



# Hautree Consulting

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## Re: **SUPPORT** for HCR112

Rep. Sean Quinlan, Chair  
Rep. Daniel Holt, Vice Chair  
Committee on Economic Development

March 29, 2022

Aloha Rep. Sean Quinlan, Chair, Rep. Daniel Holt, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

As a member of the Creative Resurgence Hui [<https://bit.ly/3DiVTra>] that met during the pandemic to advocate for the Creative Eco-system in Hawaii, I am writing to stand in **strong SUPPORT for HCR112** urging the Governor to appoint a Creative Resurgence Coordinator to the Governor's Cabinet.

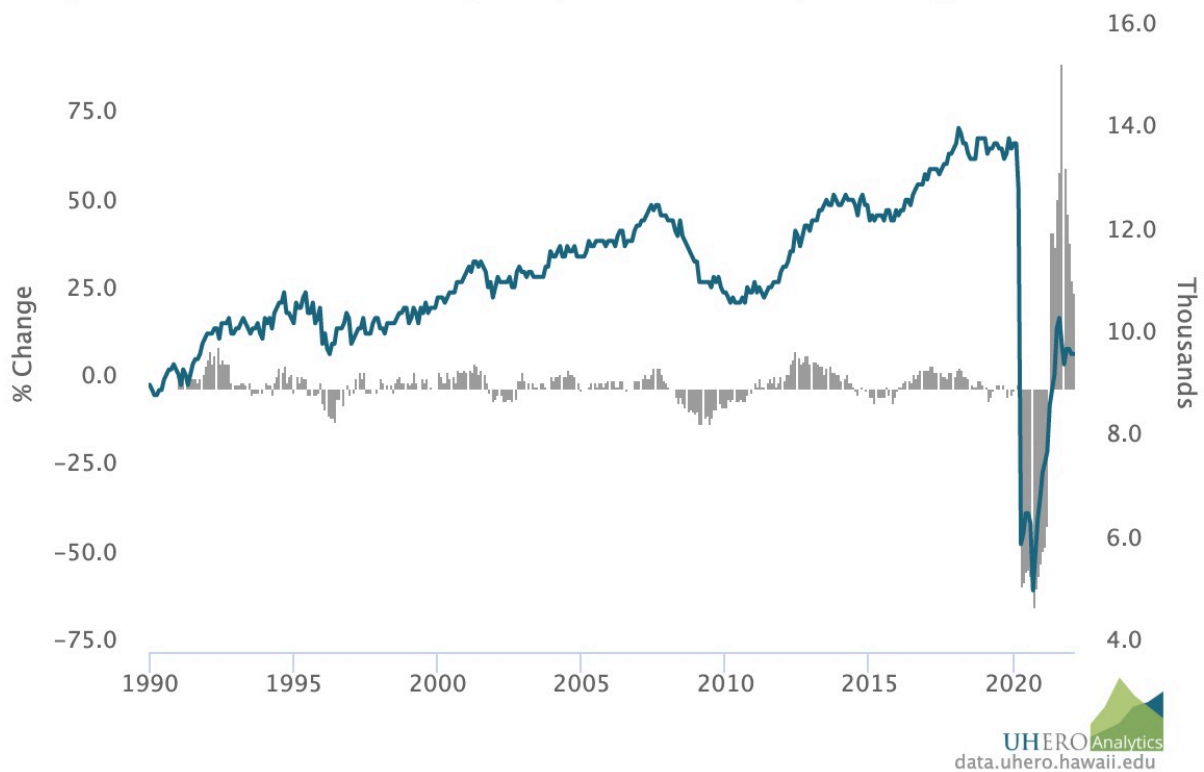
Creatives are essential workers in our society and our economy, that have helped us recover, reflect, and rebuild not only in the pandemic but continually as society moves forward. Creatives are our second responders, helping us to heal, understand and critique life events through creative programs, projects, and events. The Arts, creativity, and humanities make us stronger—as individuals, families, communities, islands, and as a state. They are the backbone of innovation, prosperity, and thriving people and places. Public funding for arts, creativity, and humanities is a high-return investment that benefits every Hawaii resident in every city, town, and rural community. Arts, creativity, and humanities are a state economic engine. They provide people with the foundation for creativity, equipping an innovative workforce, generating new ideas in every field, and keeping our nation globally competitive. Arts, creativity, and humanities strengthen economic health by creating jobs in multiple industries, driving tourism, and providing opportunities for young people. There are currently 7 Acts moving through the US Congress in support of the Creative Economy (<https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/reports-and-data/legislation-policy/legislative-issue-center/federal-creative-economy-legislation>) and we hope that the Governor will also support the Creative Eco-system in Hawai'i.

The Creative Eco-system cannot be reduced to or subsumed in Tourism; it is so much more. The Creative Eco-system begins with arts education in early childhood [EOEL] through university liberal arts programs to employment in the creative economy. The Creative Eco-system begins with the Arts Education pipeline that ensures students have access to the arts as a First Amendment right. Not everyone is wired for STEM! Arts Education, just like STEM disciplines, is needed for a well rounded education that will ensure jobs in the Creative Economy.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector contributed **\$2.6 billion** to Hawaii's economy in 2020, representing 3.1% of the state's GDP, 17,941 jobs, and total compensation of \$1.4 billion. Hawaii arts and culture value added decreased by 19% between 2019 and 2020 due to the pandemic. In addition, arts & culture employment

decreased by 24%, dropping from 23,773 to 17,941. According to the UHERO Data Portal, the arts & entertainment was the hardest hit sector and has still NOT recovered.

### Arts, Entertain. & Recreation Jobs (State of Hawaii, Monthly)



The Creative Eco-system lacks representation at the State Level. A more comprehensive, diverse view is direly needed and it is our belief that a Creative Resurgence Coordinator, who has broad experience and perspective, should be added to the Governor's Cabinet to better represent the Creative sector.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT of HCR112**,

Teri Skillman  
Hautree Consulting  
Founder/Consultant