

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 21, 2018, 11:13 am

**SB-2897-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 10:16:00 AM

Testimony for VMI on 3/22/2018 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 21, 2018, 3:41 pm

Aloha,

I am writing to submit a letter of support for SB2897 in order to support Honolulu Biennial Foundation (HBF), a 501c3 nonprofit organization that will be presenting the second edition of Honolulu Biennial 2019, running from March 5 - May 8, 2019.

I am proud to have been an audience Member of the inaugural Honolulu Biennial in 2017 and can attest first-hand, the tremendous impact this visual arts festival had on our community. I witnessed visitors from all age groups and backgrounds enthusiastically attend this multi-venue festival that takes place over the course of two months. The inaugural festival welcomed 97,305 visits and welcomed 1,200 children through their free bus and educational tour outreach program!

I fully believe that Honolulu Biennial is an important event for our community to support. Through the power of art and complementing, educational public programs, Honolulu Biennial truly brings together and connects our community and all the cultures of the Pacific together in a way that is both profound and inspiring. It was also wonderful to be able to welcome visitors from outside of Hawai'i to Honolulu Biennial and be able to highlight the tremendous creative talents of our Native Hawaiian and local artists whom were featured prominently in the first edition of Honolulu Biennial. I know that ensuring a strong representation of artists from Hawai'i is of central importance to the HBF mission, vision and founding directors.

Beyond celebrating art, cultural exchange and offering a robust educational programming component, Honolulu Biennial also has a strong economic impact for our local economy, with the first edition of the festival having an economic impact of \$35.5 million dollars and creating 83 jobs through the festival.

I look forward to the next edition of Honolulu Biennial, their vision to expand the festival to include neighbor islands both for programming and as a festival site in 2019 and gratefully ask for your support for SB2897.

Warmly,

Name: Joshua Nakazawa

Contact details:

[Jnakazawa@manamusichawaii.com](mailto:Jnakazawa@manamusichawaii.com)

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 21, 2018, 4:10 pm

**SB-2897-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 4:02:46 PM  
Testimony for VMI on 3/22/2018 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
ISABELLA HUGHES	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha,

As one of the cofounders and co-directors of Honolulu Biennial Foundation, I am writing to enthusiastically submit testimony in support of SB2897. Honolulu Biennial was conceived as a vehicle to foster cultural exchange; highlight the creative, contemporary artistic talents of Hawai'i on an international platform; promote creativity and visionary thinking for our keiki and youth through our educational programming; and support our local economy by presenting a leading, signature event that attracts arts and culture tourists. After our successful debut in 2017, which welcomed 97,305 visits across nine exhibition sites and had an economic impact of \$35.5 million, we are humbly requesting support to ensure the second edition of our festival, which will run from March 8 - May 5, 2019, is a success and can increase our programming; expand to serve the neighbor island communities with programs and exhibits on the neighbor islands; offer professional development opportunities and support new, artistic commissions for participating Hawai'i artists; and double the number of children we serve with our free bus and tour program.

Our festival is a community-focused event which brings together over 65 partners from every sector in Hawai'i, as well as partners from across the nation and the world. Support for SB2897 will provide critical funding so we can reach the aforementioned goals and continue to inspire and excite our audience locally, as well as celebrate Hawai'i as a leading center for contemporary arts and visual culture on the global platform that Honolulu Biennial affords with our arts and culture tourists.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration,

Isabella Ellaheh Hughes

Director and co-founder

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 22, 2018, 9:14 am

**SB-2897-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 5:36:18 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/22/2018 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shawn Uehira	Oahu Economic Development Board	Support	No

Comments:

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**

Mar 20, 2018, 12:02 pm

**SB-2897-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 11:38:17 AM

Testimony for VMI on 3/22/2018 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Deborah G. Nehmad	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB2897 in order to support Honolulu Biennial Foundation (HBF), a 501c3 nonprofit organization that will be presenting the second edition of Honolulu Biennial 2019, running from March 5 - May 8, 2019.

I am proud to have been an avid community member and donor for the first Honolulu Biennial in 2017. I can personally attest to the tremendous impact this visual arts festival had on our community. Visitors of all age groups and backgrounds attended this multi-venue festival that takes place over the course of two months. From what I've learned, the inaugural festival welcomed 97,305 visits and welcomed 1,200 children through their free bus and educational tour outreach program.

I strongly believe that Honolulu Biennial is an important event for our community to support. Through the power of art and associated educational public programs, Honolulu Biennial truly brings together and connects our community and all the cultures of the Pacific together. I was proud to see the tremendous creative talents of our Native Hawaiian and local artists whom featured prominently in the first edition of Honolulu Biennial. I know that ensuring a strong representation of artists from Hawai'i is of central importance to the HBF mission, vision and founding directors.

IN addition, the festival had a strong economic impact of \$35.5 million dollars and creating 83 jobs through the festival.

I very much look forward to the 2019 Honolulu Biennial and support its vision to include neighbor islands on both the programming and as a festival site. Please support SB 2897 to make the second Honolulu Biennial even better than the first!

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 20, 2018, 12:57 pm

Aloha,

I am writing to submit a letter of support for SB2897 in order to support Honolulu Biennial Foundation (HBF), a 501c3 nonprofit organization that will be presenting the second edition of Honolulu Biennial 2019, running from March 5 - May 8, 2019.

I am proud to have been a voluntary worker for the inaugural Honolulu Biennial in 2017 and can attest first-hand, the tremendous impact this visual arts festival had on our community. I witnessed visitors from all age groups and backgrounds enthusiastically attend this multi-venue festival that takes place over the course of two months. The inaugural festival welcomed 97,305 visits and welcomed 1,200 children through their free bus and educational tour outreach program!

I fully believe that Honolulu Biennial is an important event for our community to support. Through the power of art and complementing, educational public programs, Honolulu Biennial truly brings together and connects our community and all the cultures of the Pacific together in a way that is both profound and inspiring. It was also wonderful to be able to welcome visitors from outside of Hawai'i to Honolulu Biennial and be able to highlight the tremendous creative talents of our Native Hawaiian and local artists whom were featured prominently in the first edition of Honolulu Biennial. I know that ensuring a strong representation of artists from Hawai'i is of central importance to the HBF mission, vision and founding directors.

Beyond celebrating art, cultural exchange and offering a robust educational programming component, Honolulu Biennial also has a strong economic impact for our local economy, with the first edition of the festival having an economic impact of \$35.5 million dollars and creating 83 jobs through the festival.

I look forward to the next edition of Honolulu Biennial, their vision to expand the festival to include neighbor islands both for programming and as a festival site in 2019 and gratefully ask for your support for SB2897.

Kind regards,

Michaela Bear  
Michaela.bear93@gmail.com

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 21, 2018, 10:03 am

**SB-2897-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 2:26:10 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/22/2018 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kasey Lou lindley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of the Honolulu Biennial. I attended the first HNL Biennial that took place in 2017 and I was very impressed by the quality of work that was shown and the way in which the Biennial was organized. I think that supporting this Biennial financially will not only benefit the artists showing, the Biennial organizers, and Honolulu but Hawai'i as a whole. I also think this Biennial will have a positive impact on a global scale as artists from this region gain more exposure, and it will also give Hawai'i more positive exposure as well. I think during the time that the Biennial takes place, it will attract visitors from all over the world and will thus bring more money, innovation, and creativity to benefit the Hawai'i economy. Art events of this nature also bring positive educational experiences for the local community, as well as visitors. This Biennial has a positive lasting impact on individuals with ages that range from 1yr or younger to 80+. There is something for everyone and the quality of work and creativity that is presented during the Honolulu Biennial influences important and thought provoking dialogue.

Mahalo,

Kasey Lou Lindley

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 21, 2018, 10:04 am

**SB-2897-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 2:49:46 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/22/2018 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
teri skillman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I was a volunteer docent for the Honolulu Biennial last year. I worked every Sunday to help the patrons learn about the artists in the exhibit at the Ward Ave. old Sports Authority venue. The Biennial was the best arts event that has happened in Honolulu ever. As a museum educator and arts administrator, the Biennial introduced issues to the public that few people will encounter in their daily lives. It was the first time that patrons saw themselves and their experiences reflected in the works of participating artists. The related talks and performances were of a high caliber and the educational activities for students were good. The duration of the event allowed families to visit several times. This event put Honolulu on the global arts map and should receive support to continue.

Without hesitation, I stand in strong support for SB2897 SD2!

Mahalo,

Teri Skillman



**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 21, 2018, 10:04 am

**SB-2897-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 3:02:09 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/22/2018 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Stiefel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is important to help make the Hawaiian islands a world class center for art. This will not only benefit the artists, but will help tourism in general, as well as help build a community that will make Hawaii a destination for people interested in all forms of art, not just local art.

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 21, 2018, 10:47 am

**SB-2897-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 3:57:31 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/22/2018 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erica Yamauchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm Erica Yamauchi and am from Kaimuki-Wilhelmina Rise, and am writing in strong support of this bill, Honolulu Biennial and our thriving arts community in Hawaii. It's these innovative and unique cultural happenings and events that that make our state and city such a vibrant, fun place to live, work, raise a family, and for our visitors too, to enjoy and get an authentic taste of Hawaii and its people. I hope you will support this bill and Honolulu Biennial into the future.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 21, 2018, 10:48 am

**SB-2897-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 4:07:09 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/22/2018 10:20:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a Big Island artist, I request that you please support SB2897 which will significantly benefit our community by increasing arts funding, education and awareness on neighbor islands. Mahalo!

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 21, 2018, 10:48 am

**SB-2897-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 4:32:01 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/22/2018 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**

Mar 21, 2018, 10:49 am

**SB-2897-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 5:39:20 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/22/2018 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bruna Stude	GALERIE 103 LLC	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to submit a letter of support for **SB2897** in order to support **Honolulu Biennial Foundation (HBF)**, a 501c3 nonprofit organization that will be presenting the second edition of Honolulu Biennial 2019, running from March 5 - May 8, 2019.

As an artist and a gallery owner living and working on Kaua`i, and as an audience member of the inaugural Honolulu Biennial in 2017 and can attest first-hand, the tremendous impact this visual arts festival had on our community. I witnessed visitors from all age groups and backgrounds enthusiastically attend this multi-venue festival that takes place over the course of two months leading to increased exposure for Hawaii as arts center on a national and international platform.

As an artist, I want to share that one of the greatest challenges that contemporary artists from Hawai`i face is lack of exposure to the broader art world, as well as venues to exhibit our work.

As a gallerist, I participate in numerous international art fairs where I represent Hawaii talent by introducing it to the broad national and international audiences. From this first-hand experience, I can attest to the necessity of our connection the global art market and the long term benefits of participation in the international level/ large scale art events. Increased exposure supports the local art scene and artists like myself economically as it introduces our work to a broader base of art collectors, museum curators and gallery directors.

I fully believe that Honolulu Biennial is an important event for our community to support. Through the power of art and complementing educational public programs, Honolulu Biennial truly brings together and connects our community and all the cultures of the Pacific together in a way that is both profound and inspiring. It was also wonderful to be able to welcome visitors from outside of Hawai`i to Honolulu Biennial and be able to highlight the tremendous creative talents of our Native Hawaiian and local artists whom were featured prominently in the first edition of Honolulu Biennial. I know that ensuring a strong representation of artists from Hawai`i is of central importance to the HBF mission, vision and founding directors.

Beyond celebrating art, cultural exchange and offering a robust educational programming component, Honolulu Biennial also has a strong economic impact for our local economy.

I look forward to the next edition of Honolulu Biennial, their vision to expand the festival to include neighbor islands both for programming and as a festival site in 2019 and gratefully ask for your support for Senate Bill 2897.

Warmly,

Bruna Stude  
Galerie 103  
Kaua`i, Hawai`i  
C [808 652 0712](tel:8086520712)

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**

Mar 21, 2018, 10:55 am

It is critical to support the arts in our lives, they give us hope and joy, they provide a sense of communtiy, they expand our views, and they empower us to live fuller, more purposful lives. The arts presented and celebrated via the Honolulu Biennale provide such support for all of us. Funding for continuation of the Honolulu Biennale is essential as it cannot continue without such support. I support this bill.

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 21, 2018, 3:42 pm

**SB-2897-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 3:25:18 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/22/2018 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jason Cutinella	Nella Media Group	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to submit a letter of support for SB2897 in order to support Honolulu Biennial Foundation (HBF), a 501c3 nonprofit organization that will be presenting the second edition of Honolulu Biennial 2019, running from March 5 - May 8, 2019.

I am proud to have been major sponsor / partner for the inaugural Honolulu Biennial in 2017 and can attest first-hand, the tremendous impact this visual arts festival had on our community. I witnessed visitors from all age groups and backgrounds enthusiastically attend this multi-venue festival that takes place over the course of two months. The inaugural festival welcomed 97,305 visits and welcomed 1,200 children through their free bus and educational tour outreach program!

I fully believe that Honolulu Biennial is an important event for our community to support. Through the power of art and complementing, educational public programs, Honolulu Biennial truly brings together and connects our community and all the cultures of the Pacific together in a way that is both profound and inspiring. It was also wonderful to be able to welcome visitors from outside of Hawai'i to Honolulu Biennial and be able to highlight the tremendous creative talents of our Native Hawaiian and local artists whom were featured prominently in the first edition of Honolulu Biennial. I know that ensuring a strong representation of artists from Hawai'i is of central importance to the HBF mission, vision and founding directors.

Beyond celebrating art, cultural exchange and offering a robust educational programming component, Honolulu Biennial also has a strong economic impact for our local economy, with the first edition of the festival having an economic impact of \$35.5 million dollars and creating 83 jobs through the festival.

I look forward to the next edition of Honolulu Biennial, their vision to expand the festival to include neighbor islands both for programming and as a festival site in 2019 and gratefully ask for your support for SB2897.

Thanks again,

Jason Cutinella



CEO | NMG - Nella Media Group

[jason@nellamedia.com](mailto:jason@nellamedia.com) (808) 275-7210

**SB-2897-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 8:05:16 AM

Testimony for VMI on 3/22/2018 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joshlyn Sand	Honolulu Botanical Gardens	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB2897 RELATING TO THE HONOLULU BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL ARTS EXHIBITION.

Foster Botanical Garden was a proud participant in the Honolulu Biennial International Arts Exhibition in 2017 and I can attest to the positive impact this visual arts festival had on our audience and the community.

Foster Botanical Garden hosted five artworks, four from Native Hawaiian and kama`aina artists, Charlton KÅ«pa`a Hee, Lynne Yamamoto, Sean Connelly and Andrew Binkley, and one from renowned, international Japanese artist, Yayoi Kusama. Our entire experience with HBF was fantastic. HBF is directed by professional, experienced cultural leaders who have the business and marketing skills necessary to execute this multifaceted festival.

Beyond celebrating art, cultural exchange, and robust educational programming, the Honolulu Biennial had an estimated economic impact of \$35.5 million dollars and created 83 jobs. The inaugural festival welcomed 97,305 visits and 1,200 children through their free bus and educational tour outreach program. The HBF did a tremendous job with public relations and marketing. The extensive media coverage notably enhanced our garden attendance with an increase of over 1,000 visitors during March alone.

I eagerly look forward to the 2019 Honolulu Biennial. We are particularly excited about the vision to expand the festival to the neighbor islands and potentially adding Ho`omaluhia Botanical Garden in Kaneohe as a host site. I am confident the Windward side residents and visitors will embrace this event which brings communities together and promotes our island on local and global platforms.

I gratefully ask for your support for SB2897!

Sincerely,

Joshlyn D. Sand, Director

Honolulu Botanical Gardens

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 21, 2018, 5:08 pm

**SB-2897-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 4:44:09 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/22/2018 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leanna Wolff	Artist & Designer	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to submit a letter of support for SB2897 in order to support Honolulu Biennial Foundaion (HBF), a 501c3 nonprofit organization that will be presenting the second edition of Honolulu Biennial 2019, running from March 5 - May 8, 2019.

I am proud to have been an educational docent volunteer for the inaugural Honolulu Biennial in 2017 and can attest first-hand, the tremendous impact this visual arts festival had on our community. Working with our keiki from preschool through 12th grade was a phenomenal experience and the engagement we recieved from each and every student that attended I am positive left an imprint on them, both large and small. As a professional artist myself here in Hawaii, I believe it was incredibly inspiring to these young individuals to envision a career for themselves in the arts, and the environmental and social impact they can potentially make as an artist. I myself never had that experience so it took another degree and many years doing things I did not enjoy to figure out that I could in fact make a living and an impact as an artist. Many of the chosen artists were also scientists, engineers, architects, writers and historians in their individual ways and it opened the students eyes and minds to the many beneficial ways art can be used as a force for good. One moment I will never forget was a private meeting students had with one of the local artists learning first hand in an incredible 3-dimensional world how our island has changed as it's been developed and the future impact it will have on us if we don't give back to the land. These children are our future here in Hawaii and it is so important that they understand the impacts they can make as they grow and choose their careers in life.

I strongly believe that Honolulu Biennial is an important event for our community to support. It brought our community together in ways that had never before been accomplished and left an impact on the thousands it touched, including myself. Welcoming visitors from all over the world, HBF gave Hawai'i a platform in which we could truly stand out in the international art world. There is so much talent here, the islands truly breathe life into our artists and to give them the opportunity to celebrate and share that with the world was an unparalled experience and one I hope to see continued.

With time, and continual efforts I believe it will only gain more momentum and the impact it could potentially have on our economy would be tremendous. The first edition of the festival had an economic impact of over \$35 million dollars and helped create over 80 jobs for the duration of the festival. Imagine being known for our rich cultural arts just as much as our aloha shirts and mai tais. I want to live in that Hawaii. The path has already been carved, they just need help paving the road. So I gratefully as for your support of SB2897, as I wish to continue my volunteer efforts to continue educating our keiki and the world in the arts here in Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Leanna Wolff

[leanna@leannasart.com](mailto:leanna@leannasart.com)

808.551.0039

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 22, 2018, 9:15 am

**SB-2897-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 10:37:48 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/22/2018 10:20:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to submit a letter of support for SB2897 in order to support Honolulu Biennial Foundation (HBF), a 501c3 nonprofit organization that will be presenting the second edition of Honolulu Biennial 2019, running from March 5 - May 8, 2019.

As a Board Member for the inaugural Honolulu Biennial in 2017, I can attest first-hand the meaningful impact this visual arts event had on our community. I witnessed visitors from all age groups and backgrounds enthusiastically attend this multi-venue Biennial that took place over the course of two months last year. We welcomed 97,305 visitors. As a member of our educational team, I had the honor and pleasure of helping give tours to 1,200 children who visited the Biennial. These educational tours for which we provided free bus services were so appreciated by teachers and students alike. We have stacks of appreciative letters as testimonials!

I sincerely believe the Honolulu Biennial is an event deserving of our community's support. Through the power of art and our educational public programs, Honolulu Biennial connects our community and all the cultures of the Pacific in a unique, profound and inspiring way. It was wonderful to be able to welcome visitors from outside of Hawai'i to Honolulu Biennial as well. The Biennial highlights the tremendous creative talents of our Native Hawaiian and local artists. Ensuring a strong representation of artists from Hawai'i is of central importance to the HBF mission and vision.

Beyond celebrating art, cultural exchange and offering a robust educational programming, Honolulu Biennial also has a strong economic impact on our local economy. Our inaugural iteration had an economic impact of \$35.5 million dollars and created 83 jobs.

I look forward to the next edition of Honolulu Biennial and am excited to expand the event to include neighbor islands. I gratefully ask for your support in 2019 and for SB2897.

Warmly,

Heather Shimizu

heathershimizu@me.com

(808) 640 8989

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 22, 2018, 9:15 am

**SB-2897-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 10:50:04 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/22/2018 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Danya Hakeem	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to support our local art community! Please support this bill!



**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Mar 22, 2018, 9:15 am

**SB-2897-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 11:43:50 PM

Testimony for VMI on 3/22/2018 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sean connelly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern,

Public support of the contemporary arts and related programming like the Honolulu Biennial is critical to foster a creative environment and economy free from the forces of gentrification that currently provide the main source of funding for contemporary art in Hawai'i.

I am writing to testify in support of SB2897 in support of the Honolulu Biennial Foundation (a 501c3 nonprofit organization), that will be presenting the second edition of the Honolulu Biennial in 2019. I believe that Honolulu Biennial is an important and critical public cultural event necessary for the legislature to grant financial support.

As a graduate of Hawai'i's public school system (Castle High School 2003), I am proud to have been a part of the inaugural Honolulu Biennial in 2017 as one of the invited Hawai'i artists. It was an honor to have been included in the biennial alongside other respected artists from Hawai'i, the Pacific, and beyond. As an international arts festival, the biennial afforded me opportunities to show with infamous international artists at a time in my career that otherwise would have been impossible. As a result of the Biennial, I was given an opportunity to show at a second international event on the mainland, which indicates that the Biennial is capable to promote Hawai'i artists beyond. Honolulu Biennial advances the careers of artists in Hawai'i.

Beyond our own careers as artists, as a participant of Honolulu Biennial, I witnessed people of all ages and backgrounds interact with powerful art and educational programs. While the inaugural biennial welcomed 97,305 visitors, 1,200 children through a free bus and educational tour program, and generated an economic impact of \$35.5 million dollars--for me the best part of the festival was seeing local residents discover or reconnect to important historic resources Honolulu has to offer, such as Foster Botanical Garden where my sculpture was installed. Attendance for the garden tripled during the duration of the festival.

As an artist, I also received immediate support to create innovative educational programming that allowed me to present concepts relating to Hawaiian land use, architecture, science, and professional development to over 1000 students in public and private schools, as well as several hundred college and graduate students at UH

Manoa, UH West O'ahu. The biennial opened many doors to help artists like myself achieve our creative missions and extend the value of our creativity to the community and beyond.

Through the power of art and complementing educational public programs, Honolulu Biennial truly brings together and connects our community and all the cultures of the Pacific together in a way that is both profound and inspiring. I look forward to the next edition of Honolulu Biennial in 2019 and gratefully ask for your support for SB2897.

Sincerely,

Sean Connelly