



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 ON CULTURE, ARTS & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
February 1, 2023 Conference Room 309 & Videoconference at 10:00AM
H.B. 478
RELATING TO STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
(ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS)**

Chair Tam 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.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, established in Chapter 9, Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i. 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 Hawai'i.

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

HB-478

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 8:50:47 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/1/2023 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Virginia Holte | West Hawaii Dance Theatre | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Speaking on behalf of West Hawaii Dance Theatre, a 501 c 3 non-profit organization located in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii Island, we are in full support for the legislature to appropriate funds to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts for the Artist Fellowship program. Please look on their request with favor. Virginia Holte, Founder, Artistic Director, West Hawaii Dance Theatre

HB-478

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 11:30:15 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/1/2023 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carlynn M Wolfe | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support HB 478 and the work of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. This measure takes very seriously its mission to support our local artists. A program like this can support emerging artists who might not be able to take that next step. We are all in agreement that life here is expensive and sometimes hard. HB478 will develop artists in the community and thereby improve our community culture. Thank you.

HB-478

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 11:19:42 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/1/2023 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Rebecca Maria Goldschmidt | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Mahalo to the various supporters of HB 478 to establish Artist Fellowships through SFCA. As an Artist, Cultural Worker and MFA recipient from the UH Art Department, I fully support the establishment of a Fellowship program through SFCA. I encourage legislators to recognize the importance of Creative Labor in generating a healthy, vibrant community in Hawai‘i, and I also encourage the establishment of full-time, living wage positions throughout the State. Fellowships are generous but limited to a certain timeframe. They require Artists to constantly be applying for new funding before their funding runs out. HB 473 also includes making opportunities available for Creative Workers that are salaried, living wage positions. I believe that fellowships should prioritize Hawaiian Artists and local artists, re-balancing the many years of under-representation in the State Foundation. This includes creating an application process that effectively reaches local community, does not allow for out-of-state applications, and is designed to address institutional bias.

I encourage legislators to also consider the resources offered by [Working Artists for the Greater Economy \(W.A.G.E.\)](#) that provide guidelines on appropriate funding and wages based on the size/budget of institutions.

Thank you for acknowledging the contributions of Artists to the community and the economy. And please also remember that Artists need full-time work, liveable wages, affordable housing, and basic needs just like everyone else. Fellowships are an honor and a privilege, we want them and we need them! And they also do not guarantee consistent, working wages and a long-term, sustainable life in Hawai‘i. **Please choose to fully support Working Artists by approving both HB 478 and HB 473.**

Best,

Rebecca Maria Goldschmidt

HB-478

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:01:23 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/1/2023 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Ashiya Carter | Individual | Support | In Person |

Comments:

I am a teaching artists with 18 years working in the arts in our Maui Community.

The role of an artist is to illuminate the world from a unique vantage point. The artist takes a journey of discovery and then shines the light on paths that others can follow to their own discoveries. As artists it is clear to us that Hawaii is currently on a path of discovering how our connections to our fellow humans influence every aspect of our day to day lives. Without a guide on that path we find dead ends that lead us to ignorance, discord, and indifference which is the antithesis of Hawaii's Nā Hopena A'o learning outcomes. When a society believes as we do here in Hawaii that we want to instill within each of us a strengthened sense of belonging, responsibility, excellence, aloha, and total well-being we must take a profound introspective look at the fissures within us and our society caused by race. Though in many ways Hawaii seems to be "ahead of the curve" on the subject; we cannot see the parts of our lived experiences that are kept in the dark because we do not have a platform upon which to discuss, share, and process them.

Dance is the doorway. Through dance and actively participating in contributing life experiences into telling the story of our society and then creating choreography to tell this story, people who take part in this process we will develop an empathic understanding of each other's separate paths. In choreography in order to accurately tell the story, the story will be told (danced) from all points of view.

Artistis in our community are connecting the dots between perception, emotion, and the ability to community. I vote in favor of this resolution beause we should support the people who are in the community doing this work right now!