



**LATE**

Testimony of

Mufi Hannemann  
President & CEO  
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Committee on Ways and Means  
March 1, 2018

SB2693: Relating to the Festival of Pacific Arts

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. On behalf of the nearly 700 members of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private-sector visitor industry organization, we **support** Senate Bill 2693 which makes an appropriation of \$1,500,000, from the State's general revenues, for the Festival of Pacific Arts, scheduled for 2020 for the first time in Hawai'i.

The forthcoming festival, which would be the 13<sup>th</sup> since 1972, would bring to the Hawaiian Islands about 3,000 artists and cultural practitioners from across Oceania to exchange ideas and practices on how best to preserve and perpetuate the unique indigenous arts and cultures of this region.

Based on the past success of the Festival of Pacific Arts, we can expect delegates representing at least 27 Pacific Island nations and territories to visit our islands. This would enhance Hawai'i's reputation as a gathering place and meeting destination, showcase the diversity of cultures found everywhere in the Pacific, and continue a tradition that has been vital to the progress being made in preserving the heritage of the people of the region.

The organizers will require funds for housing, transportation, and other expenses, and Senate Bill 2693 will be a significant step forward in that regard. In the meantime, if funding is assured, the visitor industry can also plan to work with the festival organizers to promote the event and perhaps help develop a marketplace for the art and products that would be highlighted during the festival.

The Festival of Pacific Arts, though held only every four years, could become an important date on the state's events calendar, and I urge the Legislature to provide the funding necessary to support this excellent endeavor.

Mahalo for your consideration of Senate Bill 2693.

**LATE**

**SB-2693**

Submitted on: 3/1/2018 9:41:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2018 11:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melehina Groves	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, and Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 1, 2018

RE: Strong Support for SB2693 Relating to the Festival of Pacific Arts

Aloha mai e Chair Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Keith-Agaran,

My name is Melehina Groves and I am writing to ask for support for the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture (FESTPAC) that will be held June 11-27, 2020 here in Hawai'i. FESTPAC is the largest Pacific Arts Festival in the World. More than 3,000 indigenous scholars, performing, literary, culinary and visual artists, traditional and cultural practitioners from 27 Pacific Islands of Oceania and Taiwan participate in FESTPAC, as well as Heads of State, Ministers of Culture, Legislators and other government officials.

I had the honor of participating as a delegate in the 9th Festival of Pacific Arts which was held in Palau in 2004. I can speak first hand to the awesome experience of being hosted by this nation and its people, and the lasting impression it left on me and our entire delegation from Hawai'i. I have been a dancer with Kumu Hula MÄ• puana de Silva and HÄ• lau MÄ• hala 'Ilima since 1998, and under her leadership together with Kumu Hula Victoria Holt-Takamine, and others including Kamehameha Schools, Hawai'i has been well-represented at past Festival of Pacific Arts.

As a past participant, I am very proud Hawai'i has been selected to host this prestigious event and we want to make Hawai'i proud to be the host as well, but it cannot be done without your support.

Please support SB2693 and the funding being requested through it for planning and implementation of FESTPAC. We cannot wait another year for appropriations to implement FESTPAC, and then another year before the funding is distributed. It will be too late to do the job right. Funding is necessary for matching funds for local and national support, for

professional publicity, marketing and development contractors to help raise the additional funding necessary to implement the event.

FESTPAC will receive worldwide national and international coverage, and bring in thousands of delegates and draw visitors which will bring economic benefit to Hawai'i businesses, as well as good publicity. Please lend your support.

Me ka mahalo,

Melehina Groves

[melehina@yahoo.com](mailto:melehina@yahoo.com)

**LATE**

**SB-2693**

Submitted on: 3/1/2018 9:58:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2018 11:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Heather H. Giugni	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Heather Giugni and I am writing to you today to encourage you to **SUPPORT** SB2693.

It is the first time in the history of the largest Pacific Arts Festival in the world will be held in the islands. Also known as FESTPAC, approximately 3-thousand indigenous scholars, performing, literary, culinary and visual artists, traditional and cultural practitioners from 27 Pacific Islands of Oceania and Taiwan will participate in this spectacular event that takes place every four years. More than 100,000 visitors from all over the world will come to Hawai'i for this spectacular event.

We are extremely excited and proud that Hawai'i has been chosen to host FESTPAC 2020. It is a huge educational opportunity that will need partnerships with businesses, arts organization, colleges, schools and nonprofits and the State of Hawai'i to make it a success.

I ask you humbly to support this bill.

In gratitude,

Heather Giugni