



**HAWAII**

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TESTIMONY OF  
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

February 09, 2018

S. B. 2204

**RELATING TO THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAWAII STATE CAPITOL**

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 grateful for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of S.B.2204.

In 2019, Hawaii has an opportunity to celebrate one of its unique and historically rich landmarks, our state Capitol. Completed on March 15, 1969, our Capitol is the centerpiece of the Hawaii Capitol Historical District and a testament to our unique state.

Per Senate Concurrent Resolution 81, the 2016 Hawaii State Senate requested the establishment of a task force to plan and coordinate the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Hawaii State Capitol. Examples of activities and events for consideration by the task force include: a content rich and professionally prepared exhibition to celebrate and inform experts and the general public, a symposium on the State Capitols formation and building, and tours of the Capitol. There is also an opportunity to develop products including a professionally produced documentary video and an exhibition catalogue written and illustrated for a general and scholarly audience.

SB2204 provides the necessary resources to honor our State Capitol and to inform future generations of this great symbol of the 50<sup>th</sup> state. This celebration will encourage public understanding of the history and purpose of the Hawaii State Capitol, and through that appreciation, the heritage and character of Hawaii.

This legislation supports the Task Force's future recommendations, implementation, and the ability to lead, manage, produce and deliver a series of events and products.

The Capitols anniversary provides an opportune moment to seek ideas for a vision for the capitol. The symposium proceedings, discussion and feedback can provide direction for an illustrated vision for the future of the complex.

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

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Re: SB2204 RELATING TO THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE HAWAII STATE CAPITOL.

Appropriates funds to the State Foundation on Culture and  
the Arts to fund celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the  
Hawaii state capitol.

For hearing on Friday, February 9, 2018

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 is a State of Hawaii.

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

Therefore please amend this bill to broaden it to instruct the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to include planning for a combined celebration of both the 50th anniversary of the Capitol and the 60th anniversary of Hawaii Statehood in a single ceremony.

Of course the Statehood Day holiday does not come until August. But it will be perfectly OK for the Legislature to celebrate it during the period when the Legislature is in session, as was done in 2009 for the 50th anniversary of Statehood.

Taxpayers will be pleased that you are combining the two celebrations into a single event to be held at a time when you are already present at the Capitol. Save money and appeal to a wider audience.

# HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

**TO:** Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary

**FROM:** Kiersten Faulkner, Executive Director  
Historic Hawai'i Foundation

**Committee:** Friday, February 9, 2018  
9:45 a.m.  
Conference Room 016

**RE:** **SB 2204, Relating to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Hawai'i State Capitol**

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation, I am writing in **support for SB 2204** relating to the fiftieth anniversary of the Hawai'i State Capitol.

The bill would appropriate funds to support activities to celebrate and commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Hawai'i State Capitol in 2018-2019.

Since 1974, Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF) has been a statewide leader for historic preservation. HHF works to preserve Hawaii's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believes that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, economic viability and environmental sustainability of the state.

The Hawai'i State Capitol is designated on both the Hawai'i and National Registers of Historic Places. It is a centerpiece of the Capital Historic District. March 15, 2019 will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the Capitol, and the Legislature has directed that there be a commemoration of this historic building and its role in Hawaii's history.

The Capitol's architectural significance derives in part from the symbolism of the building features, which reflects the cultural, social and natural histories of Hawai'i. As the only island state in the nation, Hawaii's geography is unique. The design of the State Capitol reflects that geography: the reflecting pools stand for the Pacific Ocean; the two chambers show the strength of the volcanic origins of the islands; the columns symbolize palm trees; and the rotunda is open to the sky.

The commemoration of the anniversary of the Capitol will provide opportunities for public education and celebration of the history and design of not only this important building, but also the importance of democracy and civic engagement.

Therefore, we support this bill to provide funding support for the planning and implementation of the commemorative activities. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**SB-2204**

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 9:34:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/9/2018 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments: