



HAWAII

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**TESTIMONY OF
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

H. C. R. 179 / H. R. 104

**ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO PLAN AND COORDINATE THE
CELEBRATION OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE FIRST ARRIVAL OF JAPANESE EMIGRANTS TO HAWAII**

To be heard Thursday MARCH 23, 2017

9:50am at CR429

Chair Ito 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 and **COMMENT** on H.C.R.179 / H. R. 104. The SFCA supports the intent of this measure to recognize the contributions of Japanese emigrants to Hawaii's history, cultural community and society.

As a state arts agency, the SFCA supports the cultural heritage of Hawaii's host culture and the myriad of people who have migrated here over time. Our programs in folk and traditional arts, arts education, community arts and public art are at the core of our mission. We provide support to cultural communities in various ways, primarily through grants and technical assistance in organizational development. We also partner with organizations on specific projects to encourage the preservation of culture and the perpetuation of art forms in dance, music, drama, literature and visual art.

We have functioned as a conduit for Legislative funding for centennial celebrations in Hawai'i and urge the Legislature to have this task force partner with a local nonprofit organization to coordinate events, convene meetings, conduct planning and apply for funding from government or private sources. In this way, the task force is based in the community and effectively positioned to identify resources, involve people, generate enthusiasm for developing ideas and attracting participation.

The SFCA is available to provide organizational guidance, programming expertise, and consultation in event planning as well as serve as a possible source of funding once the cultural celebration and related programming are established and ready to implement.

SFCA supports the future appropriation of funding to implement the proposed intent, provided doing so does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.