



**HAWAII**

STATE FOUNDATION on  
CULTURE and the ARTS

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**TESTIMONY OF THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**April 5, 2023 Conference Room 211 & Videoconference at 10:00AM H.B. 473 H.D.1  
RELATING TO THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
(CREATIVE WORKFORCE)**

Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committee, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), is pleased to offer testimony in **SUPPORT** of H.B. 473 H.D.1.

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. SFCA recognizes the importance of the creative workforce and provides support through granting programs, as funding permits. An appropriation for Creative Workforce grants through the SFCA can have a significant impact on individuals in the creative workforce.

Creative workforce grants will provide support towards a living wage in the regional labor market where the work is performed by the creative worker. Grants to support creative workers in communities who face barriers to participation and employment in creative work as a result of a low level of public and private investment in the arts, limited exposure to art programming, or other social or economic barriers. The arts or culture organization employing the creative workers' mission/programming serves a population that is specifically impacted by poverty, are underserved, and/or neighboring islands. The work of the creative worker must support arts and culture projects/programming that is publicly available and accessible

In 2022, the State Legislature appropriated \$500,000 in Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Relief Funds to the SFCA for creative workforce grants. In response, the SFCA developed a creative workforce grant framework. However the grant was put hold when Governor Ige vetoed the funding. Consistent appropriation of general funds from the legislature such as H.B. 473 H.D.1. proposes in support of the creative arts community will benefit the State's overall economy. When we invest in our cultural economy, we invest in the economic stability of Hawaii'i.

An appropriation of General Funds towards the current framework of SFCA's Biennium Grants to organizations in the community already doing this important work would help grow the State's creative arts workforce.

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

**HB-473-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 11:23:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
DANELLE WATSON	Testifying for Alexander Academy Performing Company	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in complete support of providing funds to support the living wage for creative workers. I see the reliability with creative artists, as they are extremely vulnerable therefore they show up prepared. These are highly intelligent people making a positive contribution to our community.

I believe our community would benefit with this financial support.

**HB-473-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 11:49:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Douglas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

Please ensure that the smaller nonprofits are given the proper amount of time and support to apply. Many nonprofits currently do not have paid staff. Hiring, setting up payroll and all associated costs takes time. As written this will benefit the larger nonprofits.

**HB-473-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 1:27:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,  
I support this bill.  
Mahalo nui,  
Cards Pintor