

**HR-162**

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wayne Tanaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and members of the Culture, Arts, & International Affairs Committee,

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HCR162 and HR162, which would uplift the voices of the many incredibly talented poets, artists, storytellers, musicians, and creative minds who call Hawai'i home.

Hawai'i's rich and diverse cultural and social fabric, combined with our complex history and deep connections to each other and our island home, has provided us with a fertile creative landscape that has already given rise to poetic and artistic legacies that continue to resonate throughout our islands and far beyond our shores. A poet laureate program as proposed in this resolution will help us to further realize our islands' creative potential, and allow our poets, artists, writers, and creators to enrich the lives and consciousnesses of our present and future generations both in Hawai'i and throughout the world.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HCR162 and HR162.

Mahalo nui,

Wayne Tanaka