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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1223, RELATING TO MILITARY IN THE ARTS

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE
AND THE ARTS

BY

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

February 08, 2018
10:00 a.m.

Good morning, Chair LoPresti, Vice Chair Fukumoto, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services. I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of the concepts in House Bill 1223.

This measure appropriates funds for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to establish an Arts in the Military Program. This proposed Act will encourage relevant programming and partnerships between arts organizations and military bases in the State, military organizations, and veterans' assistance agencies to provide greater access to the arts for active duty military members, veterans, and their families.

The OVS supports the concepts and intent expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families.



HAWAII

STATE FOUNDATION on
CULTURE and the ARTS

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Feb 06, 2018, 9:23 am

TESTIMONY OF
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS &
CULTURE AND THE ARTS
FEBRUARY 08, 2018
H.B. 1223
RELATING TO MILITARY IN THE ARTS

Chair LoPresti 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 H.B. 1223.

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

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

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HB-1223

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 9:44:49 AM

Testimony for VMI on 2/8/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

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HB-1223

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 11:14:06 PM

Testimony for VMI on 2/8/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Rainbow Family 808	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1223.

Mike Golojuch, Lt Col, USAF(Ret)