

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 10:29:18 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Kean	Hawaii State Art Museum	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Gates, Chair, House Committee for Culture, Arts, and International Affairs,

I do not support HB777. HB777 effectively eliminates art acquisitions and interpretive work, including art education portions for Artists in the Schools, Art Bento and HiSAM public programming.

As a current teaching artist in these programs, I witness firsthand the value they offer in fostering creative and critical thinking in the youth of Hawaii. We need the Arts more than ever in the current climate of COVID, distance learning and the affects it has on our children. We teach our students how to think critically and express their emotions and creative voices through artmaking and verbal response. We weave Social Emotional Learning into our lessons, providing much needed support for our children in these trying times. I strongly oppose HB777, thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion.

Aloha,

Steven Kean

Public Testimony: HB777

Professor Michael D Marshall, UH Hilo Art Department
February 15, 2021

The bill ***RELATING TO WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND (HB777)*** would create a negative spiral; a ratcheting down of economic potential, generated through the arts in K-12 public and private schools, in our university, community college campuses, and non-profit art / performance venues statewide.

Americans for the Arts¹, the national non-profit for advancing the arts across the United States since 1960, and Oregon's Regional Arts and Culture Council, in their economic report of non-profit arts and cultural organizations in the greater Portland area², provide broad national context for the important work that has been diligently undertaken by the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

Work by the SFCA, including and not limited to: art acquisition and interpretive works, Artists in the Schools, the Art Bento museum education program serving O'ahu public and charter schools grades 2-6), and Hawaii State Art Museum public programming, serve to humanize our collective public space and experience through Music, Performance, and Art.

As a geographically isolated outer island, our students did not have reasonable access to original contemporary artworks in the collections, exhibitions, and events of the Honolulu Academy of Art (recently reorganized and renamed) Honolulu Museum, and the Hawaii State Art Museum (HiSAM). Outer island outreach by the SFCA has made continuous improvements in this regard, over time.

Inception of the UHH Art Department regional PSBN project in 1982, with infusion of SFCA Biennium Grants until about 2006 were very instrumental in helping our modest program firmly establish the Pacific States Biennial Print (PSBN) exhibition series, which alternated with the UHH Pacific Rim International Biennial until 2009. Works from our exhibitions, approved for acquisition for the SFCA - Relocatable Art Collection program, completed a cycle of support for faculty, student, and community engagement.

The UH Hilo Art Department Baccalaureate studio, exhibition, or Artist in Residence series, would clearly not be what it is today, without early support from SFCA art project grants, and the continuing support of the Relocatable Art Fund.

1

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/reports-and-data/research-studies-publications/arts-economic-prosperity-iv/faq#t208n3576>

² <https://racc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Arts-Economic-Prosperty-5.pdf>

If spending (as noted by UHH Economics Professor emeritus, David Hammes) assumes a multiplier of 1.5 for every project dollar expended, our program, through its combination of self funded project monies, grants, and endowment for Artist in Residence and exhibitions since 2012 has returned nearly \$220,000 back into the local economy.³ Our current capacity was grounded with early support from the SFCA.

I have been personally, and directly engaged since 1984, and can testify to the extraordinary positive effect of the long partnership with SFCA for our modest Baccalaureate program. As a member of the UH Hilo faculty and as a volunteer in service at various points in time with the East Hawaii Cultural Center, Volcano Art Center, and as a Visual Art Consultant - that, SFCA support for the Arts in this community over the years has been profound.

Rather than cutting support, SFCA in partnership with Hawai'i Contemporary might embrace Hawaii island as a visiting Artist-In-Residence (A.I.R.) and retreat hub - in partnership with the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, UH Hilo and HawCC Art Department, UHH Performing Art Center, Volcano Art Center, Wailoa Center, Kahilu Theater, and the Donkey Mill Art Center.

As an A.I.R retreat destination for international Artist/ Research scholars (e.g. Fulbright International), whose first qualification hurdle would be certification of grant funded research support, would be a Blue Zone value added opportunity.

The Arts (visual and performative) are a relatively clean and perpetually renewable industry that basically require an appropriate physical space and material, for artists to go about developing their work, and a place to reside for the duration of their residency project.

The proposed reduction in the 1 percent for Arts allocation for SFCA Culture and Arts programming, will irreparably damage and reduce opportunities that have been patiently developed, nurtured, and sustained over time, and will do little to envision a brighter future for the keiki of Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Professor Michael D. Marshall, University of Hawaii at Hilo

³ UHH Art Department White Paper Powerpoint

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 5:01:33 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Raymond	Donkey Mill Art Center	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE Bills **HB777**, **SB656** and **HB1299**.

During an economic crisis while our economy suffers is the time to invest in the arts, our culture and especially our education and educators. As a full time resident in Kona I have seen how the impact of public art and art education for teachers and children impact our local community, economically, culturally, mentally, physically and emotionally. While property value goes up by 100k for many in Kona during this pandemic 2020-2021. Not to mention with a massive rise of newcomers during this pandemic it will wash our sense of place and culture rapidly.

Arts, Culture & Education is YOUR priority to us as residents to better prepare our next generation and for economic growth mindset.

Music uplifts the spirit and visual arts leaves visual poetic residue in our minds to be inspired by, to have hope, and to become more thoughtful and develop CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS and OUTSIDE OF THE BOTH INNOVATIVE IDEAS. Public art makes a beautiful place available for *ALL while establishing a sense of place*. For economic reasons it has been *proven* to be inviting to visitors, raise the value of homes and successfully sell homes when arts & culture is a *participant*. Studies have shown it boosts local economies, business supply material, labor, restaurants, hotels and transportation companies benefit from a site that attracts visitors.

Here on the Big Island we grossly lack public art and it looks like a Florida strip mall in Kona. No sense of place. Art feeds the economy both in tourism and our culture. Crime goes down when we manage the 'broken window' effect. It sends a message that our government, our community and it's system, cares about our people. It has been *proven* when we invest in our elementary schools there are less incarcerations in our prison system.

We rely mainly on tourism as we experienced in the market crash of 2008 and 2020. To not invest in beautification, culture, sustainability and become a collaborative bridge to the global world in innovative new fields, lacks a creative mindset. Art and culture can do *ALL* these things. I urge you to research the impact on the economy through arts and culture before you take the already small funding we proudly have for our people and our economy.

Your beautiful clothes, jewelry, appliances, antiques, furniture, books, movies, architectural buildings, computers and smartphones were made by the hands and minds of artists!

Mahalo in advance for your malama pono for protecting any financial cuts to our Arts, Culture and Educational funding.

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 8:48:10 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Pollock	Ebb & Flow Arts	Oppose	No

Comments:

We are opposed to any reduction in funds for the Arts in Hawai'i by our state government.

The covid-19 pandemic has brought our arts community, particularly the performing arts, to its knees. It would be an absolutely sociopathic move to cut arts funding when we are down.

Now more than ever our state government must exhibit vision. The Arts keep our souls and spirits alive. Where would we all be as humans without a vibrant and thriving arts community? We would become less than human. The Arts are needed more than ever.

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 12:42:08 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margo Ray	Kahilu Theatre	Oppose	No

Comments:

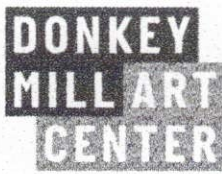
To the Hawai'i State Legislature,

Please accept this written testimony opposing bill HB777. As the Exhibition Coordinator at Kahilu Theatre and lifelong resident of Hawai'i I have experienced firsthand the importance and vital support system that The Arts in Public Places program plays in the careers of professional artists and cultural practitioners as well as the galleries and institutions that exhibit their artwork. Having had artwork purchased by the SFCA from the Kahilu Theatre galleries has helped to sustain and grow the visual arts program that we are developing here in the rural South Kohala district of Hawai'i Island. Our galleries provide one of the few opportunities for visual artists to exhibit their work outside of the commercial gallery circuit, nurturing the important roles that artist play in the community. The SFCA's Art in Public Places has been a huge part of making this happen.

The collection itself is a cultural treasure and archive of Hawai'i's unique culture and history and enriches the lives of the millions of people that get to view these works of arts in public places throughout the State. The arts are not a luxury, but a necessary component to a healthy and thriving community. Now more than ever after living through the Covid Pandemic, the people of Hawai'i need the arts and arts institutions to help heal from this time of crisis. This past year has also been a time of reflection on the fragility of our tourist reliant economy. Being engaged in the arts help to generate fresh ideas and ways of thinking about how to make our economy and communities more resilient. Please reconsider cutting funding to this vital program.

Respectfully,

Margo Ray



February 15, 2021

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
Hawai'i State Legislature

Re: Testimony in Opposition to HB777

Dear Representatives Gates and Committee Members,

I do NOT support HB777 as it would severely impact the ability of the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) to continue its many programs that benefit communities across the state through the Works of Art Special Fund. The Works of Art Special Fund is the legacy of Alfred Preis, the architect who designed the Arizona Memorial and served as SFCA's first executive director.

The arts are integral to the well being of communities. The impact of COVID-19 has made this all the more starkly clear. Art is a bridge that connects all ages and abilities, fosters intergenerational connection and opens hearts and minds. Art teaches essential survival skills particularly needed in these changing times, including critical thinking, collaboration, empathy and creative problem solving.

HB777 would cause irreversible harm to SFCA's ability to continue many of its programs, including:

- art acquisitions and interpretive work: a lifeline for artists and audiences alike, as it provides access to works of arts and culture that define our collective sense of identity. Hawai'i is a rapidly changing place and it is through arts and culture that we grasp understanding and build community to develop a shared sense of stewardship for our island home.
- Artists in the Schools and Art Bento: programs that bring teaching artists into the DOE system, addressing a need that the DOE has been unable to internally meet. HB777's proposed cuts deeply expose the wound of the DOE's overall lack of arts education funding. Arts education in Hawai'i's public schools has long been in triage mode. HB777 is a direct attack upon teaching artists, essentially caregivers at the front line, delivering quality education to Hawai'i's children.

The Donkey Mill Art Center is a direct beneficiary of several SFCA programs, including Biennium Grants that brings art exhibitions and visiting artists to our rural community; and Artists in the Schools. Currently, our teaching artists are a lifeline for DOE teachers and families struggling to find a sense of continuity in this disruptive time of the pandemic. National research study findings demonstrate the clear, positive impacts of art education on children's academic skills, classroom behavior, and English language proficiency for ELL students. The proposed cuts of HB777 combined with the current lack of Grant-in-Aid funding are a double threat to our ability to serve the community of West Hawai'i.

HB777 would cut over 50% of revenue for the Works of Art Special Fund. This is unacceptable for a state that prides itself on the rich history and talent of its diverse community. The survival of our sense of community, the quality of education for our children, and the exploration and celebration of our diverse cultural identities that make up our population, are all at stake here. Creative expression and cultural identity are, throughout history to present day, subject to attack, commodification and being silenced. Please do not mute the voices of our vibrant arts community. I am strongly opposed to HB777.

I understand that our Legislators face many difficult decisions at this time. Thank you for your hard work and commitment to represent and serve the people of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,


Maja (Clark) Grajski

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 4:10:51 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Eve Solomon	Garden Island Arts Council & Kauai Society of Artists	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please continue works of art special fund appropriations for capital renovations. Hawaii artists need support and the public needs their art for inspiration, comfort and pride.

I am a veteran board member of the Garden Island Arts Council and the Kauai Society of Artists; both reliant on HSFCA funding for their popular programs and exhibits. I am a voter from the Eastside of Kauai.



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**TESTIMONY OF
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. CR 329 via Videoconference
H. B. 777
RELATING TO WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND**

Chair Cedric Asuega Gates and members of the Committee, I am Jonathan Johnson, Executive Director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), and I am grateful the opportunity to testify **OPPOSING** H. B. 777.

The percent-for-art law was created in 1967 based on the intrinsic relationship between art and architecture, where art is included as an essential part of Hawaii’s architectural plan. Hawaii was the first state in the nation to adopt a percent-for-art law where 1% of the construction appropriation is set aside for art in State buildings. The 1989 revision to the law designating 1% appropriations from both construction and renovation provides a consistent funding base to carry out the intent of the Works of Art Special Fund outlined in HRS 103-8.5. Removing “renovation” from the law would end the SFCA’s ability to fulfill that obligation.

Together, 1% appropriations from construction and renovation enable SFCA to carry out statewide program operations including acquisition and distribution of works of art, conservation of an aging exterior public art collection, interpretation of the collection (including the operations of the Hawaii State Art Museum and applicable portions of the Artists in the Schools program) and recognition of student artwork. On average, renovation funds account for an estimated 58% of the percent-for-art revenue and operations account for 76% of the appropriation. If “renovation” were deleted from the law, the majority of program operations would end.

Revenues from qualifying renovations to the Works of Art Special Fund average roughly \$2.5M per year. The three-year average income to the fund was \$4,783,254 and the three-year expenditure averages \$4,403,420. The Works of Art Special Fund, year-to-date, has received an income of only \$15,520 for FY2021 because the percent-for-art law is, in a way, self-limiting. If State construction and renovation is cut by 40%, then funding for the Works of Art Special Fund is cut by 40% and SFCA will have made a significant sacrifice to help stabilize the State’s finances. We understand the shortages faced by the State caused by the pandemic, but repurposing this amount will not significantly impact the progress in dealing with the backlog of renovations to State buildings, yet it would have dire consequences for the State, halting culture and arts work in communities already suffering from the impact of the pandemic.

Works of Art Special Fund S-319	FY 17-18	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21 (as of 1-31-21)
1% Revenue (actual)	7,584,288.25	3,680,929.93	3,084,544.00	15,520.00
Total Expenses	4,003,645.42	4,329,333.25	4,575,636.76	5,000,000 e.
Appropriation	4,508,223.00	4,508,223.00	5,573,625.00	5,573,625.00

The arts sector is one of the hardest hit by the pandemic. In Hawaii, 59% of creative workers were made unemployed by COVID-19. Any investment in infrastructure, community and workforce recovery must include the creative economy. Creative workers can support Hawaii's economic recovery. In a climate where other state governments have rallied around the creative sector with additional funding, this legislation is counter to that end. The arts are a place-based economic driver, supporting jobs, generating government revenue and providing cultural resources for residents of all ages. With a reduction of State funds, SFCA's overall support of Hawaii's cultural legacy would significantly change, negatively impacting the creative landscape of Hawaii, the visitor industry, and the quality of life of Hawaii's people.

SFCA develops and maintains policies and procedures for administering the Works of Art Special Fund as authorized by section 103-8.5, HRS. Maintaining a fund balance equal or greater than the legislative appropriation is necessary to ensure solvency as legislative appropriations are from the fund balance. SFCA is an effective manager of the percent-for-art funds, from both construction and renovation capital improvements, and the Art in Public Places program contributes significantly to making Hawaii a better place to live, work and visit.

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

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 7:25:49 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Mitsuda	Hawai'i Craftsmen	Oppose	No

Comments:

To the House Committee on Culture Arts and International Affairs,

My name is Mark Mitsuda. I am the current president of Hawaii Craftsmen and a high school art educator. I've been president at Hawai'i Craftsmen for the last five years, an art educator in the state of Hawai'i for the last 20 years, and a glass artist for the last 30 years.

I am concerned about bill HB777, relating to works of art special fund. Complete elimination of 1% of capital improvements to this fund will directly impact the ability of the State Foundation on the Culture and Arts to acquire art work. This not only impacts local artists and their ability to make a living in the creative field but also organizations such as Hawai'i Craftsmen and our ability to support artists through programs like Hawai'i Craftsmen's Annual Statewide Juried Exhibition.

The Annual Statewide Juried Exhibition is a program that supports local artists and artwork. The Annual Exhibition brings in nationally recognized museum curators from around the country to select art work from around the state for inclusion in the show as well as the awards of recognition.

For over fifty years the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts has purchased work from this highly curated show. These purchases have directly supported local artists financially. Additionally, the sales of art work provides Hawai'i Craftsmen with a vital income stream to finance our programs. Many of you have artwork purchased from this show in and around your offices and chambers.

The impact of the global COVID health crisis has had a devastating effect on our local economy. Hawai'i Craftsmen is currently weathering programming and financial challenges. I can only imagine what the current situation is for the state and city budgets.

It is enticing to see the arts as a luxury in comparison to the vital services and infrastructure needs of the state. As the legislature develops ways Hawai'i is to financially survive in our current economic state, I urge lawmakers to also carefully consider and balance how we are also going to live.

While we all need the police, functioning roads, etc, to survive, however the quality of life of citizens are measured by how well they live. The arts are an expression of the lives of the citizens. They are the ways in which the unique culture of the state of Hawai'i is expressed. I urge you to do what you can to protect the arts. In my experience, once support is eliminated, it rarely comes back.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Mitsuda
President, Hawai'i Craftsmen

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 1:08:25 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

[A](#)loha,

HB760 and HB777 propose cuts to the Works of Art Special Fund that will impact the Art in Public Places Program and decrease the General Funds budget, while HB777 alone proposes a 50% cut.

Art is core to a healthy society. Potential funding cuts due to these bills will negatively impact organizations like the Donkey Mill Art Center in my town which provides healthy outlet and instruction to keiki as well as adults. For our keiki, art can be an extraordinary way to express their creativity and to channel it in healthy ways that might otherwise not be available to them.

Please say "NO" to HB760 and HB777.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

kailua-kona

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 1:26:23 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
noriko donna	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Funds must be kept to support promoting art in our community. It provides sanctuary to many especially when we're faced with challenges and difficulties in everyday life.

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 2:13:11 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE Bills **HB777** along with Bills **SB656** and **HB1299**.

During an economic crisis while our economy suffers is the time to invest in the arts, our culture and especially our education and educators. As a full time resident in Kona I have seen how the impact of public art and art education for teachers and children impact our local community, economically, culturally, mentally, physically and emotionally. While property value goes up by 100k for many in Kona during this pandemic 2020-2021. Not to mention with a massive rise of newcomers during this pandemic it will wash our sense of place and culture rapidly.

Arts, Culture & Education is YOUR priority to us as residents to better prepare our next generation and for economic growth mindset.

Music uplifts the spirit and visual arts leaves visual poetic residue in our minds to be inspired by, to have hope, and to become more thoughtful and develop CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS and OUTSIDE OF THE BOTH INNOVATIVE IDEAS. Public art makes a beautiful place available for *ALL while establishing a sense of place*. For economic reasons it has been *proven* to be inviting to visitors, raise the value of homes and successfully sell homes when arts & culture is a *participant*. Studies have shown it boosts local economies, business supply material, labor, restaurants, hotels and transportation companies benefit from a site that attracts visitors.

Here on the Big Island we grossly lack public art and it looks like a Florida strip mall in Kona. No sense of place. Art feeds the economy both in tourism and our culture. Crime goes down when we manage the 'broken window' effect. It sends a message that our government, our community and it's system, cares about our people. It has been *proven* when we invest in our elementary schools there are less incarcerations in our prison system.

We rely mainly on tourism as we experienced in the market crash of 2008 and 2020. To not invest in beautification, culture, sustainability and become a collaborative bridge to the global world in innovative new fields, lacks a creative mindset. Art and culture can do *ALL* these things. I urge you to research the impact on the economy through arts and culture before you take the already small funding we proudly have for our people and our economy.

Your beautiful clothes, jewelry, appliances, antiques, furniture, books, movies, architectural buildings, computers and smartphones were made by the hands and minds of artists!

Mahalo in advance for your malama pono for protecting any financial cuts to our Arts, Culture and Educational funding.

Aloha

Maki

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 3:37:54 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Parkinson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm opposed to this bill which would reduce funding to the SFCA.

The Special Arts Fund is one of the few Legislative bright spots in Hawaii.

Don't dim the light.

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 3:55:27 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margo Ray	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To the Hawai'i State Legislature,

Please accept this written testimony opposing bill HB777. As a professional artist and lifelong resident of Hawai'i I have experienced firsthand the importance and vital support system that the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts plays in sustaining artists, art educators, cultural practitioners and arts institutions in Hawai'i. The arts are not a luxury, but a necessary component to a healthy and thriving community. Now more than ever after living through the Covid Pandemic, the people of Hawai'i need the arts, arts education and institutions to help heal from this time of crisis. This past year has also been a time of reflection on the fragility of our tourist reliant economy. Being engaged in the arts help to generate fresh ideas and ways of thinking about how to make our economy and communities more resilient. Please reconsider cutting funding to these vital programs.

Respectfully,

Margo Ray

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 6:13:47 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katherine Love	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to HB777 as this bill would cut revenues for the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. During difficult financial times it is easy to target the arts as a non-essential expense. This is precisely the wrong direction to take. The arts and support for the arts through funding is essential in order to inspire creative thinking and problem solving. Please do not reduce funding for the arts in Hawaii.

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 4:49:20 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jodi Endicott	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Gates, Chair, House Committee for Culture, Arts, and International Affairs

As a professional artist who has completed artworks commissioned by the Department of Education/Arts in Public Places program, I know firsthand that funds from any purchase or commission of art work by the SFCA goes directly back into our local economy to sustain jobs in a multitude of businesses. Art is a driver of our economy in the same way the construction industry is. We employ the same people and we have the same considerations and obligations. The businesses benefitting from a commissioned artist include attorneys, construction material suppliers, insurers, masons, photographers, social media implementers, structural engineers, students, truck drivers, welders, not to mention rental agents and utility companies. Diverting any funds from the 1% allocation to fund art would impact these companies and the jobs they create. As when a building is constructed, there is a secondary tier of impact when in use. The same is true with art. Tourists that come here to attend our art museums and public art are not consumers impacting our environment. Rather, they are the infusers of more money into our local economy as they will also spend more on specialty dining, performances, and other art-related experiences. Now is the time to create an exceptional arts experience for our residents and visitors in Hawaii.

Instead of reducing, it is time to promote our arts as a driver of our economy, a connector of our communities, to each other and the beyond. We need to be leaders expanding our arts economy to the world as was done in branding our music and food. Rather than proposing to reduce or limit, we need all of our arts funding expanded as our visual arts, film, music, and performances offer exceptional experiences, especially to international audiences. We need our leaders to submit legislation to work in tandem with our corporate and business communities to match funds and offer incentives for them place visual AND performance art in their environments. Their efforts can lead the way to making Hawaii a visual and performance arts education hub through a focus on Hawaiian culture and contemporary society. If you build this type of platform based on our arts, the world will come...in

person and on line.

Think back to how Hawaii was once a leader when we first made the 1% for the arts into law. The rest of the nation followed us. Once again, we can lead as we take this obstacle and turn it into an opportunity.

I do NOT support HB777.

- The Works of Art Special Fund is the leagacy of Alfred Preis, the architect who designed the Arizona Memorial and started the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts
- Currently, the Works of Art Special Fund receives one per cent of all state capital improvement appropriations from construction or renovation
- HB777 deletes the appropriations from capital renovations as a source of funds for the Works of Art Special Fund
- HB777 would cut over 50% of revenue for the Works of Art Special Fund
- HB777 effectively eliminates art acquisitions and interpretive work, including the art education portions of the Artists in the Schools, Art Bento and HiSAM public programming.
- Mahalo for the opportunity to express my opinion. I do not support HB777

Lets do continue this arts conversation. I welcome you to join me and a few other artists on a walkabout tour of our public art around the capital. I know we would all have much to share.

Thank you,
Jodi Endicott
Jodiendicott@gmail.com
Www.jodiendicott.com

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 9:19:05 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Walter A. Dods III	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Thank you for your time and consideration on this bill. I recently heard about HB777 and the potential changes it would make to our existing sources of funding to the arts. As someone who was born and raised in Hawaii, I've seen this state change quite a lot over the past five decades. It is still a wonderful place to live and I can't imagine living anywhere else but I have noticed that the local culture has been slipping away especially in the past 10 years. Part of what makes this place so special, in fact, a large part of what makes it so special, is the arts and culture of Hawaii. Artists have played a tremendous part in preserving our culture and passing it on to the next generation and support for the arts seems to be dwindling in these economically pressed times but I think that now is the time to be investing in the future of hawaii. Like the natural environment, once we lose Hawaii's special culture, it is something that cannot be regained in the future. Please consider allowing the state to continue funding the arts through appropriations through renovations. What seems like a smart and easy decision in the short run will end up being a terrible decision in the long run.

Mahalo for your time,

Walter

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 9:45:28 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Davis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Public art plays a vital role in perpetuating the beauty of Hawaii. Imagine how bland many government buildings and properties would be without art, including the UH campus. Art brings life to these structures. Every time there is an economic downturn, the arts are a target. Art should be celebrated - embraced, preserved and protected. Even HART sees the value of art at rail stations.

Jay Hartwell
PO Box 1199
Kamuela, HI 96743

February 15, 2021

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti, Vice Chair
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
Hawai'i State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB777

Dear Representative Gates and Representative LoPresti and Committee Members:

What happens when we lose opportunities to encourage imagination? Or to address a problem, or an emotion, visually or through music?

It hurts artists. It hurts the community they serve, and it especially hurts children and adults who should be encouraged to think and convey in multiple ways.

HB777 proposes to reduce funding for the SFCA by eliminating the One Percent set aside during renovations of state infrastructure. That would be an estimated 50 percent cut in SFCA revenues, which are used to benefit the community.

Throughout my life, artists have helped me see and engage with the world differently. They have enriched my mind and challenged my complacency about so many issues dividing our nation: including, war, racism and malnutrition.

We all know the toll that the pandemic has had on our state and its budget. But it is misguided to reduce funding to government-supported art programs and budgets that provide hope and release for Hawai'i.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our opinions.

I wish you and your staffs and families the very best in this Year of the Ox.

Sincerely,

Jay Hartwell

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 12:50:59 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adrienne Hale	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose Bill SB777. As a public school educator at Holualoa Elementary our school has built and maintained a strong partnership with Holualoa, Hawai'i's Donkey Mill Art Center. Reducing funding to Works of Art Special Fund would negatively impact community foundations like DMAC and their ability to sustain "Arts in Public Places" in our communities. DMAC has for decades fostered a sense of belonging, and cultural and community connections for the kama'aina and visitor alike. It is the arts that expresses who we are as people of these beautiful islands. King Kalakaua once said, "Hula is the language of the heart, therefore the heartbeat of the Hawaiian people." I believe this can be said of all forms of art for all people. It connects us. It expresses who we are. All of Hawai'i's people deserve the enrichment that the arts bring to our lives. Support the arts and Hawai'i's communities by voting against Bill SB777.

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 1:05:26 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Yoell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

02/15/2021

To the Hawai'i State Legislature,

Please accept this written testimony opposing bill SB777. As a professional artist and resident of Hawai'i I have experienced firsthand the importance and vital support system that The Arts in Public Places program plays in the careers of professional artists and cultural practitioners as well as the galleries and institutions that exhibit their artwork. The collection itself is a cultural treasure and archive of Hawai'i's unique culture and history and enriches the lives of the millions of people that get to view these works of arts in public places throughout the State. Our public school system is already struggling and bill SB777 also proposes to make cuts to the Artists in the Schools, Art Bento (a museum education program serving O'ahu public and charter school's grades 2-6) and Hawaii State Art Museum public programming. The arts are not a luxury, but a necessary component to a healthy and thriving community. Now more than ever after living through the Covid Pandemic, the people of Hawai'i need the arts and arts institutions to help heal from this time of crisis. This past year has also been a time of reflection on the fragility of our tourist reliant economy. Being engaged in the arts help to generate fresh ideas and ways of thinking about how to make our economy and communities more resilient. Please reconsider cutting funding to this vital program.

Respectfully,

Scott Yoell

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 1:12:01 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Karjala	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing today to OPPOSE HB 777. The minute amount of funds that this would supposedly save in the renovations of projects is a minor line item to the amount of \$10,000 on a \$1mil project. The funds help to support artistic creation, innovation, and develop a part of our society that is sorely lacking. Please do not strip yet another possible funding source from our arts community.

Regards,

Patrick Karjala

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 1:17:00 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Setsuko Morinoue	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear House Representatives,

I strongly OPPOSE Bills **HB777**

During an economic crisis while our economy suffers is the time to invest in the arts, our culture and especially our education and educators. As a full time resident in Kona I have seen how the impact of public art and art education for teachers and children impact our local community, economically, culturally, mentally, physically and emotionally. While property value goes up by 100k for many in Kona during this pandemic 2020-2021. Not to mention with a massive rise of newcomers during this pandemic it will wash our sense of place and culture rapidly.

Arts, Culture & Education is YOUR priority to us as residents to better prepare our next generation and for economic growth mindset.

Music uplifts the spirit and visual arts leaves visual poetic residue in our minds to be inspired by, to have hope, and to become more thoughtful and develop CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS and OUTSIDE OF THE BOTH INNOVATIVE IDEAS. Public art makes a beautiful place available for *ALL while establishing a sense of place*. For economic reasons it has been *proven* to be inviting to visitors, raise the value of homes and successfully sell homes when arts & culture is a *participant*. Studies have shown it boosts local economies, business supply material, labor, restaurants, hotels and transportation companies benefit from a site that attracts visitors.

Here on the Big Island we grossly lack public art and it looks like a Florida strip mall in Kona. No sense of place. Art feeds the economy both in tourism and our culture. Crime goes down when we manage the 'broken window' effect. It sends a message that our government, our community and it's system, cares about our people. It has been *proven* when we invest in our elementary schools there are less incarcerations in our prison system.

We rely mainly on tourism as we experienced in the market crash of 2008 and 2020. To not invest in beautification, culture, sustainability and become a collaborative bridge to the global world in innovative new fields, lacks a creative mindset. Art and culture can do *ALL* these things. I urge you to research the impact on the economy through arts and culture before you take the already small funding we proudly have for our people and our economy.

Your beautiful clothes, jewelry, appliances, antiques, furniture, books, movies, architectural buildings, computers and smartphones were made by the hands and minds of artists!

Mahalo in advance for your malama pono for protecting any financial cuts to our Arts, Culture and Educational funding.

Aloha

Setsuko Morinoue

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 1:22:28 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eileen K Nanni	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha House Representatives,

I strongly OPPOSE Bills **HB777**, .

During an economic crisis while our economy suffers is the time to invest in the arts, our culture and especially our education and educators. As a full time resident in Kona, born and raised in Holualoa Village, I have seen how the impact of public art and art education for teachers and children impact our local community, economically, culturally, mentally, physically and emotionally. While property value goes up by 100k for many in Kona during this Covid-19 pandemic 2020-2021. Necessary to be mentioned, with a massive rise of newcomers during this pandemic it can and will blur our sense of place and culture rapidly.

Arts, Culture & Education is YOUR priority to us as residents to better prepare our next generation and for economic growth mindset.

Music uplifts the spirit and visual arts leaves visual poetic imprint on our minds to which inspiration, hope, and to gain more thoughtful CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS and OUTSIDE OF THE BOX INNOVATIVE IDEAS. Public art makes a beautiful place and setting critically available for **ALL while establishing a sense of association to "place"**. For economic reasons it has been *proven* to be very inviting to visitors, raise the value of homes and successfully sell homes when arts & culture is a integral *participant of the local social environment*. Studies have shown it boosts local economies, i.e., businesses large and small, labor, restaurants, hotels and transportation companies all benefit from a site that attracts visitors.

Here on the Big Island, we profusely lack public art and many locations are looking like a California strip mall, here in Kona. No sense of place. The Arts feeds the economy both in tourism and in our culture. Crime goes down when we manage the 'broken window' effect. It sends a message that our government, our community and it's system, cares about our people. It has been *proven* when we invest in our elementary schools there is less incarcerations in our prison system.

Art and culture can reconstruct our local communities and not to invest in beautification, culture sustainability and become a collaborative bridge to the global world in innovative new fields attached to the general increase of GDP in the Hawaiian Islands. I urge you to research the impact on the economy through arts and culture before you take the already small funding we proudly have for our people and our economy.

Additional noteworthy reality: Your beautiful clothes, jewelry, appliances, antiques, furniture, books, movies, architectural buildings, computers and smartphones were made by the hands and minds of artists!

Mahalo in advance for your malama pono for protecting any financial cuts to our Arts, Culture and Educational funding.

Aloha nui loa,

Eileen Kiyoko Nanni

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 2:11:45 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenny Endo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Gates, Chair, House Committee for Culture, Arts, and International Affairs,

My name is Kenny Endo, taiko artist and Artistic Director of Taiko Center of the Pacific, Honolulu, HI.

I do not support HB777 as it would reduce or eliminate funds needed for arts facilities and affect programs such as Artists in the Schools, Art in Public Places, and Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Furthermore, relegating all funds to General Funds reduces the chance for all sectors to receive funding, as this creates competition among the various deserving applicants.

Performing and visual arts are an essential part of our culture and are not simply for entertainment or esthetic purposes. The arts have the potential to heal, inspire, and change our society. I don't support HB777. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kenny Endo

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 3:02:55 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
katherine kazlauskas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As an artist and an educator I oppose this bill being passed because it diverts much needed funding away from artists and public programming for the arts.

Sincerely,

Katherine Kazlauskas

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 9:46:26 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharon Tasaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

Please oppose HB777 that deletes as a source of funds for the works of art special fund appropriations for capital renovations.

Since many state buildings need or will need capital renovations now and in the future, cutting support for art for these buildings opens the path for art to be deleted or severely reduced as part of the our state's legacy, heritage, and future. The arts support and celebrate who we are as a people and community, our collective histories and cultures, and the issues that are important to all of us in Hawai'i. The art special fund also supports artists and arts organizations that make significant contributions to the balance and wellness of our society as a whole.

Art can inspire, refresh, and bring joy or contemplation to a building or environment. We have all noticed how uplifting a bright mural in a public school or office can be for the students, teachers, workers, and community. Please continue to fully support the art special funds appropriations for capital renovations.

Please continue to support the model of previous legislation that has put Hawai'i first in the nation to enact the Art in State Buildings Law.

From the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Art's website:

In 1967, Hawai'i became the first state in the nation to adopt a percent-for-art law with the enactment of the Art in State Buildings Law, which designating one percent of construction costs of new buildings for the acquisition of works of art, either by commission or purchase. The purpose of the law is to beautify and humanize our state buildings and increase public access to the arts. In 1989, State Legislature of Hawai'i created the Works of Art Special Fund, expanding upon the provisions of the Art in State Buildings Law to include having works of art available to all state public places. Added to the source of revenues was one percent of the renovation costs to state capital improvement projects.

Our legislators were the pioneers in recognizing the importance of art to the human spirit and development. Today, there are over 300 public art programs nationwide at the federal, state and county levels.

Since the passage of the percent-for-art law, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts has acquired works for the Art in Public Places Collection from artists (local and international) and from juried/curated exhibits across the state of Hawai'i, selected by committees and qualified experts. These works of art enhance the physical environment of state buildings while providing educational visual arts opportunities to the public through the Art in Public Places Program.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Sharon Tasaka

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 10:52:24 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily McIlroy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As an artist and art educator in the State of Hawaii since 2008, I highly oppose cutting revenues that would lead to the elimination of art acquisitions and educational and public outreach programs. I have worked for Artists in the Schools, Art Bento, and HiSAM public art programming for many years, and can testify to the importance and value of these offerings in our community.

As art critic and activist Brian Holmes states, it is through art and its various expressions that "we reach the scale of intimacy, of skin, of shared heartbeats and feelings, the scale that goes from families and lovers to people together on a street corner, in a sauna, a living room or a cafe."

How could we possibly, in today's current social and political climate, afford to cut, reduce, or eliminate any pathways towards this coming together of hearts and bodies? To do so would be to sever the most powerful lifelines of our connectedness--of our humanness--and therefore the core of what sustains us as individuals and as a community.

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 11:58:29 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chizuko Endo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support HB777 as it would greatly negatively affect needed funds for programs such as Artists in the Schools, Art Bento, and Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Relegating all funds to General Funds will creates competition among the various deserving applicants and disproportionately assign funds, particularly to those in the arts.

Programs such as "Artists in the Schools," "Art Bento," and Hawaii State Art Museum public programmiing have been a life-giving source of creative and analytical thought sources.

Bill HB777 would detrimentally affect arts programs in our state. I do NOT support HB777. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chizuko Endo

Taiko Arts Center

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 12:44:48 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pag-ibig Ara Laylo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB777

TESTIMONY -TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS -H. B. 777

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. CR 329 via Videoconference

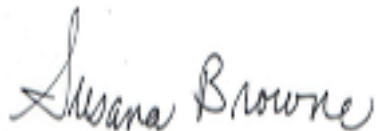
RELATING TO WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND

Chair Cedric Asuega Gates and members of the Committee, I am Susan Browne, a commissioner for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), and I am grateful the opportunity to testify OPPOSING H. B. 777.

I have been working in arts education for the past 25 years and am now the Maui Field Supervisor for University of Hawai'i at Manoa's Statewide Elementary Education Program.

As you know, Hawai'i was the first state to establishment the 1% for art fund. We are a leader in the field and very proud of what those funds have been able to procure for our community. These funds support local artists and bring outstanding art into places where everyone can appreciate them. It is not necessary to go to a museum to see sculptures, paintings, and multi-media art; you can go to libraries, schools, and state parks. Not only does this fund support artists and art for appreciation, it is vital to arts education. Without these funds, the Artist in the Schools program, serving over 5,000 K-12 students per year, would be impacted. I have witnessed the joy that the arts bring into the classroom and how students and teachers thrive when the arts are part of their every day life. Please do not take these opportunities away from our families, schools, and communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify for this important funding.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Browne".

Susan Browne, Commissioner, SFCA

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 2:35:38 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Babcock	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

DO NOT delete funding for art special fund appropriations. The cultural vibrancy of Hawaii is imperative for community health and tourism. Such fund is vital support for Hawaii's artists and cultural practitioners.

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 3:00:09 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Molly Schmidt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE Bills **HB777**, **SB656** and **HB1299**.

During an economic crisis while our economy suffers is the time to invest in the arts, our culture and especially our education and educators. As a full time resident in Kona I have seen how the impact of public art and art education for teachers and children impact our local community, economically, culturally, mentally, physically and emotionally. While property value goes up by 100k for many in Kona during this pandemic 2020-2021. Not to mention with a massive rise of newcomers during this pandemic it will wash our sense of place and culture rapidly.

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 6:42:26 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kiara Womack	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a Hawai'i based artist and teaching artist; my livelihood depends on state funding. I will be financially affected by this measure, as will my colleagues. Cutting anything would be a terrible mistake; both the Hawai'i general public and the arts community will suffer.

This would affect the Hawai'i public's ability to experience high quality artwork. *Everyone* deserves the right to experience excellent art, and artists deserve to live and earn a living.

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 7:03:01 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kasey Lindley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Hawai'i State Legislature,

I am writing in opposition to bill HB777. I currently work for the Donkey Mill Art Center located in Holualoa Hawaii, and previous to this I worked for the Honolulu Theatre for Youth from 2014 to 2018. Prior to working for HTY I worked for the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. While working for SFCA I was introduced to HTY and worked very closely with SFCA during the duration of my time at HTY. I have consistently observed and experienced the many benefits that SFCA funding has on the Arts across the islands by working with each of these organizations. To say that the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts has a deeply profound impact on each and every arts organization that is granted funding from SFCA is an understatement.

I have observed incredible growth in confidence and self-empowerment, from both teachers and students alike, through the Artists in the Schools program. This is a program funded by the SFCA where Teaching Artists work with school teachers to help incorporate the Arts into core curriculum. I have read many testimonies by school teachers after they have taken an AITS professional development workshop, expressing how effective it was on student comprehension, and how some of their more challenging students were finally more engaged in class specifically because of the arts integration techniques they learned from AITS. Most interestingly, arts integration in core curriculum has been crucial for ELL students.

During Covid, the Arts have been a life-line for many in our community that have felt isolated and struggling with mental health issues related to all the uncertainty. If anything, the Arts are in need of more funding because creativity and innovation is what successfully guides communities through times of crises.

Please do not cut funding in the arts sector and the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

With deep respect and aloha,

Kasey Lindley

HB-777

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 11:04:38 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jaron Chatani	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I humbly ask you to think about the ways in our lives in which we consume art endlessly yet expect it to be provided to us for free or almost nothing. How this cultural devaluing leads young artists to be unable to sell their work at what it's worth, and possibly never be able to pursue their art as a viable career. Losing funding for public art programs will make it just that much harder to be an artist or patron in Hawaii, especially those who enjoyed the affordability of free cultural events.