



**HAWAII**

STATE FOUNDATION on  
CULTURE and the ARTS

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**TESTIMONY OF  
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
March 21, 2023 Conference Room 224 & Videoconference at 3:00PM  
H.B. 478 H.D.1  
RELATING TO THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Chair Lee and members of the Committee, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), is pleased to offer testimony in **SUPPORT** of H.B.478 H.D.1. which appropriates funds for the artist fellowship program.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, established in Chapter 9, Hawaii's Revised Statutes (HRS), includes responsibility for recognizing individual artists for artistic excellence through an individual artist fellowships program. As a community, it is important that we recognize and celebrate how the artistic endeavors of individuals contribute to Hawaii's rich cultural landscape and economic health of the State. Public recognition through programs such as the Individual Artist Fellowship are a reminder of the need to seek out creative solutions to our society's most complex issues.

**Background on SFCA Fellowships:**

From 1995 to 2008, SFCA provided fellowships in the areas of visual and performing arts. These fellowships provided for recognition and financial support for individual artists, celebrating Hawaii's creativity. In 2010, the Individual Artist Fellowship Coordinator position was abolished and the general fund budget of SFCA was reduced, eliminating the budget to recognize individual artists of Hawaii. In 2019 the State Legislature appropriated general funds to SFCA for artist fellowships and SFCA recognized twelve teaching artists for artistic excellence and excellence in their teaching artistry.

SFCA was the recipient of American Rescue Plan Act funds through the National Endowment for the Arts in Fiscal Year 2022. A portion of the recovery funds was awarded to individual artists and cultural practitioners statewide. Awarded grantees carried out community impact projects in FY2022.

In 2022, the State Legislature appropriated \$200,000 in Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Relief Funds to the SFCA for artist fellowships. In response, the SFCA developed a call for cultural fellowships but put the project on hold when Governor Ige vetoed the funding. Consistent appropriation of general funds from the legislature such as H.B. 478 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.

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

**HB-478-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 2:04:53 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/21/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kazumi Yamaura	Testifying for Sounding Joy Music Therapy, Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Expressions through arts including music can be essential tool to maintain our wellbeing.

**HB-478-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 3:00:52 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/21/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Evan Anderson	Testifying for Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Arts Alliance to express our strong support for the proposed bill that would appropriate funds to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) artist fellowship program.

As an organization that advocates for the arts and culture sector in Hawaii, we know that supporting promising artists is crucial for the development and growth of the arts in our state. The SFCA's artist fellowship program provides vital financial support to artists who demonstrate exceptional talent, creativity, and potential, helping them to advance their careers and artistic practice.

We believe that the proposed appropriation of funds to the SFCA's artist fellowship program is necessary and timely, particularly given the economic challenges that artists have faced due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Providing one-time fellowships of no less than \$25,000 per fellowship will give artists the means to continue creating and contributing to our state's rich cultural heritage.

We urge you to support this bill and appropriate the necessary funds to the SFCA's artist fellowship program. Doing so would demonstrate a strong commitment to the arts and culture sector in Hawaii, and ensure that our state continues to produce and support talented artists for years to come.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Evan Anderson

Executive Director

**HB-478-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 8:52:57 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/21/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rexann Dubiel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please, support HB 478.

We need more artists!

**HB-478-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2023 8:50:48 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/21/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emily McIlroy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support appropriatomh funds to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts **artist fellowship program** for the awarding of one-time fellowships to promising artists.

**HB-478-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2023 12:11:44 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/21/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Pollock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is testimony to support the HSFCA’s Artist Fellowship program.

The pandemic hit the arts community very hard. According to one report, “nowhere has the effect been more direct, deep, and immediate than on the performing arts.”

HSFCA’s Artist Fellowship program will help revive the Arts in Hawai’i. Once again the Arts will be a powerful driving force for our economy. According to an authoritative report, “the production of arts and cultural goods (pre-pandemic) and services in the U.S. added **4.3 percent** directly to the nation’s GDP, for a total approaching a trillion dollars (**\$919.7 billion**). This amount is greater than the value added by such industries as construction, transportation and warehousing, mining, and agriculture.”

According to another study, each \$1 in state arts funds leverages over \$3 in state and local revenue.

Einstein said that intelligence is not measured by knowledge but by **imagination**. Vital Creative Artists are essential for a thriving, spiritually healthy community. The Arts cultivate, inspire, induce, stimulate, and foster our **IMAGINATION**. For example, the Honolulu Rail Transit project has languished for many years not primarily because of funding, domain, and political issues. Its failure of completion is because of a fundamental lack of imagination. We need the Arts to help us dream and then act upon our dreams for the future. The stronger our imagination, the more detailed, complex, proactive and powerful will be our vision.

Please help re-vitalize our state after the pandemic with the HSFCA’s Artist Fellowship program. Help fight the stifling, crass commodification and corporatization of our lives by your support of non-conforming, independent minded artists in our community. Their art, music, dance, plays, and poetry enable our imagination to reach its full glory!

**HB-478-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2023 12:12:01 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/21/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deborah Nehmad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The creative arts are vital to Hawaii's cultural and economic well being. We must support artists in any way we can to bolster both. I strongly support this bill and urge you to do the same.

Deborah Nehmad

**HB-478-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 9:25:26 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/21/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Steve Sue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HB478 as arts fellows provide vision and perspective necessary to a successful future for Hawaii.

With aloha,

Steve Sue



**HB-478-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 9:46:30 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/21/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Vicky Robbins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB478, a 1 time fellowship to artists in Hawaii. This fellowship enriches the artistic environment of the entire community through creative works as well as supporting the living wage of artists.

Mahalo nui loa,

Vicky R.

**HB-478-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 10:00:50 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/21/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paul Janes-Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee and Vice Chair Inouye and members of the Committee

My name is Paul Janes-Brown, I am the past vice chair for Education for the Maui Democrats and past precinct president. I am also a visual arts consultant for the State Foundation on Culture & the Arts advising on purchases of art through the State's first in the nation percent for art program. I am in support of this bill which will establish a modest artist fellowship program recognizing and supporting the creative achievements of Hawai'i-based individual artists, creators, and practitioners. The fellowship is for qualified individuals to implement arts and culture projects that have community impact in the State of Hawai'i.

SFCA was the recipient of American Rescue Plan Act funds through the National Endowment for the Arts in Fiscal Year 2022. A portion of the recovery funds was awarded to individual artists and cultural practitioners statewide. Awarded grantees carried out community impact projects in FY2022.

In 2022, the State Legislature appropriated **\$200,000** in Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Relief Funds to the SFCA for artist fellowships. In response, the SFCA developed a call for cultural fellowships but put the project on hold when the former governor, inexplicably, vetoed the funding.

The staff of the SFCA is fully prepared to implement this program. Arts programs geared to have community impact have been shown to benefit not only the artists who create the work, but the community the work is done in benefits long past the installation of the project. Art makes us better. It is the activity that is most human, reflecting our values, feelings and thoughts.

I hope you will enthusiastically support this bill. Mahalo nui loa.

**HB-478-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 1:13:17 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/21/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paul Weissman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB478 HD1

# LATE

Aloha mai kākou o Nicole Naone keia. Hello all, my name is Nicole Naone. Born and raised in Hawai'i I am an artist and filmmaker speaking exclusively for myself as an individual with comments pertaining to HB478.

I was visiting a colleague of mine at the famed Spiral Art Gallery in Omote Sando, Tokyo, Japan - when she expressed interest in coming to Hawai'i, as she had never yet been. Fastforward to us landing in Honolulu. I was excited to walk to the part of the airport which had a wall of beautiful Satoru Abe artworks. As I showed her the pieces, I explained to her that to this day one of the highlights of my career has been my inclusion in an art exhibition with Satoru Abe. I went on to talk about other Japanese artists I was excited to show her. While she nodded in acknowledgement and commented on the craftsmanship of the works - she asked me "Where are the Hawaiian artworks?".

I found myself stumped. The closest I was able to get to a "Hawaiian" artwork was a painting of ambiguously Polynesian woman by Pegge Hopper - another personal hero of mine, who is not a native Hawaiian artist.

She and I both found it interesting that I assumed a Japanese national would want to see works by Japanese artists while in Hawai'i. With all the traveling I have done throughout the continental United States and the world at large - I have never sought out Hawaiian art. I am interested in art specific to the culture I am located in. I decided to do some research into why my perception about art in Hawai'i was so incredibly different than that in any other space in the world. This brought me to looking into the Art in Public Places Collection of the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

What I learned was that it was first chaired by Masaru Pundy Yokouchi. And that of 2,400 artists in the collection of 7,200 pieces - five nisei Japanese artists (Satoru Abe, Isami Doi, Bumpei Akaji and Harry Tsuchidana - made up 3% of the entire APP Collection. These five artists alone, had more pieces in the state's art collection than all of the artworks by all of the Native Hawaiian artists - combined, which as of 2020, made up approximately 2.6% of the entire collection.

Similarly, artwork by five artists of European ancestry—Shirley Russell, Juliette May Fraser, Madge Tennent, Jean Charlot, and Francis Haar accounts for approximately 3.3% of the artwork in the APP Collection. Again these five artists alone had more in the collection than all of the artworks by all of the native Hawaiian artists combined.

I am however excited to see that there are current attempts at the inclusion of Native Hawaiian artists in the SFCA. For example per the 2022 Annual Report for the State Foundation on Culture and Arts one of the values states "We share in the responsibility to perpetuate the Native Hawaiian culture and the arts." And while it doesn't say how many or who, page four does list "increase acquisition of works of art by Native Hawaiian artists." As an accomplishment made in 2022. Especially with nearly \$200k of the 2022 budget not being touched - I am excited and hopeful for the future of SFCA.