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**Testimony of KAREN EWALD, Executive Director
State Foundation on Culture and the Arts
Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS
THURSDAY, March 28, 2024 Conference Room 224 at 3:02PM**

SCR 149/SR127

RELATING TO

HAWAII STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND ARTS CHESS TASK FORCE

Dear Chair Lee and members of the Committee,

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) respectfully provides **COMMENTS** on S.C.R.149/S.R.127 urging the state foundation on culture and the arts to convene a task force to research and develop a plan to implement chess as a competitive sport in the state.

The mission of the SFCA is to Promote, perpetuate and preserve culture and the arts in Hawai'i. As defined in HRS 9-1, "Culture" includes the arts, customs, traditions, mores, and history of all of the various ethnic groups of Hawaii. "Arts" includes music, dance, painting, drawing, sculpture, architecture, drama, poetry, prose, crafts, industrial design, interior design, fashion design, photography, television, motion picture art, unique or decorative plants, landscaping, and all other creative activity of imagination and beauty.

The SFCA supports the formation of a task force to research and develop a plan to implement chess as a competitive sport in the state, provided that doing so does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Strategic Plan.

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

LATE

SCR-149

Submitted on: 3/28/2024 10:56:22 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/28/2024 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Inuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a national master and the current state chess champion. I have been playing and studying chess over 3 decades.

Recently, chess has become very popular among kids in the U.S. Many schools have adopted chess in their curriculum. Why? Studies have shown that chess can provide many benefits to kids, parents, and to the teachers. Through chess, kids are able to improve their logic/reasoning skills, problem solving skills, visualization/spatial reasoning, cause/effect relationships, focus, and discipline. I've heard many successful stories from others how through chess, it had enabled their kids to do well in academics and in other extra curricular activities.

I support everything that has been included in the resolution. Chess as a competitive sport will help grow the community here in Hawaii. It will make a big difference to the kids. I hope that chess will continue to thrive in Hawaii for many years to come. We thank you for your support.

Thank you,

NM Paul Inuma