

Hawai'i
Arts
Alliance



A member of
the Kennedy Center
Alliance
for Arts Education
Network

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

RE: **SB 2766**

Relating to Military in the Arts

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee

On behalf of the umbrella organization, Hawai'i Alliance for Arts Education DBA Hawai'i Arts Alliance, a private statewide non-profit, we are submitting testimony in **full support of SB 2766, relating to military in the arts.**

In Hawai'i we have a very large military community including active duty members, their families and veterans. This legislation is in full accord with the National Initiative for Arts and Health in the Military. The arts can play a key role in helping the military sustain and promote troop force and family readiness, resilience, retention and for veterans, the success reintegration into family and community life.

There are countless stories and anecdotal evidence about the positive impact the arts have on the military population directly and the resulting in a healthier and more interconnected surrounding community. The specific programs outlined in SB 2766 include healing arts, after-school arts education, performances and discounted rates for military at all arts events in civilian population, and direct participation in theater, dance, visual arts, literary arts and cultural activities. We firmly applaud all these programs and urge passage of this legislation so the arts can be part our military lives.

The arts are of deep value to all of us and provide the basis for understanding and for healthy lives like no other endeavor. They tell the story of humankind, and we are all participants. As one of our most famous Presidents remarked: "*Art establishes the basic human truths, which must serve as the touchstone of our judgment.*"

John F. Kennedy

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Mahalo,



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