



HAWAII

STATE FOUNDATION on
CULTURE and the ARTS

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

Governor
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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 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND THE ARTS
AND THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

FEBRUARY 7, 2017

S. B. 608

RELATING TO MILITARY IN THE ARTS

Chair Taniguchi, Chair Nishihara 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 in **SUPPORT** of S.B. 608.

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Department of Defense recognize the benefits of the arts and have a partnership, Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network. This partnership serves the unique and special needs of military patients and veterans who have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury and psychological health conditions, as well as their families and caregivers.

Healing arts use creativity through music, visual arts, dance, drama, creative writing, craft-making and other creative pursuits in both clinical and non-clinical settings to promote health and well-being and improve quality of life.

Participation in creative arts therapy or in community arts programs can help reduce stress, decrease anxiety, and increase positive emotions. Creative arts therapies increases patient engagement across all health interventions. Patients acknowledge improvement in sleep, memory, pain, cognitive function, and the ability to confront emotional challenges. Family members who engage in creative arts therapies express similar benefits as well. Creative arts therapies are non-invasive and cost-effective medical treatments.

Nationwide, more than five million military families provide care for a family member with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Only half of veterans who need PTSD treatment seek it. Community-based arts programs can serve as a de-stigmatized access point for those who wish to learn about creative arts therapy in the clinical setting.¹

With over 110,000 veterans, service members and their dependents in Hawaii, such programming would be appropriate. Through this initiative, organizations sponsoring programs in the arts, culture and humanities, could expand their focus to include the military.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

¹ "Creative Forces, NEA Military Healing Arts Network," National Endowment for the Arts

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 608, RELATING TO MILITARY IN THE ARTS

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND THE ARTS

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN
DIRECTOR OF STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

February 07, 2017
2:45 p.m.

Good afternoon Chair's Taniguchi and Nishihara, Vice Chair's English and Wakai, and members of both Committees:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services. I appreciate this opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 608 as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

This bill requests that an appropriation of funds be used to fund the State foundation on culture and the arts in the military program. Expanding this program will offer additional resources to returning veterans and their families as they transition back to civilian life.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my comments.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2017 1:38 PM
To: IAA Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB608 on Feb 7, 2017 14:45PM*

SB608

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for IAA/PSM on Feb 7, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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