

# SCR81

## Testimony

Measure Title: ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO PLAN AND COORDINATE THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAWAII STATE CAPITOL.

Report Title: Hawaii State Capitol Fiftieth Anniversary; Task Force

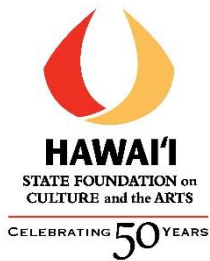
Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HEA/GVO, WAM

Introducer(s): TANIGUCHI



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**TESTIMONY OF  
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS  
AND THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**March 24, 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 Taniguchi, Chair Kim, and members of the Committees, 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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.

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS  
and SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Re: SCR81 and SR52

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

For hearing on Thursday, March 24, 2016

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT, WITH PROPOSED ADDITION

Dear legislators, it's wonderful to plan for celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Hawaii state Capitol in 2019.

But of course there would be no state Capitol unless there were a State of Hawaii.

And as it happens, 2019 will also be the 60th anniversary of Hawaii statehood.

Therefore please amend this resolution to broaden it to include planning for celebration of both the 50th anniversary of the Capitol and the 60th anniversary of Hawaii Statehood. Why not have both celebrations combined into a single event? Save money and appeal to a wider audience.