



HAWAII

STATE FOUNDATION on
CULTURE and the ARTS

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**TESTIMONY OF
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Wednesday, April 13, 2022/Conf Rm 329 via Videoconference 10:00 a.m.
S.C.R. 118 SD1**

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 S.C.R. 118 SD1.

As a member of the Creative Resurgence Task Force, the SFCA supports the request to continue “to examine and determine measures and establish policies and programs to build and foster creativity and innovation through the arts, culture, and humanities in the State, as specified in Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 242, H.D. 1 (2021)”.

Hawaii’s creative arts workforce of culture and arts organizations, individual artists and cultural practitioners are an important and unique resource of the State’s economy and community. The Creative Resurgence Task Force will provide meaningful insight to the creative sector and the ways in which they can be best supported during the period of recovery, and helping to build thriving arts and culture community in Hawaii.

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



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

In consideration of

SCR 118, SD 1

**REQUESTING THAT THE CREATIVE RESURGENCE TASK FORCE CONTINUE TO
EXAMINE AND DETERMINE MEASURES AND ESTABLISH POLICIES AND
PROGRAMS TO BUILD AND FOSTER CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION THROUGH
THE ARTS, CULTURE, AND HUMANITIES IN THE STATE.**

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam and members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SCR 118, SD1, which requests continuation of SCR 242, SLH 2021, to convene a creative resurgence task force required to examine and determine measures, including recommendations to establish policies and programs, which foster creativity and innovation through the arts, culture, and humanities in the state.

DBEDT's Creative Industries Division (CID) was founded in 2003 on the premise that collectively Hawaii's arts, culture, performing and visual arts, literary arts, film, media, music, and design are the foundation of a strong creative economy. CID shall continue to work with grassroots organizations, the non-profit community as well as sister state and county agencies in the convening of the Creative Resurgence Task Force.

The department underscores the importance of focusing on these intrinsic sectors to Hawaii's identity as a pivotal area of our economy. As stated in prior testimony, our creative sectors, particularly performing and visual arts, cultural arts, and music, have been adversely impacted due to the impacts of COVID-19 and are still not fully recovered.

CID has applied for grant funds to develop a creative economy strategic plan with input from all stakeholders, which is paramount to contextualizing the value of the creative economy to the state's economic recovery.

DBEDT welcomes the opportunity to convene with arts, education and community to collaborate on recommendations to advance policy objectives to further realize the value of these sectors in Hawaii's economic development strategy for recovery and resiliency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.