



No. 1 Capitol District
Building
250 South Hotel Street
Second Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

Governor
David Y. Ige

Comptroller
Douglas Murdock

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Patricia Hamamoto

Commissioners
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Joel Guy
Patricia Hamamoto
Noelle Kahanu
Michael Moore
Dean Sakamoto
Karen Tiller Polivka
Sherman Warner
Eva R. Washburn-Repollo

Executive Director
Jonathan Johnson

Telephone
808.586.0300

Fax
808.586.0308

Website
www.hawaii.gov/sfca

TESTIMONY OF
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
April 5, 2016
S.C.R.81/S.R.52

**ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO PLAN AND COORDINATE THE CELEBRATION
OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAWAII STATE CAPITOL**

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 pleased to testify in support of SCR81/SR52.

Recognizing the significant role culture and the arts play in the identity of Hawai'i, it is important to acknowledge that our State Capitol, will achieve its 50th year in 2019. Commissioned by Governor John Burns and designed by architects John Carl Warnecke and Associates and Belt Lemmon and Lo, the Hawaii State Capitol is a work of art in itself.

Completed on March 15, 1969, our Capitol is the centerpiece of the Hawai'i Capital Historic District which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Open to Hawai'i's brilliant blue sky, the rotunda sheds light on *Aquarius*, the ethereal mosaic by Maui artist, Tadashi Sato. The statuesque palm-like columns, the volcanic shaped legislative chambers, and reflecting pool symbolize the righteousness of our land and ocean. Inside the chambers, chandeliers by Otto Piene and exquisite tapestries by Ruthadell Anderson are *modern expressions of our civic ideals*. SFCA's art collection adorns the walls and spaces of our executive and legislative offices as reminders of the artistic talent and rich culture of our people.

At this milestone, it is time to plan and honor our State Capitol and to inform future generations of this great resource and symbol of the 50th State. This task force will encourage public understanding of the history and purpose of the Hawai'i State Capitol, and through that appreciation, the heritage and character of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.