



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Wednesday, April 7, 2021
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

In consideration of
SCR 242 SD 1
**REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A CREATIVE RESURGENCE TASK FORCE
TO BUILD AND FOSTER CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION THROUGH THE ARTS,
CULTURE, AND HUMANITIES.**

Chair Gates, Vice Chair LoPresti and members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) strongly supports SCR 242 SD1 which requests the convening of a creative resurgence task force to build and foster creativity and innovation through the arts, culture, and humanities. These elements are critical to recovery and future resiliency for Hawaii's creative economy.

The department agrees to take on the leadership role in convening the task force, and recommends its Creative Industries Division (CID) as its designee, supported by the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), as stated in the Senate hearing.

DBEDT notes the importance of the role of the creative and innovation sectors to Hawaii's ability to sustain and grow these economic drivers which are intrinsic to our island home and rebuilding a diversified economy.

The value is underscored in numerous national and regional reports regarding the role and economic benefits the creative and cultural sectors bring to a jurisdiction. The recent Brookings Institute Report named Hawaii as one of a handful of states where there is a high concentration of creative economic activity which has also been disproportionately impacted due to COVID-19.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAII

STATE FOUNDATION on
CULTURE and the ARTS

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**TESTIMONY OF THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. CR 329 via Videoconference
S.C.R. 242 SD1**

**REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A CREATIVE RESURGENCE TASK FORCE TO
BUILD AND FOSTER CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION THROUGH THE ARTS,
CULTURE, AND HUMANITIES.**

Chair Gates and members of the Committee, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), offers **SUPPORT** of S.C.R 242 SD1.

S.C.R. 242 SD1 proposes to form a creative resurgence task force consisting of representative of fourteen entities to build and foster creativity and innovation through the arts, culture, and humanities by examining a variety of tax, economic and workforce policies.

Arts and creativity make us stronger—as individuals, families, communities, states, and as a country. They are a backbone of innovation, prosperity, and thriving people and places. Public funding for arts and creativity is a high-return investment that benefits everyone, in every city, town and rural community. Now more than ever we have learned globally the importance of mental and emotional well-being. Arts and cultural is integral to the well-being of individuals and society.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts welcomes the opportunity to lend our expertise to build and foster creativity and innovation through the arts, culture, and humanities in Hawaii.

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

**Hawai'i
Arts
Alliance**



April 5, 2021

Rep. Gates, Chair
Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs

*Affiliated with the
Wolf Trap Institute for Early
Childhood Arts Integration*

*State Captain –
Americans for the Arts*

*Member of State Arts
Advocacy Network*

RE: SUPPORT for SCR 242

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A CREATIVE RESURGENCE TASK FORCE TO BUILD AND FOSTER CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION THROUGH THE ARTS, CULTURE, AND HUMANITIES.

Aloha Rep. Gates and Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Hawai'i Arts Alliance in **SUPPORT** of **SCR242**. A Task Force would help reveal the devastation that has crippled the creative sector in Hawai'i. The State cannot recover unless the creative sector receives support and creative workers are employed. The creative sector brought in \$2.6 Billion to the Hawai'i economy before COVID hit.

In 2020, there were 2,788 arts businesses state-wide and more than 12,300 full time employees in the creative sector. Nonprofit arts and culture events annually attracted 2,907,608 state residents and 249,404 non-resident attendees. Event-related spending was \$25.26 per person, excluding the cost of admission. These audiences generated \$79.7 million in economic activity, excluding the cost of admission. Please convene a Task Force to compare how the creative sector has been devastated by COVID.

The Hawai'i Arts Alliance is committed being part of the Task Force and looks forward to helping with the economic study of the creative sector.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and mahalo for your work in support of the creative sector.

Sincerely,

Teri Skillman
Executive Director

Creatives are 2nd Responders and Essential Workers.

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SCR-242-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 11:19:34 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/7/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tara Gumapac	Arts and Culture, Education	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support SCR242. Arts, Culture and Education helps drive forward creative thinking minds between all walks of Life. I am an Artist and an Educator and it is vital for our students and our people to have outlets of expression; to be able to perform, dance, create, paint, draw, carve, chant, etc. keeps the mind alive and always thinking. If a task force is convened, I would like to help kokua in anyway possible.

SCR-242-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 1:10:09 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/7/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George S Kon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Bill SCR242

SCR-242-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 1:17:30 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/7/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chenta Laury	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I whole-heartedly support Bill SCR 242!

SCR-242-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 1:46:09 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/7/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ricardo D Trimillos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR242 is important to the arts community. The arts community provides much of the culture that comprises the quality of life that is important to the wellbeing of the local population and is a central attraction for the visitor industry.

SCR-242-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 2:22:45 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/7/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ISABELLA HUGHES	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong support for SCR242. Having been in the arts and culture field for 15 years, I am a firm believer in the impact arts, culture and humanities have for enriching our community, educational sector, inspiring the next generation of innovative thinkers and positively growing our economy.

Warmly,

Isabella Hughes

Hilo, HI