



HAWAII

STATE FOUNDATION on
CULTURE and the ARTS

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TESTIMONY OF
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
February 7, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in Rm. 312
H. B. 373
RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND

Chair Onishi 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 **OPPOSING** H.B.373.

The percent for art law was created in 1967 based on the intrinsic relationship between art and architecture; where art is included as an essential part of the architectural plan, providing access and education to the people of Hawaii. Hawaii was the first state in the nation to adopt a percent for art law where one percent of the construction appropriation is set aside for art in State buildings. Designating 1% appropriations from construction and renovation provides a consistent funding base to carry out the intent of HRS 103-8.5 Works of Art special fund. Removing "renovation" from the law and specifying 0.5 per cent, rather than one per cent of state fund appropriations for capital improvements would limit the SFCA's ability to fulfill that obligation.

Together, one per cent appropriations from construction and renovation enable the SFCA to plan, budget and carry out the statewide program operations including acquisition and distribution of works of art, conservation of an aging exterior public art collection, interpretation of the collection including the operations of the Hawaii State Art Museum and applicable portions of the Artists in The Schools program, recognition of student art work and payroll for program related positions. In FY18, operations accounted for 65% of the appropriation. On the average, renovation funds account for an estimated 62% of the % for art revenue. If "renovation" were deleted from the law, the majority of the program operations would end.

0.5% funding is not be sufficient to address the acquisition needs of department buildings because the physical needs of the building generating the appropriation would not change. In HB1218 we are asking to raise the appropriation ceiling to draw down from the unencumbered balance to accommodate the needs of large projects where art is a significant part of the architectural design such as Kona International Airport and UH West Oahu.

The SFCA is an effective manager of the 1% funds and we are confident the Art in Public Places program contributes to making Hawaii a better place to live, work and visit. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this matter.