could change the world.

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

tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 12:59 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: brittnis@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM

Categories: Yellow category

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brittni Addison	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I received my MFA from this program. I now work as a key staff member at a TONY Award-winning institution.

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.

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tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 8:03 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: lkakatsu@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM

Categories: Yellow category

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/5/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB 2492. The UH Department of Theater and Dance is a treasure renowned worldwide that needs financial and staffing support to continue meeting its goals for student opportunities and education. The Arts should not be minimized in financial support nor taken as a side program. I have been a season subscriber for the last 10 years and the student performances bring the rich cultural customs, languages, and social understanding through dance, acting, music, and script. Please support this Department of Theater and Dance through the passing of HB 2492. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Testimony of Angie Anderson
Student, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii House of Representatives, Twentieth Legislature, 2016

H.B. No 2492

Honolulu, HI

06 February 2016

Aloha Representatives and readers,

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

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

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

The people within the department are tenacious and fiercely dedicated people, but we need and appreciate the aid that would give us more opportunities to create productions that more accurately reflect the spirit of our artists. Thousands of people see our productions a year. Every experience is unique and new--each show is a singular shout heard by the people present that we are a powerful gathering of unique ideas. Through feedback, participation, and patronage, we know that we truly make an impact on our audience. The monetary situation is always a stressful and abysmal topic of conversation around the theatre; it is unfortunate that our work as artistic voices for our community is limited by the absence of funds.

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

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

Thank you!

Angie Anderson

tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 3:14 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM*

Categories: Yellow category

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Representative Ken Ito, Chair

Representative James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

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

Keita Beni

Masters of Arts candidate at the Department of Theatre and Dance

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

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

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

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

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

Furthermore, more financial support for the students is urgently required, so I agree with this bill including asking for two more assistance positions. We Graduate students currently do not have enough number of Graduate Assistant positions to financially support ourselves, and most of the cases, we need to have additional work to make a living, especially non-resident students like me.

However, considering the level of our commitment and from the educational perspective, it is ideal for us students to be secured financially and focus on offering the high level of performances, by having any jobs to further support our shows.

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

tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 11:04 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: kckb42@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin C. K. Berg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I write in support of House Bill 2492 that will be heard on February 9 8th at 9:00 a.m .by the COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE ARTS. My name is Kevin Christopher Kimo Berg and I am a second year MFA Directing candidate at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. My peers will hopefully be writing/speaking to you about the virtues of theatre and dance and what it does for our community both locally and globally. I myself would like to add two reasons why the Department of Theatre and Dance deserves your support. The first is from a business standpoint. We here at the Department of Theatre and Dance are, along with many other things, in the business of communication. We take the arts of listening, speaking, and observing to a whole new level. We currently live in a time where technology, while bringing the world closer, is actually creating a very real distance between individuals. As a society, we are becoming numb to the needs of others purely because we are losing the skills skills needed for deep, let alone basic, communication. We in the theatrical arts stand on the frontlines against this apathetic symptom of our societal evolution. And in a state that relies on a fair amount of communication through tourism, would it not make sense to invest in the highest educational institution of the theatrical arts? The second reason is purely personal. I have seen the difference that theatre can have on a life. The boost in confidence that comes from getting on stage in front of an audience and surviving may not lead an individual to a life of show business, but I swear that it can prove the push to finding their full potential, which in turn makes them happier citizens. I thank you for the time and energy you spent reading these words and hope that they showed you just a small fraction of the importance of theatre and the value of our department. Out of all the schools in the world I chose UHM for my graduate school. Had I to do ot again, I'd make the same choice every time. Best Regards, Kevin C. K. Berg

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tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 8:50 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: jbrack@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Brackett	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Absolutely imperative! This theatre reached thousands of people and changes their life for the better. It is a beautiful and necessary part of our community. Thank you.

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

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

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

I'm sure I don't need to tell this committee how important the arts are in our lives and how they inform everything that we do. Students in the arts discover discipline, the joy of discovering culture and history, reading with discernment, and, most importantly, who they are and where they stand in the Pacific and the world.

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

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair
Committee On Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture And The Arts

Testifier: Sharon Garcia Doyle
MFA Acting Candidate and Graduate Assistant, University of Hawaii at Manoa Department of Theatre and Dance

Hearing: Feb 8, 2016 - 9:00 AM

In support of HB 2492 Relating to the University of Hawaii

As an Master of Fine Arts Acting candidate and Graduate Assistant of the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Department of Theatre and Dance, I stand in firm support of HB 2492 – 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) 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 have had an opportunity to participate in these productions have learned performance skills from practicing artistic masters from Asia. Equipped with these skills, they have been able to help spread detailed, accurate information about the theatre of Asia to students quite literally around the world. Ensuring that this invaluable program is funded will allow future generations of students and audience members to experience the theatre of Asia.

Next, the production program in general is an essential part of the educational program. For student actors, directors, designers and technicians to truly learn their crafts, theatre pedagogy demands that they have an opportunity to practice them in front of audiences. Studying acting, for example, without ever getting to be in front of an audience is akin to studying, for example, football without ever taking the field. By increasing funding to the production program, you will be supporting authentic theatre education – best educational practice in this particular field. Since we are educating designers and technicians as well, an appropriate budget is necessary to allow them to build their designs and see them on stage. To wit, designing and building the costumes, set, props and lights is a skill that you need to be able to practice as well. It is 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. Thank you for your consideration.

tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 12:43 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: tom1.galli@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM*

Categories: Yellow category

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments:

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Aloha,

My testimony is in support of providing funds for the Theatre & Dance department at UH Manoa, section HB 2492. I am a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and I would like to testify that after being apart of the UHM Theatre & Dance department's late night production entitled *Cinematik: Strange Friends*, that the experience was incredibly rewarding experience. An experience, that was critical to building my college experience at the University. Through my experience I learned valuable improvisation skills, and was given the opportunity to educate myself on various performance skills throughout my rehearsals.

I think that theatre and dance is a huge aspect of creating a well-balance student body, and creates venues and opportunities for students to address critical issues of race, class, gender, etc. through the medium of arts. More so, the Theatre and Dance program at UH provides undergraduate students immense support in directing and producing their own plays which is an incredible liberty that not all departments provide. As an English major, I wish that my own department worked as hard as the Theatre and Dance department does to create a program that encourages students to produce works of art that they want to see in the world. Programs such as the Late Nigh Board, is what keeps our university cognizant of various global and local issues, and gives them a stage to be acted out and heard.

The Theatre and Dance department at UH makes a difference. They produce numerous critical, thought-provoking plays every semester, and give other students opportunities to express themselves. Thanks to the Theatre and Dance department, I have been inspired to direct my own show, as well as take part of numerous other productions at UHM. I am both grateful and humbled by the Theatre and Dance department's ability to touch lives and express the human condition in a graceful yet poignant way.

Please consider providing more funding to this department. It has given a small English major, and so many others at the University of Hawaii so much.

Best regards,

Joanna Gordon

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair

Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

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

Testimony by Rick Greaver

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

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 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? Of course the facility is part of that training, but when you are forced to only look at the short term year after year just to keep up the basic needs of the department programs, the facility ends up falling by the wayside. Eventually this neglect adds up and begins to add to the slow draining of available reliable resources. Reliable funding would make all the difference in the world in terms of planning and continuing to create the world class theater and dance that we have all along.

tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 3:26 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: rheller@torkildson.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM

Categories: Yellow category

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ron Heller	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Ito, Vice-Chair Tokioka, and Members of the Committee: As a long-time supporter of theatre in Honolulu, I urge you to pass House Bill 2492, and to recognize the value to our community of having strong academic programs for students interested in theatre. We are lucky in Hawaii to have many theatre groups doing excellent work. Most of them are not “professional” theatre in the sense of paying salaries, but they are professional in terms of the commitment and talent of the people involved. The UH Department of Theatre and Dance is an important part of the theatre community, and helps make it possible to have strong, dynamic, active theatre here in Hawaii. Respectfully submitted, Ronald I. Heller

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tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 2:04 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: tristanh314@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM

Categories: Yellow category

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tristan D Holmes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Theatre and dance are unique and exceptional programs at UH Manoa, the only institution in the English speaking world to study Asian performance forms as they do. Please pass this bill to stabilize the funding of these departments and allow them concentrate on producing unique artistic works.

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tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 1:55 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: mmj.johnson09@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM*

Categories: Yellow category

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Johnson	UH Manoa Dept of Theatre and Dance	Support	No

Comments:

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tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 7:54 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: mariakk@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM*

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Kaiulani Kanehailua	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

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

Matthew Kelty
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Monday, February 8, 2016; 9:00 am

SUPPORT for HB 2492
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, 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 Japan, China, Korea, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Vietnam, Aotearoa, Samoa, Tahiti, and nations in Africa and Europe, among others. It also teaches students about American theatrical movements such as Asian-American, African-American, Native American, and Chicano theatre. Much of this exposure comes from the Asian Theatre program; but many dance, "Western" theatre, and general studies courses offer this material as well. The department also offers a model for intercultural collaboration.
- 3) The department offers rare opportunities to work with guest artists and lecturers. Hawai'i's location means that the Department of Theatre and Dance is able to bring in guest artists from both continental America (recent years have brought artists from both the continental U.S. and Canada) and from the Asia-Pacific region. Perhaps this is a couple of weeks with a *kyogen* master from Japan; or perhaps guests will come to train students for months, culminating in a production (as was the case with *Subali-Sugriwa*, a *wayang listrik* from Indonesia that played to full houses throughout its run.) This level of practical training is unheard of in continental theatre programs.
- 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, among other cities; and they have received further training at institutions

such as Yale University and the Cleveland Playhouse. These artists take their experiences with them, and they are spreading positive word in the creative community about both the state and the university.

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

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

Mahalo Nui Loa.
~ *Matthew Kelty*

tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 8:59 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: maseeh@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments: Please support our arts and education.

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tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 8:25 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: mj104@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mj matsushita	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this

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Mary Susan Mills
Danny Mills
Joanna Mills

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE
AND THE ARTS

FEB 8th at 9:00 AM

HB 2492

1)

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

Thank you,

MarySusan Mills

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

2)

To Whom it may concern:

Testimony:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,

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

3)

Dear Representatives,

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

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

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

Thank you,

Joanna Mills

BA Candidate in Theatre | College of Arts and Humanities

BA Candidate in Korean Language Flagship | College of Arts and Humanities

UHM Theatre And Dance Association Co-President

UHM Theatre and Dance Undergraduate Student Representative

UHM Late Night Theatre Board Member

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

Alexander Munro
5039A Maunalani Circle
Honolulu, HI 96816

Monday, February 8, 2016

SUPPORT for H.B. No. 2492

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 which would allocate funds necessary to strengthen the department's world-renowned Eastern and Western theatre programs, as well as the new Hawaiian theatre program (which recently performed its inaugural production, *La'ieikawai*).

I originally chose the Department of Theatre & Dance at UH Manoa because of its unique Asian theatre program. Having access and exposure to *jingju*, *randai*, *wayang listrik*, *kyogen*, and other Asian styles develops globally aware students who respect and embrace cultural forms of expression otherwise unrepresented at other theatre departments across the country. Furthermore, our Western theatre program provides students with the analytical, technical, and artistic skills necessary to successfully audition for regional theatres across the country, as well as television and film opportunities here on island. Our Theatre for Young Audiences program delights children all over Oahu and engages them through workshops; I am unable to attend the hearing on Monday, February 8 in support of H.B. No. 2492 because I will be performing for a group of low-literacy students from Kailua. The director of this performance, a fellow graduate student, funded a majority of this production from his own wallet. This is the level of dedication one finds amongst the theatre and dance students at UH Manoa.

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

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

tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 11:07 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: nathanielsethniemi@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathaniel Niemi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this legislation. The arts are important. They saved my life as a young person, helped me develop creativity, teamwork, and critical thinking. The arts give meaning to so many people. Please look at this need in the departments of theatre and dance and support the arts. Save lives. Give meaning and opportunity to students who need it.

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Rep. Ken Ito, Chair

Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

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

Lurana D. O'Malley

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

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

Thank you for your time in considering this bill. 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

Kaitlyn Patrick

1711 Dole Street, Apt. 202
Honolulu, HI 96822
United States of America
(724) 464-4779
kaitlynp@hawaii.edu

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 9:20 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: kalearaymond@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kale'a Raymond	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please fund the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Theater Department. They give more back to the community than you could ever imagine.

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Emma Robinson

1770 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96822
United States of America
(808) 782-9082
directedbyemma@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,
Emma Robinson

Aloha,

I am in full support of this bill not only because native hawaiian arts should survive and flourish but it should also be recognised as an influential component in Hawaiian history and culture. Without arts here in Hawaii in any form we would be just a tourist attraction with no hula, no mele (music), no mo'olelo (stories), no aloha to share with our guests and our friends and family. I have been a part of the theatre and dance program for a very long time and everything that I have experienced in this field of Asian and Hawaiian theatre is nothing short of magical. It has given me great pride to be a part of the Theatre and Dance program and the endless interactions, connections, and cultural protocols I have learned about other cultures is just outstanding. To deny this opportunity to future generations will leave our future leaders in a direction that might not be able to sustain itself because of the lack of diversity, understanding, and knowledge of where the many diverse backgrounds and cultural experiences come from in a place that always embraces the melting pot of all people of Hawaii. I hope this submission for testimony finds this committee in great health and open hearts, and in celebration of the Chinese New Year Gong Xi Fa Cai 恭禧发财.

Mahalo and Aloha

Sami L.A. Akuna

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

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

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

Testimony By: Amy Lynn Schiffner

To Whom It May Concern,

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

Sincerely,
Amy Lynn Schiffner

tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 8:00 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: daveschiffner@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Schiffner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in full support of HB 2492 relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance.

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Aloha,

My name is Travis Seifman; I received an MA in Art History from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 2012, and I am writing to you to express my fullest support for HB 2492, a bill which will extend further regular funding to the UHM Department of Theater and Dance.

The Department of Theater and Dance was a huge part of what made my three years in Mānoa as deeply fruitful, rewarding, and enjoyable as it was. Along with the equally vitally important departments of Music, and Art & Art History, the department of Theater and Dance makes life on campus – and in Honolulu more broadly – a deeply and vibrantly cultural experience. Alongside other institutions and organizations, the department of Theater and Dance is one of the major centers of culture on the island, and plays a vital role in making Honolulu the vibrant arts center that it is. I have been spending a lot of time on the mainland since graduating from UH, and let me tell you, Santa Barbara is the sleepest of sleepy towns compared to Honolulu when it comes to theater and dance productions, and arts & cultural events otherwise, in large part due to the efforts of the department of Theater and Dance.

I could continue with testimony as to my own personal experiences and impressions, and having had the once-in-a-lifetime experience of playing a role in a Kabuki play at Kennedy Theater, there is certainly a lot to be said there. But, let me speak from a different perspective as well. I have had the good fortune to pursue graduate study, research, and museum internships at a number of major institutions including the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Smithsonian Institution; the School of Oriental and African Studies in London; Japan Society in New York; and the National Museum of Japanese History outside of Tokyo. I have also been fortunate to get to know a number of experts in the field of Japanese theater, and to visit and experience performances and productions in New York, London, Kyoto, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, and based on that background, I can say with great certainty that the Department of Theater and Dance at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is in no way merely a nice thing for UH, a nice thing for Honolulu, a nice thing for Hawai'i. It is one of the absolute top, leading departments for the study, practice, and performance of Asia-Pacific theater and dance form in the world. It is perhaps the leading institution in the entire world, outside of China and Japan, where students from all over the US and around the world can come to study the voice, movement, and other physical practical aspects of performance in Japanese Kabuki and Chinese *jingju* (Beijing opera), and to perform in a full mainstage production in those forms. It is the only place outside of Indonesia or Germany where the Sumatran art of Randai is taught and performed. And now, with the recent addition of a professor of Hawaiian theater, it is surely one of the leading places in the world for studying and practicing the rich heritage of Hawai'i's own theatrical traditions.

While nearly every other university in the country continues to adhere to Eurocentric notions of the high arts, of Western modes of training, and Western modes of appreciation – teaching Western theater as if it is the only theater, and non-Western arts as merely an afterthought, or merely as a source of inspiration, UHM is like a shining beacon of non-Western arts, one of the only places in the country

where one can come to truly immerse oneself in training in these arts, both in terms of theory and practice, acquiring an expertise that can be attained nowhere else.

All of this makes UH Mānoa's program one of crucial importance to artists, actors, and dancers the world over who are interested in learning about Asia-Pacific theater and dance. And it makes their program one of crucial importance to traditional practitioners in China, Japan, and Indonesia, struggling to keep their traditions alive, and to share them with other people, to spread knowledge and interest in their arts. It means that UHM is providing a service not just to Hawai'i, but to the world. And, meanwhile, here in Hawai'i, the department is providing an invaluable service to the local community as well, contributing to the overall cultural vitality of the island, and providing an opportunity to witness and enjoy these cultural art forms. Kabuki and *Jingju* performances at Kennedy Theater are, to the best of my knowledge, quite regularly sold-out, as was this year's Indonesian puppet theatre production.

I cannot state strongly enough the importance of the department of Theater and Dance to Hawai'i, and to the world of Asia-Pacific theater and dance. It would be a terrible shame, a truly terrible shame, for such a great program, such a unique program of such vital importance, to be laid low by something as petty and menial as local politics or state budget. I therefore encourage you, with all of my heart, to vote YES on HB 2492.

Mahalo,

Travis Seifman

MA '12, UHM

tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 8:48 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: bshev@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian S Shevelenko	Individual	Support	No

Comments: to: Rep. Ken Ito, Chair Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair and the: Committee on Veterans, Military and International Affairs, and Culture and the Arts From: Brian S Shevelenko Regarding HB2492, hearing on Monday, Feb. 8, 2016, 9:00 am I wish to express Support for HB 2492 Relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance

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tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 8:26 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: daniel.stck@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
daniel stock	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I wish to express that I support this bill and that the theater and arts need proper appropriations to be able to function and foster the next generation of cultural pioneers.

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tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 2:11 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: JillianBStrauss@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM*

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jillian Blakkan-Strauss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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The Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts
Monday, February 08, 2016 - 9:00am
HB 2492

I am writing to you, the members of this committee, to express my extreme support for direct funding to the theatre program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa through HB 2492. I find it difficult to express in words the multitude of gifts this program has given me, my friends, my family, and the community, but I will try. Through this program I have learned not only history, theory, music, languages, and physical skills but I have also learned a great deal about cultural awareness and respect. I've seen it do the same for members of the UH student body who may have never heard or seen any form of Asian theatre but were moved by performance they saw at Kennedy Theatre or one of our touring performance groups. This department is not just teaching students how to act but it is teaching them about different cultures, empathy, love, respect, and so many other things. Numerous studies have proven theatre creates better students and better members of society in general. Isn't that something we all want for Hawai'i? Globally aware students who are also skilled in analysis, planning, and teamwork? That is what theatre does for students and our community.

On a personal note the department has allowed me to work with artists from around the world; perform Japanese kabuki and nihon buhyo; dance Indonesian randai; learn languages and acting skills from top ranked performers; and advanced my public speaking skills that have helped me to represent the University of Hawai'i at conferences in four countries in the past few years. It also helped me find my passion in Indonesian wayang kulit and helped guide me to receive a Fulbright Student Award Grant in 2014 that allowed me to complete my field research in Yogyakarta, Indonesia for one full year.

This program changes lives. It opens up possibilities and worlds to people. It connects people through performance and cultural dialogue as well. As leaders in this community this is something you should stand behind and support fully.

Mahalo,
Kristina Tannenbaum
Doctoral Candidate in Asian Theatre (ABD)
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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

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

Monday, February 8, 2016
9:00 a.m., Conference Room 312

Support for H.B. No. 2492, Relating to the University of Hawai'i

I am a professional dancer and choreographer, graduate of the University of Hawai'i and native of O'ahu. I strongly support HB 2492, relating to the University of Hawai 'i, which would establish funding the Department of Theatre and Dance. Support for the Department of Theatre and Dance would assure that UH can continue to train professional artists and produce award winning productions, which enrich our community.

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 who were drawn to UH because of what this program has to offer.

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.

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

Rachael Uyeno

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

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

My name is Rachael Uyeno, and I received my BA in Theatre from the UH Manoa Department of Theatre and Dance. I am currently a graduate assistant with the department, for which I perform in shows, teach and TA various classes, and participate in the HealthCAST simulations in partnership with the school of nursing, all in conjunction with my actual classwork. I strongly support HB 2492, which would give much needed support and opportunities to the faculty and students, and ultimately enrich the community at large.

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

This department has so much to offer. We have the best Asian Theatre program in the country. Theatre in general is an amazing blend of disciplines—psychology, history, science, the practical skills that go into set design and construction, costume design and construction, lighting design, stage management, to say nothing of acting and directing. Theatre gets its participants actively engaged physically, mentally, and emotionally. It is an exercise in empathy for both the people on stage and the people in the audience, and this world could certainly use more empathy. To exemplify, consider the testimony you are reading, and what a difference it makes reading the words vs. hearing someone speak them, being in the same room with the person saying these words. That is the human connection that film and literature cannot cultivate, and it is more important

than ever in an age of children (and adults) who can't look up from their phone screens.

Through our partnership with the nursing program, theatre students act as patients or family members of patients, so that nurses, doctors, and social workers can develop good bedside manner in a safe environment. Having to look a living, breathing person in the eye when you diagnose them with terminal cancer is very different than telling a plastic dummy. Theatre has applications beyond pure cultural enrichment, and we deserve the chance to further explore these possibilities. We are already looking to branch out into similar partnerships with other departments.

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. Basically it would give us some hope. I hope you will support us by passing HB 2492. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 8:59 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: melisa.k.orozco@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM*

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melisa Orozco Vargas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

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

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

tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 12:54 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: cchun@midpac.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM*

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments:

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tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 1:35 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: fabflandre@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM*

Categories: Yellow category

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fabienne Herold	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 10:38 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: sbowyer@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM*



HB2492

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Bowyer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

Geovanté Joseph
Testimony for HB 2492

The few years I have spent at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa have been some of the most enriching years of my life. As many have experienced, college is a valuable time for learning, exploration and building relationships, combining in a transformation of self. My experiences at the UHM have been especially enriched because of my involvement in the Department of Theatre and Dance. I make this appeal in hopes that you move to augment funding of the Universities theatre and dance programs. I feel that many often scoff at the notion of supporting the arts because all they see are the egos of individuals. While I agree that there is no value in supporting that, you must understand that that is a very limited perspective of theatre and the arts. These things are definitely not what the Department of Theatre and Dance is working towards. What the department has instilled in me, is the work that theatre does to inspire and enrich communities, raise serious questions about society, and promote social changes. Theatre is all about the people and reaching them through through emotions in ways that science and logic cannot. If the powers that be allow the department to waste away, they are missing the opportunity to build the community through the arts and to teach others the true values of theatre. I hope the testimonies of myself and others illustrate the importance the department has in Hawai'i and the worth of supporting this type of education.

LATE

February 7, 2016

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

Jessica Jacob
1561 Pensacola #906
Honolulu, HI 96822

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

I am writing today in support of HB 2492 Relating to the University of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance. While I am writing as a constituent and individual who graduated from UHM in 2006 with a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree from this program, I have also recently returned to UHM as a staff member. In the intervening years I had an excellent career in my field was a top executive in the performing arts industry in my community. I gave that up without a backward glance to return to the Department of Theatre and Dance. The education, both vocational ("on the job training" through the Production requirements) and the internationally renowned and unsurpassed coursework in Asian and Pacific Theatre, was something that I was willing to sacrifice my current standing and career to be a part of and support with my labor. I was dismayed to discover that this Department, which stands as the #1 introduction to upper campus for elementary and high school students as well as the community at large, was not receiving enough support to fully serve the students. Operational support, should "pass through" upper administration and again through the College of Arts & Humanities from student tuitions as well as UH Foundation contributions, and the state legislature. Instead, it "trickles down" through one filter after another and what is left for the Department is not enough to service student learning – student education is the reason for UHM's existence.

Those filters have not caused level funding. They have cut to the very core and are eating the seeds.

To provide a world class education to Hawaii's people and those who choose UH as their educational arena, this Department needs direct funding to ensure that Hawaii does not lose one of its most hailed programs in Higher Education, namely the Asian Theatre program and the nascent Hawaiian Theatre program. With reliable operational support, UHM Theatre and Dance can continue to entice and excite student learners and continue to be a leading program internationally, buttressing Hawaii's image and reputation in the Pacific and worldwide.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Jessica L. Jacob

tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 9:02 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: troyapostol@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM



HB2492

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

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

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

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tokioka2 - Karina

From: Cecilia Fordham <fordhamh001@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 11:42 AM
To: vmitestimony
Subject: In support of H.B. No. 2492



LATE

Thank you for allowing me to speak in support of H.B. 2492 before your committee this morning. As requested, here is my testimony.

Please appropriate these funds.

As a graduate of the University of Hawaii Manoa Department of Theatre M.F.A. program (1975), a founding member and former president of The Friends of Kennedy Theatre, and a working theatre professional and educator, I am familiar with the quality of this program, as well as the wide swath cut by its graduates in Hawaii's local educational, entertainment, cultural, and visitor industry.

Theatres, schools, museum programs across the state, including public auditoriums, community and commercial venues employ designers, lighting specialists, costumers, and directors trained in the UH Department of Theatre and Dance. (Examples: City and County of Honolulu, Blaisdell Concert Hall and Arena, Hawaii Theatre, Diamond Head Theatre, Manoa Valley Theatre, the DOE Theatre Arts Centers, Leeward CC Theatre, The Hawaii Shakespeare Festival, Punahou School, Mid-Pacific Institute, to name a few, all have UH Manoa Department of Theatre and Dance graduates working or directing in their venues.) In addition, graduates of the department work throughout in academic and research settings and in stage, film and television throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Despite experiencing year after year of substantial loss of institutional funding, the department continues to influence the Asian and Western theatre, cultural and historical environments through its teaching and resources, and to produce quality productions, even with significant challenges.

The Friends of Kennedy Theatre, a community support organization, has provided financial support for extraordinary production expenses and student scholarship aid for 30 years; however, it is not part of its mission to provide funds for staffing. Our organization has been aware and concerned about the lack of support for positions unfilled after retirement of faculty. Eventually, it will affect the quality of the department which in turn affects the Friends' ability to fundraise.

The quality of my work has been influenced by the ingenious and superlative training and development of effective research I received from nationally and internationally trained and renowned tenured faculty and guest artists. Without that kind of tenured faculty working with our students we can expect a decline in the department's ability to produce and maintain its influence over time.

Respectfully,

Cecilia H. Fordham
fordhamh001@hawaii.rr.com
Educator, Administrator, Actor, Director

tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 3:17 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: 1hapadesigns@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2492 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM



Categories: Purple category

HB2492

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Liu	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Theater arts are an important part of not only the academic experience, but it creates well rounded individuals. Please support the bill HB2492 to fund the University of Hawai'i at Manoa's Theatre Department. What UHM offers is very unique to the arts in general, and to Hawai'i. Without funding, they can't continue to bring multi-layered and multi-cultural theatre to Hawaii. Students from all over the world attend UHM's Theatre program for its diversity. This is a program unlike any other in the world.

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tokioka2 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 7:20 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: mceldowney.mary@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2491 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM*



Categories: Purple category

HB2491

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for VMI on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary McEldowney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

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

FROM: Kara Miller

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

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

I write (or speak) in support of House Bill 2492.

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

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

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.

So why are we here? 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 budget was \$45,303, for the academic side alone (there is no budget for the production side, but we'll talk about that in a minute). 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 A LOT less than they do now. We are having to use donations from our supporters to cover basic operating costs. That's the academic side—and we've been warned it'll get worse.

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

However, unlike our peer universities, we have never had a standardized subsidy for our productions. Indeed, we are largely left to raise the money ourselves, although we have been supported by the Student Activity and Program Fee Board, and some support for our renowned Asian Theatre Program. 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 \$135,000 per year towards 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 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 \$140,000 to be split 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 funding was intended to cover approximately 50% of its average curricular costs. In 2001, that was \$50,000 funded for \$100,000 in costs.

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

We have the most adventurous and courageous students in the world. They deserve to be allowed to flourish and not be saddled with the woes of other units.

I have said it all in my written testimony

Thank you,

Kara Miller
Honolulu, HI 96822

LATE

Puakahiki Kau‘i Kaina
91-1115 Kuano‘o St.
‘Ewa Beach, HI 96706
(808) 345-2067
kau.kaina@gmail.com
Reference: HB2492

Aloha mai kāua,

‘O Puakahiki Kau‘i Kaina ko ‘u inoa a he haumana au no Puna, Hawai‘i. He haumana laeo ‘o au e kula ‘ia nei ma Ke Kulanui o Mānoa ma lalo o ke ke‘ena Hana Keaka Hawai‘i. He leo kāko ‘o ho ‘i kēia no ka pila e hāpai ‘ia nei, HB2492.

My name is Puakahiki Kau‘i Kaina of Puna, Hawai‘i. I am currently an MFA student attending the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Department of Theatre and Dance, studying the Hawaiian Theatre track under the direction and guidance of Tammy Haili‘ōpua Baker. I am in support of bill HB2492.

I have been blessed and fortunate to work with Hawaiian Immersion schools on Hawai‘i Island as well as O‘ahu. One thing that has been a constant in both experiences is the need and desire by both students and teachers alike for more productions and performances of plays done in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, or the Hawaiian language. These productions support and provide opportunity for the Hawaiian Immersion schools to attain their goals of revitalizing the language, applying life lessons to themselves through legends and the history of Hawai‘i’s people. What this does in return brings awareness and pride within these students and roots them to their home here in Hawai‘i. As a result of their pride and sense of place, desire will grow to find solutions and pathways creating a more sustainable and harmonious place for the people, the land, and the spirit of this place.

As participants, students, and performers of the Hawaiian arts through Lā‘ieikawai, we had the great privilege of putting on 2 performances for all of the Hawaiian Immersion schools on the island of O‘ahu. The results of these performances are priceless. The students were engaged, laughing and in awe of what they experienced, and by the end of each performance these various schools showed their appreciation through spontaneous cultural exchange with the cast of Lā‘ieikawai. This production was first performed one year ago and songs are still being sung in the hallways of these schools. Many lesson plans were created in response to the Lā‘ieikawai performance and it is easy to see that the community was positively impacted as a result.

Teachers are requesting workshops within their classroom to provide this type of learning to their students. With the changes and advancements of the DOE curriculum standards such as NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards), I see a shift in the type of development of our students within the state to now allow and support more dimensional learning and application. What better way to support this movement than by using the Theatre and Dance as a vehicle to increase creative capacities in each of our keiki. But

this needs to begin at the university level to educate and provide opportunities for the university students to build and strengthen their skill. And finally reach out to our communities to provide more support to our students, who are the future of Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration!

Na'u nō me ke kāko'o piha,

Puakahiki Kau'i Kaina

LATE

●●●○ Verizon LTE

8:34 AM



< Notes



I've been to Congress during Congressman Choy's proposed bill in regards to graduation minimum when many programs would have been put on the so called "chopping block". The arts have typically been put in a light where it is associated with frivolous spending, papers that return home to mother after school only to be added to a pile of "stuff" needing to be sorted out later--members of Congress, it is an important medium in which education and cultural/political awareness is addressed, just to name a couple of things. In this same case there are two other cases in favor of the arts (1 for military/the DOE) is a movement to help support the arts. Please help to support this department in any way possible. The next time you go to watch a show (be it theatre or dance), look deeper than the superficial spectacle. What questions/ideas/ideals does the piece bring up, what moments are carefully shared with you or omitted? Reassess the way people view dance and theatre and allow this department to move forward in educating our future generations.

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair

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

Marc Marcos
Graduate Student of the Costume Design Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Theatre and Dance Program

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

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

My name is Marc Marcos a new graduate student in costume design for the University of Hawaii at Manoa Theatre and Dance, and I am expressing my support for the bill "A Bill for an Act."

For as long as I have been in this program and on the island on general, I think that a lot of the theatrical arts at the program has really opened a lot of new doors which were previously closed for me. All of the professors that I have worked with are very dedicated to their student's pursuit in becoming better entertainers, designers, and technicians doing so with a very limited budget. Although, myself and other students have seen how thinly stretched they are and have witnessed a depreciation of the theatrical arts. Although we get praise for our productions, what people do not see is the dedication we have for our theatre and its employees' pursuit to making a worthwhile performance. For some reason the accolades do not reflect the very little support we get. With additional funding, many more opportunities will open up for graduate and undergraduates alike and become better students in the theatrical arts. We will have a more enriching education and become more prominent figures in our community as a platform for alternative creative outlets, and our educators will get an opportunity to create more fulfilling environment for their students in pursuit of the Theatrical arts.

I would like to conclude by saying the pursuit of education is not just in math and science but it is also in self expression, self awareness, and self confidence which is found in the theatrical arts. Once again, I am in support for "A Bill for an Act" and in support for the department of Theatre and Dance.