



Testimony of KAREN EWALD, Executive Director
State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024 Conference Room 309 at 10:30AM
HOUSE BILL 1807
RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND

Dear Chair Tam and members of the Committee,

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) respectfully **OPPOSES** H.B. 1807 which repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. While existing state buildings may have access to art, **renovation funds are necessary to address the aging condition of works of art in state buildings**. Renovation funds support the escalating costs associated with conservation, repair, and maintenance. As with State buildings, works of art require maintenance and repair.

Per HRS 103-8.5, the art in public places program does more than furnish art in state buildings. Removing renovations would adversely effect the art in public places program. Designating 1% appropriations from both construction and renovation provides a consistent funding base to carry out the intent of HRS 103-8.5 Works of Art special fund. Together, 1% appropriations from construction and renovation enable SFCA to carry out the statewide program which includes acquisition and distribution of works of art, conservation of an aging exterior public art collection, interpretation of the collection, the Hawaii State Art Museum, applicable portions of the Artists in the Schools program, and recognition of student artwork.

On the average, renovation funds account for an estimated 68% of the percent-for-art revenue. Revenues to the Works of Art Special Fund average \$2.5 million per year from qualifying renovations.

As the State tackles more and more infrastructure projects (Washington Place, State Capitol, Civic Centers, NASED, airports and schools etc.), the potential to embody the Hawaii sense of place through SFCA's involvement is essential. Construction funding alone would not be sufficient to address the needs of state buildings. With rising costs of inflation and escalating construction costs in Hawai'i, renovation funds are essential to accommodate the needs of large projects where art is a significant part of the architectural design.

The [SFCA's art in public places program collection](#) has 6,482 relocatable and 434 permanently installed works of art. Over 77% of the state's artwork is on display in 676 display sites statewide. The remaining 23% not on view is either available for rotation, on hold for conservation or being processed in our distribution center. The SFCA believes maintaining an inventory of available art is essential for placing artwork effectively in state facilities.

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

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STATE OF HAWAII



KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION

355 NORTH KING STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

DATE: Thursday, February 14, 2024

TIME: 10:30 AM

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, Conference Room 309, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1807 which **Repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund**. Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui) this bill would cut over 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide. The bill states that the SFCA has enough works of art and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection.

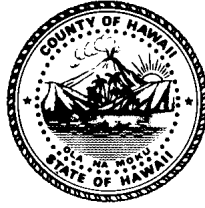
The elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would cut monetary support for and support for Native Hawaiian and Local Artists, Galleries and Organizations therefore, we strongly oppose this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo,

Amy Hammond
Executive Director
King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

Jennifer Kagiwada
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272
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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: February 13, 2024
TO: House Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2
SUBJECT: HB 1807

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and members of the Committee,

I am writing to you in **opposition of HB 1807**. This bill will cut 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide. The bill states that the SFCA has enough works of art and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection.

The elimination of "renovation" from the percent for art law would cut monetary support for numerous Native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries, and organizations. I am in support of more funding for our Arts and Cultural programs, not less. Please do not pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **opposition to SB 793**.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenn Kagiwada'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jenn Kagiwada



Aloha,
HULI PAC STRONGLY OPPOSE [HB1807](#)

[HB1807](#) intends to eliminate the word "renovation" from the law. Consequently, most of the Art in Public Places Program support would end. This bill would end support for Professional Development for all DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian/Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs, just to scratch the surface. It impacts over 10,000 kids, and cultural and art integration impacts ALL islands for generations—also, the ability to cover much-needed staff fees.

This repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui) this bill would cut an estimated 68% of the Art in Public Places program, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs, and individual artists **statewide**.

Culture and Arts heal and bring our community together. After the Maui fires, we need **MORE** culture and arts programming to rebuild the Maui communities and **NOT** a total collapse of all culture and arts programming on all neighboring islands.

Culture and the Arts are the ONLY industry that has a positive societal impact touching multiple industries that enhance and uplift life in many ways: in education, community, cultural preservation/relevance, mental/emotional well-being, trauma, increasing revenue, small businesses, circular economy, tourism, real estate, health, cultural landscape, culinary arts, performing arts, visual arts, decor, fashion, design, innovation, early childhood development, kupuna health programs, special needs activities, art in our healthcare buildings and system, art at the capitol and more. Arts and culture allow individuals to reflect and live more deeply and thoughtfully. The current traveling Vietnam memorial is a perfect example of how an artist designed a space for people to reflect on the most difficult memories and feelings.

DO NOT PASS THIS BILL! This impacts Hawai'i for generations to come. The culture and the arts nourish and enhance more thoughtful citizens. It is Culture, Arts, and Humanities we would be taking away from every major island with this bill.

Thank you for reading this testimony,
Maki Morinoue
HULI PAC, member
Holualoa, HI

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 9:56:17 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Rich	East Hawaii Cultural Center	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art is vital to the health of our communities. Please do not cut our funding!

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 3:11:56 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to these changes in this Program.

I have been a teacher since 1970. I have lived in Kona since 1978. Over all those years I have heard and seen countless stories and examples of the inspiring and motivating community members who have participated in various Arts in the Classroom program here in Kona. The artists and teachers from the community that come to our schools and share their 'ike and their passion for their particular art with our keiki and youth are each in their own way brilliant and have so much to give to our youth.

We are so fortunate to have these programs and they must continue. Schools today have dropped many of the "arts" from the children's curriculum, and it is imperative that our keiki are exposed to all the creative arts. Please retain funding for these and other programs. Mahalo



Testimony Opposing House Bill 1807, and Supporting House Bills 1939 and 1940

To: The Honorable Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Rose Martinez, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs

I am testifying today as President of the Hawaii Handweavers Hui, which is located within the Downtown Art Center in Honolulu. We are deeply opposed to House Bill 1807, which would repeal part of Hawaii's landmark first in the nation law to provide 1% of the construction cost of public buildings and their renovations to support art in public places and the subsequent creation of the works of art special fund. This state-funded program has been an unqualified success over the past half-century and continues to meet the modest but very important need to support arts organizations throughout the state.

The Hawaii Handweavers Hui has taken great pride since the late 1960s in the two massive hand-woven tapestries that hang in the State Senate and House chambers, which were created by our late Hui member, weaver Ruthadell Anderson. More recently, during the COVID19 pandemic, when the Hawaii Museum of Arts School at Linekona (HMAS) shut down, we were one of several arts and crafts organizations that had been using the School and its weaving class as an informal gathering place and were informed that we would no longer be able to use those facilities when the Schools' renovation and reorganization of its arts instruction program was completed. In addition to encouraging our members to take the weekly weaving class, we had held our meetings and weaving workshops as well as our biennial juried exhibitions there for over three decades.

We supported the weaving program by regular contributions and donated our time and skills to assist the WeBeWeave very special arts program, which provided a daily weaving program to a group of residents with various disabilities. During that time we regularly received small grants from the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to support our annual workshops that bring a well-known fiber artist to Hawaii to conduct three or four day workshops for our weavers on both Oahu and the Big Island. We also invited the SFCA to visit our biennial juried exhibitions, where they regularly made purchase awards of weavings by Hawaii artists for the Art in Public Places program.

At the time, the Museum of Art School at Linekona was the only place on the island of Oahu that offered handweaving instruction to adults. The University of Hawaii's once vibrant undergraduate and graduate weaving programs had gradually declined, and only one high school, the University lab school, now a public charter school, was teaching weaving to high school students. Recognizing that our Hawaii Handweavers Hui, a 501c3 nonprofit, was the only

organization that could step into the breach, we accepted HMAS' donation of the weaving looms and other specialized equipment that the weaving program had been using. Fortunately, we found a new home at the new Downtown Art Center, where we were already charter members.

In addition to holding our exhibitions in their beautifully renovated DAC gallery, we rent a room behind the gallery to house our looms and other equipment and offer adult classes in weaving and related fiber arts to the public. The move has been an unqualified success for the Hawaii Handweavers Hui. We offer about 20 small classes each quarter, with the weaving classes taught *pro bono* by our members and other short craft classes taught by paid instructors. The income has covered the rent every month since the move, and the Hui's membership on Oahu has doubled. Because we walk through the DAC gallery to reach our weaving studio, we are much more connected to the other arts groups that hold their shows there and we also participate in various activities that DAC sponsors, including the public First Friday events that have enlivened the arts community in the Chinatown area.

In short, our small local weaving community has benefitted from the art in public spaces program since its founding and continues to benefit from programs supported by the arts special fund. We see no reason to eliminate the application of the 1% of public construction projects to renovations, especially since more of our public built environment is now aging and urgently requires renovation or replacement. For a very modest cost that is in fact contributed by the companies that win public construction contracts, the state of Hawaii has been able to develop and maintain a number of innovative ways to supports the state's arts community.

HB 1807 is based on an outdated, narrow understanding of the arts programs that benefit the public, which the state has developed through this funding mechanism at no direct cost to the taxpayers. We see no reason to gut arts funding by removing renovations from the current funding mechanism.

However, even if the committee sees fit to support HB 1807, the Hawaii Handweavers Hui definitely supports HB 1939 and HB 1940, both of which clearly recognize the value of the current arrangements for supporting the arts and propose to expand rather than reduce it.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. Patricia Steinhoff
President, Hawaii Handweavers Hui
and Professor Emerita of Sociology
University of Hawaii at Mānoa

In regard to House Bill HB 1807

I am writing to emphasize the critical importance of allocating sufficient funding for the arts, particularly in the realm of dance. As a vital component of cultural expression and societal enrichment, the arts play an irreplaceable role in fostering creativity, diversity, and community cohesion. Investing in dance specifically offers a myriad of benefits that extend far beyond mere entertainment.

First and foremost, dance serves as a powerful medium for cultural preservation and celebration. It reflects the rich tapestry of our collective heritage, showcasing traditions, rituals, and stories passed down through generations. By supporting dance, we ensure the preservation of cultural identities, providing a platform for marginalized voices to be heard and celebrated.

Furthermore, dance is a universal language that transcends barriers of language, age, and background. It fosters empathy and understanding by allowing individuals to communicate and connect on a deeply emotional level. In an increasingly polarized world, the arts, and dance, in particular, have the unique ability to bridge divides and promote dialogue, empathy, and mutual respect.

Moreover, investing in dance has tangible economic benefits. The arts sector contributes significantly to local economies through job creation, tourism, and cultural industries. By supporting dance institutions, you not only nurture artistic talent but also stimulate economic growth and vitality in communities across the nation.

Additionally, dance education has been shown to enhance cognitive abilities, physical health, and emotional well-being in individuals of all ages. By providing access to dance programs in schools and communities, we empower individuals to lead healthier, more fulfilling lives while fostering creativity and critical thinking skills essential for success in the 21st-century workforce.

In conclusion, the arts, and dance, in particular, are not frivolous luxuries but essential components of a thriving society. By investing in the arts, we invest in our cultural heritage, social cohesion, economic prosperity, and individual well-being. I urge you to prioritize funding for the arts, ensuring that dance continues to flourish as a vibrant and integral part of our cultural landscape.

Thank you for considering this crucial matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Moore

**TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII ARTS ALLIANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CULTURE, ARTS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
February 14, 2024, Conference Room 309 and video conference at 10:30 AM
HB1807
RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ARTS SPECIAL FUND**

Aloha Chair Tam and members of the committee,

I am Beth-Ann Kozlovich, Executive Director of the Hawaii Arts Alliance. We are grateful for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong **OPPOSITION** to this bill.

The overarching purpose of this fund is to chronicle Hawaii's history, its present, and future which means supporting arts education to grow our current and future artists now children or as yet unborn.

The majority of the funding that comes from the Works of Art Special Fund to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, largely comes through renovations of state buildings. This funding supplies the financial means to continue vital programs including the statewide Artists in the Schools Program that teach our children the value of the arts - all the arts - visual, performance, dance, theater, music, literary and spoken word - to name a few. This program and other important arts programs across the state, island-to-island, will either cease or be dramatically reduced and our children will be the recipients of this shortsightedness.

The arts tell the story of Hawaii, native Hawaiians, and all the peoples who immigrated to Hawaii adding their artistic expression to the richness of Hawaii's culture. The arts will continue to tell Hawaii's evolving story if we provide arts education.

Undercutting the Works of Art Special Fund by removing "renovation" from the law is counter to everything the bill states in its opening paragraph:

The legislature finds that art feeds the human spirit and offers priceless value; inspiring, educating, and challenging individuals to think differently, while making the world a more beautiful and interesting place. The legislature further finds that Hawaii was the first state in the nation to adopt a percent-for-art law, which designated one percent of construction costs of new buildings for the acquisition of works of art. The purpose of the law was to beautify state buildings and increase public access to the arts. The legislature expanded on this effort by enacting Act 389, Session Laws of Hawaii 1989, which created the works of art special fund. The

legislature finds that this program has been a success, with works of art enhancing the physical environment of state buildings and providing educational visual arts opportunities to the public through the art in public places program.

What has failed to be mentioned as part of that success is that the Works of Art Special Fund is more than money to collect works of Hawaii art or to maintain a static, rotating collection of art for public buildings. This fund is feeding the human spirit of our children. It gives them crucial access to the arts and arts education that reflect Hawaii. It allows current and future generations to see themselves in the ongoing state- collected art around them, the art they create, and the conduit opened by the arts and arts education to their humanity and the humanity of others.

The Duties section of the Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 9 (see below) details State Foundation on Culture and the Arts activities focusing on statewide arts preservation, perpetuation, education, accessibility, and sharing Hawaii's culture, its arts and humanities. This clearly demonstrates the importance the State places on cultural expression for the sake of Hawaii's people- past, present and future - and their ongoing story. The continuation of that evolving story depends on arts education to support our current and future artists as chroniclers of their times and the life of Hawaii. That duty is hugely supported by the monies derived from the renovations of state buildings and it is crucial that "renovation" remain in the law..

§9-3 Duties. The foundation shall:

- (1) Assist in coordinating the plans, programs, and activities of individuals, associations, corporations, and agencies concerned with the preservation and furtherance of culture and the arts and history and the humanities;
- (2) Establish written standards and criteria by which grant contracts shall be evaluated;
- (3) Appraise the availability, adequacy, and accessibility of culture and the arts and history and the humanities to all persons throughout the State and devise programs whereby culture and the arts and history and the humanities can be brought to those who would otherwise not have the opportunity to participate;

- (4) Stimulate, guide, and promote culture and the arts and history and the humanities throughout the State;
- (5) Devise and recommend legislative and administrative action for the preservation and furtherance of culture and the arts and history and the humanities;
- (6) Study the availability of private and governmental grants for the promotion and furtherance of culture and the arts and history and the humanities;
- (7) Through its executive director:
 - (A) Administer funds allocated by grant, gift, or bequest to the foundation; accept, hold, disburse, and allocate funds that may become available from other governmental and private sources; provided that all those funds shall be disbursed or allocated in compliance with any specific designation stated by the donor and in the absence of any designation, the funds shall be disbursed or allocated for the promotion and furtherance of culture and the arts and history and the humanities; and
 - (B) Accept, hold, disburse, and allocate public funds that are made available to the foundation by the legislature for disbursement or allocation, pursuant to the standards and procedures established in part II, for the promotion and furtherance of culture and the arts and history and the humanities;
- (8) Submit an annual report with recommendations to the governor and legislature, prior to February 1, of each year. Annual reports shall include the total number and amount of gifts and other grants and income received, payroll disbursements, contracts entered into, and progress and accomplishments made during the year, including the efforts of the Hawaii arts

education partners and its progress in implementing the Hawaii arts education strategic plan and the accomplishments of the art in public places and relocatable works of art programs and the state art museum;

(9) Convene the Hawaii arts education partners, which is composed of the department of education, the colleges of education and arts and humanities of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, and the Hawaii Alliance for Art Education, to fully implement the terms of the Hawaii arts education strategic plan;

(10) Display student art works in public buildings, sponsor student art displays, promote arts education, and in other ways encourage the development of creative talent among the young people of Hawaii;

(11) In cooperation with qualified organizations, conduct research, studies, and investigations in the fields of ethnohistory and the humanities:

(A) Make, publish, and distribute works documenting the contributions of individual ethnic groups in their relationship to one another and to the whole population of Hawaii;

(B) Place ethnohistorical and cultural materials developed by the foundation or received by the foundation as gifts and donations in public archives, libraries, and other suitable institutions accessible to the public; and

(C) Maintain a register of the location of such materials;

(12) Cooperate with and assist the department of land and natural resources and other state agencies in developing and implementing programs relating to historic preservation, research, restoration, and presentation, as well as museum activities;

(13) Establish an individual artist fellowship program to encourage artists to remain and work in Hawaii and to reaffirm the importance of Hawaii's artists and their cultural and economic contributions to the State by:

(A) Recognizing and honoring Hawaii's exceptionally talented visual and performing artists for their outstanding work in and commitment to the arts; and

(B) Enabling these artists to further their artistic goals;

(14) In consultation with the comptroller and affected agencies and departments, administer the art in public places and relocatable works of art programs established pursuant to section 103-8.5; and

(15) Administer the operations of the state art museum established pursuant to section 9-22. [L 1965, c 269, §3; am L 1977, c 112, §1; am L 1980, c 293, §3; am L 1992, c 181, §4; am L 1993, c 133, §2; am L 1999, c 80, §4; am L 2001, c 306, §2; am L 2004, c 125, §4]

To my understanding, this bill would cut Professional Development funding for teaching artists and teachers by 50%. This is outrageous. As a teaching artist here in Hawaii, the value of Professional Development is undeniable. I have been on both sides of Professional Development, on the leading end and the learning end. In fact, the two go hand in hand as written in the State Department of Education website regarding Nā Hopena A'ō ("HĀ"). I have experienced tremendous growth personally, professionally, creatively and in my knowledge of Hawaiian culture/traditions as a result of professional development offered by SFCA and hosted at the Hawaii State Art Museum. I am a better learner and a better educator because of it.

In addition, the bill has the potential of heavily reducing or cutting all together the Art in Public Places, Artist in the Schools Program (which I am in the process of applying for at this very moment.) I have implemented an AITS program at Waialua Elementary School for the past 5 years and am currently in residency there now. Many of these children would have little to no art education if not for the AITS program and state funding. The value of an arts education better prepares these children for an ever-changing world by instilling creative and critical thinking and problem solving. They learn to communicate through art making and inquiry-based discussions revolving around artwork pulled from the APP Catalog via the SFCA website, as well as reproductions of original art made available at HISAM via SFCA.

Waialua Elementary School principal(s), staff and students have expressed enormous gratitude over the years for the AITS program and look forward to it every year. It would be devastating if the program were affected in the future. Please kokua and help lead the keiki of Hawaii to a brighter, more colorful and creative world.

Steven Kean
Artist/owner at Kean Arts Inc.
Teaching Artist at HSFCA

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 7:49:53 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aly Ishikuni	Capitol Modern, ART+FLEA, MORI by ART+FLEA	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Aly Ishikuni and I am a contracted Public Programmer at Capitol Modern. I am testifying on behalf of the museum, ART+ FLEA, MORI by Art+Flea and our collective of 800+ independent artists, musicians, arts organizations, and creative small businesses that will be disastrously impacted by your bill HB1807.

We are unitedly committed to creating and providing unique experiences for the public to enjoy free arts and culture programs and events, but this is only possible with the support of The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. SFCA and their financial contribution to Capitol Modern events (such as First Fridays and Super Saturdays) have allowed many of our artists, designers, and performers to effectively turn their passions into thriving businesses.

We collectively share the values of empowering our creative community in Hawai‘i, and we will continue to stand by and with SFCA to build a sustainable artistic future for our artists.

Repealing capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund will only cause harm and detrimental change to our community and economy. I respectfully ask for your careful consideration to this matter and thank you in advance for your attention to this testimony.

Mahalo,

Aly Ishikuni-Sasaki

Founder & Owner, ART+FLEA / MORI by Art+Flea

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:16:41 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Ka'imina'auao Wong	808 Breakers	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1807: Repealing Capital Improvement Appropriations for Works of Art Special Fund

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to **House Bill 1807**, which seeks to repeal capital improvement appropriations for the **Works of Art Special Fund** in Hawaii. As a concerned citizen and advocate for the arts, I believe that this bill undermines the vital role that art plays in our communities and the well-being of our citizens.

1. The Importance of Art in Public Spaces:

- The **Art in Public Places (APP)** program has been a cornerstone of Hawaii's cultural landscape. It enriches our public spaces by acquiring completed works of art and commissioning artists to create site-specific pieces. [These artworks are displayed in over 640 sites statewide, including schools, libraries, hospitals, airports, and state office buildings 1.](#)
- Art feeds the human spirit, inspiring, educating, and challenging individuals to think differently. [It contributes to a more beautiful and interesting environment, fostering a sense of pride and identity within our communities 2.](#)
- By maintaining the APP program, we ensure that our state buildings are not just functional structures but also vibrant cultural hubs that celebrate our unique heritage and creativity.

2. Renovations Deserve Local Community Art:

- While the bill argues that renovations do not require additional art funding, I contend that renovations are equally deserving of local community art. As our urban landscape evolves, so should the art within it.
- Renovated state buildings should not be devoid of artistic expression. Just as we invest in infrastructure improvements, we must also invest in the cultural vibrancy of our spaces.
- Art in public places reflects our shared history, values, and aspirations. It connects us to our roots and inspires future generations.

3. A Surplus of Artwork:

- The bill suggests that there is a surplus of artwork in storage for future use. However, this should not diminish our commitment to the APP program.

- Art is not a mere commodity; it is a living testament to our creativity, resilience, and identity. It deserves a prominent place in our public spaces, whether through new construction or renovations.

In conclusion, I urge you to **preserve the Works of Art Special Fund** and uphold Hawaii's legacy as a pioneer in supporting public art. Let us continue to invest in our cultural heritage, ensuring that our state buildings remain not only functional but also inspiring and reflective of our diverse community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Jeff Ka'imina'auao Wong

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:02:03 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jack Rabanal	Keiki Breaks	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge our legislators to oppose this bill reducing the pay cuts and support towards all art programs involved. As a Dance teacher for the Keiki Breaks Program we have seen the drastic positive impact on the lives of our students through the freedom of expression that they receive through the arts. And to simply reduce the resources and support only means that it will take away these opportunities from our youth. We encourage our state to be mindful that the arts help with mental health and drive people to find their purpose in life. We as a dance school see the beauty that translates to the youth instilling the fire of creativity and perseverance in their everyday life.



February 12, 2024

Dear Chairpersons Tam, Martinez, and committee members,

On behalf of the board of directors and staff of the Donkey Mill Art Center, our 450 members of the organization, and the thousands of Holualoa and West Hawai'i constituents who benefit from our programs, I respectfully present this testimony.

We strongly OPPOSE bill HB1807, which would repeal capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. This bill would cut over 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide.

The bill states that the SFCA has enough works of art and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection. That statement is absolutely incorrect as the Special Fund covers so much more than just artwork purchases for State buildings. The adverse effects are massive and would cause a devastating ripple effect felt in our schools and communities for years. Those include:

- A 50% reduction of the Professional Development funding for teaching artists and teachers
- Arts in Public Places AITS (Artist in the Schools) residencies either heavily reduced or entirely cut

This will end support for Professional Development for all DOE teachers, thirteen art centers, and eight organizations that offer Native Hawaiian/Arts-intergraded programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs, which are just a few of the impacts this bill brings. This bill would cut an estimated 68% of the Art in Public Places program, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide.

We see the impact of the Artist in the Schools Program every day. It helps to bring otherwise non-existent art education into K - 5 classrooms and invites true collaboration amongst artists, teachers, cultural experts and malama 'aina educators. The Professional Development opportunities through these programs invites teachers to reconnect to their values and sense of creativity.

This year, the Mill, in collaboration with the SFCA, will be serving over 400 students with an arts integrated curriculum in collaboration with cultural experts to provide place-based education. This formula for community resilience will be dismantled if this bill passes.

Our collaborators in arts and cultural education include:

- Volcano School for Arts and Science grades 2, 3, 4 and 9 - 12
- Kahakai Elementary School grade 3
- Holualoa Elementary School grades K - 4

- Holualoa Elementary School PTO
- Kumu Shaula Tualaulelei
- Kumu Jesse Kaho'onei of Kahalu'u Kuaheua
- Kumu Kim Kaho'onei of Kahalu'u Kuaheua
- Laurel Nakanishi of HŌ'Ā (Hawaiian Open Arts Professional Development Program)
- Kumu Meleanna Meyer - Teaching Artist and Mentor
- Angaea Cuna - Teaching Artist
- Kumu Puakea Forester - Teaching Artist
- Akiko Cutlip - Teaching Artist
- Gerald Lucena - Youth Education Coordinator
- Other Contributors: Mayumi Oda - Local Artist, Mina Ellison - Curator

If we embrace creativity, we heal wounds and equip future generations to face challenges. Supporting arts and culture education in public schools is an investment in community well-being, ensuring that future generations not only survive, but flourish.

I sincerely thank you for your consideration to oppose bill HB1807.

With gratitude and aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley Raymond". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ashley Raymond
Executive Director
Donkey Mill Art Center, Holualoa, HI
donkeymillartcenter.org



February 10, 2024

Re: Testimony in Opposition to **HB1807**

*As a member of the West Hawai'i community and as the Program Director for the Donkey Mill Art Center, I strongly **OPPOSE** bill **HB1807**.*

The bill states, "While the construction of new state buildings requires that they be furnished with works of art acquired through the special fund, this requirement is not necessary for renovations of state buildings since those buildings already have access to works of art furnished through the art in public places program. The legislature notes that removing the redundancy of applying the special fund to renovations would have no adverse effects on the art in public places program, as the State currently possesses a surplus of artwork in storage for future use."

The adverse effects include:

- **A 50% reduction of the Professional Development funding for teaching artists and teachers**
- **Arts in Public Places AITS residencies either heavily reduced or entirely cut**

This will end support for Professional Development for all DOE teachers, thirteen art centers, and eight organizations that offer Native Hawaiian/Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs, which are just a few of the impacts this bill brings. It repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui) this bill would cut an estimated 68% of the Art in Public Places program, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide.

As a Program Director for the Donkey Mill Art Center, I see the impact of the Artist in the Schools Program every day. It helps to bring otherwise non-existent art education into K - 5 classrooms and invites true collaboration amongst artists, teachers, cultural experts and malama aina educators. The Professional Development opportunities through these programs invites teachers to reconnect to their values and sense of creativity. This year, the Mill, in collaboration with the SFCA, will be serving over 400 elementary school students with an arts integrated curriculum in collaboration with cultural experts to provide place based education. This formula for community resilience will be dismantled if this bill passes.

With the support of the AITS grant, our sustained collaborators in arts and cultural education include the list below and growing:

- **Volcano School for Arts and Science grades 2, 3, 4 and 9 - 12**
- **Kahakai Elementary School grade 3**
- **Holualoa Elementary School grades K - 4**
- **Holualoa Elementary School PTO**
- **Kumu Shaula Tualaulelei**

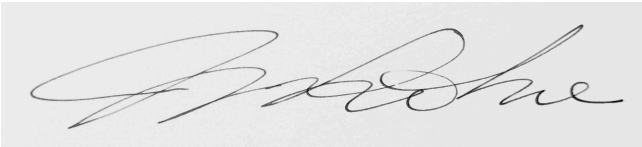
- **Kumu Jesse Kaho'onei of Kahalu'u Kuahewa**
- **Kumu Kim Kaho'onei of Kahalu'u Kuahewa**
- **Laurel Nakanishi of HŌ'Ā (Hawaiian Open Arts Professional Development Program)**
- **Kumu Meleanna Meyer - Teaching Artist and Mentor**
- **Angaea Cuna - Teaching Artist**
- **Kumu Puakea Forester - Teaching Artist**
- **Akiko Cutlip - Teaching Artist**
- **Gerald Lucena - Youth Education Coordinator**
- **Other Contributors: Mayumi Oda - Local Artist, Mina Ellison - Curator**

If we embrace creativity, we heal wounds and equip future generations to face challenges. Supporting arts and culture education in public schools is an investment in community well-being, ensuring that future generations not only survive, but flourish.

Art = Culture = Community = Humanity!

I sincerely thank you for your consideration to oppose bill HB1807.

Me ka Mahalo Piha,



Miho Morinoue

Program Director for the Donkey Mill Art Center

From the ahupua'a of Holualoa on Moku o Keawe







The Donkey Mill Art Center, home of the Holualoa Foundation for Arts and Culture, is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. The Donkey Mill Art Center is a place of convergence for the exploration of arts and culture to inform, inspire and strengthen individual and collective well-being.

IN REGARDS TO BILL 1807 HB RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND

To whom it may concern,

I could sit here and write true statements regarding the importance of art in society, especially here in Hawai'i. I could write how art is the foundation to self-expression, representation, and so many more aspects of individuality fought to be experienced freely. I could write how art is the reason parades and festivals exist. Music at parties. Social gatherings and comedy shows. Laughter and originality and new perspectives. I could write about that. Or I could write about the people.

Similar to the artists themselves, the people who work to put on art events or to create spaces for artists to share their work are often overlooked. It's easy to be distracted by what we feel is expected. Everyone wants reasons to celebrate. Everyone enjoys the concept of creativity in society. A world where large parties and events magically appear in your local community, leaving room for ka hui ana with o'hana. If there is one thing I want to make clear behind this testimony is for the board to understand that people put on these events. Ordinary people. People who often don't get paid for the extent of their labors. People who stay up late and cross their fingers for people to attend their events. In hopes of nothing more than receiving a smile or a laugh or a moment of enjoyment for creating a space of vulnerability in an extremely difficult world. Scarcity is something we are all familiar with living in Hawai'i. All we ask is for the opportunity to keep creating a space where people can feel seen, acknowledged, and a part of something important.

The 1807 HB will not stop artists from creating art. Art itself exists as a renaissance against societal regulations and will always remain as such. It is what brings life, beauty and meaning back into society. We will always find ways to express ourselves and create safe spaces for others to do the same. If the 1807 HB were to pass, it would serve as a reminder that the government still doesn't acknowledge our worth or importance to society. I write this testimony today to protect the future of art in Hawai'i, Art + Flea, and to hopefully soon receive appreciation for all the work done to create such necessary spaces and events.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:30:50 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maile Loo-Ching	Hula Preservation Society	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - we oppose this bill as it would result in a drastic cut in funding for the Art in Public Places program, a valuable and long-standing means for Hawai'i artists' works to be shared, appreciated, and offer inspiration throughout our government workplaces. We ask that you do not remove the word "renovation" from the source funding language. Thank you.



February 13, 2024

To the House Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs:

I am writing this letter in strong opposition to House Bill 1807 (HB1807), which proposes the repeal of capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the Works of Art Special Fund and the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA). I have witnessed firsthand the vital and significant impacts of SFCA's initiatives, both through my capacity as Director of Maui Arts & Cultural Center's Schaefer International Gallery and as a Maui resident and community member.

Maui Arts & Cultural Center has worked with SFCA on numerous occasions to coordinate Art Acquisition Selection Committee visits that nominate works of art for accession into the Art in Public Places (APP) Collection. This collection plays a vital role in integrating the arts into public spaces throughout the state, providing visibility and recognition for Hawai'i's dynamic artist community and ensuring that these works remain accessible into the future. HB1807's statement that "removing the redundancy of applying the special fund to renovations would have no adverse effects on the art in public places program" is misleading and fails to acknowledge the significant detrimental effects this bill would have on the arts in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i's enactment of the Art in State Buildings Law in 1967 and creation of the Works of Art Special Fund in 1989 distinguished the state by signaling the importance of the arts as a necessary element to humanize public space. The APP Program represents an evolving collection that is meant to grow alongside contemporary developments in the art scene. To imply that it is "complete" is to close the door on including the current and future movements of Hawai'i's artists as part of this public resource.

In addition to the Art in Public Places Collection, the Works of Art Special Fund supports numerous vital initiatives that enable the implementation of arts educational programs throughout the state and provide funding to non-profit organizations. These include but are not limited to the Artists in the Schools program serving 124 public and charter schools; professional development for Department of Education teachers; the Scholastic Art Exhibition and Young Artists of Hawai'i Exhibition; numerous outreach programs to underserved populations; and support for Native Hawaiian and local arts organizations.

An amount of one percent of a renovation budget can make a substantial impact for artists, students, and non-profit organizations throughout the state when stewarded through the Works of Art Special Fund and SFCA's initiatives. I respectfully request that you prioritize the role of the arts as an essential facet of our cultural vitality by rejecting HB1807.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Yukio Clark
Director, Schaefer International Gallery

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www.mauiarts.org

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:28:29 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jared Wickware	IAA/USA (International Association of Art) / Honolulu Printmakers / Downtown Art Center	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I arrived in Hawai'i with the US Navy in 1995 and retired here after 30 years of service. As a Navy Illustrator and artist I was encouraged to make Hawai'i my home in large part thanks to a robust creative landscape. I became affiliated with the Honolulu Printmakers (I am an artist-engraver) and enjoyed many productive years with that organization, and in concert with the other community groups; ceramicists, metal-arts people, glass-arts, sculptors, fabric artists, painters, etc. working at the Honolulu Museum Art School (Linekona). For several years I ran a weekly art class there for PTSD-diagnosed soldiers from Schofield Barracks highlighted by a collaborative mural event with Pro-Bowl football players.

In 2019, the "Wounded Warriors" program was terminated while the Museum Art School closed its doors to all the art community groups, with little or nothing in the way of warning or discussion. This was devastating to those many individuals, like myself, who had fashioned a life with the Art School at its epicenter. Seen as the work of careerist administrators and an unsympathetic and disconnected Board of Directors, the ill-feeling generated persists to this day, with the vast majority of those disenfranchised refusing to have anything to do with the new Museum. For myself, I had no facility for Printmaking for years, not until the entire operation was moved to Chinatown at considerable effort and expense. Our Monday Night Drawing Group found a new home at the Downtown Arts Center, where once again Art has begun to thrive.

And here we are it seems at work again to try to bring it all down. Who is behind this and why?

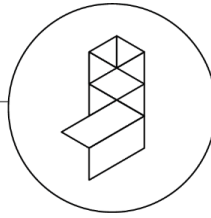
At its core perhaps a contempt for the Arts. Certainly money; which is I guess one reason they're closing the beautiful YWCA pool to regular folks; those who rely on that facility for fitness and health, both physical and mental. Where there may be joy, be sure to rub it out!

David Brooks wrote a column in the NY Times recently: "How to Save a Sad, Lonely, Angry and Mean Society". <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/25/opinion/art-culture-politics.html> - the title alone is instructive. What became of our belief in the "Pursuit of Happiness?"

Art is one area that transcends all other indicators of well-being, wealth and power, the either/or futility of culture/holy wars, and other addictions, including drug addiction and mental illness. Art bridges our separateness in a language and a currency that moves laterally and universally through all divisions. Roosevelt understood the essential value of art in his New Deal Programs

which helped to pull the country from the abyss of Depression. We have a Depression of sorts in this country already. One needs to look no further than the cynical behavior of politicians in Congress; business "leaders" who do not actually "lead" but only "execute".

I strongly oppose this legislation and those which seek to further eviscerate the Arts programs and livelihoods our people depend upon. Thank You.



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13 February, 2024

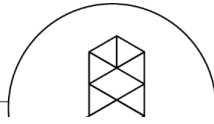
Honorable Members of the Hawai'i State Senate Committee,

I am the Executive Director of Hawaii Contemporary, the organization that produces the Hawaii Triennial, the state's largest multi-site public exhibition of contemporary art. I am writing to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 1807. This bill seeks to repeal capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a funding source for the works of art special fund. If enacted, this legislation would severely impact the Art in Public Places program, significantly reducing government support for arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide.

The rationale behind SB1807 suggests that the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) currently possesses a surplus of artwork, rendering further acquisitions unnecessary. However, while there may indeed be a modest surplus of artworks in storage, this is not indicative of redundancy but rather responsible management ensuring artworks are available for replacement and rotation. It is profoundly meaningful for artists to have their work acquired by the state and displayed in public buildings, including your offices, as it not only recognizes their talent but also enriches public spaces for all to enjoy.

Moreover, artistic expression is dynamic and continually evolving. New artworks are essential for reflecting the diversity and vibrancy of our society. Restricting the acquisition of new artworks could stifle artistic innovation and deprive our communities of the opportunity to engage with contemporary artistic practices, thereby hindering cultural growth and development.

The removal of "renovation" from the percent-for-art law would significantly reduce financial support for native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries, and organizations. Hawaii Contemporary is a direct beneficiary of this support. The Hawai'i Triennial draws over 100,000 visitors each iteration, generating substantial economic activity both locally and from out-of-town visitors. For instance, data from AmericansfortheArts.org indicates that the Hawai'i Triennial 2022 had an estimated economic impact of \$1.7 million from resident attendees and \$60.82 million from out-of-town visitors. Similar events in the past have shown even greater economic benefits, underscoring the critical role of SFCA's support for such endeavors.



Investing in the arts brings significant economic benefits. Studies have consistently shown that arts investments yield substantial returns for local economies by attracting tourists, stimulating spending in local businesses, and creating employment opportunities across various sectors. Additionally, a vibrant arts scene enhances the overall desirability of a destination, attracting skilled workers, entrepreneurs, and investors, thus fostering economic growth and prosperity.

Additionally, the arts sector serves as a catalyst for innovation and entrepreneurship. Artists and creative professionals drive economic development through their innovative ideas, products, and services. By nurturing a supportive environment for the arts, we can cultivate a thriving creative economy that generates new opportunities for economic diversification and sustainable growth.

In conclusion, preserving the Works of Art Special Fund and continuing to invest in the arts are essential steps towards harnessing the economic potential of creativity and innovation, thereby building a more prosperous and resilient future for Hawaii. I urge you to reconsider SB1807 and its potential impact on our state's cultural landscape and economic well-being.

Mahalo nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosina Potter'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Rosina Potter
Executive Director
Hawai 'i Contemporary

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:06:31 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Simone Fromen	House of Bloom Artist Collective	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Speaking as director of the House of Bloom Artist Collective, on behalf of our 13+ local artists, please do not pass this bill! We strongly oppose this bill and its actions to remove support from the organizations and programs that benefit the community. Local artists deserve support, please do not continue the narrative of defunding the arts.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify, we hope you'll make the right decision.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 7:20:15 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jody Brotman	Kahilu Theatre Foundation	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of Kahilu Theatre, I oppose HB1807. It would threaten the livelihoods of artists, the sustainability of arts organizations, art and cultural programming and education for all ages. Art programs are an essential component of a healthy community. They preserve cultural heritage, promote well-being, foster education and learning, and drive economic growth. This bill would diminish the health and vitality of our communities. Please vote against HB1807.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:02:23 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Lathrop	State Foundation for Culture and Arts and Artist in the Schools	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as it does not seem well thought out or researched. It would severely cut or take away funding for the Arts in Public Places for Artists in the Schools residencies that are an integral part of arts and Hawaiian culture education programming which reaches so many youth and is a beloved aspect of our community. It would also take away Teaching Artists professional development which is so helpful to the growth of the TA and ultimately the students they service.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 6:56:30 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeannette P Hereniko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committe Members:

I am writing in opposition to HB 1807. When I moved to Hawaii in 1975 one of the first things I noticed was the public art on display that was so distinctive, bold and colorful. That the funds to pay for the art came from they construction of State buildings symbolized a society that values art and culture. I was and continue to this day to be inspired and appreciative of the vision of our Artists as well as our State that supports the reflection of our soul through public art. I am but one of a huge community of Hawaii residents who would feel that a part of the joy of living here was stripped away should HB 1807 pass. I urge you to vote against this bill. Thank you for your consideration of my strongly held opinion.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 11:39:41 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Solomon Robert Nui Enos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A testimony in Opposition to HB1807

To the Chairperson Representative Adrian K.Tam and Vice Chairperson Representative Rose Martinez in the House Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs.

Wednesday February 14th at 10:30am in Conference Room 309 at the Hawai'i State Capitol, 415 South Beretania st.

I am testifying in Opposition to House Bill 1807.

My name is Solomon Robert Nui Enos, Artist in Residence at Capitol Modern, Hawai'i State Art Museum. In this role, which is purely voluntary, I help to instill a sense of wonder and passion for the arts to the many various schools and patrons who visit the museum. As part of this sense of responsibility to help cultivate a healthy art community in Hawai'i, I have been blessed to be able to travel across the Pacific and around the world as a Native Hawaiian Artist, giving me the opportunity to witness the various degrees for support of the Arts, and to bring these experiences with me back to Hawai'i.

Some of what I have learned on these various trips, is that the role the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts plays is a critical counterbalance to the limited amount of public art programs and commissions which many other countries provide, such as the support I see for public art commissions in the United Kingdom and Aotearoa, New Zealand. The very idea, as presented in a way I find frankly deceptive in this bill, that we have enough art, and we don't need to keep adding to our collection, comes at a particularly vulnerable time when the advent of A.I. will have an indeterminable impact on so many parts of our society. The Arts are one of the last few bastions of our humanness. Furthermore, the collection has only within the past few years, begun to include more works created by indigenous artists, as the collection is further diversified in ways that it hasn't over the past decades. And to add to all this, these are some of the few opportunities that Hawai'i artists can receive that will propel them into a career that could allow them to stay and work here at home.

To put a further limit on art opportunities for all communities in Hawai'i, is akin to take a living and breathing life form and immersing it in formaldehyde. Culture is a living thing, and it needs room to grow and flourish. The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts needs more support at this time, not less.

Me ka ha'aha'a ame ka 'ano nui,

Solomon Robert Nui Enos

tolomona@gmail.com

1(808)-218-3731

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 7:58:01 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ball	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SFCA plays an essential role in promoting Hawaii's cultural diversity and richness in the arts. This bill seeks to cut it off at the knees at a time in which we need the arts the most as a society. Please do not allow this mesaure to move forward.

With aloha,

David Ball

Member, Friends of the Hawaii State Art Museum

Waialae-Kahala

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 8:41:12 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Douglas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807.

Defunding the arts is simply wrong especially in Hawaii where arts and the Kānaka Maoli culture are intimately intertwined. Removing this funding is another slow methodical attack on culture for the benefit of tourism and the business community. To even consider this evokes a very dark part of history.

The second comment is that many lawmakers based their decisions on the environment they live in, Oahu. Oahu and the legislative buildings and offices have a decent representation of local art however this is so far from reality on the outer islands and in the public space.

Thirdly Oahu has several museums however the outer islands do not. This fund is the only hope for equal access for the residents of the outer islands. We need local museums to represent and preserve the body of art on these islands.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:08:56 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this measure.

- U'ilani Naipo

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:18:10 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily McIlroy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose repealing capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the Works of Art Special Fund. As a professional artist and art educator living and working in Hawaii for 16 years, I can say with certainty that the arts in Hawaii need as many sources of funding as possible--and they need MORE, not less! It is largely because of the Works of Art Special Fund that I, along with countless others professionals, have been able to sustain an art practice in Hawaii. Additionally, this fund makes high quality works of art accessible to the public, and provides a cultural contribution to our community that is invaluable. Please do not repeal these funds!

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:47:31 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
wendy hudson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Come On! Cutting MORE Arts Funding? Shame on you Kyle Yamashita! I'm married to an Artist and a lot of our friends are Artists on Maui. Many have had their Art bought by the State Foundation and are very appreciative of that support. We need MORE funding, not less! Don't pass this draconian bill!

Mahalo,

Wendy Hudson

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:55:53 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Taylor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1807. Support of the arts in Hawaii and elsewhere is critical. Please oppose this Bill. Thank you for your consideration of my opposition to HB 1807.

Aloha

Nancy Taylor

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 11:45:25 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Stierhoff	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and members of the committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1807. This bill would end support for the Art in Public Places Program, Professional Development for all DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian/Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs, just to scratch the surface. These art initiatives are critical to preserving and perpetuating Hawaiian culture and building community here in Hawai'i; losing them would be devastating. After the Maui fires, we need more culture and arts programming to heal and rebuild the Maui communities, not a total collapse of culture and arts programming. This impacts Hawai'i for generations to come. For these reasons, I implore you not to pass HB1807. This is your chance to ensure perpetuation of arts and culture here in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Emma Stierhoff

96720

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 11:55:09 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelly Choy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please look at the bigger picture of the arts. As an artist this will continue to support all local artists. Mahalo

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 12:36:14 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anita Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly oppose HB1807. This bill would cut or end support to 8 organizations that offer Hawaiian/Art based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all the major islands; it would end support for 13 art centers; and support for Professional Development for DOE teachers. Culture and Arts promote healing and bring our communities together. Let's protect public opportunities for the Culture and Arts. Please oppose HB1807. Mahalo!

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 3:16:18 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deb Nehmad	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1807 which repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.) This bill cuts over 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide. The bill states that the SFCA has enough works of art and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection. This stated purpose completely ignores where that monetary support actually goes. Why mess with a system that provides the only arts education programs our keiki now receive, among other significant impacts:

The list of impacted programs is vast:

SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Hawaii Island

Donkey Mill Arts Center

East Hawaii Culture Center

Kahilu Theatre

Wailoa Center

Maui

Hui Noe'au

Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association

Maui Arts and Culture Center

Viewpoints Gallery

Kauai

Kauai Society of Artists

Oahu

Downtown Art Center

Arts and Letters

Fishcake

University of Hawaii Galleries

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society

Hawaii Contemporary

Hawaii Watercolor Society

Honolulu Printmakers

Honolulu Theatre for Youth

Hawaii Handweavers Hui

Hula Preservation Society

ADDITIONAL RECIPIENTS:

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- Professional development for DOE Teachers
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony
- Hawaii Arts Alliance support
- **Outreach programs:**

Kahauiki Village

Institute for Human Services

RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment

Family Friendly Programming for LGBTQ populations

LGBTQ Legacy Foundation

Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Mahalo for your consideration.

Deborah Nehmad

practicing artist and recipient of Art in Public Places purchases as well as the Visual Artists Award.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 4:07:51 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C.Yamamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1807. HB1807 intends to eliminate the word “renovation” from the law. Consequently, most of the Art in Public Places Program support would end. This bill would end support for Professional Development for all DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian/Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs, just to scratch the surface. Repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui) this bill would cut an estimated 68% of the Art in Public Places program, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide. Culture and Arts heal and bring our community together. After the Maui fires, we need more culture and arts programming to rebuild the Maui communities and NOT a total collapse of all culture and arts programming on Oahu and all neighboring islands. DO NOT PASS THIS BILL! This impacts Hawai’i for generations to come. The culture and the arts nourish and enhance more thoughtful citizens. It is Culture, Arts, and Humanities we would be taking away. Thank you for reading this testimony.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 5:06:12 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

What does Rep Kyle Yamashita (Maui) have against Art & Culture? Rep Kyle drafted this terrible that would cut over 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide. The bill states that the SFCA has enough works of art and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection.

The elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would cut monetary support for the following:

- SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Hawaii Island

Donkey Mill Arts Center

East Hawaii Culture Center

Kahilu Theatre

Wailoa Center

Maui

Hui Noe’au

Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association

Maui Arts and Culture Center

Viewpoints Gallery

Kauai

Kauai Society of Artists

Oahu

Downtown Art Center

Arts and Letters

Fishcake

University of Hawaii Galleries

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society

Hawaii Contemporary

Hawaii Watercolor Society

Honolulu Printmakers

Honolulu Theatre for Youth

Hawaii Handweavers Hui

Hula Preservation Society

NOTAE

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- Professional development for DOE Teachers
- The Hawaii State Art Museum exhibitions and programming

- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony
- Hawaii Arts Alliance support
- **Outreach programs:**

Kahauiki Village

Institute for Human Services

RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment

Family Friendly Programming for LGBTQ populations

LGBTQ Legacy Foundation

Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

ALSO TO BE HEARD ARE TWO BILLS IN SUPPORT OF CULTURE AND ARTS:

1. [HB1940](#) Introduced by Representative Adrian Tam (Waikiki) is an appropriation bill for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. This means Additional funding for the Art in Public Places program that will increase culture and arts funding statewide for the programs listed to be cut in HB1807.
1. [HB1939](#) Introduced by Representative Adrian Tam (Waikiki) is an appropriation bill for The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to support arts and healing programs in Maui recovery efforts. Testimony on the value of the impact of the arts, in the community, and on mental health is welcome.

THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE! WE MUST BE VIGILANT IN OUR SUPPORT OF CULTURE AND THE ARTS.

Mahalo,

tlaloc tokuda

Kailua Kona HI 96740

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 5:07:56 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlies Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:17:01 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair AdrianTam, Vice Chair Rose Martinez, and members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs

I oppose repealing capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.

I respectfully ask you to oppose HB 1807.

Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy

Kalaoa North Kona. Hawaii Island

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 11:14:09 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C. Kauai Lucas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Tam , Vice Chair Martinez

HB1807 creates a catastrophic domino effect on the State Foundation for Culture and the Arts.

It ends support for Professional Development for all DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian/Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs, this is not even a comprehensive list of social ills this bill enacts. Just say NO.

mahalo piha,

Kauai

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 8:36:34 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Rozendo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Hannah Rozendo and I live in Kurtistown, Puna on Hawai'i island. Our communities across the nation are suffering for lack of access to art and creative expressions and now is not the time to cut funding for local artists in any way. I am constantly inspired by the local art around Hilo and across the state wherever I visit and I hope to preserve this element in the culture of Hawai'i for the future. I oppose HB1807 for this reason.

Respectfully,

Hannah Rozendo

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 8:59:15 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Hiramoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We must continue to support art in public places, artists, and art and cultural programs in our state. The SFCA is a huge liferaft for a wide variety of valuable programs which otherwise will not survive. Our children need art in their lives. Our artists need funding to execute their work.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 9:50:29 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dae Han	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To my understanding, this bill would take away funding from the DOE teachers' ability to provide educational opportunities for the community. For that reason alone, I respectfully oppose this bill.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 9:56:27 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This is the most outrageous attack on Hawaiian culture and identity since the overthrow of Queen Liliukulani. You should be ashamed to present such a measure. It would appear that you no longer even care to pretend to hide your disdain for the Hawaiian people.

This bill should never have seen the light of day, let alone be considered.

Kill this bill now.

Mahalo,

Richard Bodien

Hawai'i Cigar

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 10:01:32 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom. I live in Mō'ili'ili. I'm writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB1807.

This bill creates a catastrophic domino impact on the State Foundation for Culture and the Arts.

It will end support for Professional Development for all DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian/Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs, which are just a few of the impacts this bill brings.

me ke aloha 'āina,
Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili, O'ahu

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 11:44:39 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Y O Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose **HB2544**

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 12:22:44 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seb Choe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 10, 2024

Re: Testimony in Opposition to HB1807

As a member of the West Hawai'i community, teaching artist, and Board Member of the arts non-profit Hawaii-Fi, I strongly OPPOSE bill HB1807.

The bill states, "While the construction of new state buildings requires that they be furnished with works of art acquired through the special fund, this requirement is not necessary for renovations of state buildings since those buildings already have access to works of art furnished through the art in public places program. The legislature notes that removing the redundancy of applying the special fund to renovations would have no adverse effects on the art in public places program, as the State currently possesses a surplus of artwork in storage for future use."

The adverse effects include:

- A 50% reduction of the Professional Development funding for teaching artists and teachers
- Arts in Public Places AITS residencies either heavily reduced or entirely cut

This will end support for Professional Development for all DOE teachers, thirteen art centers, and eight organizations that offer Native Hawaiian/Arts-intergraded programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs, which are just a few of the impacts this bill brings. It repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui) this bill would cut an estimated 68% of the Art in Public Places program, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide.

If we embrace creativity, we heal wounds and equip future generations to face challenges. Supporting arts and culture education in public schools is an investment in community well-being, ensuring that future generations not only survive, but flourish.

I sincerely thank you for your consideration to oppose bill HB1807.

Seb Choe

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 1:12:53 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teig Grennan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As one of many local artists, I strongly oppose HB1807. Are lawmakers suggesting we snuff out the "Eternal Flame" sculpture which burns bright and constant just across the street from the Capitol building?? Should we vote to remove the Father Damien sculptue that sits in front of the Capitol building?? Are people really trying to say the Queen's Statue does not deserve to be where it is; that in fact these are all worthless symbols that are not deserving of the funding that put them there?? Because without this funding, those powerful monuments would not be there today.

This bill not only attacks the legitimacy and foundations of our existing symbols of State Pride and cultural acheivements, but it is also another attempt to undermine funding for vulnerable, widley utilized and very popular arts programming. Such legislation would be choosing to ignore strong public sentiment that attempts to impress on lawmakers that the preservation and cultivation of arts and culture are not irrelivent to the needs of the community. This existing need is clearly evidenced by high levels of public engagement with said local arts on a daily basis across the State of Hawaii.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts has significant positive economic impacts on the community, as well as fostering opportunities for education and cultural publicity for a tourist based eeconmy. The SFCA is and has been an institution to organizing and supporting local arts for decades among a network of community support. The longstanding "One Percent for the Arts " was designed to protect and support a small portion of local arts and culture from the inevitable challenging from competing special interests evolving within the capitalist system. This is a core component to the institution of the SFCA and it should be supported not undermined.

The One Percent for the Arts has a proven track record of success and has never caused a problem for the State. It continues to make the State of Hawaii more beautiful and liveable. The arts are around us and part of our daily lives, much like the Statue of the Queen or the Capitol Halls themselves. It seems quite wrong to claim that even 1% is suddenly too much to allocate for supporting the arts for such a beautiful state. That claim deserves to be challenged by the people. Please do NOT allow such legislation to undermine the SFCA funding.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 4:34:01 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell Sato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting my opposition to HB 1807 and urge you to consider the negative impact this bill would have. Thank you.

My name is Steven Rosenthal, I am a visual and performing artist who has been active in Hawai'i for over 40 years. I have represented Hawai'i and the United States internationally in Asia and Europe and have done projects as a Hawai'i artist on the mainland. In the past I was the president of the non profit Alliance for Culture and Arts which supported performing arts in the parks of the city and county of Honolulu. That said, I have not been involved in any programs of the SFCA for over 20 years and have nothing pending. I have never received support from the "Works of Art Special Fund".

I am writing in opposition to HB1807 and HB1940 which I see as working hand in hand . Since the early 1990's, there have been numerous efforts to divert funds from the Works of Art Special Fund away from the creation of art and towards such things as arts administration and brick and mortar projects as is the case here.

It seems to me that these proposals today are seeking once again to divert money from the creation of art and tacitly using the Special Fund for renovations of state buildings, this will add an invisible 1% to their construction budget. Which, the way these two bills are designed, apparently is upwards of \$4,000,000.

The State, in the form of these initiatives wants to have their cake and eat it too. Exempting themselves from contributing to the Special Fund in HB1807 (for renovations) and then using extant revenue from the Special Fund to cover the costs for "the integration of works of art projects into several major capital improvement projects." They want the benefits of the art but they don't want to pay for it. HB 1807 claims that it will simply rely on art already owned within the Art in Public Places program and it will have "no adverse effects on the program, yet it's companion HB1940 will "appropriate OUT \$4,000,000 (four million) dollars from the Works of Art Special Fund". The Art in Public Places program is a companion of the Special Fund and relies on the Special

Fund for acquisitions. So it will indeed have an adverse effect in terms of future acquisitions.

Even though HB1940 is titled "Making an Appropriation TO the SFCA", it actually "Appropriates funds OUT of the Works of Art Special Fund". Please reread this paragraph and the bill and note the contradiction. This is textbook sleight-of-hand. It's not Appropriation, it is Expropriation. \$4,000,000 for years 2024 and 2025 alone. If this works, we can expect such expropriations stretching into the future.

Artists are all too often treated as supplicants rather than the experts they are, they are the practitioners, they are the cultural specialists who are dedicated to painting the picture of life in Hawai'i. Patronage is a vitally important aspect of the Arts ecosystem, for the main, artists do not draw a salary, their future is uncertain; it's through patronage that a community can establish and provide continuity for an ongoing dialogue about who we are and who we want to be. Artists, not curators or administrators, are the mediators, the map makers, the story tellers. Hawai'i is a small society, comparatively we are not wealthy and the support afforded by the Special Fund is rare in Hawai'i, it should be protected and applied in the way that it was meant to be and that is to provide for the ongoing representation of our culture through visual art as we continually move into the future.

In 2003, I had the great opportunity to be a Visiting Composer in Residence to the state of Minnesota for 3 months. Minnesota, compared to ours, is a state rich in resources with a robust economy and home to over 100 corporate headquarters of multinational companies. And it has a long history of civic support for the arts. Honestly, it was a revelation to me to see the effects of this support for the creative community that came from the state, municipalities, corporate and private foundations. Some of these

foundations alone have larger budgets than the SFCA. Because of this, there is a sense of security among the creative culture there; I met many mid career artists that always had the expectation that they would be able to get by, raise their families and practice their profession. The most talented young people, rather than leaving to seek opportunities, as happens all too often here in Hawai'i, stay and contribute to the community. Hawai'i has a long way to go in nurturing this vital sector of our society and we are the worse for it.

This is why the Special Fund should be protected, we have few other self sustaining resources like this and this fund only supports one sector of the arts. In other words we are lacking, let's not get further behind.

While the Special Fund is not there to support artists, it is also not there just to beautify public buildings, it there to inspire, inform, and affirm our culture; and art comes from a single source– artists. The same way we pay for construction companies to build buildings we need to pay artists to represent our identities as a society which is fluid and ever changing.

I offer this as testimony as to why we Should Not "repeal capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the Works of Art Special Fund". And why we Should Not "appropriate funds out of the Works of Art Special Fund" to make up the difference. It undermines support for what is already an underserved community that provides much needed cultural nourishment for the community and will both starve and drain both the Special Fund and Art in Public Places program of resources in the future.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 8:08:51 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Love	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose any funding cuts for the Art in Public Places program. Arts funding is crucial for a healthy community. We must encourage more support for the arts, as the arts provide jobs, support the economy, and add value to our lives beyond what can be measured in dollars. The SFCA helps support many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide. The bill states that the SFCA has enough works of art and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection. Art is constantly changing to reflect the current time and the state collection must continue to grow and evolve as Hawaii and its people do not remain stagnant. Thank you.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 8:12:34 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Lam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an accomplished musician and artist i am a believer in arts for all, and the need for systemic support in order to create a diverse arts community. We need support art at all levels and ages, the SFCA is a important part of that.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 10:29:18 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Sato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

11th February 2024

RE: Opposition to HB1807

Dear Representative Yamashita and Committee Members,

I am a lifelong resident of Maui County, recently retired after 42 years of service as a public school teacher. I have spent my life working in and advocating for the arts, particularly secondary arts education. My students, like hundreds of others across Maui County in elementary, intermediate and high schools, have been the grateful beneficiaries of the SFCA’s Artists-in-the-Schools program over many, many years. The valuable experiences provided opportunities for my high school students to meet and work with professional artists, private organizations, and outreach programs have extended their learning far beyond the walls of the classroom and deep into the community. Many of them, now in varied professional careers, continue their community mindedness in admirable ways as young adults with growing families. As young parents, they now express concern over their children potentially being left without the valuable humanizing experiences, which, as they fondly recall, looked forward to and engaged in when they were students.

I am writing in opposition to HB 1807 which seeks to repeal capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. This bill seriously threatens to significantly weaken Hawai‘i’s state arts agency (SFCA) as it would cut over 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide. The bill states that “the SFCA has enough works of art and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection.”

The elimination of “renovation” from the percent-for-art law would cut monetary support for numerous Native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries, and organizations including Hui Noe’au, Viewpoints Gallery, and the Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association on Maui, East Hawai‘i Culture Center and Wailoa Center on Hawai‘i Island, the Kauai Society of Artists on the Garden Isle, and the University of Hawai‘i Galleries, Honolulu Theater for Youth, Pu’uhonua Society, and Fishcake on Oahu, to name a few.

Citing this “surplus” of artwork as rationale for the elimination of “renovation” from the percent-for-art law would also significantly cut monetary support for educational and outreach programs including:

- ● Artists in the Schools arts education program (serving 124 public and charter schools statewide)
- ● Professional development for DOE Teachers
- ● The Hawai‘i State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- ● Hawai‘i Regional Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
- ● Young Artists of Hawai‘i Exhibition and Ceremony

- ● Hawai‘i Arts Alliance
- ● Kahauiki Village
- ● Institute for Human Services
- ● RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
- ● Family Friendly Programming for LGBTQ populations
- ● LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
- ● Hawai‘i Health and Harm Reduction Center

At this point in our history, wouldn’t you agree that it is imperative that we uphold the mission of the SFCA, first envisioned by Maui’s own Masaru “Pundy” Yokouchi, to share a continuing responsibility to protect, perpetuate, and promote culture and arts in Hawai‘i?

Currently serving my first term as the Maui commissioner on the board of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, I have been impressed with what I am learning in regard to the breadth and scope of how the SFCA works tirelessly to not only “beautify state buildings and increase public access to the arts” but strives to positively impact every community member on every island to ensure that authentic arts and cultural education thrive in Hawai‘i.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely, Janet Sato

ALOHA

My name is Gunda Nollenberger, and I am writing today as a concerned citizen to testify in opposition of HB1807 `Relating to the Works of Art Special Fund` and I am in support of leaving the fund as is.

As I understand it, the proposed wording of H.B. No. 1807 repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the Works of Art Special Fund. This bill would cut over 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide, i.e., cutting monetary support for native Hawaiian and local artists:

- Artists in the schools' arts education program, serving 124 public and charter schools statewide
- Professional development for DOE teachers
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony
- Hawaii Arts Alliance support
- **Outreach programs:**
 - Kahauiki Village
 - Institute for Human Services
 - RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
 - Family Friendly Programming for LGBTQ populations
 - LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
 - Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Giving artists the opportunity to present their work and audiences to experience creative ideas expressed in art forms makes the world as a whole, and Hawaii in particular, a culturally richer place. Art is not always tangible, but it inspires people in so many different ways. We need innovative concepts to explore new avenues to move forward, think outside the box, and feel positive about the place we all share and most of us call home. From my experience, museums are places of interest when filled with people (life) who get to meet artists and get involved with the arts, including events after hours. Buildings, rooms and walls provide the platform for conversation.

The arts cannot exist in a space that lacks an outlet to give it expression. A drastic cut in funding would dramatically shift the landscape and diminish people's enriching experiences with the arts.

We are in desperate need of vision and visionaries.

MAHALO

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:52:16 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Janes-Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Paul Janes-Brown, the former vice chair of education for the Maui Democratic Party, a 26 year resident of Maui. I have been involved in the arts for my entire 75 years and 11 months on this planet. I was the first coordinator of Cultural Affairs for the City of Hartford, Ct. I received national recognition for the Youth Art Employment Program I developed utilizing Comprehensive Employment & Training Act Funds, and a replication study was done. I served on the commission to establish an Arts Policy for the City of Hartford, I was responsible for obtaining a \$50,000 matching grant to install original works of Art by the great African-American artist, Romare Bearden at the Hartford Civic Center. Here on Maui, I was the general manager of the Maui Academy of Performing Arts, directed several plays and acted in a few as well. I am also an arts consultant advising the state on works of art for purchase through our first in the nation arts in public places program.

I actively participated in the development of the percent for art program in Connecticut and in Hartford, which was modeled on Hawai'i's first in the nation % for art program. I am an upcountry resident and the author of this abomination is my representative. Chairman Yamashita has been a wonderful supporter of the arts. He is responsible for the King Kekaulike Performing Arts Center and he is responsible for phase 2 of that center. So when I saw the language in this bill saying we have enough art in our collection, I was taken aback. What museum in the world ceases to acquire new, important work? Chairman Yamashita would deny future Teraoka's, Doi's and Abe's a place of honor in our state. What has he been drinking? Please don't allow this embarrassing bill to leave this committee room. I know because he is the finance committee chair, you are all beholden to his will, but everyone makes mistakes. This Is a big one. Let him know this is a terrible idea. Mahalo.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:58:56 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kellie Dinwiddie Kala	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,

I am writing now to oppose HB 1807 because this Bill creates a catastrophic domino impact on the State foundation on culture and the arts. Further, it will end support for Professional Development for all DOE teachers, 13 Art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian/Arts-based programs that affect 124 public and charter schools. The ability for students to access these Arts programs is crucial to their development as well-rounded individuals. Please oppose this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

My name is Steven Rosenthal, I am a visual and performing artist who has been active in Hawai'i for over 40 years. I have represented Hawai'i and the United States internationally in Asia and Europe and have done projects as a Hawai'i artist on the mainland. In the past I was the president of the non profit Alliance for Culture and Arts which supported performing arts in the parks of the city and county of Honolulu. That said, I have not been involved in any programs of the SFCA for over 20 years and have nothing pending. I have never received support from the "Works of Art Special Fund".

I am writing in opposition to HB1807 and HB1940 which I see as working hand in hand . Since the early 1990's, there have been numerous efforts to divert funds from the Works of Art Special Fund away from the creation of art and towards such things as arts administration and brick and mortar projects as is the case here.

It seems to me that these proposals today are seeking once again to divert money from the creation of art and tacitly using the Special Fund for renovations of state buildings, this will add an invisible 1% to their construction budget. Which, the way these two bills are designed, apparently is upwards of \$4,000,000.

The State, in the form of these initiatives wants to have their cake and eat it too. Exempting themselves from contributing to the Special Fund in HB1807 (for renovations) and then using extant revenue from the Special Fund to cover the costs for "the integration of works of art projects into several major capital improvement projects." They want the benefits of the art but they don't want to pay for it. HB 1807 claims that it will simply rely on art already owned within the Art in Public Places program and it will have "no adverse effects on the program, yet it's companion HB1940 will "appropriate OUT \$4,000,000 (four million) dollars from the Works of Art Special Fund". The Art in Public Places program is a companion of the Special Fund and relies on the Special

Fund for acquisitions. So it will indeed have an adverse effect in terms of future acquisitions.

Even though HB1940 is titled "Making an Appropriation TO the SFCA", it actually "Appropriates funds OUT of the Works of Art Special Fund". Please reread this paragraph and the bill and note the contradiction. This is textbook sleight-of-hand. It's not Appropriation, it is Expropriation. \$4,000,000 for years 2024 and 2025 alone. If this works, we can expect such expropriations stretching into the future.

Artists are all too often treated as supplicants rather than the experts they are, they are the practitioners, they are the cultural specialists who are dedicated to painting the picture of life in Hawai'i. Patronage is a vitally important aspect of the Arts ecosystem, for the main, artists do not draw a salary, their future is uncertain; it's through patronage that a community can establish and provide continuity for an ongoing dialogue about who we are and who we want to be. Artists, not curators or administrators, are the mediators, the map makers, the story tellers. Hawai'i is a small society, comparatively we are not wealthy and the support afforded by the Special Fund is rare in Hawai'i, it should be protected and applied in the way that it was meant to be and that is to provide for the ongoing representation of our culture through visual art as we continually move into the future.

In 2003, I had the great opportunity to be a Visiting Composer in Residence to the state of Minnesota for 3 months. Minnesota, compared to ours, is a state rich in resources with a robust economy and home to over 100 corporate headquarters of multinational companies. And it has a long history of civic support for the arts. Honestly, it was a revelation to me to see the effects of this support for the creative community that came from the state, municipalities, corporate and private foundations. Some of these

foundations alone have larger budgets than the SFCA. Because of this, there is a sense of security among the creative culture there; I met many mid career artists that always had the expectation that they would be able to get by, raise their families and practice their profession. The most talented young people, rather than leaving to seek opportunities, as happens all too often here in Hawai'i, stay and contribute to the community. Hawai'i has a long way to go in nurturing this vital sector of our society and we are the worse for it.

This is why the Special Fund should be protected, we have few other self sustaining resources like this and this fund only supports one sector of the arts. In other words we are lacking, let's not get further behind.

While the Special Fund is not there to support artists, it is also not there just to beautify public buildings, it there to inspire, inform, and affirm our culture; and art comes from a single source– artists. The same way we pay for construction companies to build buildings we need to pay artists to represent our identities as a society which is fluid and ever changing.

I offer this as testimony as to why we Should Not "repeal capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the Works of Art Special Fund". And why we Should Not "appropriate funds out of the Works of Art Special Fund" to make up the difference. It undermines support for what is already an underserved community that provides much needed cultural nourishment for the community and will both starve and drain both the Special Fund and Art in Public Places program of resources in the future.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 11:32:47 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
doug young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been an artist for more than 50 years. Born and raised here, went to college in the mainland and came back. All arts are a tough life.

I got to know Alfred Preis and the SFCA in the early 70's and realized the bigger picture of culture and the arts which made a template for other states to follow.

The 1% of public construction has been a target to less than 1/2% ; and now it is challenged again.

The arts and culture should be retained, funded more because it's our sense of place, self identity and being.

We cannot go back to stripping it away.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 11:56:38 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janis Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb1807

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 11:59:53 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adele Balderston	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Committee Members,

As a kama'aina and an artist, I **oppose** this measure because it WILL have adverse effects on the art in public places program.

The fact that the State "currently possesses a surplus of artwork in storage" does not justify a reduction in funding for the Art in Public Places Program. Opportunities for local artists are already incredibly scarce and this measure would increase the brain drain by eliminating a vital source of income. The percent-for-art law and the Art in Public Places Program are meant to facilitate the *production* of artwork, not merely acquisition. Reducing funding for a successful program because the state already has too much art is like cutting funding for free and reduced school lunches because the program has already fed too many disadvantaged children.

Mahalo for the opportunity to **oppose** this measure.

Adele Balderston

My name is Laura Ruby and I am opposed to HB1807. There is an incorrect statement in this bill stating “that furnished worth works of art... is not necessary for renovations of state buildings since those buildings already have access to works of art.” How many of Hawaii state buildings created before the 1989 and before the 1965, and needing renovations would be left out of this equation? How many state buildings are in the state inventory ready to be renovated? This bill would limit the possibilities of the SFCA acquiring permanent artworks and the many cultural activities and educational programs associated with older buildings. The effect would be to drastically reduce the potential visual character of older buildings and reduce all non-permanent art and cultural works such as theatre, music, literary events, and dance.

This bill attempts to shift some of state monies away from the arts and culture. Please keep the 1 percent of all capital improvements and renovations within the state’s works of art special fund as is. Please deny this bill.

* * * * *

I have known the two of the three founders of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and knew them very well--Alfred Preis Reuel Denny (and just an introduction to Pundy Yokouchi). They were all very committed to doing the best for culture and the arts. When I was a reviewer for grants for the SFCA, one of the criteria was “arts and culture for underserved locations.”

At the founding of the State Foundation it was firmly stated that the neighbor islands were to be benefitted. This is so important, because culture and the arts not only provides for the creative endeavors, but also for the audience, and for the future of the keiki, who might want to go into various fields of filmmaking, music, dance, the visual arts, theater, and literature--all of the various arts so important to the “Hawaii sense of place.”

Over the decades I have been a part of many SFCA awards ceremonies including the Hawaii Literary Arts Council Award for Literature (among the awardees were Mary Pukui and Samuel Elbert, W.S. Merwin, Maxine Hong Kingston, Reuel Denney, Marjorie Sinclair, and Leon Edel), and the SFCA Individual Artist Fellowships (of which I was a recipient). These should be continued again honoring the best in the arts and culture realm.

Removing the SFCA to the DBEDT will make the SFCA into a business model. The Foundation is not a business model. The SFCA is for the well-being of our whole Hawai'i community. It's about Hawai'i quality of life, so please deny this bill.

Furthermore, I've known every single Executive Director of the SFCA (with the exception of the most current one), and each one of them has been trying to do his/her absolute very best to keep the Foundation to its original mission. Alfred Price, the first Executive Director obviously had a great affinity for architecture as he designed the Arizona Memorial and many other buildings in town, but he was also very much committed to all of the arts.

There is small section of the bill stating that the Governor would appoint the Executive Director, but that is a normal thing that the Governor goes for all boards, for all commissions, and should be for all Executive Director positions. So, a person submits his/her application, it is reviewed by state employees overseeing the position criteria. The SFCA Commission then reviews the applicants and selects, in priority order, the best person suited for the job, and then the Governor makes the hire. I believe it should be a local search.

I thank you very much for this testimony please take it to heart, but this is something for the well-being, and the health of the Hawaii community. It is not a business model, and this bill should be denied. Thank you.

Please deny HB 1807.

Sincerely,
Laura Ruby
1 808 366-0847

“...that sweet insincerity which aims only for success and for money should be suppressed under any circumstances.” Arnold Schoenberg, composer

inā ‘a‘ole i haki, mai ho‘oponopono (if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it)

I strongly oppose the HB1807 that would erroneously try to fix something that is not broken and thereby make it worse. This bill is a vile, mean-spirited piece of legislation. It would send SFCA into a “death spiral.” We want Life. We want Peace. Art presupposes Peace. We as a species will survive only with Peace. The contemplation of Art and Music requires a peaceful environment. Support the Arts, increase funds to the Arts. Cultures are remembered not for their bridges, tall skyscrapers and international, commercial franchises. Cultures are remembered for the Art they create.

HB 1807 is based on the illogical notion that SFCA has enough works of art. So, our government would close its doors to new Art from its constituents? It is an illogical vicious circle to pose that ALL works of Art that can be possibly held by the State are completed. What about the next one? Art by its nature is a creative endeavor. Art is defined by the creation of new works.

Here are some of the deleterious effects of this proposed legislation:

The elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would cut monetary support for the following:

- SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Hawaii Island

Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center

Maui

Hui Noe’au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association
Maui Arts and Culture Center
Viewpoints Gallery

Kauai

Kauai Society of Artists

Oahu

Downtown Art Center

Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary
Hawaii Watercolor Society
Honolulu Printmakers
Honolulu Theatre for Youth
Hawaii Handweavers Hui
Hula Preservation Society

NOTAE

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- Professional development for DOE Teachers
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony
- Hawaii Arts Alliance support
- **Outreach programs:**
 - Kahauiki Village
 - Institute for Human Services
 - RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
 - Family Friendly Programming for LGBTQ populations
 - LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
 - Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

In 2022, nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences generated \$151.7 billion in economic activity—\$73.3 billion in spending by the organizations, which leveraged an additional \$78.4 billion in event-related spending by their audiences. The impact of this economic activity is far reaching, supporting 2.6 million jobs, generating \$29.1 billion in tax revenue, and providing \$101 billion in personal income to residents. AEP6 (the authoritative Arts and Economic Prosperity Study - <https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/reports-and-data/research-studies-publications/arts-economic-prosperity-6>) sends a strong signal that when we support the arts, we are investing in economic and community well-being.

However the Arts are essential in more profound ways than the material, economic, and bureaucratic. Imagination and creativity are uniquely human traits. Through our senses we experience colors, forms, sounds, and motion. We transform these objects of the senses into powerful, emotional, intellectual and healthily creative works. Such activity humanizes us and distinguishes us from the rest of the animal world. Such artistic activity enlivens our spirits and nourishes our soul with its beauty and freedom.

Art has always needed outside support: state, church, aristocratic, foundation, corporate, philanthropic, etc. If a market economy could alone sustain Art, then famous artists such as Dutch painter Vincent Van Gogh, German composer Franz Schubert and American author Herman Melville would have been rich men. But they made little money from their art during their lifetimes.

Art is a survival tool. There are countless stories of survivors from the Holocaust and other disasters who attended concerts or viewed exhibits, or heard a poetry reading that allowed them to enter the realm of Spirit and transcend the horrors of their subjugation. They survived because of Art. We must place the enlivenment of our spirits and nourishment of our souls as high a priority as the necessary sustenance of our bodies. Body is a function of Spirit. The experience of Art transcends and includes the experience of surviving. We must integrate Art into our lives and in all sectors of the society, private, civic and government. If we do not, then the reason for surviving disappears. Art reminds us of the priority of things - of what is most important in life. It pulls us away from the dark, destructive societal forces that create the "death spiral."

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 12:48:17 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelle C Pahinui	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to offer some thoughts for consideration and testimony against [House Bill HB1807](#) that repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. [House Bill HB1807](#) introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui) would cut over 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide. The bill states that the SFCA has enough works of art and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection.

There are numerous studies on how the creative Arts impacts community well-being, cultural preservation, social diversity, early childhood development and education and especially in the area of STEM. From early childhood through adolescence and youth, arts education can support the social and emotional needs of students, helping them better to cope with their feelings, to bounce back from adversity, and to show tolerance and compassion for others. In these days of social violence as a way of expressing difficulty and frustration, anything that allows for personal expression and values unique insights should be strongly supported and invested in.

Studying art subjects contributes to the development of essential skills like collaboration, communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking. It also enhances a student's flexibility, adaptability, productivity, responsibility, and innovation. Students in STEM disciplines with the inclusion of arts and humanities led to better communication skills, better problem-solving skills and more effective critical thinking. In our work with Hawai'i's youth in music has taught us that music and music mentorship has been life changing for most of our students. Hawaii's unique music expression has taken many around the world to experience sell out crowds and substantial incomes. Hula has proven to be a massive attractor and equally valued experience that bonds and attracts people worldwide.

However, as these budget cuts seek to reduce the investment being made in the arts, it is vital that we also take a look at these direct impacts to economy, small business creation, and tourism, as the major drivers of Hawai'i's economy.

The creative arts and industries play a major role in generating, transforming and disseminating knowledge and have developed faster than the global economy as a whole in recent years, with trade in creative goods and services growing by over 8.8% a year since 2002.

The arts and availability of artistic experiences have the potential to stimulate economic growth and job creation, support innovation and entrepreneurship, aid urban and rural regeneration, and stimulate exports. Linkages and synergies with tourism have emerged in tandem, offering considerable potential to grow demand and develop new products, experiences and markets. Integrating creative content with tourism experiences adds value by reaching new target groups, improving destination image and competitiveness, and supporting the growth of the creative industries and creative exports.

The arts are the fourth largest driver of tourism and influence decisions made when planning travel. The Art Tourism market is estimated to reach US\$ 43 Billion in 2022. As per the report, sales are forecast to increase at a robust 2% CAGR, with the market valuation reaching US\$ 52.42 Billion by 2032.

As HTA focuses on a new approach to tourism development and marketing, creative tourism expands the very concept of cultural tourism as a whole, driving a shift from conventional models of heritage-based cultural tourism to new models of creative tourism centered on contemporary creativity, innovation and intangible content. Creative tourism also involves collaboration with a wider range of actors, leading to dispersed value networks rather than narrow value chains. Creative tourism experiences combine different creative content and engage with creative lifestyles, both in the destination and remotely, or even virtually, via new technology. Creatives are now able to outreach, expand and continue to generate incomes from their art without the impacts of actual tourism visits.

Budget and investment cuts that undermine Hawaii's creative arts is self-defeating. Instead of cutting the Arts investment budgets, we should be examining how massive the cultural and arts communities are in Hawai'i and examining how much they are worth to our community and the visitor industry, and ways to increase the investment instead of cutting these budgets.

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer my thoughts for your consideration, Chelle Pahinui

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 1:10:10 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan C. Browne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will cut over 50% of funding that supports Native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries and organizations. It will also take funding from the Artists in the Schools education program which is the only standards based arts program open to all Hawaii public schools, grade K-12. Funding for professional development for teachers will be negatively impacted, as well as major arts exhibitions open to all schools in the state. This bill will cause major defunding of the arts in Hawaii. Please do not pass this destructive bill.

Susan Browne

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 2:20:59 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jacqueline stewart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I DO NOT SUPPORT BILL HB1807. If anything there should be more funding going towards arts and culture. Art is healing. Art is humanity. Art is Life. PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS BILL. If you are actually for Hawaii, for the People, for Humanity, you would not vote towards this bill. Thank you.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 2:49:52 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael S. Teruya	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The issue sounds like either mismanagement of inventory or mismanagement of funds. It is true that funding the arts program through renovations are redundant. Every generation brings hundreds of new artists and art. I believe an explanation of what the art is actually used for is a constitutional issue. Although after 72 years as a local resident and artist my art has not been in the states collection addresses the politically correct standards of the SFCA and therefore its use. I do not contribute to local themes as an artist and remain outside the scope of SFCA's vision.

The matter of old inventory versus new inventory is like housing and burial preservation/availability. Should the state continue to increase its inventory beyond the practicality of the measure?

I believe funding for art and culture is important, but I understand that managing and validating inventory can be contentious.

SFCA may need to adjust or expand its vision in order to justify its operation & use of funds. If funds are cut from renovations it would make a clear signal that the selection, supporting and collecting of Art need to fulfill constitutional standards and not politically correct agendas only.

Please continue to work with SFCA, but please do not allow it to mismanage or abuse the political process.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 3:00:41 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celia Cheng	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it would cut over 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide. Art is a reflection of society, history, and culture. Art is a reflection of our ever changing and progress and daily life. To say that we don't need to acquire any more art is to stop time and freeze our Hawaiian community and culture. We must continue to honor our flow and support the arts, which is the equivalent of supporting Hawaiian history and culture.

***Rebecca Dunning
2780 Booth Road
Honolulu, HI 96813***

Re HB1807

Dear Legislators:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1807, which repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. This bill would cut over 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide. The bill states that the SFCA has enough works of art and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection.

The Arts in Public Place Fund is not just about buying artwork for the state collection. Several important arts education programs are dependent on funding from the Arts in Public Places fund and will be cut back or eliminated all together if this bill passes. Some of the programs that will be affected are:

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- Professional development for DOE Teachers
- The Hawaii State Art Museum exhibitions and programming
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony

I have been involved with various arts organizations in Hawaii for over 45 years and am currently the Managing Director for Honolulu Theatre for Youth. I see every day the positive impact the arts have on students in Hawaii and fear that all of the positive progress we have made using the arts to improve student learning will be eliminated.

Support for the arts should not just be about using the arts to entice more visitors to Hawaii it should be about enriching the lives of all Hawaii residents especially our keiki.

I hope you will carefully consider the impact of this Bill on Hawaii students and oppose this measure.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rebecca Dunning". The signature is fluid and extends to the right with a long, sweeping tail.

Rebecca Dunning

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 4:04:43 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Matson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

Please do not remove support for local artists in State Buildings by eliminating the wording to exclude buildings which are renovated. We want MORE art, not less.

Mahalo,

Shannon Matson

Hawai'i Island Resident

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 4:14:37 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa McCowan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am horrified to hear that the reduction of budgets by any means necessary to pinch a penny is going to be what kills the arts in the State of Hawai'i. There are so incredibly few funds that support the arts in our state, and here we are. Legislators trying again to take it away.

The most beautiful cities all are full of art! They draw you in with joyous, humbling, awe-inspiring, or sobriety-inducing self reflection. We don't always notice the arts as we walk around a location, but we definitely know when they are gone. A penny pinched in the budget today is gone forever, there will be no adding these monies back to the budget - once this is cut, it will be a slippery slope towards reducing funding for the arts via any avenue they are funded.

Everyone is always saying that the budget is the bottom line. But I say, there are things worth spending money on! **Art, and thereby artists, create a vibrant community that ties our history, our roots, our culture from yesterday to tomorrow.** Cutting funding here is short sighted in every way.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 4:48:31 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Elmore	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Gerard Elmore, VP of Film at NMG Network and Executive Director at 'Ohina, a Hawai'i film collective/incubator for local filmmakers and local stories.

As a professional and an artist, I am writing in strong opposition to this bill.

Now is not the time to take away money from the arts. The arts were vital to making me who I am today.

This bill would cut over 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue and would have adverse effects on the arts programs the community supports. These include events, artists engaged in school activities, art acquisition, museum operations, & more.

Countless people in the community count on these programs and I firmly oppose this bill.

Mahalo for your time in reading this testimony.

Gerard Elmore

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 4:56:34 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Ha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807 because it cuts over 50% of costs of the Art in Public Places program revenue. These budgets cuts are proof that art is not as much of a priority to the legislature as public art funding is crucial for schools, museums and art related facilities.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 5:07:37 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Kitchen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear members of the Hawaii state legislature,

I'm in opposition of any proposed reductions in funding for art programs. As an advocate for the arts and a concerned member of our community, I urge you to consider the detrimental effects that such cuts would have on our communities, students, society and future.

Art programs is not a frivolous expense to be slashed in times of budgetary constraint. It is a fundamental component of a well-rounded education that fosters creativity, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence. By engaging in artistic expressions, people learn to communicate their thoughts and feelings in ways that transcend language, barriers and cultivate empathy and understanding.

Furthermore, numerous studies have demonstrated the positive impact of arts education and the presence of arts in academic success. People who participated in art programs consistently show higher levels of achievements. This is because art encourages problem solving skills, promotes perseverance and stimulates the imagination. All essential qualities for success in any field.

Art plays a critical role in the societal and emotional development of individuals. In an increasingly digital world where interpersonal connections are often mediated through screens art provides a means of authentic, self-expression and human connection. It allows people to explore their identities, develop confidence and build relationships with creativity and history.

Moreover, the arts are vital part of our cultural heritage and identity. By nurturing arts and artists and exposing them to a diverse range of artistic traditions, we ensure the preservation and enrichment of our cultural legacy and future generations. Cutting funding for art not only deprives people of valuable learning opportunities but also jeopardizes the vibrancy and diversity of our cultural landscape.

In conclusion reducing funding for art programs is shortsighted and counterproductive. It undermines the holistic development of our communities, diminishes the quality of education and threatens the vitality of our society as a whole. As stewards of the future, it is incumbent upon us to prioritize investment in the arts and safeguard the well-being of our communities. I employ you to reject and proposals that would compromise the integrity of our art programs.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 5:11:50 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Johnson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Eric Johnson

1121 Wilder Ave. 200B

Honolulu, HI 96822

Re HB1807

Dear Legislators:

I am writing to express my strong OPPOSITION to HB1807, which repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. This bill would cut over 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide.

As the current Artistic Director for Honolulu Theatre for Youth I am proud that Hawaii lead the Nation in creating a program like this and continues to support arts and culture in our community. Cutting this program would have a devastating impact across every sector of the arts community.

The Arts in Public Place Fund is not just about buying artwork for the state collection. Several important arts education programs are dependent on funding from the Arts in Public Places fund

and will be cut back or eliminated all together if this bill passes. Some of the programs that will be affected are:

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- Professional development for DOE Teachers
- The Hawaii State Art Museum exhibitions and programming
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony

Support for the arts should not just be about using the arts to entice more visitors to Hawaii it should be about enriching the lives of all Hawaii residents especially our keiki.

I hope you will carefully consider the impact of this Bill on Hawaii students and oppose this measure.

Sincerely,

Eric Johnson

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 5:21:52 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DIANE E NUSHIDA-TOKUNO	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Funding for the arts is critical and necessary for the well being of our community and inspiration/support for artists and the arts community.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 6:15:19 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolann Biederman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB1807. I write as a resident who is deeply nurtured and inspired by the creativity of the local artists and nonprofit arts and culture organizations in our state. I oppose HB1807 because it negatively impacts ability of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) to share resources with artists statewide.

The richness and diversity of the arts in Hawai‘i – music, dance, visual arts, Hawaiian culture, media, crafts – impressed and inspired me from the day I arrived 36 years ago and I have supported the arts ever since. I've worked as a consultant to the nonprofit sector for the past 20 years in the areas of executive transition, grant writing, special events, and project management. Many of my clients are arts organizations. Through first-hand experience, I can say without reservation that this bill will limit the SFCA’s vital grant-making programs, art acquisition funds and the many artistic partnerships it nurtures throughout the state.

The SFCA must continue to have the resources to support artists and cultural practitioners who turn creative dreams into realities. I respectfully ask you to oppose HB1807 in its current form and maintain the level of funding that SFCA receives from the Art in Public Places program revenue.

If a one year diversion of funds to specifically support art projects for Maui artists, both visual and musical is considered, I would support that.

Otherwise, the proposed bill would adversely reduce or eliminate government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Carolann Biederman, 44-391 Nilu St. #4, Kaneohe, HI 96744

cabc.consulting@gmail.com

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 6:17:14 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Zimmel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting art in the community are probably the best use of my tax dollars I have seen. Both Capital Modern and the downtown art center are helping artists, children, kupuna and our state as a whole. I am not normally engaged in politics but any politician that votes to defund the arts I will never vote for and I will actively work to make sure they lose what power the citizens of hawaii have given them.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 6:25:26 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Tengan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an arts professional, an arts advocate, and a concerned citizen, I am writing to express my vehement opposition to House Bill 1807. This bill is misleading and short-sighted, as removing the Works of Art Special Fund allocation for renovations will cut funding for many critical programs supported by SFCA.

Ironically, the bill's preamble recognizes the value of art in feeding the human spirit, providing inspiration and education, and making our world more beautiful and interesting. It acknowledges Hawaii's unique position as the first state to adopt a percent-for-art law, emphasizing the importance of allocating one percent of construction costs for new buildings to the acquisition of works of art.

However, the proposed repeal suggests removing the Works of Art Special Fund requirement to apply to capital improvement appropriations designated for the renovation of state buildings. This could cut up to 50% of funding for the works of art special fund, which provides funding for SFCA educational programs and critical support for local arts organizations. The justification for this change is based on the belief that renovations already have access to artwork through the Art in Public Places program, rendering the Works of Art Special Fund redundant. The “surplus” of artwork in storage does not negate the importance of collecting art made by artists living and working today, as well as maintaining funding sources dedicated to “increas[ing] public access to the arts.” Thus, the redundancy argument does not fully capture the broader impact of the Works of Art Special Fund.

Is Mr. Yamashita ignorant of how the Works of Art Special Fund operates, or is he an opponent of the arts in Hawai‘i? We must ask this question when he consistently tries to gut arts funding year after year.

Very concerned,

Josh Tengan

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 6:25:58 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rob Paglinawan	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Rob Paglinawan, I am a 5th grade teacher from Waialua Elementary School, I want to address the fact that this bill will cut over 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue. Currently, we are using Mr. Kean from the Hawaii State Art Program. This program allows our students to 1) explore various ways to express themselves, 2) learn creative art techniques, 3) develop into a well-rounded student, 4) opportunity to focus on small details and to see how that can make difference in their results, 5) promote a new avenue of learning. We are working with a generation of kids where their iphone, game systems, and AI are all taking over the importance of education. If you have children, you know exactly what I mean. This Art program gives the students to see a different direction that live offers them rather than staring at a phone or monitor. Thank you.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 6:38:31 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cudra Clover	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

All I can say please do not cancel anything related to the arts or helping artists - if they say they have too much art then sell it - have an auction, make some money. Artists have a hard enough time living in Hawaii where they are not connected to mainland galleries and museums and can not circulate anywhere else but here easily. Artists are struggling here and especially many of the Maui artists due to the fires and galleries burning down. This would be such a shame - art is a cultural uplifting important necessary need. This will not be popular and artists and art enthusiasts will not take this lightly. This is one thing that has made Hawaii a beautiful honorable state - The Arts are so important and set us apart from places where hat don't value it like we do here.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:43:45 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Dailey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators of Hawai'i,

I am deeply disappointed in this bill HB 1807 wanting to slash the support of arts and artists in our beautiful islands. Having worked with artists and being an artist myself I see how much joy the artists of Hawaii have brought tourists with a piece of art that will always bring back the joyful memories of their Hawaiian vacations. Many people even have returned to purchase more art from their favorite Hawaiian artists, bringing their tourism dollars in the form of rented hotel rooms and restaurant visits.

And why do you want to deprive the future generations of children the option of becoming artists, or at least to take art classes; which has statistically been proven to help children become better students and eventually citizens?

This bill is a travesty to the art community just to save a little money by depriving our state of a needed enrichment for our keiki, and pulling Hawaii off the international art scene possibly causing the loss of millions coming into our economy currently in the form of taxed art sales.

Please vote against HB 1807 to support our current artists, and our future generations of artists, from losing their funding; and eventually losing a significant chunk of our state tax revenue in the form of lost art sales as the artists leave due to their loss of livelihood.

With Aloha,

Jonathan Dailey, L.Ac. (Maui Resident)

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:52:14 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Conley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a musician living and working in Honolulu. My passion is to create music that connects us to the earth in more meaningful ways. I was recently approached to do a project and was given a budget. After beginning to work on this project I was told that the funding has likely fallen through, due to HB 1807. Passing this bill will have very real and immediate consequences for artists here in Hawaii who are already struggling to make ends meet. Please do not pass any bills that cut funding for the arts. The arts inspire us and connect us, enriching our lives. Loss of arts funding is a loss for everyone. Mahalo nui for your consideration.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:53:37 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodie Chock	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a high school arts educator, I OPPOSE **HB1807**! Art in Public Places is such an important part of the community and allows for many voices to be heard through the arts. We need to set a better example for the future generations.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:20:52 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Diallo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Arts are the soul of a culture. I strongly oppose this bill as it will limit the reach of artists in Hawaii to shine on throughout the world. We need local platforms and state funding to support present and younger generations of artists on the Islands. Without a system to allow them to master their crafts, we will be diminishing the potential reach of our locally based talents. Thus, it is the full spectrum of the Hawaiian and mixed arts disciplines that will suffer. It is an essential part of any society to have a thriving artistic community and it is its duty to help preserve it and keep it alive.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:31:18 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Willy Colt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Lawmakers,

Reducing funds for art programs is not a good idea.

Visual arts is a necessary learning style that benefits us all. During the middle ages churches used art to communicate with the masses. As children we often learn first by watching and listening to songs.

If funding is reduced then our community will be deprived of a valuable learning opportunity.

Sincerely,

Willy Colt

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:34:47 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kapoor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jessica, I live in Lahaina.

I'm submitting testimony to oppose HB 1807 because I strongly believe in supporting the arts and local artists with continued funding from the state.

Artists are telling important stories of who we are as a community, and how we are evolving through time. They are voices that need to be heard and amplified, we need and deserve to hear them.

Art in public places makes works accessible to all ... it enhances our lives in countless ways...it reduces stress, makes us happier, and makes our environments welcoming and beautiful. The fine art, murals, sculptures, tapestries and quilts, crafts and woodworking, performance and dance of Hawaii are unique to this place.. they are sought after and loved worldwide.

Art contributes to well being, both for the creator and the consumer. Art heals... for individuals as well as for communities. People can work through grief, trauma and challenges when their creative side is allowed to... create. During crises, artists give us hope and a feeling of connection...it happened during Covid... people were using art and music to soothe and cope... it's happening now on Maui, ... student art hangs beside burned neighborhoods in Lahaina, giving us hope. It makes us feel seen, and loved. We feel community.

Integrating art into daily life encourages open mindedness, discussion, and the evolution of new ideas... all things that support a healthy democracy. Art contributes to our economy by providing jobs ... not just for creators and performers, but also av and stage crews, engineers, printers, framers, caterers, installation...and revenue from ticket sales, merchandise, and tourists wanting to "take home a piece of Maui."

Art moves us and inspires us. Art tells the story of a time and place so it's not forgotten... not just what happened and where...but how we felt.
Please keep supporting the arts in Hawaii.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:53:41 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Conrad	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose cutting funding by 50% for the Art in Public Places. Art is an integral part of any civilization. Art, music, and architecture are the only things that last, that matter when all is said and done. The funding of art encourages artists of Hawaii to create, to grow, and to add to the beauty and culture of Hawaii. Art is essential. The art purchased by the state has enhanced public places throughout our islands. Please reconsider and do not cut funding for the arts.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:57:33 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alison Maldonado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to express my deep concern and to urge you not to enact HB 1807, which proposes the repeal of capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the Works of Art Special Fund. This legislative action would significantly undermine the integrity and vitality of our state's commitment to enriching public spaces through art, which these crucial funds have long supported.

The Works of Art Special Fund is essential in fostering cultural development, enhancing the aesthetic quality of public buildings, and making art accessible to a wider audience. By integrating art into the fabric of our public infrastructure, we beautify our surroundings and invest in our community's cultural education and enrichment. The presence of art in public spaces encourages creativity, sparks dialogue, and promotes a deeper appreciation for the diversity of expression and thought that enriches our society.

Repealing the capital improvement appropriations for renovations as a source of funding for this program would diminish the quality and vibrancy of our public spaces and signal a retreat from our collective responsibility to support the arts. Such a move could have a chilling effect on the artistic community, potentially leading to a decline in creative endeavors and a loss of opportunities for artists to contribute to the public good.

Moreover, the Works of Art Special Fund is more than just a means of decorating public spaces; it is an investment in the cultural legacy we leave for future generations. Art in public buildings is a testament to our time's values, aspirations, and historical context, offering insight and inspiration to those who will come after us.

I strongly urge you to consider the broader implications of enacting HB 1807 and to support our state's arts and cultural development by maintaining the existing funding mechanisms for the Works of Art Special Fund. Let us not undermine a program that has contributed so much to the public interest and enhances the quality of life for all our residents.

Thank you for your attention and continued service to our community.

Sincerely,

Alison M.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:12:41 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a member of the West Hawai'i community and as the Program & Marketing Manager for the Donkey Mill Art Center, I strongly OPPOSE bill HB1807.

The bill states, "While the construction of new state buildings requires that they be furnished with works of art acquired through the special fund, this requirement is not necessary for renovations of state buildings since those buildings already have access to works of art furnished through the art in public places program. The legislature notes that removing the redundancy of applying the special fund to renovations would have no adverse effects on the art in public places program, as the State currently possesses a surplus of artwork in storage for future use."

The adverse effects include:

- A 50% reduction of the Professional Development funding for teaching artists and teachers
- Arts in Public Places AITS residencies either heavily reduced or entirely cut

This will end support for Professional Development for all DOE teachers, thirteen art centers, and eight organizations that offer Native Hawaiian/Arts-intergraded programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs, which are just a few of the impacts this bill brings. It repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui) this bill would cut an estimated 68% of the Art in Public Places program, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide.

As an employee of the Donkey Mill Art Center, I see the impact of the Artist in the Schools Program every day. It helps to bring otherwise nonexistent art education into K - 5 classrooms and invites true collaboration amongst artists, teachers, cultural experts and malama 'aina

educators. The Professional Development opportunities through these programs invites teachers to reconnect to their values and sense of creativity.

This year, the Mill, in collaboration with the SFCA, will be serving over 400 students with an arts integrated curriculum in collaboration with cultural experts to provide place based education. This formula for community resilience will be dismantled if this bill passes.

Our collaborators in arts and cultural education include:

- Volcano School for Arts and Science grades 2, 3, 4 and 9 - 12
- Kahakai Elementary School grade 3
- Holualoa Elementary School grades K - 4
- Holualoa Elementary School PTO
- Kumu Shaula Tualaulelei
- Kumu Jesse Kaho'onei of Kahalu'u Kuahewa
- Kumu Kim Kaho'onei of Kahalu'u Kuahewa
- Laurel Nakanishi of HŌ'Ā (Hawaiian Open Arts Professional Development Program)
- Kumu Meleanna Meyer - Teaching Artist and Mentor
- Angaea Cuna - Teaching Artist
- Kumu Puakea Forester - Teaching Artist
- Akiko Cutlip - Teaching Artist
- Gerald Lucena - Youth Education Coordinator
- Other Contributors: Mayumi Oda - Local Artist, Mina Ellison - Curator

If we embrace creativity, we heal wounds and equip future generations to face challenges. Supporting arts and culture education in public schools is an investment in community well-being, ensuring that future generations not only survive, but flourish.

I sincerely thank you for your consideration to oppose bill HB1807.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:13:00 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Shaw	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm writing to Oppose HB1807. It's essential that students have exposure to the arts and teachers who can provide space for that. The arts are foundational to expression and a form of mental health care, something we're in such need of during these times.

Please do not cut funding to these crucial spaces.

Mahalo,

Noel Shaw

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:15:29 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurel Nakanishi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 12, 2024

Re: Testimony in Opposition to HB1807

As a professional writer and teaching artist for the past fifteen years, I strongly OPPOSE bill HB1807.

The bill states, "While the construction of new state buildings requires that they be furnished with works of art acquired through the special fund, this requirement is not necessary for renovations of state buildings since those buildings already have access to works of art furnished through the art in public places program. The legislature notes that removing the redundancy of applying the special fund to renovations would have no adverse effects on the art in public places program, as the State currently possesses a surplus of artwork in storage for future use."

Yet the adverse effects include:

- A 50% reduction of the Professional Development funding for teaching artists and teachers
- Arts in Public Places AITS residencies either heavily reduced or entirely cut

This will end support for Professional Development for all DOE teachers, thirteen art centers, and eight organizations that offer Native Hawaiian/Arts-intergraded programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs, which are just a few of the impacts this bill brings. It repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. This bill would cut an estimated 68% of the Art in Public Places program, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide.

As a teaching artist, I see the impact of the Artist in the Schools Program (with the Arts in Public Places fund helps to support) every day. It helps to bring otherwise non-existent art education into K - 12 classrooms and invites true collaboration amongst artists, teachers, cultural experts and malama 'aina educators. The Professional Development opportunities through these programs invites teachers to reconnect to their values and sense of creativity.

I sincerely thank you for your consideration to oppose bill HB1807.

Best regards,
Laurel Nakanishi

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:27:41 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Fujitani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:51:34 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Duarte	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This appropriation ensures that the State of Hawai'i provides its people with reliable arts funding, supporting a well-rounded visual culture for the local community. With so little in the way of arts funding in Hawai'i, this appropriation signals that Hawai'i is a place that values art and the visual expressions of its peoples, with direct support of so many artists through the acquisition, care, and display of their artworks. Please do **not** repeal this vital funding.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 10:09:25 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Storm	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Opposition to HB1807 - Proposed Defunding of the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

Dear Esteemed Legislators,

I write to you as a concerned resident of Maui, deeply troubled by the introduction of HB1807, which proposes the removal of funding for the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (HSFCA). This letter seeks to express my strong opposition to this bill, emphasizing the critical role the HSFCA plays in nurturing Hawaii's rich cultural heritage, supporting local artists, and enhancing our community's social fabric.

The HSFCA is more than just a funding body; it is a vital institution that promotes cultural understanding, fosters artistic excellence, and ensures the accessibility of the arts to all Hawaiians. Its programs and initiatives have been instrumental in preserving Hawaii's unique cultural identity, while also providing avenues for artistic expression and innovation. The impact of the HSFCA extends beyond the arts community, contributing significantly to our state's economy, education system, and overall quality of life.

Removing funding for the HSFCA would not only destabilize our vibrant arts scene but also diminish our state's attractiveness as a tourist destination. The arts are a powerful magnet that draws visitors from around the world, eager to experience Hawaii's diverse cultural landscape. This, in turn, supports local businesses and generates revenue critical to our state's financial health.

Moreover, art education programs funded by the HSFCA play a crucial role in the holistic development of Hawaii's youth, nurturing creativity, critical thinking, and cultural awareness. These programs are essential in preparing our children for a complex and rapidly changing world.

In an era where understanding and unity are more important than ever, the arts offer a universal language that bridges divides and celebrates our shared humanity. The proposed defunding of the HSFCA would be a step back for our community, stifling voices that deserve to be heard and weakening the bonds that hold us together.

I urge you to consider the far-reaching implications of HB1807 and to stand in support of the arts and culture in Hawaii. Let us not undermine the foundations of our state's identity and prosperity. I implore you to oppose HB1807 and ensure continued funding for the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, for the benefit of all Hawaiians, now and for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your service to our state.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 10:24:14 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Sato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 10:30:00 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allan E Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Against HB1807: RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND

Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I write to express my OPPOSITION to HB1807, which poses a threat to our vibrant creative community. This bill, if passed, will have detrimental effects on the livelihoods of artists, writers, musicians, and other creative professionals in Hawaii.

HB1807 undermines the ability of creatives to thrive by cutting an estimated 68% of the ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM. As a member of the creative community myself, I have witnessed firsthand the importance of a supportive environment for creatives to flourish.

I urge you to consider the detrimental impact this bill will have on our creative economy and cultural heritage. I respectfully ask you to oppose HB 807 and instead seek solutions that empower and uplift our local artists and creators.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Allan Garcia

Resident of Kalihi-Palama

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Culture, Arts, and International Affairs Committee Members,

I am writing as an individual in strong opposition to HB1807 for the following reasons.

Reason #1: The 1% Works of Special Art Fund includes more than purchasing moveable art. According to HRS 103-8.5b(3), “**Upkeep services, including maintenance, repair, and restoration of works of art**” are to be included. Take, for example, the Hawaiian Studies Building at UH Mānoa which was completed in 1997, and two permanent works of art were installed by SFCA Art in Public Places program. The artworks were created by Ipō Nihipali specifically for the Hawaiian Studies buildings (see photos below).

Ho’opulapula (to procreate) on the ground floor is a waterfall sculpture but no water is flowing as it used to and the designs on the floor surrounding the cairn are molded and discolored.



State Foundation On Culture and the Arts

Art In Public Places

IPŌ NIHIPALI
HO OPULAPULA

(TO PROCREATE)

waterfall sculpture

Basalt, coral, sand, water, 1999

Hoopulapula the procreation of life, joining of the ule and kohe creating the walewale, the essence of life depicted as the flowing wai. It seeds and brings life, represented by the white coral. Born is the kupu fern, new life! The ālaea, red earth depicts the koko of our people. Together they symbolize our strong and proud nation. E iho ana o Iunā, e pīi ana o Ialo, e hui ana nā moku, E KŪ ANA KA PAIA!

Ipō Nihipali was born in Honolulu, Hawaii in 1951.

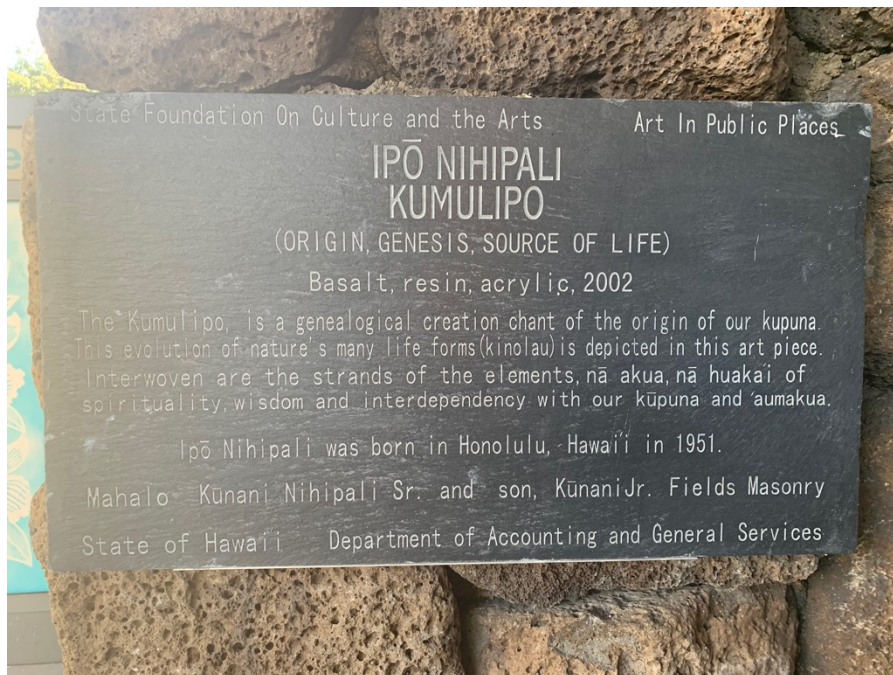
Mahalo Kūnani Nihipali Sr.

Fields Masonry

State of Hawaii

Department of Accounting and General Services

The second artwork close to Dole Street is entitled *Kumulipo* which depicts kinolau in the genealogical creation chant. This work was installed in 2002 and is in very poor condition and direly needs renovation/conservation.



Damaged face of the bottom right kinolau.



The tail of the eel is broken exposing the wire frame beneath the resin.



These photos are a sample of the damage for a few sections of the mural. The 1% Works of Art Special Fund is required to provide renovation/conservation of the permanent works of art installed in the builds too. The Hawaiian Studies building is only 27 years old but clearly, the artwork has not been maintained.

Reason #2: Artwork that is permanent in a building, e.g., the murals at Kapolei Hale, have specific meanings linked to place and the function of the building. On UHM campus, take Sinclair Library as an example of a building being renovated. Sinclair was completed in 1956 and though the tropical climate was taken into consideration, there is no artwork because the building predates the 1% Works of Special Art Fund. So, according to HB1807, page 2, Lines 6-10, may be very problematic.

“The legislature notes that removing the redundancy of applying the special fund to renovations would have no adverse effects on the art in public places program, as the State currently possesses a surplus of artwork in storage for future use.”

The Board of Regents approved the \$57 million renovation to transform the outdated library into a state-of-the-art student success center (<https://www.hawaii.edu/news/2023/06/16/work->

[begins-student-success-center/](#)). Why would works of art that are in storage fit or enhance the new building and concept that the student center stands for?

Reason #3: If the primary issue of HB1807 is that there are too many works of art in storage, then why not have an appraiser help SFCA determine which works of art could be sold/auctioned to fund the installation of relevant new works of art in new buildings and newly renovated buildings? Surely there are works of art that may not be so meaningful to Hawai'i that could be sold. Can an amended HB1807 make provisions for that?

In summary, the 1% Works of Art Special Fund is critical in a multiplicity of ways that have not been considered by the authors of HB1807. New artwork relevant to a new building or renovated building is critical. It is doubtful that artwork in storage will complement a state-of-the-art high-tech 21st Century Student Success Center. Conservation of existing artworks needs to be a priority and the Nihipali artwork at Hawaiian Studies demonstrates severe neglect. Where artwork is removed for building renovation, it must be conserved/repaired before being re-installed and such work must be done by skilled artisans or the artist who created the work if s/he is still living. If there is too much artwork in storage, liquidate the holdings and put the money back into the 1% Works of Art Special Fund.

Mahalo for your time and permitting me to share my opinion. I stand in opposition to HB1807.

Aloha,

Teri Skillman

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 10:49:20 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Sato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am vehemently OPPOSED to HB1807. Hawaii is recognized as the Melting Pot of all different cultures where everyone is open to diversity and loves to learn about other cultures so I find it concerning and shocking that this House Bill would cut over 50% of the Art in Public Places where everyone currently has the opportunity to be exposed and learn from the works of artists of the different cultures. Additionally this bill would adversely reduce or eliminate government support for many art organizations, programs and artists statewide. This will also negatively impact our children.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 10:51:30 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sally french	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this bill, as it will diminish the funding (by 50%!) that benefits hundreds of residents yearly through grassroots organizations such as Donkey Mill Arts Center on Hawaii Island, Hui No'eau Art Center on Maui, Kauai Society of Artists, Lihue, Kauai, and 20 more.. Without funding, these not-for-profit organizations will not be able to provide access to the Arts for our children and kupuna, nor encourage our artists to continue to strive for beauty as they see it through expression in the arts. It is well-known that the arts provide a significant role in the well-being of a community and the organizations dedicated to the Arts provide the only access our rural communities have. Please keep these organizations in service, do not reduce the funding, it would be devastating to grassroots outreach of the arts that benefit all of our communities.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 11:06:41 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Kimoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representative Yamashita,

I was born and raised on Maui, a beneficiary of an arts education and community that has shaped my secondary education, college path, and now career. Growing up, I was constantly inspired by art shows and field trips at the MACC, an arts-integrated education at Pomaikai Elementary, trained by a DOE teacher with over four decades of service, and validated by programs such as Hui Noeau's Malama Wao Akua and Scholastic Art Exhibition.

As much as the arts have impacted me, I am not an artist. I do not work in the fine arts field. I am an engineer. I create infrastructure such as roads and utilities, seemingly so different than strokes of paint on a canvas or a meticulously carved sculpture, yet I believe suggesting that the work of the SFCA is redundant and that the renovations work is not needed is a misdirected effort. As someone involved in the construction and engineering field, I understand the logistics of construction. But I also understand the importance of place, culture, beauty, and responsibility. Art is crucial to providing a sense of community amongst all who encounter it, therefore increasing longevity and purpose for everyone.

I do believe there must be an alternative to your goals for this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts and for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Julia Kimoto

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 11:10:55 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Iijima	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1807.

This bill would cut more than half of the Art in Public Places program revenue, resulting in the reduction or elimination of governmental support for many key arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide.

The scope of this bill will impact much more than the purchasing of art for the state collection. It will adversely affect the ability of this state to preserve and nurture the Arts and Culture of Hawaii. It will potentially hurt art and cultural organizations that have developed over decades, organizations that are currently struggling to survive. It will end educational programs that help our youth and our whole community. It will jeopardize years of collaboration, relationships, and partnerships.

Arts and culture are more than things created by people. They are the foundation of our identity and the expression of our humanity. In Hawai'i, this identity and expression are more diverse than anywhere else in America. When realized through the support of organizations and programs, this realization of self can become our super power in the most difficult times. Arts and culture can bring us together, heal our traumas, and help us to help others. They bring us opportunities for reflection, joy, realization, and transformation. Also, the art created by an individual can create a moment of clarity or light a spark in someone who experiences it, and it could even change their life. I personally have had that experience, time and again, when I have encountered a person's writing, theater work, or visual art.

It is essential that the State of Hawaii continue its whole hearted support for Arts and Culture. We have so much that is already in place, and much can be lost if this bill takes effect.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 11:12:13 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin L	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In this age of automation and the arrival of Artificial Intelligence, creativity and imagination are the only skills that cannot be mechanized. Public art is one of the few accessible ways people are exposed to and inspired to think beyond the surface, to understand things on a deeper level. Repealing funding for public art harms the development of innovative thinking in our society and leaves people unequipped in a fast developing future of job replacement.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:08:59 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Oishi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Many prolific artists have emerged from Hawaii because of the help of art organizations that are funded by the state.

Not only in creating professional artists but the arts are a powerful tool for social change and community development. Through various outreach programs, the arts have been instrumental in engaging underserved communities, providing them with a voice, and fostering a sense of belonging and pride. By cutting the funding, we risk silencing these voices and widening the social divide.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:28:20 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juvana Soliven	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony that opposes HB1807. Removing the funds for renovations of state buildings would have an extreme negative impact on the Arts in Public Places Program and the art community, closing off opportunities for both emerging and established artists. Renovations imply that there is a need for upkeep of any space or place. Can that not be said for the arts? The Arts in Public Places program and its committees consult with artists and engineers to create public work that is archival, but the usual wear and tear should be accounted for when considering renovations and the need for upkeep and refreshing of the collection and art in public places.

To remove the funds from renovations is to block access to artists from entering the state collection, because it would limit funds significantly.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 2:13:13 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
amy r craig	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Hawai'i, I strongly oppose the defunding of the arts in our state. The arts play a vital role in enriching our cultural heritage, fostering social cohesion, promoting mental well-being, and providing cognitive stimulation for individuals of all ages.

Culturally, the arts are an integral part of Hawai'ian identity, reflecting our unique traditions, values, and history. By supporting the arts, we preserve and celebrate our diverse cultural heritage, ensuring that future generations can appreciate and learn from our rich artistic legacy.

Socially, the arts bring communities together, creating opportunities for people to connect, collaborate, and engage with one another. Whether through attending performances, participating in workshops, or visiting art galleries, the arts provide shared experiences that foster empathy, understanding, and a sense of belonging.

From a mental health perspective, engagement with the arts has been shown to reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, while promoting feelings of happiness, relaxation, and well-being. Numerous studies have demonstrated the therapeutic benefits of activities such as music therapy, dance therapy, and visual arts interventions, highlighting the importance of supporting the arts for the mental health of our citizens.

Furthermore, the arts provide important cognitive stimulation, enhancing creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Recent peer-reviewed research has shown that exposure to the arts can improve academic performance, boost cognitive development, and enhance brain function across the lifespan.

In light of these numerous benefits, it is imperative that we continue to invest in and support the arts in Hawai'i. Defunding the arts would not only deprive our communities of cultural enrichment and social engagement but also undermine the

health and well-being of our citizens. I urge policymakers to prioritize the arts as a fundamental component of a healthy and vibrant city.

Here are some specific studies and research findings that support the benefits of the arts:

1. Cultural Benefits:

- Bowes, L., & Wilkinson, D. (2003). "The significance of cultural participation for subjective well-being." *Journal of Cultural Economics*, 27(1), 57-72.
- Stern, M. J., & Seifert, S. C. (2014). "Cultural ecosystem services and the role of arts in quality of life." In *The Economics of Cultural Services* (pp. 221-245). Springer, Cham.

2. Social Benefits:

- Williams, D. R., & Dixon, P. N. (2013). "Impact of museum learning on children's social attainment: A naturalistic study." *Curator: The Museum Journal*, 56(2), 197-214.
- Kreutz, G., Bongard, S., & Rohrmann, S. (2004). "Cultural participation and well-being in European countries: Trend and contexts." *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, 7(3), 275-292.

3. Mental Health Benefits:

- Stuckey, H. L., & Nobel, J. (2010). "The connection between art, healing, and public health: A review of current literature." *American Journal of Public Health*, 100(2), 254-263.
- Fancourt, D., & Finn, S. (2019). "What is the evidence on the role of the arts in improving health and well-being? A scoping review." *Health Evidence Network Synthesis Report*, 67.

4. Cognitive Stimulation:

- Winner, E., & Hetland, L. (2000). "The arts and academic achievement: What the evidence shows." *Arts Education Policy Review*, 100(5), 4-9.
- Schellenberg, E. G. (2011). "Examining the association between music lessons and intelligence." *British Journal of Psychology*, 102(3), 283-302.

These studies provide evidence for the diverse benefits of the arts, including cultural, social, mental health, and cognitive advantages.

Aloha & Blessings
Amy Rose Craig

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 2:41:43 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Matsumoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong **opposition** of this bill would negatively affect 22 organizations across Hawaii Island, Maui, Oahu and Kauai. Art is not linear, but always evolving. Elimination of funding to SFCA to purchase art with the assumption that there is a surplus is short-sighted and restricts growth to the State collection. Art is chosen for specific locations or projects. The Art in Public Places program has been an impactful program to the community and local artists for decades. This is one way we can ensure our future generations will have a historical timeline and collection of our home, Hawaii, that will be ours, forever. Please oppose this measure.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 4:30:26 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karla Krompegel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in opposition of HB 1807. Appropriations which support of the SFCA mission and the Art in Public Places program are beneficial to the state of Hawaii and it's citizens. This bill would reduce the SFCA budget by over 50%. The arts are an important part of maintaining and furthering Hawaiian culture, and raising cultural and social awareness. These programs help make art more accessible to people across the state, especially school age children. At a time when funding for the arts is being descimated nationwide, it's important that Hawaii continue to invest in the arts and the state's unique cultural identity.

Thank you taking the voices of you constituents into account,

Karla Krompegel

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 6:09:20 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abigail Boroughs	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1807

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 6:51:24 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Akira Fitzgerald	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I vehemently oppose Bill HB1807. The arts has always been a vital part of what makes Hawai'i Hawai'i and supports our community's spirit and livelihood. Cutting funds from the Art in Public Places Program would negatively impact not just the people directly working in Hawai'i's creative community, but all who call Hawai'i home. Beautification of public spaces and supporting artists are long-standing Hawai'i traditions from the days of the ali'i; we would be greatly remissed to peel away that legacy now for the sake of greed and so-called "improvement" that fails to help our local community.

HB 1807

I oppose (HB1807) the repeal of **capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund**, and reject the notion that “SFCA has enough works of art and there is no need to acquire more art for the State collection.”

Why should this be imposed on the people of Hawaii? That we should be stuck in time and not have the opportunity to enjoy the Arts as a renewable experience.

Hawaii’s first in the nation “one percent for art” program is a point of light and that must be held in trust for communities across the archipelago and future generations to come.

HB 1807 would greatly diminish public opportunity for engagement with the arts, and current support for native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries, and organizations.

The people of Hawaii deserve continuing access to community events that are being delivered by the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts - Art in Public Places program.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Marshall, Professor
University of Hawaii-Hilo Art Department
SFCA Hawaii Island, Commissioner at Large

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 7:24:39 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Delro Rosco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawai'i-born artist and lifelong resident, I am testifying against HB1807. I believe that when the Hawai'i State Legislature passed the Art in State Buildings Law in 1967 (signed by Governor John A. Burns), there was a vision for all future generations of Hawaii to benefit from the arts as a vital part of fully thriving while living and working in our island home. If the "life of our land is perpetuated in righteousness", then some things need to be perpetuated. Having enough art or an inventory of art to use is not the point. Having this kind of mindset robs all future generations of Hawaii artists of benefitting from the support that artists of the past have had.

I wholeheartedly believe that the arts are beyond decoration or embellishments to our physical spaces. We thrive when we fully understand that art is not only a reflection of our culture but also our humanity. The expressions of our artists help us to understand ourselves. Artist Makoto Fujimura says "By continuing to create and imagine a better world, we live."

As a recipient of a Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Acquisition Award, I have benefited immensely not only from sharing my imaginative expressions but also from financial support for my livelihood. It would be a travesty for future Hawai'i artists to not have the same opportunity. Do not end what was started because of a few opinions that we have a surplus of art or making it about money.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Gratefully,

Delro Rosco

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 7:28:04 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenny Endo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose any bill that with jeopardize funding for the arts of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts in Hawaii. Art is not a superfluous activity but has to power to heal and transform society.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 7:29:56 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Akiko Cutlip	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If we embrace creativity, we heal wounds and equip future generations to face challenges. Supporting arts and culture education in public schools is an investment in community well-being, ensuring that future generations not only survive, but flourish.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:00:47 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing this letter to oppose the House Bill HB1807. The proposed bill will tremendously reduce many important arts and educational programs provided by The Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (HFSCA). As an independent artist and teaching artist, I find that overall funding for the arts and culture and also for arts education in Hawaii is much less compared to other states and other countries. If the proposed bill would pass, then even much less arts programs and public art will be available for the people of Hawaii. Currently I'm working with two public schools on Oahu on Arts in Public Places (APP) Artists in the Schools (AITS) Program provided by the HSFCA. This program offers the students valuable and unique opportunities learn about public art work at their schools through critical and creative thinking framework. They also get to create and present and perform what they learn and create during the AITS residencies with teaching artists. The AITS Program also provides professional development workshops for teachers to help them integrate more arts to their teaching, giving them tools and confidence in arts integrated teaching.

The proposed bill will not only affect public and charter schools that benefit from having the AITS Program taught by professional artists and teaching artists, but also numerous arts and cultural organizations statewide, resulting in drastic cut or elimination of their programs for the people of Hawaii.

Please do not repeal the capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my testimony.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Kim

Chair Adrian Tam
Vice Chair Rose Martinez

House Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs

Wednesday, February 14, 2024
10:30 AM

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO HB1807 RELATING TO THE
WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND**

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, Members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs,

My name is Jun Shin and I am testifying as an individual in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to **HB1807**, Relating to the Works of Art Special Fund.

I believe that the arts should be enjoyed by everyone in society, regardless of class. Cutting the funding that the Works of Art Special Fund receives from capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings would greatly hurt the ability of the State Foundation on the Culture and the Arts to make that possible. You would be taking away an important chunk of funding that goes into supporting artists as well as purchasing, maintaining, and exhibiting different forms of art for the enjoyment of the broader public.

Please **DEFER** House Bill 1807.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,
State House District 23 | State Senate District 12
Cell: 808-255-6663
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:12:23 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emanuel Pangilinan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art is the voice and spirit of the people. When you cut funding you cut growth of the Hawaiian Culture.

Jaslyn Loftin
1111 Hoolai St. #201 Honolulu, HI 96814 | 808-392-2188 | jaslynl@hawaii.edu

To: Hawaii State Capitol
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
February 13, 2024

Aloha Hawaii State Capitol,

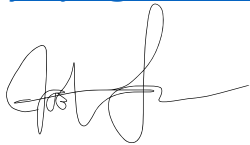
My name is Jaslyn Loftin, a professional singer/songwriter as well as a lecturer at Honolulu Community College with the Music & Entertainment Learning Experience Program. I would like to submit this testimony as my support for bills HB1807, HB1940 and HB1939.

As a teacher preparing students to enter a field in arts-related fields within music and entertainment, giving support for arts education and the State Foundation on Culture and The Arts grants will increase opportunities for students to learn event coordination, live sound, live performance, and music business such as marketing in a state-funded organization. This also grants those who work in the arts and arts education a sustainability for living, as in the current state of the world, artists and musicians have been taken a deep toll on their finances due to local business exploiting musicians for “exposure” for their professional time. Having state-funded initiatives ensure those who work in music and arts that they are being supported somewhere in Hawaii.

Also, I am involved in several non-profit organizations who host live theatre performances and Hawaii cultural events, such as the Hawaii Shakespeare Festival. These organizations are running with little to no budgeting, however, has been an integral part of keeping culture and community alive in the state. With a boost in grants, we will be able to share Hawaiian culture nationally, as a lot of scriptwriters, directors, and actors are being nationally and internationally recognized all over the globe, but with lack of support from its home-state.

When we see the fruits of change in our own island, we can continue to support our communities inter-island as well. The organizations I work with would love to help those on Maui specifically, but due to lack of funding, no movement can be made. At the state capitol, you can help change that within the arts community all over the islands.

Therefore, I ask that you please consider the passing of these three bills. If you would like any more information from me, please contact me at 808-392-2188, or email me at jaslynl@hawaii.edu. Mahalo for your time.



Jaslyn Loftin

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:29:29 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Endicott	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

For those that are supporters of bill ——— and believe we have enough art I ask for you to please reconsider this very drastic cut of funds. After all the funding of the SFCA is what:

1. Kept alive the downtown triangle of Downtown Art Center, Mark’s garage and Hawaii State Art Museum/Capitol Modern during the two years that CoVid shuttered many of our local businesses. This funding brought people to this area and kept this business district going. It is because of the arts and the art exhibitions which the SFCA supports that restaurants like Fete and Rangoon saw customers fill their 6’ separated tables and outdoor spaces. In addition, why Murphy’s and others opened a take out window and continued to keep their restaurants open and sustained. People came to their offices in a limited fashion downtown because these places were open and this triangle was a relatively safe place to walk, dine and take in a bit of creativity to maintain their mental health.

Our downtown Honolulu would not look the way it does with new businesses and established ones now being sustained. The monetary return dollar for dollar of funding from the SFCA far exceeded what is typically achieved. Our city is now thriving with residents who discovered what art can do during CoVid and tourists who now seek out these art places when they come to Hawai’i.

2. Gave students at Hawai’i’s public schools a spark of creativity so they could see a new and different way of doing or being. As a two-time commissioned Art-in Public Places/Doe Artist, I has the privilege of working with students who were not achieving their best at an elementary school on Oahu. Many of these students spent time in detention and one even told me at the beginning of our project that they were not allowed to be in the same class with another student. At the end of our project, these students were working diligently together to meet our deadline when their artwork would be honored at the dedication for their artwork and mine. A couple of the students also had failing grades or were outcasts. Because of the opportunity to participate in the project to make a permanent sculpture outside the library, these students became empowered as all the other students wanted to be doing what they were doing. As a result of this empowerment, several of the students achieved A’s, while others created bonds with their so-called enemies, other students and even their parents when they came to

help. Another who could barely be heard when answering a question, spoke commandingly into the microphone at the dedication. These students became creatives and this experience led them into future success in life. Their artwork became permanently installed near the one I completed for the SFCA and both serve as a reminder of what is possible when creativity and the arts are supported. They are now grown and contributing to our community. A few even continue to bring their friends back to show them what they accomplished in elementary school. Hope and better way of being is what they are now sharing.

3. Creates a circular economy. The SFCA funding does purchase artworks directly from artists showing at arts centers and galleries. This is a double circular economy as the money circulates through these two economic drivers. An artist's 50+ percent of the purchase will go to buy food, gas, rent and art supplies at art, craft and hardware stores. The 50% or less the art center/organization gets goes to support employees, insurance, rent, web/social media folks and many more. The arts are the one economy that keeps the money flowing and flowing again, just as I wrote about in my children's book, "I Had A Dollar In Hawai'i. It's easy math that continues to benefit each island and our state.

4. Rather than taking away how about creating a pause bill for a 5-year period that will prevent our arts industry funding from being under attack so we can find creative solutions to our state's issues. Use the funds to pay artists for their creative solutions to collaborate with other groups. Don't like homeless people on our streets? Team up artists with social workers and police to get these trauma-ridden people to make art. Imagine what their sketchbooks would look like. How filling that I interrupted my letter writing to you to take a houseless student to school as his mother and he are living in my home. On my way home, I saw 5 police men standing 8 feet away from a houseless woman who had her shorts around her knees and had defecated all over her buttocks. Why did I see this? It was the most pathetic scene I have ever witnessed. The group had their backs turned away to give her whatever dignity they could though no one was helping her on with her pants. Perhaps this happened so I can write to you about it now and offer a suggestion such as the police need to be fitted with a sheet to give such traumatized people some dignity first. Then housing and all the other services it takes to unwind such traumatic situations. Fortunately the EMS arrived a short time later and then all were trying to help her. I drove by on my way back to offer a sheet I carry in my car to move and protect my art. I was going to park and shield her from people and children who were also driving by. Yes, art can help heal. It softens the edges and reminds us how to care. And it is even good for people who are not on the street. It is good for business. It is good for new ways of thinking, innovation and finding new ways of doing.

I found the courage to become an artist after visiting our museum. I quit my job and went back to study art and received my Masters in Sculpture from UH. I paid tuition, won awards and commissions and then created public art that brings people together. That is what this SFCA

funding that everyone wants to cut is good for. There is so much more we have to share. Let's work together and find ways to pair up SFCA funded creatives to solve our social problems. Imagine if we could lessen homelessness as Finland has done, slowed water rising and prevent the impact of climate change. I invite you and whoever else wants tour our city with me and city and SFCA folks to see and experience the art around the capitol and our arts district to learn why we have what we have and what it does for us. And what we could achieve if we used our imagination. We could make Hawaii a leader again. Just as we did when the 1% was passed and the nation followed. Please oppose HB 1807 as I do.

Let's take that walk together.

Thank you,

Jodi Endicott

Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
Hearing on HB1807
Relating to the Works of Arts Special Fund

February 14, 2024
Conference Room 309 and video conference at 10:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gail Mukaihata Hannemann. I am submitting my personal testimony in **OPPOSITION of HB1807**. Removing the word “renovation” from the law fundamentally undermines the purpose of the Arts Special Fund.

The bill states by “removing the redundancy of applying the special fund to renovations would have no adverse effects on the art in public places program, as the State currently possesses a surplus of artwork in storage for future use.” is a flawed statement in several ways.

First, the law purposefully distinguishes between construction and renovation of state buildings. The authors did not consider the language redundant because they understood how state buildings come into being, are maintained, and/or repurposed overtime. Thus, the bill makes a statement that misrepresents the intent of the law.

Second, practically speaking, most of the funding from the special fund comes through renovations of state buildings. Thus, the bill would have an adverse effect on the public places program.

Third, stating “the State currently possesses a surplus of artwork in storage for future use” does not recognize the reason why the special fund was created. Having the financial means to acquire new works of art speaks to the importance role the arts play in society. The arts preserve, protect, and perpetuate the stories of humanity. Specific to Hawaii, the special fund helps to record and account for the history of Hawai`i. Significantly reducing the special fund would mean that the State’s collection will effectively be frozen in time, not appropriately reflecting our past, present, and future artistic works.

Lastly, the purpose of fund is more than just about beautifying buildings, it speaks to the opening sentences of the bill, “The legislature finds that art feeds the human spirit and offers priceless value; inspiring, educating, and challenging individuals to think differently, while making the world a more beautiful and interesting place.” Having works of art that appropriately reflect the rich history of Hawai`i as well as public access to the works is in fact priceless. By removing the word “renovation” makes the statement the State does not value the purpose of the special fund.

Thank you for allowing me to share my views about the bill. I urge you not to support the bill.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:03:11 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Owen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this Bill! Hawaii needs to continue spending 1% of the cost of all renovations to state building projects on art. We must support the arts to the max. as it is what makes our state so special, both for residents and tourists. We are a model to the rest of the nation, and we must not cut our spending on public art!

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:05:57 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bon Moore	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an artist and a person who appreciates Art and Culture. I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:06:29 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elise von Dohlen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1807 Relating to the Works of Art Special Fund

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill HB1807 which proposes to repeal capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.

Hawaii was the first state in the country to adopt a percent-for-art law. The Works of Arts special fund supports essential arts and culture programs throughout the state. Repealing capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund, will greatly reduce funding. Arts and culture programs continue to be underfunded, and the impact of this bill could be catastrophic impacting local arts organizations, local artists, and cultural practitioners; and decreasing access to arts for youth. As a community we have seen how essential arts and culture are to the fabric of our community and support our individual and collective wellbeing especially in times of disaster.

I urge the committee to vote against HB1807 and support increasing funding to ensure the promotion, perpetuation, and preservation of culture and arts in Hawaii.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:09:53 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maxime Cuchet	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSING BILL HB1807

Dear memebers of congress,

I am testifying against bill HB1807. As a musician based in Honolulu, I have been involved in opportunities made possible by funds acquired by the Art in Public Places Program at Capitol Modern and other local institutions. These funds are essential to allow artists and organizations to thrive in Hawai'i, for arts and culture to make an impact both locally and globally. For these reasons, I believe the Art Special Fund must be preserved.

Mahalo,

Maxime Cuchet

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:11:59 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenny Wallace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill which defunds essential arts education programs. I am a parent of children who struggled with academics but who thrived because they were offered chances to express themselves through poetry, drama and visual arts. Art isn't just for "fun". It helps heal and nurtures growth. For children struggling in many ways, these programs offer hope.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:13:50 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marie Eriel Hobro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Marie Eriel Hobro. I am a professional photographer, filmmaker, writer, and photography teacher from Wahiawā.

I am submitting this written testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** of House Bill HB 1807, which would eliminate 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide.

Art changed my life. As a high school photography teacher, I get to watch it change my students lives every day. It helps them become more connected with themselves, the community around them, and their roots. By cutting this funding, it eliminates the chance for local kids to have that opportunity. It deprives upcoming artists of the chance to develop and grow into professionals here in Hawai‘i. Ultimately, this will push artists and changemakers to the mainland to pursue their dreams. No one will be left to tell our stories the way they should be told.

We should push to create a stronger economy for the arts in Hawai‘i instead of weakening it. Hawai‘i is home to so many brilliant artists who want to elevate these islands through art, but so many are forced to leave due to the lack of economic opportunities. We could be an economic hub for art and media if we really tried.

Please save the arts so that it can continue to save lives in Hawai‘i.

Sincerely,

Marie Eriel Hobro

Wahiawā

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:22:04 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Lazzerini	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This will hurt our local community, depriving young people and all citizens of the vibrant art culture that evokes the spirit of Hawaii. Exposure to arts is proven to positively impact children's development in all areas of learning. Art in our community also drives important conversations in healthy ways. In addition, this is a reasonable and expedient way to diversify our tourist-based economy. Especially in the context of local angst and global chaos, this bill is the wrong idea at the worst time.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:30:08 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marijcke Keli'i Christianson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art is part of history and culture and is one of the best ways to keep it true. It helped bring back the resurrection of the Hawaiian Culture in the 70's through hula, the visual arts and language. It gives us as human beings a creative outlet for expressing and sharing of our past, our present and future. It's always been difficult for artists and the arts to survive as it's not something that brings in a lot of money but it's a critical part of our lives and community in order to be strong, healthy and growing. Hawai'i is a unique place in the world, and has such a beautiful culture that can have a profound affect on the rest of the world. Keep the opportunities for that to be done through Art.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:31:13 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Yee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Arts & Culture programs are integral not only to the spirit, community, and culture of Hawaii - but very much so it's future. Funding absolutely must stay in tact, as it directly contributes to the current and future preservation of Hawaiian & local culture - which is something that needs to be protected. This bill would have a tremendously negative impact on countless individuals and organizations, and those negative impacts can be avoided by opposing this bill.

I stand with the arts & culture organizations in opposition of HB1807

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:38:37 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristina Swenson-Stewart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do not pass HB1807, the arts are critically needed, and cutting the funding to support these organizations and centers would affect so many people.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:40:08 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alejandro Salinas-Nakanishi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an educator with more than 20 years of experience, I strongly OPPOSE bill HB1807. The adverse effects of the bill include:

- A 50% reduction of the Professional Development funding for teaching artists and teachers
- Arts in Public Places AITS residencies either heavily reduced or entirely cut

This will end support for Professional Development for all DOE teachers, thirteen art centers, and eight organizations that offer Native Hawaiian/Arts-intergraded programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs, which are just a few of the impacts this bill brings. It repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui) this bill would cut an estimated 68% of the Art in Public Places program, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide.

The passage of this bill would be devastating to the public education in Hawai'i. Its stated intentions are disingenuous. It fundamentally misunderstands the role of the arts in helping shape engaged citizens and well-rounded human beings. The existing arts programs that the bill threatens offer a huge return for a relatively small investment in the people in our schools who do understand, unlike those who are pushing this bill's passage, that the storytelling, creative expression, and collaboration that comes directly from arts programs are vital to the basic health of our people.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:43:57 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alex Underwood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an artist born and raised on Maui, my life has been greatly greatly effected by the amazing art programs I was given access to growing up. Without the great art education I received at Baldwin High School, and its supporting programs like the artist in residency programs, community art programs hosted by the Hui, and access to engaging art exhibitions I would not be where I am today both professionally and personally. Slashing this funding would do a huge disservice to not only the art community in Hawaii but to kids growing up in our public school systems.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:44:15 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Yamanaka Aynessazian	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is tanya yamanaka aynessazian and I live in Pahoia, Hawai'i Island. I strongly OPPOSE HB1807.

HB1807 would end support for Professional Development for all DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian and arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands. The bill also repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. This bill would cut an estimated 68% of the Art in Public Places program, reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide. And this would be a detriment to Hawai'i on many levels.

Culture and Arts do more than just bring our community together. In a world of pain and suffering, in a world that is constantly telling us who to be, art is essential to bring us back to who we are. Art in its purest forms help us to understand ourselves and each other, and allows us to explore how we feel, so we can begin to heal. Art facilitates intimacy-intimacy with ourselves and each other.

We need access to arts and culture and professional development for our teachers in public schools more than ever. Like access to clean water and public transportation, access to the arts has a deep impact on our standard of living. Like clean water, the arts provides a reflection for us to see ourselves. Like water to the body, art is to the soul, cleansing, healing, revitalizing, sustaining. It is impossible to thrive without it. Like public transportation, arts and culture move us, taking us to places we otherwise could not go.

Life is not as concrete as we like to pretend it to be. Yet educational curricula is filled more and more with that which is concrete, what we can test, and assess. But life is subjective, dependent upon our internal rather than external world. Our feelings are subjective. Our memories are subjective. Our likes and dislikes are subjective. Our personal interpretations of current events are subjective. Art is subjective. What a disservice to not teach how to live and work with subjectivity, when it's very definition is relating to the real nature of something.

Access to the arts and arts education is a critical component of how we teach future generations to be in touch with that part of us within that is creative, and curious. Curious enough to develop

our own thoughts and develop our own ideas. Arts and culture is at the core of the professed outcomes of Hawai'i's public education system. Educational outcomes we have branded as lifelong learners, effective communicators and complex thinkers. Great buzzwords. But how can we become complex thinkers without understanding and addressing the subjective? How can we become effective communicators without the ability to discuss the subjectivity of life? How can we become lifelong learners without fueling the curiosity and creative impulses within, that the arts is proven to so well facilitate? Access to arts and culture is essential to providing opportunities for students, of all ages, to expand their perception and awareness, creating a greater whole person.

Access to arts and culture, and [Arts education is associated with lower dropout rates, as well as better academic outcomes \(Elpus, 2013; Catterall, Dumais, & Hampden-Thompson, 2012; Scheuler, 2010; Barry, Taylor, Walls, & Wood, 1990; Isreal, 2009; Deasy, 2002\). Studying the arts promotes academic self-efficacy and school engagement \(both predictors of persistence to graduation\), and it enhances socioemotional skills valued in social relationships, the workplace, and education settings \(Beveridge, 2010\).](#)

Indeed, the very fact that there are legislators who want to cut arts and culture funding is a result of not funding it enough to have instilled an appreciation of their impact on us as individuals and on local culture.

In 1986, the State of Hawai'i passed the "Aloha Spirit" law, Hawai'i Revised Statutes Section 5-7.5. And, though it is virtually impossible to enforce, the late Aunty Pilahi Paki wrote the statute because she foresaw a twenty-first-century world in deep suffering that would turn to Hawai'i for healing, and she saw that Aloha would be the one penetrating solution to the myriad of conflicts and problems we humans have created for ourselves and our planet. All citizens and government officials of Hawai'i are encouraged to recognize the Aloha Spirit law and conduct themselves according to the principles of Aloha, which are regarded as a working philosophy of the Hawaiian people. The law reads that "Aloha Spirit is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. The Aloha Spirit brings each person to the self. Each person must think and emote good feelings to others." To act in accordance with the life force of Aloha, an alignment of one's heart and mind is essential. Access to arts and culture facilitates the real time working knowledge of the heart-mind connection we know as the Aloha Spirit.

In closing, I hope that my testimony has appealed to the Aloha Spirit within each of you. Please, do not pass HB1807, let us invest in our future by providing access to arts and culture, arts education and professional development for our teachers. The future of education includes arts and culture as a core component. The future of Hawai'i's residents and indeed, the world, lies in our heart-mind connection and our authentic expression of the Aloha Spirit.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:48:59 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regan Humphrey	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

My name is Regan Humphrey. I'm a multi-hyphenate creative, a psychologist, and the CEO of an online art school. I'm submitting this statement as testimony in opposition to HB1807. Art is so much more than visual. Art is visceral. Art is personal, political, mental, emotional, physical. Art is so much more than paintings hung in frames, and the people who benefit from the already-scarce funds you are attempting to further diminish are not only visual artists.

Writers, singers, dancers, sculptors, designers, engineers—*creatives* of every kind rely on these funds not only to actualize their art, but to share it with our community. We all benefit from the arts. Each and every one of us.

At the end of a long day at work, what do we all do? Watch television and films, listen to music? Artists make our television and films. Artists make the music we listen to. Artists design the clothes we buy and wear on our backs. Artists engineer the smartphones in our pockets and think up all the ways technology can help us in our daily lives. Artists envision the cars we drive. Hundreds of artists. Thousands of artists.

In these times, when there is so much darkness in the world, art adds light. In these times when there is so much pain and suffering, art heals. My ask is simple: Do not support this bill. Do not support any bill that would shorten the reach of creativity and innovation, not in these times when we all need it the most.

There is no such thing as too much art. Everything around us began as someone's creative idea. We are a part of a nation whose most profitable and wide-reaching export *is* our creativity. The work we do on and off the page, on and off the screen, in or outside a frame—is deeply important. Just last week, you committed to ***no funding cuts*** for the arts. I implore you, senators. Keep your word.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:53:09 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noa Emberson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Noa Emberson and I am writing to oppose HB107. Being an artist and Native Hawaiian from Maui but now living in Honolulu, I can say that we need all the help we can get in order to survive here. And if HB107 goes through, speaking for myself and many of my fellow artists I know in the community, we may not be able to survive. Hawai'i needs art to keep it vibrant not only for its residents but the many visitors that come to our islands as well. So I'm asking you to please reconsider and not pass this bill. Thank you.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:54:33 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mitchell Adam Fong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Mitchell Fong and I oppose the bill HB1807 RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND. While removing the stipulation regarding funds from renovations may seem like a minor and logical cost-saving measure, it is important to recognize that this program adds immense value to the state in ways that are not easily defined in a budget. It provides public access to art and art education that might be otherwise financially inaccessible, and is a tangible example of Hawai'i's dedication to the ongoing beautification of public buildings.

In this sense, the bill's term "surplus of art" is insulting and misinformed. One cannot have a surplus of cultural enrichment, and the program in it's current state already accounts for the proper storage and handling of the art it acquires. Art has intrinsic value, and exponentially enhances this state in ways that a simple budget reduction cannot. A percent-for-art model means we are committed to an beautification and humanization of our buildings—not just at their inception, but in a continuous way that updates and modernizes their artistic engagement with the public.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:58:20 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Forrest Leonard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm writing to express my opposition to HB1807. The art in public spaces program has continually had a positive impact on the arts here in Hawaii. The ongoing support of the states purchase and display of artwork has long supported the vibrant art scene that exists here in Hawaii. The benefit of this program is two-fold; First, it beautifies our public buildings, making them both pleasant and culturally invigorating. Second, it is a direct line of support for the various artists and arts organizations here in Hawaii. If this support is taken away, the community will lose funding for various community art centers, Hawaiian cultural organizations, and various educational programs. By repealing capital improvement appropriations for the arts, this bill would in one action cripple these art resources that are vital to Hawaii.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:00:50 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Mager	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support funding cuts to arts programs! These programs benefit local and statewide communities by promoting culture, critical thinking, and social bonding. Please do not cut funding for these kinds of artistic endeavors.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:02:46 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Chelsea Anderson. I am from Wahiawa.

I am submitting this written testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION of House Bill HB 1807, which would eliminate 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Anderson

Wahiawa

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:04:47 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Logan Delp	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Logan Delp. I am from Wahiawā.

I am submitting this written testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** of House Bill HB 1807, which would eliminate 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide.

Sincerely,

Logan Delp

Wahiawā, O'ahu

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:07:07 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rayleen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

My name is [rayleen]. I am from [Wahiawa, Whitmore].

I am submitting this written testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION of House Bill HB 1807, which would eliminate 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide.

Sincerely,

[Rayleen Rikat]

[Wahiawa]

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:07:20 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amelia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Amelia Edsall-Register. I am from Wahiawa.

I am submitting this written testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION of House Bill HB 1807, which would eliminate 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide.

Sincerely,

Amelia Edsall-Register

Wahiawa

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:07:58 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor Flores	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Victor Flores. I am from Wahiawā

I am submitting this written testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION of House Bill HB 1807, which would eliminate 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide.

Sincerely,

Victor Flores

Wahiawā

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:08:35 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Solano Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Jason Solano Jr. I live on Schofield Barracks.

I am submitting this written testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** of House Bill HB 1807, which would eliminate 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide.

Sincerely,

Jason Solano Jr

And all of Leilehua High School

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:08:38 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yuko Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Yuko Lee. I am from Wahiawa, Hawaii.

I am submitting this written testimony to strongly negate the House Bill HB 1807, which would eliminate 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide.

Sincerely,

Yuko Lee

Wahiawa, Hawaii

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:08:53 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Usitai Mamoe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Usita'i Mamoe. I am from Wahiawa.

I am submitting this written testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION of House Bill HB 1807, which would eliminate 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide.

Sincerely,

Usita'i Mamoe

Wahiawa

HB 1807: OPPOSE

Click [here](#) to submit testimony. Due on Tues, Feb. 13th @ 10:30 AM.

SAMPLE

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Molly Larzelere. I am from Wahiawa.

I am submitting this written testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** of House Bill HB 1807, which would eliminate 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide.

Sincerely,
Molly Larzelere
Wahiawa

Teacher Testimony

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Marie Eriel Hobro. I am a photographer, filmmaker, writer, and photographer teacher from Wahiawā.

Art changed my life. As a high school photography teacher, I get to watch it change my students lives every day. It helps them become more connected with themselves, the community around them, and their roots. By cutting this funding, it eliminates the chance for local kids to have that opportunity. It deprives upcoming artists of the chance to develop and grow into professionals here in Hawai'i. Ultimately, this will push artists and changemakers to the mainland to pursue their dreams. No one will be left to tell our stories the way they should be told.

We should push to create a stronger economy for the arts in Hawai'i instead of weakening it. Hawai'i is home to so many brilliant artists who want to elevate these islands through art, but so many are forced to leave due to the lack of economic opportunities. We could be an economic hub for art and media if we really tried.

Please save the arts so that it can continue to save lives in Hawai'i.

Sincerely,
Marie Eriel Hobro

Wahiawā

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:10:52 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne ('Antu') Harvey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do NOT support Bill HB1807. We need MORE public art and support our artist and arts in the schools funding, not less.

Consolidation without maintaining the same net level of funding is a ruse to cut funding.

Artists guide us to process and understand our complex and changing society and environment.

Please maintain (or even boost) funding for our art and artists.

Respectfully,

Antu Harvey

Hōlualoa, North Kona

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:11:20 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryiane Lei D Pascua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Ryiane Lei Pascua. I am from Wahiawa, Hawaii.

I am submitting this written testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION of House Bill HB 1807, which would eliminate 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide.

Sincerely,

Ryiane Lei Pascua

Wahiawa, HI.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:11:59 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laci Fomby	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Laci Fomby. I am from Wahiawā.

I am submitting this written testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION of House Bill HB 1807, which would eliminate 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide.

Sincerely,

Laci Fomby

Wahiawā.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:13:00 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aubree Rayne Agno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Aubree Agno. I am from Wahiawa

I am submitting this written testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION of House Bill HB 1807, which would eliminate 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide.

Sincerely,

Aubree Rayne Agno

Wahiawa

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:13:09 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nolina Baca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

My name is [Nolina Baca]. I am from [kunia].

I am submitting this written testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION of House Bill HB 1807, which would eliminate 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide.

Sincerely,

[Nolina Baca]

[kunia]

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:14:24 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabriel, Washington	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Gabriel washington. I am from Wahiawa.

I am submitting this written testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION of House Bill HB 1807, which would eliminate 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide.

Art changed my life. As a high student, I watch it change my friends daily. It helps them connect more with themselves, their community, and their backgrounds. Cutting this funding eliminates the chance for locals to have that opportunity. It deprives upcoming artists of the chance to develop and grow into professionals here in Hawai'i. Ultimately, this will push artists and changemakers to the mainland to pursue their dreams. No one will be left to tell our stories how they should be informed.

We should push to create a more robust economy for the art in Hawai'i instead of weakening it. Hawai'i is home to many amazing artists who want to elevate these islands through art, but many are forced to leave due to the lack of economic opportunities. If we tried, we could be a financial hub for art and media.

Please save the arts so they can continue saving lives in Hawai'i.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:17:33 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Moan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wish to support continued funding of the SFCA as it has been configured to date. As a teaching artist, I rely on several programs funded and administered through the SFCA including Donkey Mill, Fishcake, and the Artists in the Schools program. As well as earning my living through these organizations' programs and offerings, I am heavily involved in the lauhala weaving projects supported by the Puuhonua Society. This has been an avenue for me to learn about cultural traditions and craft as well as connect to a community that has sustained me through the pandemic era and beyond. Please continue funding these crucial entities at their current levels or more!

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:17:58 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Otani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807 which would cut over 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide.

Art provides food, heals and nurtures our bodies, spirits and minds. Studies have shown how educational practices are enhanced when related to or incorporated with the arts.

The elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would cut monetary support for:

- Native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries and organizations
- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- Professional development for DOE Teachers
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony
- Hawaii Arts Alliance support
- Outreach Programs

Please oppose HB 1807

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:18:15 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Sussman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I completely support funding for the arts. This is the wrong place to cut funds.
I especially enjoy seeing artwork in the public buildings.

Please keep this program. This is a state that should be behind this kind of support.
Sharon Sussman

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:21:20 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Chairman and Members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature House Committee,

I was born in Hilo on Hawai‘i Island, grew up in Salt Lake and Moanalua on O‘ahu, and now live in Waikīkī. I am a concerned Honolulu resident, art enthusiast, culture advocate, and am writing to submit my **opposition to House Bill 1807**, which would **repeal capital improvement appropriations for renovations** of state buildings as a **source of funds for the Works of Art Special Fund**.

This bill would **cut more than 50% of the Art in Public Places program** revenue, **adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs** and individual artists statewide. The elimination of “renovation” from the percent-for-art law would include cutting monetary support for **NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**.

Among them would be Hawai‘i Contemporary, formerly the Honolulu Biennial Foundation, where I work. I remember when I first came upon Hawai‘i Contemporary during the pandemic. I was so moved by the thoughtful conversations during the Art Summit, and the intersections around art, sustainability, activism and ‘āina, that I reached out to volunteer. Now, as the operations manager, I have seen firsthand the **inspirational exchanges** that can come from our visual arts programs, including our internationally recognized Hawai‘i Triennial art exhibition.

Thanks to the support from the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and the Works of Art Special Fund, participants in our programs have shared:

“I appreciate how (Hawai‘i Triennial 2022) is more than art, the edible weeds program I attended and discussions on sustainability being **grounded in very human concerns of the present**, not just Art isolated in gallery spaces, is always something I appreciate.”

“The vulnerability the artists had to share their experience with Hawaiian culture. How ‘aina shapes the Hawaiian culture and how capitalism/militarism has greatly affected Hawaii. It has me **critically thinking about the connection and collaboration between people** to visually explore culture.”

“Just wanted to thank you all for keeping this accessible (the price low and affordable) for **students like me**. I love being able to visit places like these to get inspiration and calm.”

Even the World Health Organization has affirmed that “the arts are uniquely suited to help us understand and communicate concepts and emotions by drawing on all our senses and capacity for empathy.”

As such, I am deeply concerned that:

- education and access to the arts, as a priority, will jeopardized; and
- the perpetuation and preservation of authentic indigenous Native Hawaiian culture and arts cannot be assured; when reports have shown that:

“the arts **help cities** attract talent and foster innovation (Economic Development Quarterly);” and

“every **\$1 spent in the cultural sector generates \$6** in the local economy (December 2020 Creative Resurgence Meeting for the Hawai‘i State Senate).”

In seeing the intrinsic value that the arts bring to our Islands, including developing human potential, building empathy, encouraging individual identity and empowerment, and bridging divides between communities, the work of the State Foundation for Culture and the Arts is so important to the city’s overall vitality and the well-being of its people.

As such, I believe it would be detrimental to repeal capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the Works of Art Special Fund. **I hope that you will vote to oppose House Bill 1807.**

Kind regards,

Monica Lee

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:22:41 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makena Haliakao'akalani Laurion	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Mākena Haliakao'akalani Laurion and I am from Lāhainā, Maui. Several state funded art programs (Ha'ina Ko Wehi run by Keola Donaghy at the Maui College & the Creative Immersive Lab Hawai'i) have helped me heal and move forward THE MOST since losing all of my music equipment and studio, my home, and a family member in the fires. Supporting Hawai'i artists and art facilities, programs, and events are crucial to the healing of not only the Lāhainā and Kula communities but across all of Hawai'i.

Please take into consideration how important art is to all of us Hawai'i creatives as you make a decision that will affect us all.

Mahalo for your time!

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:28:57 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Weissman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Arts are critical to an informed, educated society. The proposed elimination of a source of funding for the arts will be damaging far past the perceived savings of a limited viewpoint, at a time where more funds, not less, is critical to the survival of many small (and large) arts organizations.

Mahalo for your attention,

Paul Weissman

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:29:51 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Kaleikini	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Nicholas Kaleikini, a musician and supporter of the arts, and I strongly oppose HB1807. We should not be taking away funds from any of our creative and cultural communities. Art brings people together in a positive and healthy environment. It allows for young imaginations to wonder about the world. It allows for older imaginations to help bring perspective and admiration in a chaotic world. I have first hand seen the impact of art on our communities from a young child and it has been immensely positive. My grandfather started his foundation, the Danny Kaleikini Foundation, to help our creative community because it is underserved. I spent 8 years directing the POW! WOW! School of Music without being paid a dime because I know how little free programs are available for our keiki to learn music. Consider the POW! WOW! Festival itself and how much of a positive impact it had on the Kaka'ako community. This bill aims to suppress funds for something positive for not only community, but for our children. There is no reason to defund such programs and if you support this, you support a darker future for our children. What a shame that would be, especially when a state flaunts itself as a supporter and promoter of the arts and culture.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:30:44 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Higa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi, my name is Jordan Higa and I am a designer, illustrator and artist born and raised in Honolulu, HI. As an advocate for the Arts in Public Spaces program, I oppose Bill HI807, which threatens to cut its funding. This program is a cornerstone of our community, that has enriched my and so many other's lives. Cutting its funding would deprive individuals of important cultural experiences and undermine the economic and social benefits the arts bring to Hawaii. I implore lawmakers to reject Bill HI807 and instead prioritize investments in the arts, safeguarding our cultural heritage and fostering community unity for generations to come. Thank you.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:30:55 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Kaaumoana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1807.

Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature:

I am strongly opposed to HB 1807. The SFCA functions extraordinarily well and is a point of pride for Hawaii. Please do not cut funding for our artists and art organizations. Do not remove the dreams of children.

Respectfully, Piia M. Aara

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 11:07:40 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isabela Ure	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in opposition of HB 1807

February 13, 2024

Room 309, 10:30am

Chair Adrian K. Tam, Vice Rose Martinez, and members of the Culture, Arts and International Affairs Committee,

I am testifying in strong opposition of HB 1807,

Relating to the Works of Art Special Fund. Please do not pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Isabela Ure

House District 60

Senate District 30

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 11:16:51 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Winslow	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Any funds that can be drawn from to support the Arts are still desperately needed. These funds are not only used to stockpile artworks, but to manage and curate the arts. The Arts are a draw tourism within and outside of the state of Hawaii.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 11:21:31 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nancy young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Attacking the arts? What is all this about. Living in Lahaina, I know all too well how sadly the loss of cultural and artistic icons affects all of are collective ohana.

I was responsible for getting a grant from SFCA to place a sculpture at Lahainaluna in 2019. The entire process was uplifting and positive for our school. Don't take funding away from the arts. Do the opposite and increase funding so we will see art throughout our communities and will thereby solidify our values of collaboration, cooperation, empathy, and resiiance in the face of loss, in good times and in bad

Shame Shame on you guys.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 11:54:27 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean-Joseph T.K. Choo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Representatives and CAI members,

I respectfully ask you trash this. Cutting funding that many artists and art organizations rely on to help supplement ongoing programming could potentially be devastating. While I appreciate the logic of this bill and highlighting the redundancy, I believe the repercussions of having this edit move forward may cause more issues than good. Perhaps more shaping of this bill needs to occur, or reshaping.

While there may be a surplus of art and no need to acquire more, I do believe there is an ongoing need and obligation for collective support of art that speaks to us on our terms, for us, here in Hawai'i, free of any sullyng of commercial/tourist kine connections. It is challenging enough to make do as an independent artist, speaking for myself and many other folx. How much more support is there needed for funding art and artists!

Mahalo for your time and consideration and work on all the things you folx do.

Peace,

Sean

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:07:38 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Train	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill because this bill would cut over 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide. Local arts organizations and artists rely on the Art in Public Places program to support workshops, education, and exhibitions. The State of Hawaii has been a leader in the country by being one of the first states to create the 1% law and it is one of the few avenues for support of arts and culture.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:14:51 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mistee Uyehara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB 1807

We absolutely need as much support as can for our artists, creatives and arts organizations here in Hawai'i!! HB1807 would be incredibly harmful in cutting an estimated 68% of the Arts in Public Places Programs and also would be taking away such needed support for so many creative programs, arts organizations and individual artists.

As an artist living here on Oahu, I have experienced and seen how much support is needed for our artists and creative community and how much of that support can affect an individual's life (and well-being!) with the programs, opportunities and support. I strongly oppose HB1807, let's please continue to support and advocate for our artists and creative community here across the islands!!

Mahalo,

Mistee Uyehara

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:45:27 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Chimera	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear legislators,

HB1807 creates a catastrophic domino impact on the State Foundation for Culture and the Arts. It will end support for Professional Development for all DOE teachers, 13 art centers and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaii/Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs which are just a few of the impacts this bill brings. As an established Hawaii-born visual artist raising a 10 year old in public school, I can't underscore the importance of arts educations for professionals teaching our children.

Mahalo,

Melissa Chimera

Honokaa, HI

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 1:08:24 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nalani Sato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom This May Concern,

As we all know, it is crucial to know where we have come from to know where our trajectory is aimed. Art has served as a means to document, record and remember; And it is almost solely through the preservation of art that we have any means to recollect the triumphs as well as the mistakes humanity has encountered throughout history. The cave paintings in Lascaux, France are some of the earliest depictions of daily life that we have to understand life from the Upper Paleolithic era 12,000 - 50,000 years ago. The reliefs carved into the walls of the great Pyramids of Egypt are the only means by which we are able to recollect what occurred 6,000 years ago. Greek and Roman mythology may not have survived had it not been for the massive sculptures of their deities as well as the architectural marvels which were their places of worship.

As we know, the history of Hawai‘i was an oral one. One that survives so long as the Hawaiian people do. However, in order to assure the perpetuation of the ture story of the Hawaiian people as well as these modern times, we need art. We need not only the art, but also museums, public spaces and the people and organizations whom are committed to keeping those historical articulations safe. SFCA is a shining example of just that. Those spaces and people are the historical education and assurance this generation and those to come will have to know their trajectory.

Please do not repeal capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.

Sincerely,

Nalani Sato

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 1:36:40 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's been a source of pride to have art in government buildings. The art special fund also does much more. Cutting this would be a shame for our civilized state. Please don't pass this. Mahalo

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 2:11:35 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mericia Palma Elmore	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 3:39:07 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rexann Dubiel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support HB1807 relating to Artists in the Schools No cut in funding, please.

Keep this wonderful program, AITS in place. In fact, I believe it should receive more funding so more students are able to experience the arts.

My third grade students have greatly benefited from the AITS Puppetry residency in which they have participated for the past three years!

Art must be integral to a healthy, full, and complete public school education!

Do not cut funding and deprive my students of an experience that lifts their spirits, supports the arts, and is vital to their academic education, as well. It is an across the curriculum activity.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 5:04:43 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Ellinwood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Arts organizations rely on government funding to stay afloat, and to keep their work accessible to all members of society. If there is a surplus of artwork for state buildings, then the Art in Public Places funds could be put to other uses, such as supporting public performances. Reducing the funding is not the answer.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 5:36:45 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ewa Moscicka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. The Art Special Fund is a crucial lifeline for dozens of institution and individuals that make the Hawaii art scene vibrant and diverse.

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:15:38 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judy Sobin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support of culture and arts is a vital part of the social fabric of our Hawaii. The integration of art and culture in every day life makes us who we are and who we want to be. Physical beauty in our buildings also contributes to the wealth brought in from tourism. Do not pass this bill!

HB-1807

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:56:02 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Chang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable State Legislators,

Hawai'i's 1% fund for the arts, the first of its kind in the US, was a landmark and pioneering creation by Hawai'i lawmakers, acknowledging the essential value of arts and culture across Hawai'i, together with the need for the state to fund support of arts and culture on a regular and consistent basis. The core idea that underpins this fund has since been reproduced by many US states and territories, most recently on Guam. In this way, Hawai'i has been a leader in this field, with community and legislative thinking ahead of its time.

Beyond simply collecting artwork that sustains the economy of Hawai'i's artists (both emerging and world-renowned), the SFCA has over many years created opportunities for artmaking and engagement across the state, from funding teaching artists in schools statewide, to supporting a public museum with free access and engagement.

Art is a tool for creative expression, cultural understanding, and personal/community healing. I have been supporting efforts on Maui for cultural resource recovery after the wildfires, and it is clear that arts and artmaking can assist with coping, communication, and improve mental health.

Hawai'i needs more support for the arts and artists statewide. Repealing/transferring funding from one arts entity to support another effort is not the solution. Please do not try to solve one problem while creating another. SFCA's existence and work is vital, and its work will improve and expand given the resources. If you as legislators value the importance and impact of arts and culture in this state, I implore you to again demonstrate the brave, brilliant, and world-leading thinking that created the 1% fund and apply it to this moment; to be aspirational in creating abundant support for arts and culture, for all of Hawai'i.

Aloha nō,

Eric Chang

President, Hawai'i Museums Association