

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2741 HD1 RELATING TO MILITARY IN THE ARTS

PRESENTATION TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

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DIRECTOR OF STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES

March 29, 2016

Good Morning Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Committees:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the Hawaii State Office of Veterans Services. I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2741 HD1 as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

This bill requests that an appropriation of funds be used to fund the state foundation on culture and the arts in the military program. Expanding this program will offer additional resources to returning veterans and their families as they transition back to civilian life.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my comments.



TESTIMONY OF  
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

H. B. 2741, HD1

March 29, 2016

RELATING TO MILITARY IN THE ARTS

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Chair Tokuda and members of the Committee, I am Jonathan Johnson, Executive Director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), and I am grateful for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of H.B 2741, HD1.

The arts have proven to be an effective tool in support of veterans, active duty military and their dependents.<sup>1</sup> Engaging in the arts bolsters the resilience and accelerates the ability of military personnel to heal and carry out their commitment to serve our nation. The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Department of Defense recognize this and have a Military Healing Arts Partnership that supports music, writing, and visual arts therapy at military care facilities Walter Reed Hospital and the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in Virginia. The 2015 Federal Budget Bill included language encouraging states to support military and the arts programming on the state level which this legislation does. With the significant number of veterans, service members and their dependents in Hawai'i, such programming would be appropriate. Federal grant funding to states, requiring a one to one match, is available for arts in the military initiatives.

Through this initiative, organizations sponsoring programs in the arts, culture and the humanities, could expand their focus to include the military. Funding would be available through the SFCA Biennium Grants Program in the areas of Arts Education, Heritage and Preservation, Community Arts, Visual and Performing Arts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

1. National Initiative for Arts & Health in the Military Arts, "Arts, Health and Well-Being Across the Military Continuum," Americans for the Arts