

HR-119

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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