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**TESTIMONY OF
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Wednesday, March 23, 2022/Conference Rm 329 via Videoconference
10:40am
H.C.R. 119/H.R.119**

Chair Gates and members of the Committee, I am Jonathan Johnson, Executive Director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), and we are grateful for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of H.C.R. 119/H.R.119.

H.C.R. 119 requests that the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts “provide a report on the total amount of funding expended from the Works of Art Special Fund for the curation of art produced by an individual of Native Hawaiian decent ("Native Hawaiian art"), number of Native Hawaiian art pieces acquired, percentage of all works collected through the Works of Art Special Fund that is Native Hawaiian art, cost per Native Hawaiian art piece acquired, and percentage of the cost of all works collected through the Works of Art Special Fund attributed to the cost of acquiring Native Hawaiian art.”

SFCA looks forward to providing a report as outlined by H.C.R. 119 which will address the SFCA’s efforts and support of Native Hawaiian artists. This report is important because by looking at data, we are able to make informed decisions and dispel misleading narratives that hinder progress.

To better understand the collecting practices of the SFCA, the agency contracted Native Hawaiian curators Drew Kahu`āina Broderick, Ka`ili Chun, and Kapulani Landgraf to stage an exhibition at the Hawaii State Art Museum titled *Mai ho`ohuli i ka lima i luna*. The 2020 exhibition, featured art from the Art in Public Places Collection of the SFCA by Native Hawaiian artists. The curatorial essay in response to the exhibition, helps us to better understand where we have been, and where we are going in recognizing and honoring Kānaka artists. I encourage you to read the full essay which can be found here: https://sfca.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Mai-ho%CA%BBohuli-i-ka-lima-i-luna_Curators-Statement.pdf

Currently, the Hawaii State Art Museum (HiSAM) is one of the host sites for the Hawai`i Triennial 2022 *Pacific Century - E Ho`omau no Moananuiākea*, a citywide exhibition in Honolulu featuring artists from Hawaii, Asia-Pacific and beyond. The exhibition, inclusive of Kānaka artists, is the largest periodic exhibition of contemporary art in Hawai`i. I invite all who are interested in the concepts behind HCR119 to visit and take in the exhibition at HiSAM.

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

HCR-119

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 12:06:01 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/23/2022 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teri L Skillman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the request for information on expenditures of 1% works of art fund for the purchase of artworks by Native Hawaiian Artists and Pacific Island artists who are permanent residents in Hawaii. An online catalog of the SFCA entire collection that is searchable (artist/title/medium/date) would be very beneficial to the public. This could be accomplished in conjunction with Hawaii State Archives which has focused on developing access for their digital collection.

Mahalo nui,

Teri Skillman

HCR-119

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 3:09:44 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/23/2022 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carmen Guzman Simpliciano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This should be a requirement when acquiring art "Support Local First" and to make more solicitation efforts for our islandwide artist.

HCR-119

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 7:49:32 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/23/2022 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Tam, members,

Thank you for hearing this measure. I stand in **STRONG SUPPORT** for Native Hawaiian and local artists, who will be represented through the report that is mandated in HCR119. For far too long, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts has used tax payer dollars to purchase incredibly expensive art from artists who are not from here. There is certainly value in this type of art (from the continent) as it helps our students and public experience art from different parts of the world. However, particularly in this economic downturn, we need to be supporting our Hawaiian artists who are struggling to make ends meet and taking 2 to 3 jobs to continue their passion.

There are damning reports coming out of SFCA that art pieces are bought using the Works of Art Special Fund because one of the staff had the same dog that was in the painting. Thousands wasted. The public cries for transparency and holding the ludicrous waste the SFCA has been proudly committed to for years. What a shame.

Hold their feet to the fire. Cut their funding if they don't comply. I would not be so harsh if it weren't for so many struggling artist who are in tears having to make the decision between their life passion of art and perpetuating their ancestral practices, versus putting food on the table and supporting their children.

This report will prove to the public and the legislature how much money has been wasted, compared to what the SFCA should be prioritizing, and is a first step in dramatically reforming this state funded institution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Daniel Lee

HCR-119

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 8:05:02 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/23/2022 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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Daniel Lee