

# SR77

# Testimony

Measure Title: REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A SURVEY AND EVALUATION OF ARTIST RELOCATION PROGRAMS AND THEIR POTENTIAL FOR CREATION IN THE STATE OF HAWAII.

Report Title: Artist Relocation Program Study; Art; Culture

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HEA, WAM

Introducer(s): TANIGUCHI

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi  
Acting Director

Research (808) 587-0666  
Revisor (808) 587-0670  
Fax (808) 587-0681



LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol, Room 446  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Written Testimony

**SCR111**  
**REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A**  
**SURVEY AND EVALUATION OF ARTIST RELOCATION PROGRAMS AND THEIR**  
**POTENTIAL FOR CREATION IN THE STATE OF HAWAII**

Testimony by the Legislative Reference Bureau  
Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Acting Director

Presented to the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Thursday, March 24, 2016, 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 224

Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

Good morning Chair Taniguchi and members of the Committee, my name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi and I am the Acting Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written comments on S.C.R. No. 111, Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to Conduct a Survey and Evaluation of Artist Relocation Programs and Their Potential for Creation in the State of Hawaii.

The purpose of this measure, among other things, is to request that the Legislative Reference Bureau:

- (1) Conduct a survey and evaluation of artist relocation programs and the potential for creation of such a program in the State of Hawaii; and
- (2) Report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2017.

While the Legislative Reference Bureau takes no position on the measure, we submit the following comments for your consideration.

As a general matter, the measure cites:

- (1) The City of Paducah's "artist relocation program" as a national model for using the arts for economic development and fostering an environment where artists and the arts could flourish;
- (2) The goals of Paducah's artist relocation program were to revitalize one of Paducah's most historic neighborhoods through the arts, accomplished by the city's offering properties at little cost in return for agreement with various conditions of renovation and basing entrepreneurial activities in the arts at the properties located in the model art district community--a place to create, live, and work; and
- (3) That private-public partnering was a critical element in the success of the Paducah artist relocation program, which involved innovative financing arrangements with community partner banks for the artists/residents, and public incentives including low cost property sales and zoning accommodations through the city planning department.

The Bureau notes that the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts has provided the Bureau with a policy brief issued by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies regarding State Cultural Districts. Upon a cursory review of the policy brief, it seems that the information requested in the measure regarding a survey and evaluation of artist relocation programs has already been conducted by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies regarding State Cultural Districts.

Furthermore, since the policy brief states that:

The composition and character of cultural districts vary tremendously among—and even within—states. The policies explored in this brief all emphasize the arts, but often do so in combination with other cultural domains including heritage, historic preservation, recreation and entertainment. Activities within cultural districts also include a mixture of commercial and nonprofit ventures led by both individuals and institutions.

Based on the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies' observation that cultural district programs vary tremendously among states, we note that as drafted, the measure does not provide enough guidance on the intended location of the program, the specific type of program, and what types of incentives the Legislature would like the Bureau to evaluate. If the intent of the measure is for the Bureau to evaluate every program and all the incentives provided by these programs, then the Bureau will be unable to conduct the study in the timeframe provided.

Based on the description provided in the measure, it seems that the City of Paducah had a specific area within its jurisdiction that it had identified for its artist relocation program, for which the city was able to offer extremely low cost properties and other financial and

zoning incentives, and had a supportive private-public partnership already in place, which was acknowledged as a critical element of the program's success.

If the Legislature feels that this survey and evaluation should be conducted, then the Bureau respectfully requests that the measure be amended to provide more specific guidance on the following issues so that the Bureau may be able to provide the Legislature with the information it needs to make sound policy decisions on this matter:

- (1) The specific geographic area that the State feels is in need of redevelopment as artist relocation neighborhood;
- (2) The parameters that are to be used by the Bureau to evaluate whether such an artist relocation program would be deemed feasible or desirable;
- (3) The qualifiers by which a geographic area in the State should be evaluated (e.g., crime rates, property values, infrastructure needs, etc.) in order to determine if the area could benefit from establishing an artist relocation program; and
- (4) The specific financial, zoning, and other incentives the Legislature would be willing to consider to support this program.

Thank you again for your consideration.



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

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Sherman Warner  
Eva R. Washburn-Repollo

Executive Director  
Jonathan Johnson

Telephone  
808.586.0300

Fax  
808.586.0308

Website  
[www.hawaii.gov/sfca](http://www.hawaii.gov/sfca)

**TESTIMONY OF  
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS  
March 24, 2016  
S.C.R.111/S.R.77**

**REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A SURVEY  
AND EVALUATION OF ARTIST RELOCATION PROGRAMS AND THEIR POTENTIAL  
FOR CREATION IN THE STATE OF HAWAII**

Chair Taniguchi 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 SCR111/SR77.

Nationwide there are a variety of examples of creative district programs that incentivize local communities to use arts venues, businesses, and activities to create or enhance economic opportunities. Creative districts are appealing places to live, visit, and conduct business, which in turn enhance the economic and civic vitality of a community.

Creative districts help revitalize communities by increasing livability, attracting artists and creative entrepreneurs. Creative districts form clusters of economic activity, showcasing cultural and artistic organizations, events, and amenities. Often, creative districts encourage the redevelopment of blighted areas and leverage funding for additional resources and partnerships.

Creating and preserving affordable live and work housing for artists' so artists can stay in the neighborhoods they help renew, is an important ingredient in establishing creative districts. SCR 111/77 is a step toward understanding what other communities are doing so we can make educated choices to ensure our enriched communities are sustainable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.