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Testimony of KAREN EWALD, Executive Director  
State Foundation on Culture and the Arts  
Before the  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024 Conference Room 224 at 10:05 AM

SENATE BILL 2710  
RELATING TO CULTURE AND ARTS

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committee,

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) **SUPPORTS** S.B. 2710 which establishes the Hawai'i Leadership Awards Program to honor individuals who have made considerable and outstanding contributions to Hawai'i and inspire others.

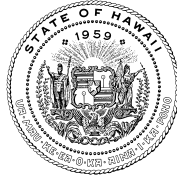
The SFCA has a long history of recognizing outstanding individuals in Hawaii with awards. From 1970 to 2019, the SFCA issued 118 awards in the categories of State of Hawai'i Order of Distinction for Cultural Leadership, Governor's Award for Distinguished Achievement in Culture, Arts and Humanities, Hawai'i Award for Literature, Individual Artist Fellowships and the Hawaiian Architectural Award. Introducing the Leadership Award as described in SB2710 would fall within the purview of the SFCA.

In 2009, State funding to the SFCA to support the staff coordinator position and the awards was abolished. Until that time, awards were regularly given from 1970 through 2008. Consistent appropriation from the legislature in support of recognizing leadership in our community will benefit the State's overall economy. When we celebrate Hawaii's achievements, we invest in the economic stability of Hawai'i.

The SFCA's awards process is outlined in our establishing legislation under HRS Chapter 9. SFCA review panels are selected per [Hawaii Administrative Rules](#) and composed of members of the community at large who are knowledgeable and experienced in the subject matter of the panel on which they serve. All panel members serve without compensation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'AINA



KEITH A. REGAN  
COMPTROLLER  
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ  
  
MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

**STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ**  
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
OF  
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

FEBRUARY 22, 2024, 10:05 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 211 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.B. 2710, S.D. 1

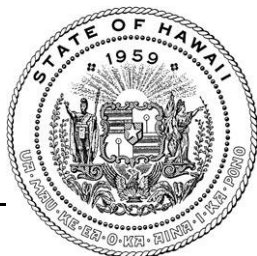
RELATING TO CULTURE AND THE ARTS.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. 2710, S.D. 1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) **supports** S.B. 2710, S.D. 1 which establishes a Hawaii Leadership Awards Program. DAGS appreciates the language in this measure that allows for a true archives of their works and achievements within the State Archives so that their deeds will be readily accessible in a centralized location for generations to come. This archives would include photographs, videos, oral histories, documents, writings, and examples of their work to ensure that their good deeds never fade from public memory. Too often individuals who are recognized for their sacrifices fade into the obscurity of time once those who directly knew them and their deeds depart this Earth. If we are to truly honor

these individuals, it is proper that we emblazon their deeds upon the public memory in an indelible and easily accessible way, overseen by trained, trusted professionals, in a repository properly designed to provide the finest protection for irreplaceable documentary heritage materials. An archives that serves everyone equally and encourages the public to explore the past to shape a better future. Please consider providing appropriate funding and staffing to the State Archives so that they may collect, arrange, preserve, and make accessible the permanent record of these most deserving individuals -- not only for this award but for all awards issued by any State or Federal agency in recognition of Hawai'i citizens or organizations (e.g. Aloha Award of Merit, National Heritage Fellowship, and Hawai'i Poet Laureate) for their excellence and contributions to the State and its people. To honor these individuals and document their achievements, this new, additional workload on the State Archives would require a new position (Archivist III, SR-20, \$59,000/yr.) to oversee the collection and organization of the records of the recognized individuals, plus an additional \$40K/yr. in equipment, software, supplies to create a publicly accessible archives and various commemorative displays.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide our comments on this measure and appreciate the opportunity to address any concerns our testimony raises.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKAI

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
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**LATE**

Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Thursday, February 22, 2024  
10:05 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room #211

In consideration of  
**SB 2710 SD 1**  
**RELATING TO CULTURE AND ARTS.**

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SB 2710 SD 1, that establishes the Hawai'i leadership awards program to honor Hawai'i individuals who made considerable and outstanding contributions to the state in their respective fields and serve as inspirations to others. The program is to be managed by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA).

Recognition by the State's lawmakers of entities and individuals that have made considerable contributions to the advancement of the local economy through industry, cultural enrichment and other fields as noted, would be a welcome source of community pride.

As no appropriation amounts are included currently, there appears to be no monetary support to manage the program. This would include procurement of the physical awards, funding this continuing recognition beyond FY25 for costs associated with an annual award ceremony.

The department agrees that this program would be most appropriate for the SFCA to oversee and manage. We pledge to support their efforts as needed.

DBEDT also stands in support of amendments in SB 2710 SD 1, (g) There is established within the state archives a permanent archive of the awardees work and achievements, including photographs, videos, oral histories and other documents of their work.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.