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Second Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Josh Green, M.D.

Comptroller
Keith A. Regan

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Konrad Ng

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Randall Fujiki
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**Testimony of KAREN EWALD, Executive Director
State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024 Conference Room 224 at 3:00PM
HOUSE BILL 1807 H.D.2
RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND**

Dear Chair Lee and members of the Committee,
The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) **STRONGLY OPPOSE** H.B. 1807 H.D.2 which amends the Works of Art Special Fund and specifies that the Works of Art Special Fund's one per cent transfer requirement shall apply only to capital improvement appropriations for the original construction of state buildings.

H.B. 1807 H.D.2 changes the intent of the percent for art law from “one per cent of all state fund appropriations for construction or renovation of state buildings” to only “original construction,” effectively deleting all qualifying construction and renovation funds for existing buildings. This cut would forever change Hawaii’s culture and arts landscape for the worse.

Per HRS 103-8.5, the Art in Public Places Program does more than furnish art in state buildings. Designating 1% appropriations from both construction and renovation from all projects provides a consistent funding base to carry out the intent of HRS 103-8.5 Works of Art Special Fund. Together, 1% appropriations from all qualifying construction and renovation enable SFCA to carry out the statewide program which includes acquisition and distribution of works of art, conservation of an aging exterior public art collection, interpretation of the collection, the Hawaii State Art Museum, applicable portions of the Artists in the Schools program, and recognition of student artwork.

In 1967, the purchase or commissioning of art was recognized as important with the passage of the percent for art law. Forty years later, it became clear what mattered was how people engaged with art. The Works of Art Special Fund provides for that engagement as “interpretive work.” In response to the community demand, the SFCA has expanded its education programming around public art including support for Artists in the Schools and a host of other education programs with a nexus to public art. In its November 8, 2023 meeting at Kahilu Theatre, the Senate Committee on Ways and Means expressed interest in the SFCA expanding the use of the Works of Art Special Fund to more broadly support culture and the arts engagement. This House bill does exactly the opposite and reduces the capacity of the fund to support only art for the original construction. HB1807 HD2 removes the engagement and education of the people from the art.

HB1807 H.D.2 also “appropriates funds for performing arts and other initiatives in schools” while stating the “the appropriations continued in H.B. No. _____ will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded...” Knowing this will exceed the state budget and is therefore unconstitutional, how can one honestly allude there will be additional funding? This appropriation also does not address the funding cut to visual arts.

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

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Member
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Member
Senator Brenton Awa, Member

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 1807

Aloha, Senators -

My name is Konrad Ng and I serve as the Chair of the Board of Commissioners for the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

I strongly oppose House Bill 1807 (HB1807) because of its devastating consequences on arts and culture practitioners and organizations across the state and because of the harms it will inflict on our beloved Native Hawaiian communities.

For nearly 60 years, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) has been Hawai'i's commitment to fostering the art, culture and people that nourishes our Aloha spirit. I serve as a SFCA commissioner because of artists like Solomon Enos, a celebrated Native Hawaiian artist, illustrator and creative thinker whose innovative, multimedia work articulates new genres and visions of the Hawaiian experience. I serve as a SFCA commissioner because of artists like Kaili Chun, an award-winning Native Hawaiian sculptor whose dynamic, sophisticated installations allow us to re-envision the histories, experiences and narratives of Hawai'i. I serve as a SFCA commissioner because of artists like Mari Matsuda, an acclaimed activist and legal scholar whose large scale works imagines Hawai'i as a march towards justice, as a story of people rising and resisting. I serve on the SFCA because artists give us hope. I serve on the SFCA because arts and culture galleries, organizations and programs across the archipelago are vital sources of community for our keiki, for our people - on the Big Island, on Maui, on Kaua'i and on O'ahu.

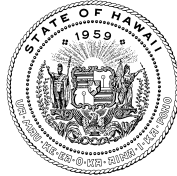
HB1807 tells our artists, galleries, organizations and programs that the work that they do to nourish our spirit is no longer valued or valuable. HB1807 says that Hawai'i has too much of what they create and what they provide, that they are the "surplus" that HB1807 says is no longer needed or wanted. Indeed, HB1807 will deny us the opportunity to support artists and artworks that may claim "Lahaina Strong" in their rendering of urgent resiliency; HB1807 says we no longer have room for this experience.

Senators: I respectfully ask that you do not pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Konrad Ng, PhD
Commissioner, State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
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

TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024, 3:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

H.B. 1807, H.D. 2

RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on H.B. 1807, H.D. 2.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) offers **comments** on this bill which specifies that the works of art special fund's one per cent transfer requirement shall apply only to capital improvement appropriations for the original construction of state buildings.

The reversion of the current Section 103-8.5, subsection (a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to apply only to original construction instead of the current designation for construction or renovation of state buildings would greatly reduce the funding provided to the works of art special fund. It is DAGS' experience that, in addition to the acquisition and distribution of mobile works of art, tremendous value to the public has

been achieved through the collaborative integration of built-in works of art into both new and renovated state facilities. These works help bring culture and the arts to the masses by becoming character defining facility features that add a sense of place, culture, and history on a much larger experiential scale. The provision of both expertise and funding through the Art in Public Places Program are invaluable additions to our projects, which would otherwise lack the ability to partner with the art community to successfully integrate and properly maintain art in our facilities.

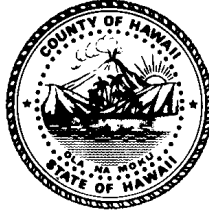
As the State's many historic facilities age and require major renovation or complete replacement, the availability of sufficient works of art special funds to achieve this collaborative benefit become increasingly tantamount to the integration of works of art for public education and enjoyment. Successful examples of such collaborative efforts with DAGS include, and are not limited to, completed and on-going major renovation, replacement, and new projects for the State Capitol, Washington Place, the Ronald T.Y. Moon Judiciary Complex in Kapolei, the Kauai Judiciary Complex, the Hawaii State Hospital New Patient Facility, Wahiawa Civic Center and the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District, which is including integration of works of art on a district-wide scale.

The number of new, original facilities projects that are implemented each year would provide far less funding than the increasing number of replacement or renovation projects required to maintain the state's facility assets. This sharp reduction in funding for the works of art special fund would result in irreversible damage to this successful program that could not be replicated by the separate and individual efforts of the agencies now implementing capital improvements.

Furthermore, agencies lack the funding and expertise to maintain and preserve existing works of art, which would quickly fall into disrepair.

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

Dr. Holeka Goro Inaba
Council Member, District 8, N. Kona



Office: (808) 323-4280
Email: holeka.inaba@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

March 17, 2024

Committee On Transportation and Culture and The Arts
Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

Re: Opposition to HB1807 HD2, Relating to the Works of Art Special Fund
Hearing: March 19, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

Aloha Senators,

Thank you for allowing me to express opposition to this measure. This bill would eradicate the Art in Public Places Program, and end support for Professional Development for DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with its outreach programs.

This bill would impact over 10,000 children across the islands and take away staff fees, and would eradicate public art support, especially for the outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land and provides understanding and purpose, and stimulates economic growth across various industries.

I urge you to vote against the passage of HB1807 HD2.

Sincerely,

DR. HOLEKA GORO INABA, Council Member
District 8, North Kona

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Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
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David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 18, 2024

TO: Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture
and the Arts

FROM: Thomas Cook
Councilmember 

SUBJECT: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 1807, HD2
RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **opposition** of House Bill 1807, HD 2 relating to the works of art special fund. This measure specifies that the works of art special fund's one per cent transfer requirement shall apply only to capital improvement appropriations for the original construction of state buildings.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I oppose this measure for the following reasons:

1. The measure repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.
2. The elimination of "renovation" from the percent for art law would eliminate monetary support for the Hawaii State Art Museum, and Native Hawaiian and Local Artists, Galleries, and Organizations.
3. In Maui County, the measure would eliminate monetary support for the following community organizations (1) Hui No'au Visual Arts Center, (2) Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association, (3) Maui Arts & Cultural Center, and (4) the Viewpoints Gallery.

For the foregoing reasons, I oppose this measure.

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NALANI BRUN, DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Testimony of Nalani Kaauwai Brun
Director, Office of Economic Development- County of Kaua'i



Before the
Senate Committee on Transportation Culture and the Arts
March 19, 2024, at 3:00 PM
Room 224 & Via Videoconference

In consideration of
House Bill 1807 HD2
Relating to Works of Art Special Fund

Honorable Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Inouye, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1807 HD2. The County of Kauai Office of Economic Development **strongly opposes HB 1807 HD2**, which proposes to repeal capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.

This bill would cut 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue and as such, adversely eliminate government support for many arts programs and initiatives on Kauai and statewide. While the most recent version of the bill tries to cover the bill's negative impact on education and performing arts by making an appropriation, it will not come close to matching the loss made by this change which would likely include:

- The Hawaii State Art Museum exhibitions and public programs would need to end immediately.
- Support for Native Hawaiian Local Artists, Galleries and Organizations which would be severely minimalized at a time when it is starting to take off.
- Education Programming would be minimized as well.

In a time when there is such a need for programs that support mental health and artists, I ask you to maintain, as is, the forward-thinking percent-for-art law which should include renovations of state buildings.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 3:46:51 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Solomon Enos	Testifying for The Capitol Modern - Hawai'i State Art Museum	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

A testimony in Opposition to HB1807 HD2

To the Chairperson Senator Chris Lee and Vice Chairperson Lorraine R. Inouye on the Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts.

Tuesday, March 19th, 2024 at 3:00pm. Conference Room 224 & Videoconference. Hawai'i State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street.

I am testifying in opposition to House Bill 1807 House Draft 2.

My name is Solomon Robert Nui Enos, a Native Hawaiian Artist and Illustrator and the Artist in Residence at the Capitol Modern - Hawai'i State Art Museum. In my role as the resident artist, I volunteer several hours a day in conversation with students and patrons, imparting a sense of wonder for the process of creation. When it comes to our visiting Elementary, Intermediate and High Schools, I always have a fully engaged audience, and there is never enough time to answer all their questions about what is like to be a full-time artist. The main message I have to share with them is that the Pacific is one third of the earth's surface, and yet we are underrepresented when it comes to contemporary art, and that they all have a role in addressing this deficiency. Following this message, I ask them all to remember a very simple practice: for every hour they spend playing video games or watching movies, they need to spend an hour drawing or painting or even designing their own video games and movies. And as always, I get a resounding hiki nō!, can do!.

The role that the Art in Public Spaces program provides in our community is visible and invisible. The new works of art created by our many communities in Hawai'i inspired in part by the masterful works in the States collection, and to the latter, the immeasurable impact on our communities sense of identity, our ability to imagine a path towards a sustainable Hawai'i, the artistic medium as a sense of control when so many other things about life are out of our control, the ability to address the myriad mental health issues we face such as depression and anxiety, to inspire more of our communities to explore careers in the creative industries, and so much more.

It is for these reasons that I am in very strong opposition to HD 1807 HD2, and in favor of increasing the support for the Art in Public Places program. In this digital age, where technically beautiful but utterly soulless artwork can be created through A.I. in an instant, art is the last

bastion for the things that make us human. Faced with this trend towards more ways to consume media, we need to increase support to keep this balance with the ability to our own stories through the art we make. As I share with the 'ohana and haumana, the families and students who visit the museum: "One hour taking ideas, one hour making ideas". The State of Hawai'i gives tremendous support for systems that cultivate consumers, and only a fraction of the support it needs to help foster creators.

Me ka ha'aha'a ame ka hō'ihi, with humility and respect,

Solomon Robert Nui Enos

tolomona@gmail.com

1(808)-218-3731



The Friends of the Hawaii State Art Museum **STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807**, which deletes “renovation” from the the Works of Art Special Fund and limits “all construction” to “original construction.” The percent for art revenue forms the base financial support for the Hawaii State Art Museum (Capitol Modern). Essentially, HB1807 HD2 defunds the institution and its ability to serve the public.

Honolulu, like all major cities, needs a venue to engage the community around art and culture. The arts preserve culture and heritage, passing along a state’s unique character and traditions to future generations. The Hawaii State Art Museum supports a strong democracy, engaging citizens, providing forums for important issues, and encouraging collective problem solving. Exhibitions feature some of Hawaii's most difficult issues in a way that encourages thoughtful and respectful dialogue. Among the themes addressed in recent exhibitions include Red Hill, water rights, Mauna Kea, and houseless youth.

Capitol Modern is based on the idea that all people have access to arts and culture regardless of their economic status or cultural origin. Defunding the institution is an economic and social blow to the majority of Hawaii’s population who have limited access to the arts.

We are very proud of the Hawaii State Art Museum for the following:

- The Hawaii State Art Museum undeniably has elevated itself as a center of Hawaii’s artistic and cultural life.
- The Hawaii State Art Museum successfully interprets the Art in Public Places collection to generate relevant, meaningful, and informative art experiences for Hawaii residents and visitors.
- The Hawaii State Art Museum serves as a learning laboratory for teachers, is a program space for many diverse populations, and hosts student art exhibitions, nurturing the next generation of Hawaii’s transformative artists.

We urge the Committee to oppose this crippling bill contrary to the vibrant arts traditions nurtured by the Hawaii State Art Museum.

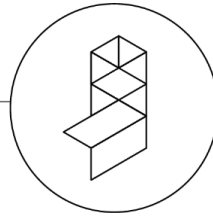
The Friends of the Hawaii State Art Museum, Inc. is established by law (Statute 9-23); as such, the organization is a 501(c)(3) corporation. The Friends of the Hawaii State Art Museum is organized exclusively to further the artistic, cultural, and education programs and purposes of the Hawaii State Art Museum, a state-established and -owned museum.

Jay Suemori, President

David Ball, First Vice-President

Yvonne Hunter, Secretary

Jonathan Johnson, Treasurer



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18 March, 2024

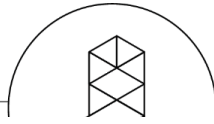
Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am the Executive Director of Hawaii Contemporary, the organization that produces the Hawaii Triennial, the state's largest multi-site public exhibition of contemporary art. I am writing to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 1807. This bill seeks to adjust capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a funding source for the works of art special fund. If enacted, this legislation would severely impact the Art in Public Places program, significantly reducing government support for arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide.

The rationale behind SB1807 suggests that the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) currently possesses a surplus of artwork, rendering further acquisitions unnecessary. However, while there may indeed be a modest surplus of artworks in storage, this is not indicative of redundancy but rather responsible management ensuring artworks are available for replacement and rotation. It is profoundly meaningful for artists to have their work acquired by the state and displayed in public buildings, including your offices, as it not only recognizes their talent but also enriches public spaces for all to enjoy.

Moreover, artistic expression is dynamic and continually evolving. New artworks are essential for reflecting the diversity and vibrancy of our society. Restricting the acquisition of new artworks could stifle artistic innovation and deprive our communities of the opportunity to engage with contemporary artistic practices, thereby hindering cultural growth and development.

The removal of "renovation" from the percent-for-art law would significantly reduce financial support for native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries, and organizations. Passing this bill would have a devastating impact on Hawaii Contemporary(HC).The Hawai'i Triennial draws over 100,000 visitors each iteration, generating substantial economic activity both locally and from out-of-town visitors. HC has contributed hundreds of millions (as measured by DBEDT) in economic impact, generated over 300,000 attendees both from across the state and internationally, and generated 200 jobs locally. Several hundred educational programs have been provided free and open to the public and 7000 students have benefited from free transportation and exhibition passes. Without the funding which HC receives via SFCA, HC's work is at severe risk.



Investing in the arts brings significant economic benefits. Studies have consistently shown that arts investments yield substantial returns for local economies by attracting tourists, stimulating spending in local businesses, and creating employment opportunities across various sectors. Additionally, a vibrant arts scene enhances the overall desirability of a destination, attracting skilled workers, entrepreneurs, and investors, thus fostering economic growth and prosperity.

Additionally, the arts sector serves as a catalyst for innovation and entrepreneurship. Artists and creative professionals drive economic development through their innovative ideas, products, and services. By nurturing a supportive environment for the arts, we can cultivate a thriving creative economy that generates new opportunities for economic diversification and sustainable growth.

In conclusion, preserving the works of art special fund and continuing to invest in the arts are essential steps towards harnessing the economic potential of creativity and innovation, thereby building a more prosperous and resilient future for Hawaii. I urge you to reconsider SB1807 and its potential impact on our state's cultural landscape and economic well-being.

Mahalo nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosina Potter'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Rosina Potter
Executive Director
Hawai 'i Contemporary



March 18, 2024

Dear Chairpersons Lee, Inouye, and committee members,

On behalf of the board of directors and staff of the Donkey Mill Art Center, our 450 members of the organization, I respectfully present this testimony.

We continue to oppose bill HB1807, which would repeal capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. This bill would cut over 50% of the agency's program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide. This greatly affects organizations like the Donkey Mill Art Center located in rural Holualoa on Hawai'i Island.

Additionally, the bill states "the State currently possesses a surplus of artwork in storage for current and future uses", which is very degrading to our artists and the arts and culture community. If you stop acquiring artwork from this moment in time, you lose pieces of history. Artwork acts as a historical library, it tells stories, and we should be proud to have a State agency that has a robust collection of work spanning decades of our history. The statement is also incorrect as the Special Fund covers so much more than just artwork purchases for State buildings. It provides needed funds for the Artist in the Schools program and Professional Development opportunities for artists and school-teachers. The adverse effects are large and would cause a devastating ripple effect felt in our schools and communities for years to come.

This bill tries to fill the funding gap by adding restrictive appropriations, but under the same breath, we are being told there is no money in the budget due to Maui recovery efforts. Thus, there is no guarantee that funding will be equal to that of the Special Fund, nor is it appropriate to add restrictions such as funding for "performing arts initiatives" and "arts programming in schools". What about the visual arts?

In summary, we have a robust arts agency (SFCA) that participates in strategic planning, visioning, and has a Board of Commissioners for added checks and balances. Let the agency administer the money into the proper programs based on the priority areas, as they are the experts in this field.

I understand that our Legislators face many difficult decisions at this time, but I urge you to preserve the integrity of the Special Fund without altering its current structure and put an end to this bill now.

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley Raymond".

Ashley Raymond
Executive Director
Donkey Mill Art Center, Holualoa, HI
donkeymillartcenter.org



March 19, 2024

Committee on Transportation Culture and the Arts
Sen. Lee, Chair
Sen. Inouye, Vice Chair

The Senate
The Thirtieth-Second Legislature
Regular Session of 2024

RE: HB1807 SD 2 RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND
DATE: Tuesday, March 19, 2024
TIME: 3:00 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 224
State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu HI

Aloha Chairs Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and the Members of the Committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **OPPOSITION** of HB1807 SD 2 RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND.

SAG-AFTRA represents over 1400 actors, recording artists, and media professionals in our state. We are the professional performers working in front of the camera and behind the microphone.

We support education and access to the arts; we support the State Foundation for Culture and the Arts and its decades-long history as a national leader in community-based arts funding; and we support keeping the funding for this important organization intact. HB1807 HD 2 repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.

While this measure seems innocuous on the surface, it would cut nearly 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, eliminating government support for many arts programs and initiatives statewide. The appropriation proposed in this measure would not make up for the drastic cut in funding. Here is a list of organizations and activities that will be affected:

Mericia Palma Elmore, Executive Director
SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local
mericia.palmaelmore@sagaftra.org
201 Merchant St. Suite 2301
Honolulu, HI 96813
Ph: 808-596-0388 Fax: 808-593-2636

SCREEN ACTORS GUILD - AMERICAN FEDERATION
OF
TELEVISION AND RADIO ARTISTS
SAGAFTRA.org
Associated Actors & Artistes of America / AFL-CIO



*THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS
WILL END IMMEDIATELY

*SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND
ORGANIZATIONS

*EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Art Bento Museum Education Program
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grades 7-12
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6
- Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support

Please do not pass this bill.

Respectfully,

Mericia Palma Elmore

Mericia Palma Elmore, Executive Director SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local

Mericia Palma Elmore, Executive Director
SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local
mericia.palmaelmore@sagaftra.org
201 Merchant St. Suite 2301
Honolulu, HI 96813
Ph: 808-596-0388 Fax: 808-593-2636

SCREEN ACTORS GUILD - AMERICAN FEDERATION
OF
TELEVISION AND RADIO ARTISTS
SAGAFTRA.org
Associated Actors & Artistes of America / AFL-CIO

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:19:36 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnny Macas	Testifying for manini GALLERY	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Honorable Senators,

I rise today to vehemently oppose HB1807, a bill that threatens to undermine the very essence of culture and artistic expression in Hawaii. This bill, under the guise of streamlining funds, would devastate our arts community and jeopardize the vibrancy of our cultural landscape.

Allow me to present some crucial facts and figures: According to Americans for the Arts, the arts and cultural sector contribute over \$800 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supporting over 5 million jobs. In Hawaii alone, arts and culture generate millions in economic activity and play a pivotal role in tourism, attracting visitors from around the world.

Moreover, numerous studies have demonstrated the transformative impact of the arts on communities nationwide. From revitalizing urban areas to fostering social cohesion, the arts have proven time and again to be powerful catalysts for positive change. In fact, research from the National Endowment for the Arts shows that neighborhoods with a higher concentration of arts organizations experience lower rates of crime and higher property values.

By restricting the one percent transfer requirement solely to capital improvement appropriations for the original construction of state buildings, HB1807 would effectively slash arts funding by a staggering 68%. Such a drastic reduction would have dire consequences, particularly for institutions like our esteemed museum, which rely on these funds to sustain their operations and enrich our communities.

Art is not a luxury; it is a fundamental aspect of our identity and heritage. It transcends boundaries and unites us in shared experiences. Yet, HB1807 threatens to diminish its significance, relegating it to the sidelines of our priorities.

Furthermore, this bill fails to recognize the integral role the arts play in education. By cutting funding for school arts programs, we are depriving our children of invaluable opportunities for creativity, expression, and personal growth. Studies consistently show the positive impact of arts education on academic performance and social-emotional development. Why would we want to deprive our youth of these benefits?

We cannot allow short-sighted fiscal measures to dictate the fate of our cultural heritage. The arts are not expendable; they are essential. We must reject HB1807 and instead reaffirm our commitment to nurturing and preserving the arts for generations to come.

Thank you.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:31:03 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Aynessazian	Testifying for HULI PAC	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is tanya yamanaka aynessazian and I am here on behalf of HULI PAC. We strongly OPPOSE HB1807. Thank you for the oportunity to share our comments today.

HB1807 and its amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i. Culture and Arts do more than just bring our community together. In a world of pain and suffering, in a world that is constantly telling us who to be, who we are and who we are not, culture and arts are essential to providing a sense of place for mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, as political, positional leaders, you are are painting a future for us all that invites more dysfunction and crime. And we need more healing, creativity and circular economic vision more than ever.

HB1807 would eradicate the Art in Public Places Program and end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian-Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 keiki, our next generation of leaders and creators. This bill also eradicates public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal us as individuals, as a collective people and our land, while providing a sense of understanding and purpose. Culture and arts give us a deep sense of pride and sense of place.

Like access to clean water and public transportation, access to culture and arts has a deep impact on our quality of life. Like clean water, culture and arts provide a reflection for us to see ourselves. Like water to the body, art is to the soul -- cleansing, healing, revitalizing, sustaining. It is impossible to thrive without it. Like public transportation, arts and culture move us, taking us to places we otherwise could not go.

And oh the places we can go with culture and arts. Yet our educational curricula is filled more and more with that which is concrete, that which we can understand with the mind, what we can test, and assess. But life - life is subjective, dependent upon our internal as well as external world. Our feelings are subjective. Our memories are subjective. Our likes and dislikes are subjective. Our personal interpretations of current events are subjective. Our heart is subjective. What a disservice to not teach how to live and work with

subjectivity, with heart, when it's very definition is relating to the real nature of something.

Arts and culture is at the core of the professed outcomes of Hawai'i's public education system. Educational outcomes we have branded as lifelong learners, effective communicators and complex thinkers. Great buzzwords. But how can we become complex thinkers without understanding and addressing the subjective? How can we become effective communicators without the ability to discuss the subjectivity of life? How can we become lifelong learners without fueling the curiosity and creative impulses within, that culture and arts is proven to so well facilitate? Access to culture and arts is essential to providing opportunities for students, of all ages, to expand their perception and awareness, creating a greater whole person.

From our understanding saying yes to HB1807 means that the Hawai'i State Art Museum, and all exhibitions and public programs would end immediately upon its effective date. AOLE. Over 500 testimonies have been logged opposing HB1807 since the beginning of this legislative session. Indeed, the very fact that there are legislators who want to cut arts and culture funding is a result of not funding it enough to have instilled an appreciation of their impact on us as individuals and on local culture. Auwe. Let us change course.

Thank you,

Tanya Yamanaka Aynessazian

HULI PAC

***Honolulu Theatre for Youth
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 910
Honolulu, HI 96813***

Re HB1807

Dear Senators:

We are writing to express our strong opposition to HB1807, which repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. This bill would cut over 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide. The bill states that the SFCA has enough works of art and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection.

The Arts in Public Place Fund is not just about buying artwork for the state collection. Several important arts education programs are dependent on funding from the Arts in Public Places fund and will be cut back or eliminated all together if this bill passes. Some of the programs that will be affected are:

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- Professional development for DOE Teachers
- The Hawaii State Art Museum exhibitions and programming
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony

As the Artistic Director for Honolulu Theatre for Youth I fear that all of the positive progress we have made using the arts to improve student learning will be eliminated through such rash decisions. This is not a time to eliminate funding sources for the arts or weaken the State's commitment to arts funding. We fear such a measure would have crippling consequences in our community.

Support for the arts should not just be about using the arts to entice more visitors to Hawaii it should be about enriching the lives of all Hawaii residents especially our keiki.

I hope you will carefully consider the impact of this Bill on Hawaii students and oppose this measure.

Respectfully,

Eric Johnson
Artistic Director
Honolulu Theatre for Youth

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:47:00 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hugh Jenkins	Testifying for Hawaii Craftsmen	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

As current President of the Board of Hawaii Craftsmen, I acknowledge the support of the State of Hawaii through the Stae Foundation on Cultere and the Arts over many years. I personally have benefitted from this support. Fifty four years ago a somall grant supported a pilot glass education program at The Foundry that redirected my life to teaching and deveolment of glass blowing as a career.

More recently I have served on the boards of the Volcano Art Center and Hawaii Craftsmen. It is through education programs and presentations that these organizatiions, and others like them, serve the state as a whole with cultural and contemporary art awarenes and development. We make the arts accessible to students and teachers from all schools in the state. We promote the direct experience of creating with the hands and mind in many media .

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts has had the express responsibility fo alocate and evaluate the use of funds dedicated for the arts.. Withdrawal of those funds and redirection to another department will greatly dilute the purpose of this important body. Almost all art organizations and programs could be impacted or possibly eliminated. We appreciate your past support and welcome your oversight in our combined kuleana for the arts in Hawaii.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:26:15 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jared Wickware	Testifying for International Association of Art - IAA-USA (Hawaii)	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

According to Rodin, “Art is the most sublime mission of man, since it is the expression of thought seeking to understand the world and to make it understood”. Art bridges our separateness in a language and a currency that moves laterally and universally through all divisions. This “sublime mission”, purpose, and sustaining euphoria transcends all other indicators of well-being, wealth and power; the either/or futility of culture/holy wars, and other addictions. People deeply need a genuine sense of purpose, without which they become the tools of zealots and ideologues, or they may struggle with mental illness. Adolf Hitler was actually a promising artist but was denied entrance to the Art School. Perhaps uniquely, Art provides that essential sense of purpose and dedication without having to impose itself on others.

Every Sunday evening I send out an Art History related e-mail to the members and former members of our Monday Night Drawing group. There are some 900 people on that list. My favorite topics have to do with the Art programs devised under Roosevelt and the New Deal, which dramatically helped the country survive the Great Depression. The New Deal produced magnificent art and launched the careers of many prominent artists. To me, a Navy veteran of both the Vietnam and the Gulf Wars, I believe our Finest Hours may not have been just on the battlefield, but in the implementation and mobilization of these visionary programs here at home, “Waging Peace” as former President Jimmy Carter put it.

In these times, funding for the Arts has been “hard won by”, and will be as or more difficult to restore. Meanwhile, such austerity measures as in HB1807 HD2 are short-sighted, reflexive and reactionary, demonstrating a fundamental lack of confidence in the true greatness of America and its proudest moments.



Dear Chair, Vice Chair & TCA Committee,

The Capitol Modern is a free public State art museum located in downtown Hawaii which enhances the profound combination of mixed cultures of the State of Hawaii while providing educational learning experiences to the general public & the youths. In 1967, Hawai'i became the first state in the nation to adopt a law with the enactment of the Art in State Buildings Law, which designated funds of construction costs of new buildings for the acquisition of works of art, either by commission or purchase. The purpose of the law is to elevate & humanize state buildings and to increase public access to the arts. In 1989, State Legislature of Hawai'i created the Works of Art Special Fund, expanding upon the provisions of the Art in State Buildings Law to include having works of art available to all state public places. Today, there are over 300 public art programs nationwide at the federal, state and county levels.

Since the enacting of the percent-for-art law, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) has acquired works from local & international artists and from curated exhibits across the State. These works of art enhance the physical environment of state buildings while providing educational experiences of visual arts to the public through the Art in Public Places Program.



A GRASSROOTS INITIATIVE

The SFCA partners with The Honolulu Theatre for Youth, the Hawaii Tourism Authority and The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards to inspire youths to produce quality works of art. The youth get an exciting opportunity to earn scholarships and to get their work displayed in public exhibits. These programs encourage creative excellence amongst Hawaii's youths of all levels from K-12. The works of the partners & youths further encourage a celebration of arts & culture while elevating Hawaiian culture and other heritages through displays of work representing different social groups, nations & customs. The youth art programs raises awareness about art education while creating diversity in the representation of cultures and equity for all children who want to compete.

The arts special fund does great work with students & artists to build career pathways & programming opportunities. There should be consideration to balance the budget with other priorities during this legislative season and to keep the complete funding for the Arts Special Fund. Artists, producers, musicians, fashion designers, performers, instrumentalists, filmmakers & content creators depend on the Art Special Fund to create dynamic opportunity in their artistry, to develop their talent and to showcase their profound creative expressions on a public platform.

Blessings,

Angela Melody Young

CARES





Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for this opportunity.

HULI PAC, STRONGLY OPPOSES HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. ***Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime.*** We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to ***create economic diversity.***

*Consequently, this bill would **ERADICATE** the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.*

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming/practices, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. ***It is simply the soul expression of our people.***

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

WILL END IMMEDIATELY

Below lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 700 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island
Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center
Maui
Hui Noe'au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association
Maui Arts and Culture Center
Viewpoints Gallery
Kauai
Kauai Society of Artists
Oahu
Downtown Art Center
Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary
Hawaii Watercolor Society
Honolulu Printmakers
Honolulu Theatre for Youth
Hawaii Handweavers Hui
Hula Preservation Society
NOTAE

Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.

Professional Development for DOE Teachers

**The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony**

Hawaii Arts Alliance support

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

Kahauiki Village
Institute for Human Services
RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.

Maki Morinoue
HULI PAC, member
Hōlualoa, Hawai'i Island, 96725

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:06:45 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Yee	Testifying for The LVRG Group LLC	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the consideration of Bill HB1807, which proposes the withdrawal of funding from public arts programs in our state. As esteemed representatives of the people, I urge you to carefully consider the far-reaching consequences this bill would have on our community, particularly on the vibrant arts sector that enriches our cultural landscape.

The repercussions of HB1807 cannot be overstated. Should this bill be enacted, it would deal a devastating blow to the very heart and soul of our community. Our arts organizations, which serve as bastions of creativity and cultural expression, would face unprecedented challenges, potentially forcing many to shutter their doors indefinitely. The loss of these institutions would reverberate throughout our society, robbing us of the diverse tapestry of artistic voices that enrich our lives and define our collective identity.

Moreover, HB1807 would inflict lasting damage on the cultural legacy we pass on to future generations. By depriving hundreds of thousands of public school students of access to arts education, we would be depriving them of the tools they need to explore their creativity, develop critical thinking skills, and cultivate empathy and understanding for others. The long-term consequences of such a deprivation cannot be ignored, as it threatens to diminish the very essence of what makes Hawaii such a vibrant and culturally rich community.

There would undoubtedly be extensive economic consequences as well. Not only would this bill impact the livelihood of those employed by public art organizations/programs and countless artisans, but it would negatively impact tourism and public spending.

In the face of these grave threats, I urge you to stand as a guardian of our cultural heritage and champions of our children's future. Reject HB1807 and instead, champion policies that recognize the indispensable role of the arts in fostering creativity, promoting cultural understanding, and building a more inclusive society. Together, let us reaffirm our commitment to nurturing the artistic talent of today and preserving the cultural legacy of tomorrow.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. The decisions you make today will shape the future of our community for generations to come.

**Hawaii
Legislative
Council
Members**

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country
Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko Family
Dentistry
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia
Hawaii Taro Farm
Wailuku

Maile Meyer
Na Mea Hawaii
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki
Abundant Life
Natural Foods
Hilo

Kim Coco Iwamoto
Enlightened Energy
Honolulu

Chamber of
Sustainable
Commerce
P.O. Box 22394
Honolulu, HI
96823

Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

Tuesday, March 19, 2024
3:00 PM, Room 224

RE: **HB1807 HD2** Works of Art Special Fund - **OPPOSE unless Amended**

Dear Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Inouye and Committee Members,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 100 small businesses across the State that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity; we know Hawaii can strengthen its economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment.

For this reason, we oppose HB1807 HD2, which specifies that the works of art special fund's one per cent transfer requirement shall apply only to capital improvement appropriations for the original construction of state buildings, and adds two vague appropriations, lacking specific amounts or percentages, for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) to support performing arts initiatives and the expansion of arts programming in schools.

Denying SFCA the one percent of renovation appropriated funds just puts more money in the hands of the architects, planners, construction contractors, and trades people, who are hard working but we must acknowledge they are male-dominated professions and work forces. Reserving one percent for artists is not asking for too much, especially when it helps to equalize the wide gender gap of resident workers earning public funds through public works projects. There is more gender equity among the workforce of artists compared to those working in construction renovation.

We urge you to amend this bill by reverting Section 2(a) of this HD2 back to the HD1 version that passed out of Chair Tam's Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs. We also support this committee keeping in the two appropriations for performing arts and school arts programs as long as you specify that the funding would be supplemental to the SFCA budget and would not supplant funding.



HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 9:58:49 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phil Schlieder	Testifying for Delphi Cinema	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Philip Thomas Schlieder
Film Director & Producer

www.delphicinema.com
3-15-2024

Dear Members of the committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill HB1807 HD2, which aims to eliminate capital improvement appropriations for state building renovations. This bill poses a significant threat to the funding source for the works of art special fund, endangering the existence of Capitol Modern (Hawaii State Art Museum), public programs, and undermining support for Native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries, and organizations.

Art is not just a luxury or a form of entertainment; it is an essential aspect of our cultural identity and expression. The arts enrich our communities, elevate our spirits, and foster creativity and innovation. By jeopardizing funding for art programs and institutions, Bill HB1807 HD2 risks depriving our society of these invaluable benefits.

Moreover, the impact of this bill extends far beyond visual artists. It affects musicians, performers, cultural practitioners, educators, and countless others who contribute to the vibrant artistic landscape of Hawaii. By cutting off funding for state building renovations, we are not only limiting access to art but also stifling the livelihoods of those who depend on it for their income and livelihood.

I urge you to reconsider the implications of Bill HB1807 HD2 and to prioritize the preservation and support of our state's artistic heritage. Art is not a frivolous expense but an investment in the well-being and vitality of our communities. It is a reflection of our values, aspirations, and cultural heritage. Therefore, I implore you to oppose this bill and to affirm the vital importance of art in our society.

Thank you for considering my testimony on this matter. I trust that you will make the right decision for the future of our state and its artistic community.

Sincerely,

Philip Schlieder



Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) OPPOSE: HB1807 HD2

Tuesday, February 19, 2024 3:00 p.m. Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

As a representative of the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action, I am writing to express our strong opposition to HB1807 HD2. Should this bill pass on July 1st, 2025, it will precipitate the closure of the SFCA Museum, with devastating consequences for our community.

The ramifications of this bill extend far beyond the closure of a single institution. It threatens to ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program, dismantling a vital pillar of support for public art across our islands. Additionally, it would terminate support for Professional Development for ALL Department of Education (DOE) teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations offering Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs. These programs impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, touching the lives of over 10,000 students—our next generation.

Moreover, the bill would strip away much-needed staff fees, setting off a catastrophic chain reaction. It would particularly devastate our marginalized outer island communities, which already lack adequate cultural and artistic representation in public spaces. Culture and the arts are not just amenities; they are essential for healing individuals and communities, fostering understanding and purpose, and stimulating circular economic pathways.

The importance of culture and arts extends far beyond mere aesthetics. They are fundamental to our identity, providing us with a deep sense of pride and belonging. Furthermore, they are powerful drivers of economic growth, touching various industries such as cultural programming, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, and tourism. They are the soul expression of humanity, enriching our lives and inspiring innovation.

By eradicating the Art in Public Places Program and undermining support for arts education and cultural programs, this bill would not only stifle creativity and expression but also exacerbate social and economic disparities. Without access to culture and the arts, our communities risk stagnation and decline. Moreover, the closure of the SFCA Museum and other cultural institutions would deprive our residents and visitors of valuable opportunities for enrichment and connection.

In conclusion, we urge you to reconsider HB1807 HD2 and its potentially devastating impacts on our cultural and artistic landscape. We implore you to prioritize the well-being and prosperity



of our communities by preserving funding for public art, arts education, and cultural programs. The future of Hawai'i's cultural heritage and economic vitality depends on it.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is positioned above the printed name.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 1:12:17 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry J Low	Testifying for Arts Kauai	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I strongly oppose HB1807, both as an individual and as a representative of Arts Kauai. As a public-school teacher, I received funding to bring artists into the schools through the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. I brought our first state poet laureate Kealoha in to do workshops with hundreds of students. All the students gained a better appreciation of poetry and valuable performance skills. They worked in small groups for exercises and gave presentations of the poetry they wrote in front of their peers, often numbering over 50 students. Many reluctant learners excelled in this program. I think it would be a huge loss for the state to reduce funding for these kinds of programs. Art in public places is equally important to our state. Please oppose HB1807. As I understand it, this bill would cut 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely eliminating government support for many arts programs and initiatives statewide. While the most recent version of the bill tries to cover the bills negative impact on education and performing arts by making an appropriation, it will not come close to matching the loss of this cut. Please Do not make cuts to the Arts Programs in the state. Art is not only beneficial to culture in the state, but is also important in terms of mental health.

Mahalo,

Terry J Low

President of Arts Kauai

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 12:35:28 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evan Fujimoto	Testifying for Craft Brewz Music, LLC	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Evan Fujimoto and I am a business owner of Craft Brewz Music and Echo Seven Creative. My full-time work in Craft Brewz Music involves music creation through songwriting and music production while my work with Echo Seven Creative involves video production and photography. I am one of the music producers for CROSSING RAIN as well as the director/cinematographer of 3 of CROSSING RAIN's music videos that was filmed at Capitol Modern. Thus, I am fully involved with the creative arts community through my work.

I grew up playing the trumpet in band throughout grade school, which showed me paths that really intrigued me such as music composition. But, when it was time to choose a higher education route, I did not have very many options. I was interested in composing music, but wanted to make pop songs that would be played on the radio. There were very little programs on island that specialized in this specific field within music, which led me to major in pre-med instead. After a span of seven years, I reached a full-circle moment with the arts where I couldn't resist acknowledging that was my calling. Honing my crafts through COVID then led me to diving into the arts full-time today.

I don't know where I would be if I had gotten into medical school, but I know that I would not be in the position I am in today without any of the art program that were available to me in school. From Youth Symphony to select bands and marching bands, it proved to me the importance of programs like these existing in a child's early life; And my story is only one example. The arts in Hawaii is already scarce as is. I believe defunding an already dry industry would result in more devaluation of local creativity leading people to outsource certain creative jobs out of state. It would lead to our dollars being spent with those who don't directly contribute to the local community. This already happens in the music industry.

In the states, music is valued exponentially more than it is valued here because there is an existing industry. And it's definitely not because their music is 100x better than the music we produce. We work with a Portland-based music publishing company who licenses music to business's commercial campaigns for top dollars. We started asking ourselves why music licensing like this doesn't exist in Hawaii. Wouldn't that really benefit the starving local musician if companies paid them to license their song? We believe it is due to the fact that there are not enough resources available within the local industry. There are no programs that specialize or educate within these fields. Talent exists, but value for music does not. Thus, companies put their dollars in out of state pockets when searching for music. I fear this is what

will happen in the future to all art forms if local programs are defunded. More and more will people start to look outward for art.

Community **MUST** exist in order for the value of the industry to grow. Keeping art programs alive will be the investment for a higher valuation of all arts in the future. Through this we can and will keep local dollars with the local people. I hope to see this bill overturned and the arts to continue to grow. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:34:11 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Rich	Testifying for East Hawaii Cultural Center	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is devastating to the arts community and would have extremely negative impacts to the East Hawaii Cultural Center. Art is critical for healthy, vibrant, creative communities. Do not take funds away from programs that benefit our society and the creative economy. Art Matters!



Testimony Opposing House Bill 1807hd2

To: The Honorable Sen. Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Sen. Lorraine Inoue, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Culture, and the Arts

I am testifying today as President of the Hawaii Handweavers Hui, which was founded in 1953. We are deeply opposed to House Bill 1807, which would repeal part of Hawaii's landmark first in the nation law to provide 1% of the construction cost of public buildings and their renovations to support art in public places and the subsequent creation of the works of art special fund. This state-funded program that created and now operates through the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, has been an unqualified success over the past half-century. It continues to meet the modest but important need to support arts organizations throughout the state and even though this bill was amended in the House to take effect on a date far in the future, it is still harmful. The Handweavers Hui is one of the many organizations that have benefited from this legislation and through it we have been able to contribute to cultural activities in the state of Hawai'i in the following ways.

A. The Hawaii Handweavers Hui has taken great pride since the late 1960s in the two massive hand-woven tapestries that hang in the State Senate and House chambers, which were created by our late Hui member, weaver Ruthadell Anderson. When you are in your chambers, please look at the beautiful tapestry at the front of the room and remember that this remarkable law made it possible.

B. When the Hawaii Museum of Arts School at Linekona (HMAS) shut down during the COVID 19 pandemic, we were one of several arts and crafts organizations that had been using HMAS and its weaving class as an informal gathering place. During that time we regularly received small grants from the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) to support our annual workshops that bring a well-known fiber artist to Hawaii to conduct three or four day workshops for our weavers on both Oahu and the Big Island. We also invited the foundation to visit our biennial juried exhibitions, where they regularly made purchase awards of weavings by Hawaii artists for the Art in Public Places program. We supported the weaving program by regular contributions and donated our time and skills to assist WeBeWeave very special arts program at HMAS, which provided a daily weaving program to a group of residents with various disabilities. In addition to encouraging our members to take the weekly weaving class every semester, we had held our meetings and weaving workshops as well as our biennial juried exhibitions there for over three decades.

C. During the pandemic, the Handweavers Hui and several other arts and crafts group that had been using HMAS were informed that we would no longer be able to use those facilities when the Schools' renovation and reorganization of its arts instruction program was completed. By that time, the Museum of Art School at Linekona was the only place on the island of Oahu that offered handweaving instruction to adults. The University of Hawai'i's once vibrant undergraduate and graduate weaving programs had gradually declined, and only one high school, the University lab school, now a public charter school, was teaching weaving to high school students. Recognizing that our Hawaii Handweavers Hui, a 501c3 nonprofit, was the only organization that could step into the breach, we accepted HMAS' donation of the weaving looms and other specialized equipment that the weaving program had been using. Fortunately, we found a new home at the new Downtown Art Center, where we had already become charter members. In addition to holding our exhibitions in their beautifully renovated DAC gallery, we now have a thriving weaving studio at DAC, where we offer adult classes in weaving and related fiber arts to the public. The move has been an unqualified success for the Hawaii Handweavers Hui. We offer about 20 small classes each quarter, with the weaving classes taught *pro bono* by our members and other short craft classes taught by paid instructors. The income has covered the rent every month since the move, and the Hui's membership on Oahu has doubled. Because we walk through the DAC gallery to reach our weaving studio, we are much more connected to the other arts groups that hold their shows there and we also participate in various activities that DAC sponsors, including the public First Friday events that have enlivened the arts community in the Chinatown area.

In short, our small weaving community has benefitted from the art in public spaces program since its founding and continues to benefit from programs supported by the arts special fund. We see no reason to eliminate the application of the 1% of public construction projects to renovations, especially since more of our public built environment is now aging and urgently requires renovation or replacement. For a very modest cost that is contributed by the companies that win public construction contracts, the state of Hawaii has been able to develop and maintain a number of innovative programs that support the state's arts community. HB 1807 is based on an outdated, narrow understanding of how this law benefits the public at no direct cost to the taxpayers. We see no reason to gut arts funding by removing renovations from the current funding mechanism, which supports a wide range of activities through the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. If the purpose of holding a hearing now for a bill that has already been amended to take effect in the year 3000, wouldn't it be simpler just to kill it completely?

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Steinhoff

Dr. Patricia Steinhoff
President, Hawai'i Handweavers Hui
and Professor Emerita of Sociology
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

3/17/2024

Aloha Legislators,

I am writing this testimony on behalf of so many citizens of this State who benefit every single day from the programs, services, events and public artwork supported by the longstanding efforts of the SFCA. Please reject the House bill 1807. Artwork supported by the SFCA welcomes with Aloha and bids A Hui Hou to every visitor and traveling resident at all of our airports. Artwork supported by the SFCA greets every individual as they enter our capitol building, legislators offices, schools, libraries, public spaces and government buildings. Artwork purchased from the annual exhibits complete the interiors of our interactive and community spaces. These artworks, small and large are far more than decoration. They provide inspiration for the viewer, they provide lessons in our unique history, they serve as recognition of our leaders, citizens, innovators and minorities. The artworks commemorate the accomplishments of those who give their best to Hawaii. The 442nd Infantry Regiment of WW2 comes to mind as an example of individuals whose importance and legacy was established by overcoming obstacles and succeeding beyond expectations. The legacy of these second generation residents of Hawaii is perpetuated and celebrated every single day in a number of public sculptures throughout the state. This is just one example of education provided to the public through public art. These sculptures are seen by so many and they exist solely because of the SFCA program that is being considered for budget cuts.

Creativity in all forms is essential to a thriving economy. These artworks are created by professionals who dedicate their lives to making long lasting contributions to our communities and our state. Many of Hawaii's important artists have passed away over the years, yet their contributions live on in the form of public art, bringing joy and appreciation everyday to all who pass through our public spaces. These artworks are owned by the collective residents of the State, and are funded and maintained entirely by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts program. The importance of this collection can not be understated. Culturally relevant, historically relevant- this program perpetuates objects and images that celebrate the best of Hawaii and its people. The decades long commitment to this program is what makes it so rich and varied and rewarding to the public. It is inclusive and gives back equally to every viewer in the state. As the cost of everything inflates around us, we must not lose sight of the importance of consistent support for this established and successful program that is truly a benefit to all. The SFCA does not seek to ask for more, they need to be funded as they have been since their inception. The continuation of support for all the arts organizations targeted in this bill is essential to our forward thinking society

Thank you for your support to reject this House bill 1807

Scott Fitzel

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:02:59 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tom Walker	Testifying for Univeristy of Hawaii - Leeward	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

Honorable Legislators,

I am submitting written testimony to strongly object to the proposed House Bill 1807 which “repeals capitol improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.” This bland and innocuous description does not even come close to describing the damage that this bill will cause to our community. This funding is crucial.

If this bill goes through and 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue is cut, then it will have disastrous consequence for our cultural and artistic community here in Hawaii.

All exhibitions and public programs at the Hawaii State Art Museum will end immediately. This is the people’s museum. Admission is free, allowing everyone to enjoy the amazing exhibitions that they offer with out having to pay exorbitant admissions fees as is required at Bishop Museum and HOMA. Every First Friday they have live music and programming and events for the entire family, drawing the public in and breathing enthusiasm and enjoyment back into this arts oriented monthly Chinatown event.

Their educational programs will be cut as well - ending Artists in the Schools Arts Education Programming, no more Scholastic Art Exhibitions or Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibitions or professional Development for DOE teachers and teaching artists. Who will be educating and inspiring and supporting the next generation of artists here in Hawaii? These opportunities, for students from across the state, allow all strata of society to see their expressions and creations displayed in a museum. That is priceless for their intellectual growth and for the development of their unique voice and self confidence

Support would be eliminated for the Downtown Art Center - our very last venue for large juried art shows like Artists of Hawaii and Hawaii Craftsmen where all local artists can show and participate in the art scene. Support would also be eliminated for the Maui Arts and Cultural Center, Donkey Mill Arts Center, Arts at Marks Garage, Fishcake, Arts and Letters, and University of Hawaii Galleries.

Really? What would the community have left? As a professional working artist for 30 years I can tell you that compared to the mainland we already have a profound lack of opportunities here in the Islands. While the public consistently shows up to support the arts in all of its forms, the necessary upper level support here is very limited.

There very few art galleries where we can show work and actually have the opportunity to sell the work that we make in an attempt to make a living.

Not to mention the loss of the support for organizations like Honolulu Printmakers, Pu'uhonua Society, Hawaii Handweavers Hui, Honolulu Theatre for Youth, and multiple others that provide creative centers and opportunities for us in the community. Funding for outreach programs will be eliminated that support human services, youth outreach, LGBTQ services, health and harm reduction centers....

We must ask - who exactly does this bill benefit? Because it certainly is not the citizens of Hawaii. This critical funding could disappear leaving much disarray in its wake, and who would benefit? I am surprised and outraged that this bill is actually being presented in a community that is already underserved in the areas of artistic and cultural programming financial assistance. HB1807 is targeting the one institution genuinely making a difference and funding so many crucial programs that will just vanish if this bill goes through.

Hawaii was the very first state in the nation to establish the 1% for the arts in 1967, and this was expanded to the Works of Art Special Fund in 1989. Let us not allow this dream to be crushed in 2024 with the passing of HB1807, much to the detriment of the people of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Kathleen C. Grennan

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 12:26:56 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Freedman	Testifying for East Hawaii Cultural Center	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Eight years ago, from the edge of ruin, I assembled a team to save the East Hawaii Cultural Center. With the support of SFCA, this diverse group of young, old, differently gendered, passionate, creative people have worked for subsistence income, to renovate the building and restore a voice to creative educators and artists within our community. I am Stephen Freedman, Chair Emeritus of the East Hawaii Cultural Center. and I strongly urge you not to hear bill 1807.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stephen Freedman

EHCC Chair Emeritus

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 3:28:56 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Edwards	Testifying for Hawai'i Craftsmen	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a non-profit, volunteer run arts organization with a 58 year history of serving the statewide creative community, we strongly oppose ANY reduction in funding for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA). Through the Art in Public Places Program (APP) and the Hawai'i State Art Museum, the SFCA provides critical support directly to our organization and to our members, and creates a healthy cultural ecosystem in Hawai'i through the acquisition and display of cultural works. The trickle-down effects of cuts to this program would be disastrous to arts organizations, Hawai'i artists, and the cultural community at many levels. We strongly urge you to not cut any funding for the SFCA.

About Hawai'i Craftsmen

Hawai'i Craftsmen is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving the rich tradition of fine craftsmanship in the Hawaiian Islands. Established with a passion for supporting local artisans, the organization serves as a vibrant community that fosters the development of high-quality, handmade works of art across various mediums, including ceramics, fiber, wood, metal, and glass. Hawai'i Craftsmen actively engages in educational programs, exhibitions, and events that showcase the diverse talents of its members, creating a platform for the exchange of ideas and techniques. By celebrating the intersection of traditional craftsmanship with contemporary artistic expression, Hawai'i Craftsmen plays a vital role in cultivating a dynamic and thriving arts community in the unique cultural landscape of Hawai'i.

Preserving Hawaii's Cultural Soul: The Imperative of Funding Public Arts Programs

As a resident of Hawaii and a passionate advocate for the arts, I wholeheartedly believe in the critical importance of maintaining funding for public arts programs in our state. Hawaii's vibrant cultural heritage, unique traditions, and diverse communities are intricately woven into the fabric of our society, and public arts programs serve as vital conduits for preserving, celebrating, and advancing our rich cultural legacy.

First and foremost, public arts programs play a fundamental role in preserving and promoting Hawaii's indigenous culture. From hula and lei making to traditional chants and storytelling, our Native Hawaiian heritage is deeply rooted in artistic expression. By supporting public arts initiatives, we ensure that these ancient practices are not only preserved for future generations but also fostered and celebrated in contemporary society. Public arts programs provide platforms for Native Hawaiian artists to showcase their talents, share their stories, and pass down ancestral knowledge, thereby perpetuating our cultural traditions and strengthening our cultural identity.

Moreover, public arts programs contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy and tourism industry. The arts serve as a powerful magnet for visitors, drawing tourists from around the world who seek to immerse themselves in our unique cultural experiences. Whether it's attending a traditional luau, exploring local art galleries, or witnessing a performance of the renowned Merrie Monarch Festival, the arts play a central role in attracting tourists and generating revenue for our state. By investing in public arts programs, we not only enrich the cultural landscape of Hawaii but also stimulate economic growth, create job opportunities, and support local businesses in the arts sector.

Furthermore, public arts programs foster creativity, innovation, and social cohesion within our communities. Through arts education, outreach initiatives, and community-based projects, these programs empower individuals of all ages and backgrounds to explore their creativity, develop new skills, and engage with their peers in meaningful ways. By providing accessible and inclusive spaces for artistic expression, public arts programs promote social inclusion, bridge cultural divides, and cultivate a sense of belonging and unity among diverse communities. Additionally, the arts serve as powerful tools for addressing social issues, promoting

dialogue, and driving positive change, thereby contributing to the overall well-being and resilience of our society.

In addition to their cultural, economic, and social benefits, public arts programs also play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life for residents of Hawaii. The arts have the power to inspire, uplift, and enrich our lives in profound ways, serving as sources of joy, inspiration, and solace during both times of celebration and moments of adversity. Whether it's attending a live performance, participating in a community art project, or simply admiring public murals and sculptures, the arts have the ability to enhance our sense of connection to one another and to the world around us. By investing in public arts programs, we invest in the well-being and vitality of our communities, fostering environments that are conducive to creativity, cultural exchange, and personal fulfillment.

Despite their undeniable importance, public arts programs in Hawaii face numerous challenges, including funding cuts, resource constraints, and competing priorities. In the face of these challenges, it is more important than ever for policymakers, community leaders, and stakeholders to recognize the value of the arts and prioritize their support and investment. Now is the time to reaffirm our commitment to preserving and nurturing Hawaii's cultural soul, ensuring that the arts continue to thrive and flourish for generations to come.

In conclusion, the preservation and funding of public arts programs are essential to the cultural, economic, and social vitality of Hawaii. By investing in the arts, we invest in our heritage, our economy, our communities, and our quality of life. Now, more than ever, we must come together to support and advocate for the arts, ensuring that they remain accessible, inclusive, and vibrant for all residents of Hawaii. Together, let us celebrate our cultural richness, honor our artistic heritage, and build a brighter future for Hawaii through the power of the arts.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:56:15 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maile Loo	Testifying for Hula Preservation Society	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - passage of this bill would be devastating to arts programs and initiatives statewide. The arts are more important than ever to our community, humanity, mental health, educational development, and balanced lives, and while the addition of an appropriation attempts to cover the negative impacts, it is not sufficient and does not come close to matching the loss of the resulting cut. Please do not pass this bill. Mahalo for your consideration, Maile Loo, HPS

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:28:00 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Kean	Testifying for Kean Arts Inc.	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Steven Kean, a working professional artist and art educator based on the north shore of Oahu. I strongly oppose HB 1807 and so should you. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, and this bill would directly impact my position on the HSFCA teaching artist roster. I have been implemting AITS residencies at Waialua Elementary School for several years now and next year I'm hoping my grant is accepted and approved for an Art in Public Places AITS residency in 2025. I am also currently applying for an AITS residency with Ka'ala Elementary in Wahiawa. HB1807 would put these programs in limbo if not entirely eliminate support.

It would be devastating for the youth of Hawaii, schools, artists, teachers, residents and communities should HB1807 move forward.

I urge you to consider the detrimental social and financial impact this would have for all of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Steven Kean

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:17:19 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beverly Hashimoto	Testifying for Fishcake, Downtown Art Center	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Living with so much negative news from wars, murders within our community and countries, domestic violence, drugs, etc., I, as a retired educator, strongly feel that we need to have art programs to nourish our well being so that we in turn can help others to live a positive and caring life. Students, being exposed to the arts from an early age, will flourish and thrive and actually make a positive connection with other core subject matters. (Integrated learning) We more than ever need the arts now to connect with students so they will have positive experiences at school and become a "fuller, enriched" individual. For some students having an art class(es) can make a difference in passing or failing school. I know, because I was an art teacher for almost 40 years at Kaiser and Roosevelt High Schools.



March 18, 2024

To the Senate Committee on Transportation, Culture, and the Arts:

I am writing this letter in strong opposition to House Bill 1807 (HB1807), which proposes the repeal of capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the Works of Art Special Fund and the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA). I have witnessed firsthand the vital and significant impacts of SFCA's initiatives, both through my capacity as Director of Maui Arts & Cultural Center's Schaefer International Gallery and as a Maui resident and community member.

Maui Arts & Cultural Center (MACC) has worked with SFCA to coordinate Acquisition Award Selection Committee visits that nominate works of art for accession into the Art in Public Places (APP) Collection. For numerous exhibitions at MACC, we have also been able to request and display artworks on loan from the APP Collection, which holds immeasurable importance as a public resource. HB1807's language repealing renovations as a source for funding and replacing it with arbitrary appropriations is misleading and fails to transparently articulate the significant detrimental effects this bill would have on the SFCA, the APP Collection, and the arts in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i's enactment of the Art in State Buildings Law in 1967 and creation of the Works of Art Special Fund in 1989 distinguished the state by advocating the importance of the arts – both as a necessary element to humanize public space and as an essential experience for the betterment of society. The APP Program represents an evolving collection that is meant to grow alongside new creative voices, approaches, and issues that emerge from Hawai'i's diverse art scene. To imply that the collection has enough artwork is to close the door on including current and future movements of Hawai'i's artists as part of this public resource, a misstep that would be a drastic disservice to the vitality of our community today and our cultural longevity for future generations.

In addition to the APP Collection, the Works of Art Special Fund spans numerous initiatives that create accessible exhibition programs to the general public, enable the implementation of arts education throughout the state, and provide funding to non-profit organizations. The programs that would be at severe risk due to HB1807's slashes in funding include but are not limited to the Capitol Modern Hawai'i State Art Museum exhibitions and public programs; the Artists in the Schools program serving 124 public and charter schools; professional development for Department of Education teachers; the Scholastic Art Exhibition and Young Artists of Hawai'i Exhibition; numerous outreach programs to underserved populations; and support for Native Hawaiian and local arts organizations.

An amount of one percent of a renovation budget can make a substantial impact for artists, students, and non-profit organizations throughout the state when stewarded through the Works of Art Special Fund and SFCA's initiatives. I respectfully request that you prioritize the role of the arts as an essential facet of our cultural vitality by rejecting HB1807.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Yukio Clark
Director, Schaefer International Gallery

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HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:46:53 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Markus Wessendorf	Testifying for Dept. of Theatre & Dance/University of Hawaii at Manoa	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to demand that the Senate Committee on Transportation Culture and the Arts dismiss/not hear the House Bill 1807. This bill will be devastating to the livelihoods for our local communities.

Here are the reasons why House Bill 1807 should be eliminated/not heard and the funding should remain:

BENEFITS FOR SOCIETY

Economic Drivers: The arts create jobs and produce tax revenue. A strong arts sector is an economic asset that stimulates business activity, attracts tourism and expands a state’s work force and tax base. The arts have been shown to be a successful and sustainable strategy for revitalizing rural areas, cities and populations struggling with poverty.

Educational Assets: The arts cultivate young imaginations and facilitate success in school, enhancing academic achievement in multiple subject areas. They provide the critical thinking, communications and innovation skills essential to a productive 21st century workforce.

Civic Catalysts: The arts create a welcoming sense of place and a desirable quality of life. The arts also support strong democracy, engaging citizens in civic discourse, providing forums for important issues and encouraging collective problem solving.

Cultural Legacies: The arts preserve culture and heritage, passing along our state’s unique character, diverse cultures, and traditions to future generations of citizens.

BENEFITS FOR PUBLIC POLICY

The arts improve the impact of other state policies and services. Numerous states have incorporated the arts into economic revitalization, education, literacy, work-force development, tourism, community sustainability, social service and veterans-care plans.

The arts are a dynamic contributor to the small-business sector. The creative industries are

composed of many talented workers who are self-employed, freelancers or employed by microenterprises. According to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) analysis of U.S. Census occupational data, artists are nearly 3.5 times more likely than the total U.S. work force to be self-employed (33.6% vs. 9.8%). Many nonprofit arts organizations, too, are small businesses and play an important role in training creative workers and incubating artistic enterprises.

The arts make communities vibrant, welcoming and desirable. Cultural places and events are magnetic, attracting not only artists but also families, travelers and businesses. Creative placemaking—the gravitational effect of culture on neighborhoods—positively impacts local economies and quality of life. It creates jobs and stimulates commercial traffic, all of which leverage neighborhood revitalization, attract diverse populations and strengthen communities. Capitalizing on these effects of creative placemaking requires strong public-sector support.

The arts are a hallmark of innovation. The arts are part of creative capacity, spurring innovation and generating unique products and services. Creativity is part of any competitive edge in the global marketplace, where distinctive design and effective communications can spell the success or failure of a business or policy venture.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:21:28 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Kawailani Ozawa	Testifying for Hawaii Hui LLC	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1807, HD2. As a passionate supporter of arts and culture in Hawaii, I oppose this bill due to its substantive, if unintended, consequences relating to critical arts funding in the Aloha State.

The proposed legislation seeks to revoke capital improvement appropriations for state building renovations, diverting funds from the "one-percent-for-art special fund" established by Act 298 in 1967. This bill would result in a devastating 68% reduction in revenue for the Art in Public Places program, severely impacting government support for numerous arts organizations, programs, and individual artists across Hawaii.

The argument that the SFCA doesn't need any more art is misinformed and misguided. Art is not a static entity; it evolves with society and reflects the diverse perspectives and experiences of our communities. Continual support for the arts is essential to fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and culturally rich Hawaii.

Despite the bill's claims of appropriating funds for performing arts initiatives and expanding arts programming in schools, this verbiage is without any hard guarantees.

If passed, HB 1807, HD2 could force the imminent shutdown of all state museums (including those on outer islands) and public art programs. This would be a devastating blow to our state's cultural landscape, depriving residents and visitors alike of invaluable educational and enriching experiences.

As Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi wisely stated at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body." We must not allow this bill to undermine the critical role of arts and culture in our society.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:31:33 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sonnet Coggins	Testifying for The Merwin Conservancy	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The first sentence of Bill HB 1807 acknowledges "that art feeds the human spirit and offers priceless value. Art inspires, educates, and challenges individuals to think differently, while making the world a more beautiful and interesting place." While this statement couldn't be more true, the value of art in our community goes well beyond. Art is the root system of empathy, which is in itself essential to the well-being of individuals and communities alike. Art is the lifeblood of culture and its perpetuation and evolution, of *all* aspects of our collective life as a community. Compromising funding for the arts means compromising our individual and collective well-being now and well into the future.

Art is *essential* in its ability to inspire and engage the imagination—the engine of innovation, change, and the very capacity that lets us see beyond the present moment to new possibilities. Further to this point, passage of this shortsighted bill will be counterproductive to the very problem it seeks to address: a repair and maintenance back log. Surely, there are more nuanced and far less drastic ways to address such a problem than to compromise the very capacity that can generate solutions, now and for generations to come.

Mahalo for your consideration ,and for your service,

Sonnet Kekilia Coggins



IATSE LOCAL 665

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Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Regular Session of 2024
Senate Committee on Transportation, Culture, and the Arts

Testimony by IATSE 665
March 19th, 2024

H.B. 1807 HD 2 - RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND.

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Tuia'ana Scanlan, International Trustee and president of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **Local 665 opposes HB 1807 HD 2**, relating to the works of art special fund.

We support education and access to the arts; we support the State Foundation for Culture and the Arts and its decades-long history as a national leader in community-based arts funding; and we support keeping the funding for this important organization intact. HB1807 HD 2 repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.

While this measure seems innocuous on the surface, it would cut nearly 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, eliminating government support for many arts programs and initiatives statewide. The appropriation proposed in this measure would not make up for the drastic cut in funding.

Here is a list of organizations and activities that will be affected:

*THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

*SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

*EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming

- Art Bento Museum Education Program
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grades 7-12
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6
- Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support

IATSE 665 opposes HB 1807 HD2. Please defer this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tuia'ana Scanlan', written in a cursive style.

Tuia'ana Scanlan
International Trustee, President, IATSE 665 (he/him/his)

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:44:18 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moira Pirsch	Testifying for Maui Arts & Cultural Center	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha esteemed Representatives,

I am Moira Pirsch, the Education Director at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center. I write to express my strong opposition to HB1807, which would negatively impact our work with teachers, artists, and students.

The arts play a crucial role in promoting social and emotional well-being, especially during these challenging times. HB1807 would hinder our ability to support educators and engage students through creative programs, which are vital for holistic development.

I urge you to reconsider HB1807 and recognize the importance of arts education in nurturing our communities. Feel free to contact me at moira@mauiarts.org or 808-243-4234 for further discussion.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Moira Pirsch Education Director Maui Arts & Cultural Center moira@mauiarts.org

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:10:58 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Williams	Testifying for hana high and elementary school	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hana High and Elementary School and I would like to personally thank the legislature for your support of the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and Arts (HSFCA). Your appropriation to the HSFCA helps to fund several high quality art programs. Please continue to support the Artists in the School Program. Through this program, schools are provided with amazingly talented teaching artists who work directly with teachers and students in the classroom. Students' thinking and learning of core subject areas and the foundation of the arts is deepened as a result of these masterful artists. The residencies from the Artist in the Schools program serve the community of each school, working with the teachers and their curriculum to make their residency relevant and responsive to each location and grade level.

I am a teacher at Hana School and have seen students who struggle with academics thrive in these alternative ways to show what they know. Students who struggle with reading, math, writing or fine motor skills, can shine when they get to use their whole bodies to communicate ideas. The children of Hawai'i need creative outlets to help make learning more meaningful. Please don't take music, art, and dance away from our students.

Hana School is fortunate to have Maggie Costigan as our teaching artist to share her extensive knowledge of music and dance with our K-5th grade students. Through her dance residency, "My Body is My Instrument" she cultivates awareness of the body as an artistic tool, while developing best practices for maintaining physical and emotional health through music & dance. During her residency, our students learn how to observe and control their bodies. Ms. Costigan helps students use their body movements to communicate meaning and feelings. Our students develop their imaginations and strengthen their creative thinking while creating dance sequences telling about our 'aina. This connection to self and place is important to our students. We love having master artists come into our school to inspire students to learn ways that are different from how we teach them. The visiting artists also instruct the classroom teachers to incorporate the types of activities introduced into our weekly practices. This is especially important for rural schools, like Hana, where we don't always have enough staff on hand, much less the staff with right training. We need this program to provide quality, talented artists to our small, rural location.

Additionally, our students learn effective reflection and assessment strategies to

improve upon their work, and important approaches for problem solving. Throughout these classes, Ms. Costigan connects the curriculum with Fine Arts Standards and the Hawai'i Department of Education's General Learner Outcomes (GLOs). Focusing on General Learner Outcomes is an important component when educating our students. These are overarching goals of standards-based learning go beyond academic achievement to ensure that students become engaged lifelong learners.

As you can see, Dance, Music, and Art are all extremely important avenues in teaching the whole child. As teachers at Hana School, we want to engage students with their whole body and mind so they become well rounded members of society. The Artists in the Schools program, funded by HSFCA, provides talented artists to help us do just that. Students learn in different ways and seeing students learning through dance, helps me see strengths in my students that I would not otherwise notice. All students deserve to have high quality art education in their schools.

STATE OF HAWAII



KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION

355 NORTH KING STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

DATE: Tuesday, March 19, 2024

TIME: 3:00 PM

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, Conference Room 224, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1807 HD2. This bill will effectively eliminate the majority of funding for the King Kamehameha Lei Draping Ceremonies statewide as well as a huge percentage of the Art in Public Places program revenue. The impact will adversely affect or eliminate government support for many arts organization, programs and individual artists statewide.

Reducing funding for would cut monetary support for Native Hawaiian and Local Artists, Galleries and Organizations therefore, we strongly oppose this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo,

Amy Hammond

Executive Director

King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:22:17 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandra Obra	Testifying for Waiāhole Elementary School	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Alexandra Obra, Principal at Waiāhole Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1807. My keiki has participated in the Artists in the Schools as well as the Art Bento Program. As a small school, we don't have a dedicated art teacher who can provide numerous rich opportunities for our keiki. Over the years, we have been fortunate to work with Sensei Chizuko Endo with taiko drumming, Hawai'i Opera Theatre and Artist Hannah Shun and our keiki, kumu and 'ohana have enjoyed these opportunities. If HB 1807 is passed, my keiki and kumu will not have access to these rich art experiences and programs nor have opportunities to work with artists.

Thank you for taking time to read my testimony.

Sincerely,

Ms. Alexandra Obra

Waiāhole Elementary School

Principal

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:54:04 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Calley O'Neill	Testifying for The Kona Airport Mural Team, The Rama Tree, a Hawai'i Educational 501c3	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Calley O'Neill
6f5-1199 Pu'u Opelu Road
Kamuela, HI 96743

March 18, 2024

Dear Honorable Members of the Hawai'i State Legislature,

1. HB 1907 HD2. Please do NOT pass this bill.

I, Calley O'Neill, representing the Kona Airport Mālama 'Āina Mural Team and the educational non-profit, The Rama Tree, family, and friends, am writing to express our vehement opposition to HB1807 and HB1807 HD2. It is with grave concern for the welfare of our community, culture, and future that I urge you not to pass this bill.

The repercussions of HB1807 and HD2 are severe, as they seek to eliminate capital improvement appropriations for Hawai'i state building renovations, thereby jeopardizing the funding source for the works of art special fund. Such actions not only imperil the existence of Capitol Modern (the Hawai'i State Art Museum) but also undermine support for Native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries, and organizations.

It is imperative to highlight the deceptive nature of HB1807 HD2, which purports to appropriate funds for performing arts initiatives and expanded arts programming in schools. However, it fails to acknowledge the devastating impact on the special fund, leaving critical programs bereft of essential resources. The proposed elimination of approximately 90% of our funding would dismantle numerous exceptional programs that serve our community:

- The Artists in the Schools arts education program, which benefits 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists.

- Capitol Modern (the Hawai'i State Art Museum) exhibitions and programming, including First and Third Fridays, and Super Saturdays.
 - Art Bento Museum Education Program.
 - Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade 7-12.
 - Young Artists of Hawai'i Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6.
 - Hawai'i Alliance for Arts Education support.
- Especially in challenging times, these programs are not merely enriching; they are essential components of our cultural and educational landscape. They nurture creativity, foster talent, and instill a deep appreciation for the arts among our youth. By dismantling these initiatives, we not only deprive our children of invaluable learning opportunities but also undermine the cultural fabric of our society.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider and reject HB1807 and HB1807 HD2. The future of Hawai'i depends on safeguarding its cultural heritage and investing in the arts. Let us not diminish the vibrancy and richness of our community by sacrificing these vital programs on the altar of fiscal expediency.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Calley O'Neill, Julia Fairchild, Lamar Yoakum, Sandi Playsted, Lorraine Dutta and the Ellison Onizuka Kona International Airport at Keahole Mural team plus 60 volunteers

Calley@CalleyONeill.com

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:01:08 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Meyer	Testifying for Castle Performing Arts Learning Center	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In my twenty three years as the Director of the Castle Performing Arts Learning Center at Castle High School, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts has been an invaluable resource, ally and advocate for my students and our internationally recognized program of excellence in the performing arts.

Funding for the arts is difficult at best, impossible for most, and despite all the data exemplifying how important the arts are to our children's academic success - government support is dearly needed. The SFCA has always provided this to us - through its programs we have received funding, essential workshops, advocacy, and not one, but two - stunning artworks that grace our the pride and joy of our campus, the Ronald E. Bright Performing Arts Center.

This bill essentially GUTS the State Foundation from its funding - and therefore start a ripple effect, crippling many of our programs across the State. Do we need capitol improvement money? As a verteran DOE teacher, I agree, of course. But at what cost? Robbing Peter to pay Paul? Robbing students from a proven superior organization with outstanding resources to pay for cement?

Simply put - the arts and the work that SFCA does supports our students learning and makes them want to come to school! What good is a new building without the students?

Please support our children, my students, my program and the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts by NOT passing HB 1807.

Sincerely, Karen Meyer, Director

The Castle Peforming Arts Learning Center

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:08:37 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rechung Fujihira	Testifying for BoxJelly	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1807, which, as I understand it, proposes significant cuts to the government's support of the arts. As a concerned citizen who values the arts and their vital role in our society, I urge you to reconsider this legislation.

The arts are not merely a luxury or entertainment option; they are an integral part of our cultural fabric and play a crucial role in fostering creativity, empathy, and understanding among communities. Government support for the arts is an investment in the enrichment and well-being of our society as a whole.

HB 1807 threatens to undermine the progress made in cultivating a vibrant arts community by slashing funding and resources that support artists, arts organizations, and educational programs. Such cuts would have far-reaching consequences, disproportionately affecting underserved communities and limiting access to cultural experiences for all citizens.

Moreover, the arts sector contributes to our economy, generating jobs, driving tourism, and revitalizing neighborhoods. Gutting government support for the arts would not only stifle creativity and expression but also harm local economies across the state.

I urge you to consider the long-term implications of HB 1807 and its potential impact on our cultural landscape. Instead of dismantling support for the arts, I encourage you to explore alternative solutions that promote sustainability and equitable access to artistic resources.

In conclusion, I respectfully ask that you oppose HB 1807 and advocate for policies that prioritize the preservation and advancement of the arts in our state. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely, Rechung Fujihira, Co-Founder BoxJelly

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:36:00 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandra Pohl	Testifying for Downtown Art Center	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 16, 2024

Senator Chris Lee and members of the
Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
STRONG OPPOSITION TO HB 1807 HD2

My name is Sandra Pohl, I am the executive director of the downtown Art Center
I strongly oppose bill HB 1807 HD2 to Repeal capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. This bill would cut 68% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide.
The financial cost is obviously money spent to purchase, maintain the collection and the administrative overhead to implement the museum and the arts in public places program.
The benefits of the state foundation 1% funding have intrinsic benefits such as
-reflection of who we are as an inclusive state, our values and world view
-value of looking at art is healing and contribute to the wellbeing of individual and communities
-purpose awards encourages artists to strive for excellence in their media
-small financial support of arts nonprofits that organized the juried art exhibition
As part of using the power of the arts and creativity, the return on investment on funds for this purpose is significant. The Arts Means Business
-Supports a vibrant and sustainable arts community
-Grows the creative industries which will increase the state's GDP (gross domestic product) - diversifies economic development strategy of promote the creative industries
-diversifies the regenerative tourism strategy using culture and the arts as the attraction -create new workforce jobs in the creative sector
According to Arts for America: the arts and culture generate tax revenue far beyond any government investment, on average, for every dollar invested into the nonprofit arts, six dollars in taxes are generated.
The state policy brief put out by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies stated that a strong arts sector makes it easier for government to balance its books. Public funding of the arts is an investment with high yields. This starts from the top with federal funds: each \$1 in federal arts funds leverages another \$9 from public and private sources, resulting in \$500 million in matching support.

Again, I strongly oppose this bill. Please do NOT PASS this bill out of committee.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:37:53 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
annie cusick wood	Testifying for Honolulu theatre for youth, Hawaii education of the arts	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have worked as an arts educator and theatre maker in Hawaii for the past 18 years. As an educator and theatre director with Honolulu theatre for youth, director with Hawaii education of the arts and a teacher with Pilina education alliance, I have witnessed first hand how the arts can save and change young lives for the better. It's simple; access to diverse arts make for a better, richer, more tolerant Hawaii. A rich artistic culture is a more positive place of joy, peace and hope for connection and a better world .

Children need arts. If you don't give a child access to arts and culture you are starving a vital aspect of their development. It nourishes our souls in a way that nothing else does. It also creates a wonderful sense of community, and a place that celebrates creativity. I support education and access to the arts. support the State Foundation for Culture and the Arts and its decades-long history as a national leader in community-based arts funding; and I and all at HTY support keeping the funding for this important organization intact. HB1807 HD 2 repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. While this measure seems innocuous on the surface, it would cut nearly 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, eliminating government support for many arts programs and initiatives statewide. The appropriation proposed in this measure would not make up for the drastic cut in funding. Here is a list of organizations and activities that will be affected:

Honolulu theatre for youth via our work with the Hawaii state art museum . Groundbreaking work for Hawaii creating new arts for children with autism and babies would end.

*THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

*SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

*EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists
The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming

Art Bento Museum Education Program
Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grades 7-12
Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6
Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support

Please PLEASE PLEASE do not pass this bill.

Sincerely
Annie cusick wood
Writer/director/educator

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:44:32 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Li Lundin	Testifying for Society of Asian Art of Hawaii, Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly urge you to continue funding for the arts at all levels.

Li Lundin, society of Asian Art o Hawaii,

www.saahhawaii.org

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:47:25 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jody Brotman	Testifying for Kahilu Theatre Foundation	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would reduce essential support for Kahilu Theatre and many other arts organizations in the state that provide art experiences and art education programs for all ages. It will also negatively impact the livelihoods of artists on our state. We are not in favor of repealing the capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. We are in favor of increasing art education funds for schools, but not at the expense of illminating or reducing exisiting art programs. Thank you for considering Kahilu Theatre's strong postion on HB1807 HD2.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:52:54 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiakahi Wong	Testifying for Ki'ikau Printers	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou. My name is Kiani Wong and I represent Ki'ikau Printers, a fine art print shop located in Kaka'ako on O'ahu. Along with many other artists, organizations, galleries and museums, our business opposes HB1807. We do not support the defunding of public support for our arts community by reassigning important funding to capital improvements. The state needs to find another way to support capital improvements. Perhaps a delay in public service raises?

Commitment to the production and display of artwork in any form, from fine art to cultural works and live performances must be protected at any time, whether in 2024 or in 3000 or 20000. No exceptions.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:54:27 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Simone Fromen	Testifying for House of Bloom Artist Collective	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I, Simone Fromen, and the 12+ artists of the House of Bloom Artist Collective
STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2!**

On behalf of the House of Bloom Artist Collective, a group of over 12 of Hawai'i's emerging and professional artists, we strongly oppose the passing of this bill. As I have written in testimony before, this bill is contributing to the continuous striping of culture in Hawai'i. Taking away funding from public art and forcing programs to shut down would be shameful, and would continue a narrative of the government taking away support from locals, small businesses, and the community. The events and programs provided by Capitol Modern have provided a space for artists and small businesses to thrive, for the community to connect, and for all people to engage in culture and art, both of which are vital to any community. Taking these things away would be huge step backwards, and passing the bill would continue a cycle of defunding and dismantling the people's community. Being such a small place, Hawai'i already lacks the culture and arts that other big cities have. We need more art not less. Please make the right decision against this bill, please show us that you can hear your community's voices and prioritize the people.

Mahalo for the chance to testify,

Simone Fromen (and the House of Bloom Artist Collective)

Honolulu, 96816

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:12:54 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Osborne	Testifying for Kua O Ka La NCPCS	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please do not pass HB 1807 which will eliminate the Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide. Our Charter School has benefitted from an artist for over a decade and this has been invaluable for our students. Our underfunded schools cannot afford to hire a teaching artist and the arts are now finally being recognized for the benefits to a child's learning, development, and joy.

Mahalo for your consideration to not advance this bill.

Susie Osborne

Co-Founder/Development Director: Kua O Ka Lā Charter School

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:29:35 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Stoner	Testifying for Hui Noeau	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Rob Stoner. I am testifying against HB1807. HB1807 is a destructive bill that would drastically cut funding for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts' many arts programs and initiatives statewide. Elimination of "renovation" from the percent for art law would CUT the following initiatives:

*THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

*SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

*EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Art Bento Museum Education Program
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade 7-12
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6
- Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support

I strongly urge you not to hear Bill 1807, and to please consider continued support for the arts and arts education in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:40:23 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Wong	Testifying for trades air— local artists residency program	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a member of the vital arts community and co-founder of local non-profit artist residency program TRADES A.i.R., I strongly oppose the proposed bill.

The notion that the state collection is adequate and complete is ludicrous--art is a living and dynamic part of our community, identity and history. And the state fund provides one of very few avenues to create a comprehensive record of the art made and shown in the state, and to support and foster the development of local, native, and indigenous artists.

I work closely with many beneficiaries of these funds from artists, community organizers, curators and audiences and have witnessed first hand how transformative and impactful this state funding is. It is also critical for the state to demonstrate a commitment to the arts as central to who and what we are as a place and its peoples--to do otherwise is an embarrassment and tragedy.

Art provides a direct and essential reflection of Hawaii and of who and what we are. To stop supporting the arts is to admit defeat, to say that things are fixed and immovable and they we no longer are able to hope and to strive; unable to assert and share who we are, what we know, and how we can hope for more and better. It is our kuleana to protect the arts because they are central and essential to everything that we are and to what we might yet become.

Please vote against this measure--we are depending on you.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:42:46 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anneliese Wirsching	Testifying for UHM Theatre and Dance Department	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to demand that the Senate Committee on Transportation Culture and the Arts dismiss/not hear the House Bill 1807. This bill will be devastating to the livelihoods for our local communities.

Here are the reasons why House Bill 1807 should be eliminated/not heard and the funding should remain:

BENEFITS FOR SOCIETY

Economic Drivers: The arts create jobs and produce tax revenue. A strong arts sector is an economic asset that stimulates business activity, attracts tourism and expands a state’s work force and tax base. The arts have been shown to be a successful and sustainable strategy for revitalizing rural areas, cities and populations struggling with poverty.

Educational Assets: The arts cultivate young imaginations and facilitate success in school, enhancing academic achievement in multiple subject areas. They provide the critical thinking, communications and innovation skills essential to a productive 21st century workforce.

Civic Catalysts: The arts create a welcoming sense of place and a desirable quality of life. The arts also support strong democracy, engaging citizens in civic discourse, providing forums for important issues and encouraging collective problem solving.

Cultural Legacies: The arts preserve culture and heritage, passing along our state’s unique character, diverse cultures, and traditions to future generations of citizens.

BENEFITS FOR PUBLIC POLICY

The arts improve the impact of other state policies and services. Numerous states have incorporated the arts into economic revitalization, education, literacy, work-force development, tourism, community sustainability, social service and veterans-care plans.

The arts are a dynamic contributor to the small-business sector. The creative industries are composed of many talented workers who are self-employed, freelancers or employed by

microenterprises. According to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) analysis of U.S. Census occupational data, artists are nearly 3.5 times more likely than the total U.S. work force to be self-employed (33.6% vs. 9.8%). Many nonprofit arts organizations, too, are small businesses and play an important role in training creative workers and incubating artistic enterprises.

The arts make communities vibrant, welcoming and desirable. Cultural places and events are magnetic, attracting not only artists but also families, travelers and businesses. Creative placemaking—the gravitational effect of culture on neighborhoods—positively impacts local economies and quality of life. It creates jobs and stimulates commercial traffic, all of which leverage neighborhood revitalization, attract diverse populations and strengthen communities. Capitalizing on these effects of creative placemaking requires strong public-sector support.

The arts are a hallmark of innovation. The arts are part of creative capacity, spurring innovation and generating unique products and services. Creativity is part of any competitive edge in the global marketplace, where distinctive design and effective communications can spell the success or failure of a business or policy venture.

Arts are also a tool of freedom of speech which cannot be limited by government policy.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:45:40 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aly Ishikuni	Testifying for Art+Flea, MORI by Art+Flea, Bas Bookshop	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

My name is Aly Ishikuni and I am a contracted Public Programmer at Capitol Modern. I am testifying on behalf of the museum, ART+ FLEA, MORI by Art+Flea and our collective of 1200+ independent artists, musicians, and creative small businesses that will be disastrously impacted by HB1807 HD2. **We strongly oppose this bill.**

We are unitedly committed to creating and providing unique experiences for the public to enjoy free arts and culture programs and events, but this is only possible with the support of SFCA and their Art in Public Places Program. The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and their financial contribution to Capitol Modern events (such as *First Fridays & Friday Night Tempo*) have allowed our artists, designers, and performers to effectively turn their passions into thriving businesses. We collectively share the same values of empowering our creative community in Hawai‘i, and we will continue to stand by and with SFCA to support their mission to build a sustainable artistic future for artists.

Art is extremely vital to our lives, especially for our younger generation. It is our duty and kuleana to promote youth empowerment by providing outlets for self-expression through student art exhibitions like the *Scholastic Art & Writing Awards* and free public events like *Super Saturdays* at Capitol Modern. Moving forward with this bill will only kill the dreams for thousands of keiki’s in Hawai‘i. You will be ending support for professional development for all DOE teachers, and numerous art centers/organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs on ALL major islands.

I respectfully ask for your careful consideration to this matter and thank you in advance for your attention to this testimony.

Mahalo,

Aly Ishikuni-Sasaki

Founder & Owner, ART+FLEA / MORI by Art+Flea

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:47:39 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maggs Vibo	Testifying for Honolulu Printmakers	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honolulu Printmakers use funds from the purchase of works of art at our yearly annual exhibition to support—all of our programming. SFCA Grant funds support important programs that serve our kupuna population, at-risk youth and after school art programs. Government Arts Funding is put to work in the physical world hand in hand with other funding programs that build on each other to create a diverse ecosystem of art, community and economic vitality that is essential to the overall health of our community. As a veteran of the Iraq War, I depend on the arts to improve my mental health and to bridge the civilian and military divide. Do not take away these programs.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:58:43 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donald Womack	Testifying for University of Hawaii at Manoa, Department of Music	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose cutting funding to SFCA. Arts funding is an essential contributor to our state, both in terms of quality of life and economic development. Art attracts people, which translates into dollars. Tourists, for example, visit a place with a reputation of quality, a reputation that is greatly enhanced by relatively low-cost additions such as art. Efforts such as this bill, which purport to save taxpayer money, are short sighted, and ultimately end up downgrading the reputation of our otherwise beautiful state. PLEASE MAINTAIN FUNDING FOR THE SFCA! Mahao nui loa.

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and members of the committee, I am a second grade teacher at Mokapu Elementary School and OPPOSE HB1807 HD2. Students statewide benefit from the efforts of the State Foundation Culture in the Arts and the Art in Public Places Program.

Students participate in SFCA sponsored student art exhibitions, Artists in the Schools, Artists In Residence, the Hawaii State Art Museums Art Bento museum education program, Honolulu Theatre for Youth productions, Hawaii Youth Symphony Orchestra, Hawaii Youth Opera Chorus and teachers participate in professional development for teachers to better understand how to teach the arts.

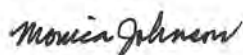
At Mokapu Elementary School, the artist in residence program culminated in a residency with students and a permanent work of art on our campus which is meaningful and brings a sense of pride to our community. Our student population, as well as tens of thousands of students, teachers and parents in the public education system statewide benefit from the Art in Public Places portfolio of arts programs.

HB1807 aims to eliminate all these programs with the claim of an appropriation to support arts education. Do not take the public arts away from our students, teachers, parents and community. The state needs to support a robust funding of arts education, AND continue to support the Art in Public Places Program.

Attached are the testimonies of several second grade classes. Please take a minute to hear their voices, like *"You get rid of my art, YOU GET RID OF MY DREAM."* *"What if it was your art and someone took it?"* *"You can go make your own money instead of taking the museums money."* *"Wait, we have a voice and my voice says please don't take away art."* *"Please don't cut funding for our art programs. These programs are important because they give kids like me access to learning that I may not get otherwise."*

Do not make false promises to the students or the public, but be true to serve our needs. We need art and leaders that listen. If you visit my class of second graders, will you tell them you are taking away their public arts education or thank them for sharing and that you listened to them and acted on their behalf for their future.

Thank you.



Monica Johnson

Save Art 4



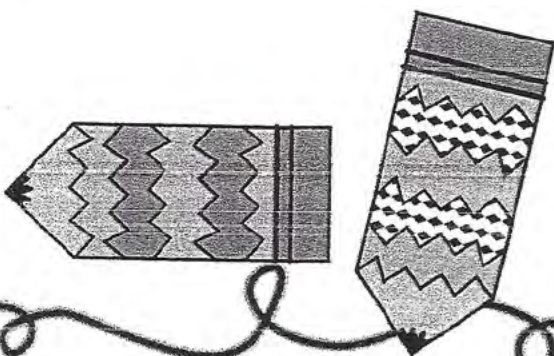
3/15/24

Dear Lawmakers,

Please do not get rid of the
Public art Program for Children.

Think about the Starry night and
what if you take that away?
what if it was your Art? and
Someone took it?

You get rid of the art.
YOU GET RID OF MY DREAMS.



I Love art

March 15, 2024

Dear Law Makers,

Please don't cut funding
for our art programs.

These programs are important
because they give kids like

me access to learning I

may not get otherwise. Art

is so important and it is

fun. my favorite art to do

is oil pastels. I like to

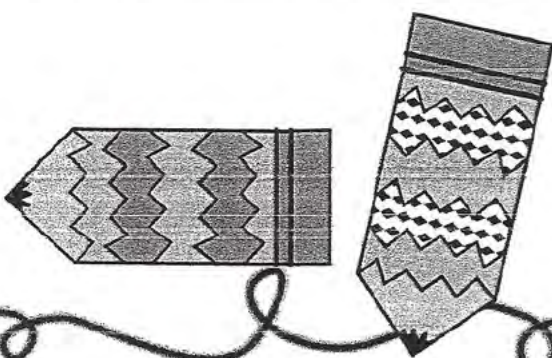
draw the redcoat soldiers

from the British Army. I

like it because oil pastels are

better than crayons. Thank you

Sincerely,



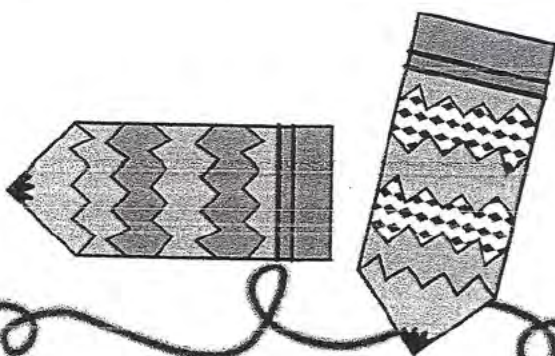
What if it was your art?
And someone took it?



03-15-24

Dear Lawmakers,

Please don't get rid of the
public art program for children. I
have a voice. Wait we have a
voice and my voice says please don't
take away art. Art could be
Someones dream too and you
could be crushing it! Oh
and by the way people
are going go to that museum
and how are they going to
feel? Just something to think
about.



I love art,



Arts

every-
where

Mar. 15, 2024

Dear Law Makers,

please don't
get rid of our Art program.

Students love art so much

Also, it helps grow their
imagination. It also inspires

Students to learn. I hope you

Save our art program.

From,



3-15-24

Dear law makers,

Please do not get rid of the
art program for children because
every thing is art.

You are made out of art what if there
was not art you would not be made.
We have a voice.

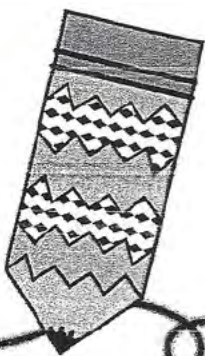
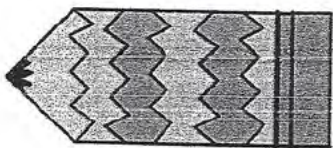
We are part of the community.

Go make your own money.

What if it was your art and some took
it? What if you made art and some one
burned it. Think of the marshall
and what if you take that away.

my heart is art.

I Love art,



3-15-24

Dear Lawmakers

Please do not get rid of the
public art program for children.

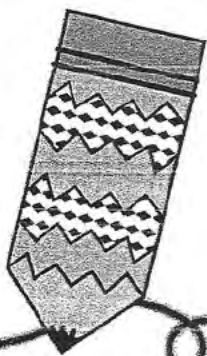
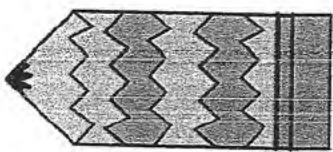
Plus I have never ever been, but I
want to go but if I go and it's

shut down and we drove all the
way over there for nothing? I have
never been to see the Mona Lisa.

and my sister has always wanted
to be an artist that has been
her dream to be an artist.

and if you really want money
you guys have to make your own
money because you are not taking art.

I love art,

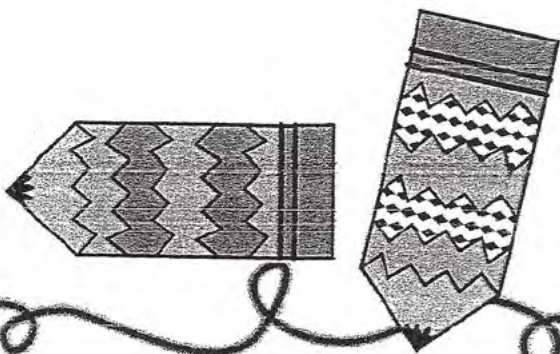




March 15, 2024

Dear LawMakers

Please don't cut funding for our
Art Programs. These Programs
are important because they give
kids like me access to Learning
we may not get otherwise.
Art is so important and it is
fun. My favorite art to do
is gymnastics and drawing.
I like it because I am really
good at drawing and gymnastics.
is fun. Thank you for
listening to our concerns.



Sincerely,

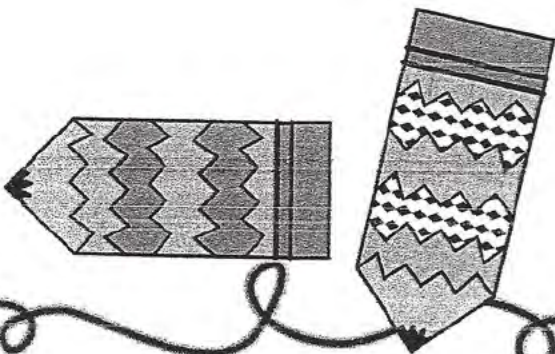
March 15,

3-15-24

Dear Lawmakers,

Don't get rid of the public art program for kids. Go make your own money. I have a voice. We need art. Everything is art. We are art. Art could be someone's dream. What if it was your art? and someone took it? It's a bad idea! we care, and you don't! we love art. we are a part of the community. we have art at school, and we want public art too!

I love art,





please Do not
Destroy
The art
museum

3-15-24

Dear

Lawmakers

Please do not get rid of the
public art program for children.

Do not take art away from
us. Everything is art. We

need creativity. We have a

voice. We are part of

the community. We would be

nothing without art. Think

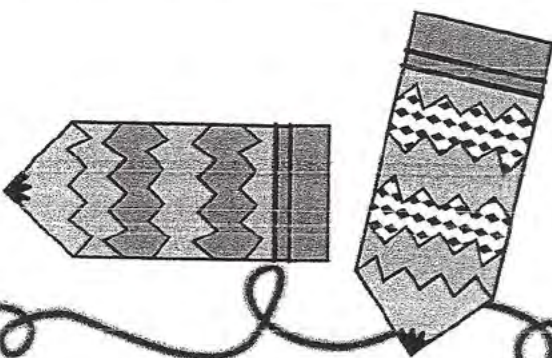
about the Mona Lisa, and what

if you take that away?

People plan to go see Art

what happens when you shut it

down? Go make your own money



I Love Art,

Art is Life

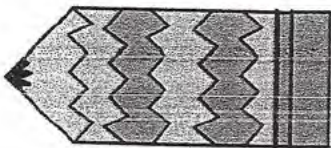
3-15-24

Dear lawmakers

Please do not get
rid of the public
art program for
children. What if it
was your art? Art
and someone took
it? You could also
take someones dream to
see the art. Go
make your own
money for other
stuff. And how are
kids are going to

learn art?

I love art,

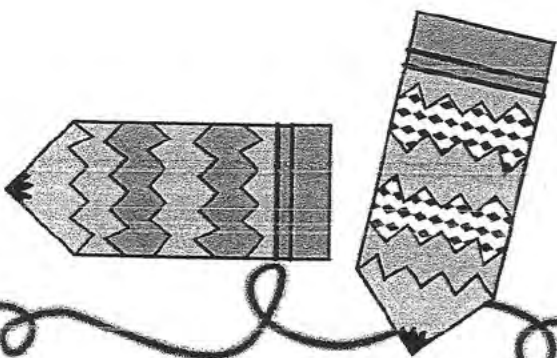


3-15-24

Dear lawmakers,

Please do not take away our
Public art program for
children because we would be nothing
without art. think about the
mona lisa, and what if you took
it away? and people plan to
go there and see what happens
when you shut it down? you
can go make you own money
instead taking the museums
money. what if you made art
and someone took it? how
would that make you feel?

I love art.

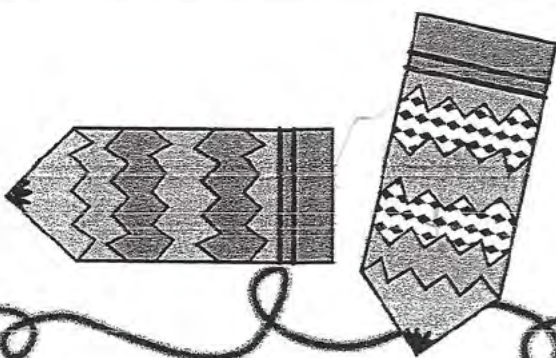


Dear

March 15 2024

Dear Law Makers

Please don't cut funding
for our art programs. art
is important because they give kids
like me access to learning we
may not get otherwise. Art
is so important and it
is fun. My favorite art
to do is painting. Because
if you add water on
top you can mix the
colors. Thank-you for
listening to our concerns.



Sincerely,

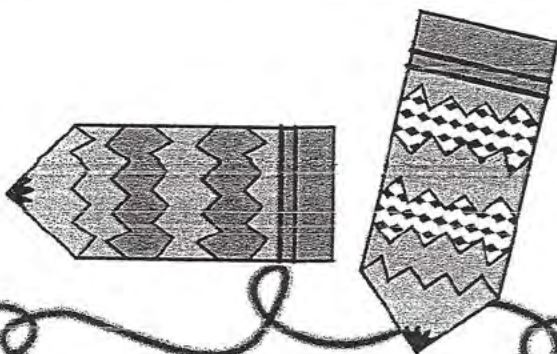
DEAR LAW MAKERS!

PLEASE DON'T CUT FUNDING FOR ~~X~~ OUR
ART PROGRAMS. THESE PROGRAMS ARE
IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY GIVE KIDS LIKE
ME ACCESS TO LEARNING WE MAY NOT GET
OTHERWISE. ART IS SO IMPORTANT AND IT
IS FUN. MY FAVORITE ART TO DO IS DRAGE
POURRE • I LIKE IT BECAUSE ~~SOMEONE~~

PAISEO

THANK - X FOR LISTENING TO OUR
CONCERNS.

Sincerely,



X

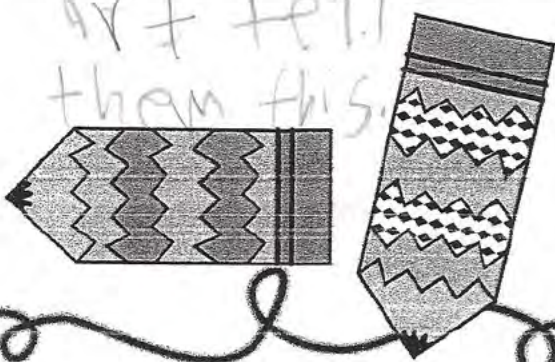
March 2024

Dear State Leaders,

Art is important because if Art
was not made then none of the
whole world would be
made. Not Earth not even
the solar system. Art is
what made Earth and the
solar system that is
why the stars are there
and there art. Art is every
where you go, and God
made you out of Art
so if you see

some where that does not like
Art tell them this.

Sincerely,



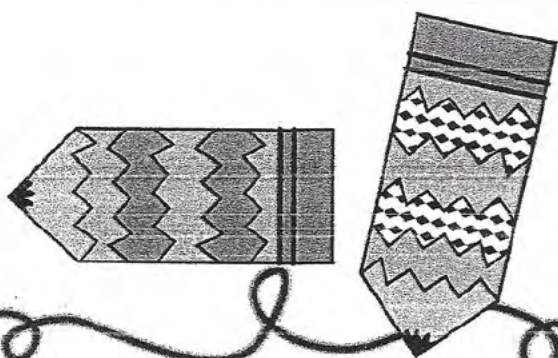


March 15 2024

Dear state leaders,

ART is fantastic
because YOU get to
express YOUR ideas
and creativity. ART is
amazing so please
don't take it. Art
can also be beautiful.
It is really COOL.

you can do whatever
you want to do with
art. you can color and
you can draw.



art is
awesome

don't take art away.



3-15-24 2gr

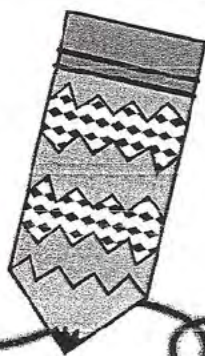
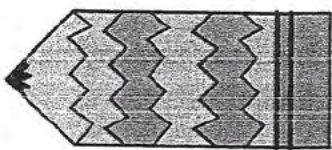
Dear lawmakers,

Do not get rid of the
public art program for children.

Dont take art away from
us. Everything is art. we
need art we need creativity

We have a voice. We are
part of the community.

I love art. We love
art because art is every-
thing to us. we love it
and no shating it
down



I Love Art,

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:21:05 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miya Tsukazaki	Testifying for Temple Children	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Miya Tsukazaki and I am the Director of Temple Children, an artist collective based in Hilo.

I strongly urge you to oppose Bill 1807. The State Foundation provides support to numerous artists, art institutions, galleries, community centers, and arts education programs that I work with directly. My business would not function without these relationships.

This funding plays an integral role in nurturing and transforming our community culture and creating a positive environment for our keiki. The loss of this funding will be to our collective cultural detriment.

Please kill this bill.

Me ke aloha,

Miya Tsukazaki, Hilo

**Senate Committee on Transportation Culture and the Arts
March 18, 2024
Testimony on House Bill 1807 HD2 | Works of Art Special Fund**

Dear Chairman Lee, Vice-Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee:

I am writing from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. We are a national, nonpartisan clearinghouse for research on state arts agency programs and policies.

It has come to our attention that HB 1807 HD2 (pertaining to the Works of Art Special Fund) proposes to limit the state's percent for art requirement to original construction only, thus exempting renovations from the policy. We wish to offer a perspective **opposing** this change to the law.

We concur with the bill's authors that Hawai'i's Percent for Art statute and the Works of Art Special Fund have been highly successful. These policies in Hawai'i have served as models for other states and jurisdictions. [Such policies](#), enacted in 27 states and territories since Hawai'i first pioneered the approach, demonstrate the power of the arts to enliven the built environment, celebrate a state's cultural heritage, enhance education and create opportunities for artists.

However, when considering public art policies enacted by legislatures nationwide, **the strong majority (85%) of those policies include major facility renovations**. This is the case in Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Guam, Hawai'i, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Vermont and Washington.

Applying the policy to both new and existing sites ensures that Hawai'i citizens have access to public art in all state properties, regardless of their age. It also contributes to the maintenance and restoration of artworks and—in the case of Hawai'i—contributes to many valuable educational programs.

We respectfully encourage the Hawai'i state legislature to maintain an inclusive and comprehensive approach to public art, to the lasting benefit of all Hawai'i communities.

Sincerely,



Pamela A. Breaux
President and CEO
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:14:33 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darin Miyashiro	Testifying for So-shin Kai	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in *strong opposition* to this bill. The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts provided critical support to help preserve this organization's legacy as the longest running koto group in Hawaii, and the East Hawaii Cultural Center has provided a home for this group to continue its activities and grow. This bill would negatively impact both.

Mahalo,

Darin Miyashiro

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:02:01 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Galang	Testifying for Honolulu Printmakers	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I (Paul Galang) OPPOSE HB1807.

During my early years as a young artist, I first experienced the positive effect of good financial support in the arts programming in the Hawaii State Art Museum when I got accepted in the Scholastic Awards. Being at that stage during the awards gave me an enormous confidence and a sense of belonging moving forward. This experience was a big catalyst to what I do today, which is an educator and an artist. Cutting the funding in the arts is a huge disservice to young aspiring artist in the near future.

Not only that, it also cuts funding in our local arts communities. One community I represent is a non-profit organization the Honolulu Printmakers. Honolulu Printmakers are nearly 100 years old with over 150 Members. Located right next to the Hawaii State Theater, HP collaborates with local businesses and organizations creating a vibrant economic zone along Bethel Street. Honolulu Printmakers provide vital support to Neighbor Island Artists through our Annual Exhibition now in its 96th Year and our Ohana Award which provides funding for neighbor island artists to showcase their work in downtown Oahu.

Our programs are funded in part through financial support offered through SFCA. The yearly Biennium Grant, Artists in the Schools program, Art Bento and the vital Art Selection and Acquisition Committee —combine together to provide a solid foundation of stability and support for our creative workforce members and our community.

Honolulu Printmakers use funds from the purchase of works of art at our yearly annual exhibition to support —all of our programming. SFCA Grant funds support important programs that serve our kupuna population, at-risk youth and after school art programs, and many many more. Government Arts Funding is put to work in the physical world hand in hand with other funding programs that build on each other to create a diverse ecosystem of art, community and economic vitality that is essential to the overall health of our community.

We depend heavily on these funds and we might financially collapse without them!!!

This is why I extremely oppose HB1807! I hope we all keep funding for the arts!

Sincerely,

Paul Galang

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:20:53 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirsten Rae Simonsen	Testifying for University of Hawaii at Manoa	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I completely oppose HB 1807 HD2. Please know that without the arts, a society does not HAVE a culture or an identity. A move against the arts is a move against your own local culture and identity. It's a big mistake.

As a Lecturer at the Department of Art & Art History at the University of Hawai‘i Mānoa, I daily see young people create incredible artwork that deeply explore their upbringing, their surroundings, and their identities. Additionally, many of these artist find making artwork to be great therapy; I have had students that live through the Maui fires (some of their relatives were not so lucky), for example. They have found it deeply moving to make artwork that addresses that experience. As they into grow into more mature artists and art professionals, do you want to send these intelligent and creative young people a message that you do not support them? With the pandemic and all of the events that have happened recently, these young people who are exploring and essentially continuing to create our culture have been through enough. They deserve more. They deserve support and encouragement. This bill does the opposite of that.

Certainly there are other solutions to your money deficit that do not involve throwing your own culture in the trash. I am shocked that anybody would suggest taking money from these arts organizations that are so much part of our life here in Honolulu and beyond. Could you not raise the property tax a tiny bit? Please explore other solutions for the ongoing health of our very vibrant and well respected artistic community, and for the future of our young people.

Respectfully,

Kirsten Rae Simonsen

Artist and Lecturer, Department of Art & Art History

University of Hawai‘i Mānoa



Hawai'i Forest Industry Association

7192 Kalaniana'ole Hwy
Suite A-143A, #249
Honolulu, HI 96825
Phone: 808/933/9411
Email: hfia@hawaiiiforest.org

Date: 03/18/24

TO: TCA Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and TCA Committee Members Elefante, Kanuha, Awa

FROM: Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA)

SUBJECT: Testimony in opposition to HB1807 HD2 Relating to the Works of Art Special Fund

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members,

The Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA) is a state-wide association of diverse individuals and businesses. Roughly 50% of HFIA members are woodworkers and our annual flagship event is Hawaii's Woodshow, in Honolulu. That being said, while we are a trade association focussed on the forest industry, we also care deeply about the well-being of the arts community and the funding. On behalf of the Directors and members of the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association, please oppose HB1807 HD2.

HB1807 HD2 would cut 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely eliminating government support for many arts programs and initiatives statewide.

The Hawaii Forest Industry Association hopes that you will oppose HB1807 HD2.

Mahalo,

Guy Cellier, President
Hawai'i Forest Industry Association

Established in 1989, HFIA's is a nonprofit organization founded by people committed to sustainable forest management. HFIA's mission is to promote healthy and productive forests and a sustainable forest industry through management, education, planning, information exchange, and advocacy. HFIA has over 130 members including woodworkers, landowners, sawyers, foundations, foresters, growers, educators, environmentalists, architects, millers, ranchers, and others interested in HFIA's mission and goals.

HFIA Board of Directors

Officers: President Guy Cellier, Vice President Irene Sprecher, Secretary Taylor Coons, Treasurer Wade Lee
Directors: Jeremy Campbell, Aaron Hammer, Nicholas Koch, Michael Sowards, Aileen Yeh

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:58:19 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shar Tui'asoa	Testifying for Punky Aloha Studio	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. As a full time working artist in Hawai'i this bill would directly impact not only my livelihood and the livelihood of our art community but there are cultural and educational ramifications as well. This bill would effectively dismantle years of hard work celebrating and uplifting our storytelling, much of which is culturally rooted in the pacific. We all know that arts programs are the first to go and we also know the importance of a strong art presence in any well functioning society. What message are you sending not only to our art community but to our keiki? Shut this bill down. Art is not here to balance your budget issues. Mahalo.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:57:43 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sierra Dew	Testifying for Wisdom Circles Oceania	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Representative Kyle Yamashita,

I am writing to express our strong opposition to HB1807 HD2, which aims to significantly reduce and ultimately eradicate the Art in Public Places Program. This proposed legislation would have far-reaching negative effects on numerous stakeholders, including DOE teachers, 13 art centers, 8 organizations offering Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs, and 124 public and charter schools across all major islands.

Extensive analysis of data from the National Educational Longitudinal Survey involving 25,000 middle and high school students over 14 years has revealed that increased involvement in the arts among disadvantaged students correlates with higher rates of college participation, employment, and volunteerism. Specifically, low-income students highly engaged in the arts were more than twice as likely to obtain a bachelor’s degree compared to their peers. Furthermore, they tend to access employment opportunities offering higher pay, greater responsibility, enhanced job satisfaction, and increased prospects for career advancement. We firmly believe that access to the arts should be universal, transcending age, gender, or artistic proficiency, given its proven efficacy as a rehabilitative and transformative tool.

Based on our extensive experience, along with data and assessments gathered over the past 8 years while serving thousands of community members, particularly those in our most underserved communities in Hawai'i, we have observed a profound connection between art and culture in alleviating anxiety and stress, especially among youth put at risk. In light of the mental health crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, discontinuing support for one of the few resources that contribute to their well-being and recovery would be highly detrimental.

We urge you to strongly oppose this bill and carefully consider the long-term impact on our youth. Access to the arts should not merely be a privilege for private institutions; it is an equity imperative that must be preserved and expanded.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Sierra Dew, Director

Wisdom Circles Oceania

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:47:55 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Nishikawa	Testifying for Quovadis Design	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Upholding Support for the Arts: A Personal Perspective

Dear Decision-Makers,

I am writing to you today to passionately oppose the proposed Act that aims to repeal the requirement for using funds from the works of art special fund for renovations of state buildings. As a proud resident of Maui, someone whose life has been profoundly impacted by the arts, I feel compelled to share my personal story and advocate for the preservation of funding for artistic endeavors.

Growing up on Maui, I was fortunate to have been nurtured by the vibrant creative community that exists on the islands. One person who played a pivotal role in shaping my journey was my art teacher, Mrs. Sato. Under her guidance, I was introduced to the world of art and creativity, which transformed not only my perspective but also my career trajectory.

Mrs. Sato's encouragement led me to participate in programs like Scholastic and explore various forms of artistic expression. These experiences opened my eyes to the power of creativity and its ability to transcend boundaries. It was through these programs and the spaces that support the creative community that I discovered my passion for design and problem-solving.

Today, I am proud to work as a entrepreneur designer, where I use my creative skills to contribute to disaster relief efforts and tackle complex challenges from NASA missions, building businesses for Fortune 500 companies to Maui Wildfire relief. My journey from a budding artist on Maui to a professional designer underscores the profound impact that support for the arts can have on individuals and communities.

In today's rapidly evolving world, where advancements in technology like AI are reshaping industries, creativity and innovative thinking are more crucial than ever. As someone who witnesses firsthand the importance of creative problem-solving in my work, I firmly believe that nurturing artistic talent and providing opportunities for expression is not just ideal but vital for the success of future generations.

Therefore, I urge you to reconsider the proposed Act and continue to uphold Hawaii's commitment to supporting the arts in all aspects of public life. Preserving funding for the works

of art special fund ensures that we continue to cultivate a culture of creativity and innovation that will benefit our society for years to come.

Thank you for considering my perspective and for your dedication to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,
Lori Nishikawa



46 Merchant Street • Honolulu, HI 96813 • Phone (808) 536-4222 • KumuKahua.com

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **OPPOSITION of HB1807 SD 2 RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND.**

Kumu Kahua Theatre has been presenting plays by and about the people of Hawai‘i for more than 50 years. Supporting this organization through the Hawai‘i State Foundation for Culture and the Arts is vital for our community.

Many artists and patrons at Kumu Kahua Theatre report the same story to us. **“This is the first theatre where I saw myself, my family, my neighborhood on the stage”**. It’s a very common observation that Hawaiians and other “locals” are not represented in mass media. Kumu Kahua Theatre answers that need with great attention to realism, quality in arts programming and education devoted to the Hawaiian Islands and cultures.

Though our western approach to theatre is not an artistic expression native to many in the US, including the Hawaiian culture and the many Pacific cultures that make up our population, it is a conduit to share stories and experiences - sometimes bitter, poignant, funny, frightening and/or warm - in a safe environment. Eventually, the lights come back up and our audiences have laughed, cried and clenched their way to **greater understanding** of the people sitting next to them, living around the corner and visiting from around the world.

We give artists and audiences the opportunity to interact and appreciate our stories together, we make it possible for those stories to be shared with many communities and generations to come and we partner with several local organizations and companies to multiply our positive impact within our community.

As Diep Tran wrote in the April 7, 2021 issue of American Theatre Magazine, **“When the wider culture tells you that your stories, your face, your people are not worthy of attention, you make yourself smaller. You tell yourself that your feelings, your pain, your rage is not worthy of attention.”** We hope to help everyone in Hawai‘i know that they are worthy of attention, because they are. To help assure this, we survey both our audiences and internal teams following each production. Our customer surveys tell us that our mission is important to 97% of our audiences, and they want to see more KKT shows; 99% of our internal team members wish to work with us again.

As you consider the cost effectiveness of The Works of Special Art Fund, please consider this. A calculator developed by the Americans for the Arts measures the impact of the non-profit arts and culture industry. Utilizing our budget and patron data, the calculator measures total dollars spent by an organization and its audiences; event-related spending by arts and culture audiences is estimated using the average dollars spent per person by arts event attendees in similarly populated communities.

The total industry impact of Kumu Kahua Theatre in our community as a result of expenditures made by our organization and audiences is:

- \$300,000 expenditure
- 19 Full-time jobs in our community
- \$441,722 paid to community residents
- \$66,584 received by our local and state governments

This represents \$660,300 in total expenditures of our organization and audiences (\$300,000 by our organization and \$360,300 by our audiences).

Kumu Kahua Theatre is one of many in Hawai'i that depend on support from the Hawai'i State Foundation of Culture and the Arts. We need these theatres as well as The Hawai'i State Art Museum, Native Hawaiian and other local artists and galleries, arts education in schools, professional development for art teachers, the Art Bento Museum Education Program, and other art programs and organizations to reflect and share our humanity and our community. All of these are in financial danger from HB1807 SD 2.

Please do not pass this bill for the good of all of us - our community, our children, and ourselves.

With Aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Blanchard".

Managing Director

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:42:41 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katrina Nakamura, PhD	Testifying for Sustainability Incubator	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Cutting out the local voices who lead the arts will log another devastating blow on Hawaii's living culture and legacy. I represent a local firm that supports durable decisions concerning Pacific ocean resources, including cultural resources. My testimony is this: Two wrongs don't make a right. I am offering to you my observation that the development of social capital is of primary importance following Lahaina's loss. The loss is unfathomable in every dimension and not least the art capital that had linked Lahaina to its residents, county, State and to patrons and visitors around the world. Lahaina was an arts hub precisely because *artists decided it would be* and invested in it personally. Social capital is built organically and it is fragile and vulnerable to its degree of recognition in the community. You cannot achieve a vibrant, living culture by rerouting arts governance through a committee structure that is concerned with capital success most of all. You can see the disastrous effects of zero-sum thinking about arts and music in public schools - they have vanished since becoming optional budget items. The same will be true if economic development thinkers take over arts decisions, They will get it wrong and cause rifts, like HOMA has done with Linekoa, for example. Please stand back and witness that the same sorts of mobilization, led by artists, are currently underway in Honolulu and elsewhere in the State, as evidenced in just one example by the strength being invested in the Downtown Arts Center by local arts leaders and Hawaii State Art Museum (Capitol Modern). Get behind initiative and do not see arts as another place to pillage for resources for your decisions. This bill is not respectful to Lahaina.

March 18, 2024

To the Senate Committee on Transportation, Culture and the Arts,

This testimony is in strong OPPOSITION to HB1807 as it repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.

As the Executive Director of Pu'uhonua Society, an arts and culture not-for-profit that has supported community for over 50 years, I know the importance of sustained government support for arts organizations, arts programming, and individual artists. There is a vital connection between the Art in Public Places Program and a thriving arts ecosystem in Hawai'i. While the bill states that there will be "no adverse effects on the arts in public places program," this is simply not the case.

The Art in Public Places Program provides modest but necessary economic support for local artists historically and in-real-time. Capital improvement appropriations designated for the construction and renovation of state buildings allow the state to support artists who have never received proper support and/or recognition while also communicating to up-and-coming artists that there is a place for them and their work in Hawai'i. I have personally seen how an acquisition through the Art in Public Places Program can dramatically change an artist's trajectory for the better.

Art is not about filling a quota or simply covering a wall. By continuing current appropriations for the Art in Public Places Program the state helps to ensure the continuity of Hawai'i's history as seen through Hawai'i's artists for future generations.

HB1807 also dramatically understates the negative impact that will be felt by The Art in Public Places Program outside of state acquisitions. In addition to what is acquired for state buildings, the Art in Public Places Program as it is currently funded supports DOE teachers, arts centers, public and charter schools and organizations such as Pu'uhonua Society. This bill will remove dollars behind many arts programs and statewide initiatives. Support for artists translates to support for our communities as Dr. Jill Sonke, Ph.D. and founding director of the Center for Arts in Medicine at the University Florida states, "just like exercise and good nutrition, regular arts participation and creative activity can support and enhance our health and wellbeing in measurable ways - having a real impact on conditions like hypertension, depression, dementia and more... Arts and culture resources should be available in every community." This is not the time to take ANY resources from The Art in Public Places Program.

Continuing the current funding streams are a vital step in honoring the legacy that was created in 1967 and investing in Hawai'i's collective wellbeing now and in the future. I stand in strong OPPOSITION to HB1807.

Mahalo for your care and consideration,

Emma Broderick

Emma Broderick
Executive Director, Pu'uhonua Society

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:18:06 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meagan Gonzalez	Testifying for PHILPOTTS INTERIORS	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaii Resident and former student of the DOE, I am oppose this measure. I have benefited greatly from the various art programs offered in our school curriculum, and I would be incredibly disappointed to see these same programs be removed from schools today, that WILL deprive children the ability to express themselves.

As a member of the design community locally, I would be remiss to not also mention that pulling funding to suport local artists would be a crime against our state. Hawaii has a unique background, unlike many places in the world, and by removing this support and funding you would be preventing others from appreciating our unique and rich history with the beautiful art that tells this history.

Like without art is a mistake, don't knowingly make that mistake.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:38:15 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Clarke	Testifying for Arts & Sciences Center, home of HAASPCS, Pahoia	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Gail Clarke and I applaud efforts to manage public funds and collections of any kind, especially art in the tropics! Art is of HIGH value in our lives as stated in the opening of the resolution. I urge you to hear bill 1807 and NOT move it forward unless there is identified appropriations to continue support of SFCA work in our public schools. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact Artists in the Schools in our rural, remote community in Puna, the home of HAASPCS. Please ensure adequate funds remain available to SFCA to maintain school programs.

Mahalo for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration and for your service in Hawaii.

Gail Clarke

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:26:19 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Smith	Testifying for Honolulu Printmakers	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Laura Smith and I strongly urge you to oppose bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact many educational programs such as

Artists in the Schools

Capitol Modern the Hawaii State Art Museum

outreach programming organized by local cultural institutions such as the Honolulu Printmakers, Honolulu Theatre for Youth and others.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Laura Smith

60 N Beretania St 1401

Honolulu HI 96817

808-234-8824

lauraberetania@gmail.com



Statement of:
Todd J. Robertson
Hyperspective
Before the
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Individual Testimony in **Opposition of HB1807 HD2**

Aloha Senator Chris Lee, Chair Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Todd Robertson and I am submitting written testimony on behalf of myself and my company, Hyperspective in **opposition of HB1807 HD2**, which would limit projects and program funding from the *Works of Art Special Fund*. It is essential to carefully examine the implications of such changes before making them, as there could be unintended consequences resulting from such changes that would adversely affect the development of art, art installations, and art programs in the state.

From my understanding, this bill would cut 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue. At a glance, it seems that the bill tries to cover impacts on education and performing arts by making an appropriation, it will not come close to matching the cuts that this bill will create. Also, this could effectively close down the State Art Museum and many other cultural programs across Hawai'i. Often changes like this are made to increase efficiency and effective spending, but in this case, it seems that this bill could have several adverse effects, and would most definitely create a domino effect of other negative consequences. Generally, I oppose this bill because it essentially would eliminate government support for many arts programs and initiatives statewide, having adverse negative effects downstream.

I have been a resident and business owner of Hyperspective, a creative media company in Hawai'i since 1998. I care deeply about the vibrancy and well-being of my community and the special culture and values that make Hawai'i unique and powerful. I believe that art is the voice of our culture, our values, and our people, and must be supported, especially in times where other programs seem to be a priority. If we begin losing even aspects of those voices, we begin to erode at the progress that our community has made, losing momentum toward a more thriving local community. I believe that we need to find opportunities to support more programs with more resources, not less.

Please support the voices and culture of our community and **oppose this bill**. Although it may have good intentions, its effects would have long-lasting negative effects.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd J. Robertson", written in a cursive style.

Todd J. Robertson
President/CEO, Hyperspective

HYPERSPECTIVE STUDIOS, INC.
643 ILALO STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96813

MAIL TO:
P.O. BOX 893636
MILILANI, HI 96789

HYPERSPECTIVE.COM
808.353.3618

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:42:54 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mina Ellison	Testifying for Donkey Mill Art Center	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a teaching artist through the Donkey Mill Art Center, I see the impact that art can have on a community. We are able to bring art programs to public schools and collaborate with our community's cultural practitioners to teach Hawaiian culture. The funding that our organization receives from the state supports teaching artists like me and keeps our Youth Arts Program alive at the Donkey Mill Art Center. Students in our programs are able to use new quality art materials to create art that is unique and empowering to their identity and well-being. This also gives students opportunity to express their concerns, questions, or thoughts on the current condition of our island through public art. Art is not only an avenue for self-expression, but it's a universal language that audiences can connect and try to understand one another. Art is an enriching experience in every subject, whether if it's science, history, or literature. Art has an aptitude for collaboration. Therefore, I oppose this bill.

Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes
Association
41-253 Ilauhole Street
Waimānalo, HI 96795



mail to: PO Box 353
Waimānalo, HI 96795
www.waimanalohha.com
(808) 426-1223

March 18, 2024

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
Honorable Senator Chirs Lee
Honorable Senator Lorraine Inouye
State Capitol
415 S Beretania Street
Room 224
Honolulu HI 96813



Re: Strong Opposition to HB 1807

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts.

On behalf of the Membership and, more specifically, the Ali‘i Celebration Committee of Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes Association (WHHA), I am writing to express our strong opposition to HB 1807, which proposes, among other matters, to cut 70% of the funding for Art in Public Places programs statewide. As a concerned Native Hawaiian Organization and advocates for Native Hawaiian community programming, we believe that this proposed legislation would have devastating effects on the cultural landscape of our state and would eliminate crucial government support for numerous arts programs and initiatives.

A longstanding nonprofit in Hawaii, WHHA was founded in 1938 by its first resident homesteaders. This is important for us to mention because it establishes our interest in both the local community and across the state. Among our purposes and objectives, we strive “to promote the welfare of its members in home, school, church, and community...” We believe that this legislation will be a detriment to this first purpose of WHHA. To be sure, WHHA is an organization that supports any and all efforts by individuals, organizations, businesses, and government agencies that would promote, support, engage, participate, and provide funding that would increase access to Hawaiian culture in our community and throughout Hawaii.

The proposed cut to the Art in Public Places program would severely limit the ability of artists and arts organizations to create and display their work in public spaces. This reduction in funding would not only stifle artistic expression but also diminish the quality of life for residents across our state. Additionally, it would send a message that the arts are not valued or prioritized by our government, further marginalizing an already vulnerable sector.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KENNETH HO, JR. (P), KILAUĒA WILSON (V), APELA PE‘AHI (T), KIRK DEITSCHMAN (S), H. ILIMA HO-LASTIMOSA, JOE AIPA

We strongly urge the members of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Culture, and the Arts to reject HB 1807 and instead consider alternative solutions to address any budgetary concerns. Cutting funding for the arts is short-sighted and would have long-term negative consequences for our communities and our state as a whole. I implore you to support the arts and to prioritize the cultural enrichment and well-being of our residents.

Thank you for considering our concerns regarding this important issue. We hope that you will make the right decision to preserve and support the arts in our state. Please feel free to reach out with any questions and/or concerns to any of the contact information in our letterhead above.

Na mākou nō,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth K. L. Ho, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kenneth K. L. Ho, Jr., EdD

President

Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes Association

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:51:19 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana	Testifying for HMEA	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kiana Mabini and I strongly urge you not to hear bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact the art programs in primary and secondary schooling. All art is something that should be preserved and is a way to keep and teach our culture.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Aloha,

Kiana Mabini



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

LATE

Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 3:00PM

Testimony in Opposition of HB1807 HD2 Relating to the Works of Art Special Fund

From: Micah Kāne, Chief Executive Officer & President - Hawai'i Community Foundation

The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) strongly opposes House Bill 1807 HD2. If enacted, HB1807 HD2 will decrease funding to the Works of Art special fund by up to 70%. This fund enables the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) to carry out essential statewide arts and culture programming including acquisition and distribution of works of art, conservation of the state's public art collection, interpretation of the collection, operations and programming for Capital Modern, and critical arts education programs.

HCF has a long history of partnering with SFCA to support arts education at public and charter schools through the Artists in the Schools program. This program is supported by this fund and a decrease in funding will greatly reduce access to arts education for keiki throughout the state. HCF is committed to increasing access to arts and culture as part of HCF's CHANGE Framework under the "A" sector focused on Arts and Culture. Through our work, the data shows that public support within this sector is even more important.

Repealing capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the Works of Art special fund will decrease funds to SFCA and negatively impact arts organizations, artists, and our whole community especially our neighbor island communities and communities who experience barriers to accessing arts and culture experiences.

Hawai'i was the first state in the country to adopt a percent-for-art law. "The legislature finds that art feeds the human spirit and offers priceless value. Art inspires, educates, and challenges individuals to think differently, while making the world a more beautiful and interesting place." Hawai'i must continue to affirm the importance of arts and culture by committing 1% appropriations from both construction and renovation to the Works of Art special fund.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition of HB1807 HD2.



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

Kennedy Theatre
Department of Theatre and Dance

March 18, 2024

RE: Opposition to HB1807 HD1

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1807.

This bill would cut 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely eliminating government support for many arts programs and initiatives statewide. As has been clearly stated by many, the Art in Public Places program does more than furnish art in state buildings. Removing renovations would adversely effect the art in public places program. This includes the Artists in the Schools arts education program serving over one hundred public and charter schools statewide.

As a parent of three children who have all attended public school in Hawaii, I am in full support of the Artists in the Schools arts education program, experiencing firsthand the transformative effects that this type of programing can have on the culture of a school and in the educational experience of students.

The repeal of this appropriation does not happen in a vacuum. It adversely impacts the entire “artistic ecosystem” of our islands. Please do not pass this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Mark Branner'.

J. Mark Branner, Professor
Department of Theatre and Dance
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

1770 East-West Road Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
Telephone: (808) 956-7677 Fax: (808) 956-4234
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution



LATE

To: House Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
From: Caroline Hayashi, President
RE: OPPOSITION OF H.B. 1807

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and members of the Committee,

Waikiki Community Center (WCC) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) agency that has supported kupuna, keiki and their families as well as other residents in need since 1978. WCC works to ensure that our seniors and families not only survive but also thrive, contributing to community.

Part of building and fostering community where we support one another is having a shared sense of place and enriching experiences. One of WCC's goals is to make culture and arts accessible to community members. This weekend we had the honor of having Makana perform at our Center, a rare Oahu performance, for a sold-out group of over 130 community members. Makana shared that he was the last protégée of Sonny Chillingworth and that this opportunity was provided to him through a state-sponsored arts program. He said if it were not for the state supporting the arts, he would not be who he is today.

As a nonprofit that supports community members in need, we understand basic needs, working with kupuna at risk for losing their housing and families who are food insecure. We have also seen the critical importance of whole-person health and wellness, particularly for kupuna. Research has established that the physical, cognitive and social/emotional are inextricably linked.

The arts have the unique ability to uplift individuals and bring community together. We hope you will consider that in our more than 45 years of working with hundreds of thousands of community members, the arts have been an important component of the health and wellness of both individuals and the community as whole.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 1:53:30 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jungeun Lee	Testifying for Lani Hilife	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill proposing a 68% cut in funding for Hawaii's public arts is outrageous and unacceptable. It threatens the livelihoods of numerous local artists and undermines the accessibility of art for our communities, especially our children. As an American citizen, a Hawaii resident, and an artist deeply invested in our state's cultural vibrancy, I vehemently oppose this detrimental legislation.

Jungeun Lee

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 5:41:42 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elisha Sirena Zeitler	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:39:26 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaela Teho	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose House Bill 1807 because of its disasterous impact on the arts and culture in Hawai'i. The bill would have harsh impacts on Native Hawaiian artists and culture and severely limit, if not dispose of, our ability to spread our arts and message beyond Hawai'i. Beyond the Native Hawaiian community, events dear to the community's hearts will be eliminated. We deserve spaces that are inclusive and safe to everyone to enjoy art. Capitol Modern created an accessible place for people of all ages to experience art and explore their own creativity; it opens up conversations that would not be had without art. These conversations are ongoing and supporting this bill is to support the silencing of the artists of Hawai'i and the ending of conversations that have are more important now than ever before.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 3:03:48 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jacqueline stewart	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha to those who this may concern,

I am writing on behalf of bill 1807. I am strongly opposing this bill. Arts and culture keep Hawaii alive. It's what keeps humanity alive. Otherwise we would all be shells of who we really are. There would be no true purpose to living. Art is the color in a very dull world. A world that is getting harder to have hope where atrocities against humanity are being committed everyday. This is another atrocity. You cannot get rid of the arts because that is the very thing that gives us hope. Art is expression of the self. Art is healing. Art is love. Art is life. And I don't know about you but I wouldn't want to live in a world without Art. Please please do not cut the funding. Art has already been cut from most public schools which is insane to me because our children need it the most!! If anything, we need to bring more art back.. not take it away. Art gives people a voice and it unites us. It gives us strength to carry on in an insane world.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 11:29:58 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Zimmel	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Every major city and state has a public art museum. Why would close Hawaiiis. You are not just hurting the artists, you are hurting the schools and the whole community. This institution is trying to support the whole community and is one of the best uses of my tax dollars. shame that you would think of closing it.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:26:02 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven A Macas	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

The arts in Hawaii have changed my life and would change countless others if it were allowed to flourish. Without artistic strongholds like Capitol Modern, there will be many works of art and artists who run the risk of never getting inspired. Without the places like Arts & Letters and the Arts at Marks Garage, I would have never become an artist with work good enough to be eligible in the 'Artists of Hawai'i' exhibition last year. Please do not pass this bill, who knows whose lives we are changing if it were to pass.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:00:28 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Marshall	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose bill [HB1807](#) and ask you to oppose it as well. This bill is hurtful and harmful to our entire community. Art is valuable and should not have its funding cut. When moving here, I did not seek out places to sightsee, swim, or eat; I looked for organizations to help me build my art community. The established and diverse art community attracted me to Hawai'i, and now I am here today to tell you to oppose HB 1807, and here is why.

Art builds connections between people. Through access to art, individuals learn about themselves and those around them and see things from different perspectives. Art gives individuals and groups an outlet to express themselves and brings us all together.

Art is a platform for voices to be heard and connects us. It builds communities and supports Hawai'i by fueling investment in those who live here. Art helps me personally expand my knowledge through workshops and lectures and gives me a communal space to discuss projects in a safe space. I am a freelance designer, and several art organizations have contracted me to assist with web development and social media. This means I am fed by the arts, clothed by the arts, and give back to the arts of Hawai'i. Art supports my ability to live here with my family.

Many art organizations across all eight islands will be affected by funding cuts proposed in HB1807. The ramifications are devastating and will cause a catastrophic domino effect throughout Hawai'i.

Cutting arts funding hurts our Keiki by limiting or eliminating opportunities to facilitate their creative growth. That hinders their problem-solving ability, making them unable to tackle today's and tomorrow's challenges. Bringing artists into our schools allows children to look at something from different perspectives. It gives them a safe space to fail and build up confidence by trying again or trying something in a new way. It enables them to communicate and debate. It builds character, acceptance, and resilience within our youth. Art is a tool to combat the hardships of today, and when youth aren't given access to even learn about these tools, our Keiki lose out.

Artwork in public spaces elevates the areas around it. I remember walking into a state building and seeing a massive mosaic mural on the wall. Instead of looking at my phone while waiting, I was mesmerized by the detail and depth the mosaic artist elicited. It made me enjoy my time in a waiting area that otherwise would have been an echoing hall of glass and concrete. I was happy to be in that space for that moment and was reminded that life isn't just about worrying about what's next.

The bill notes that the State already has an extensive collection of artworks, yet how often are they featured in State spaces? There are opportunities to generate cultural awareness, community connection, and share Aloha. If works of art are collecting dust in your archives, you should bring them out and share them with all of Hawai'i. Those works are not meant to be hidden away. Gift our community by sharing your bounty and tell us the importance behind those collected items. If you still have too many, review your deaccession policy, consider the pathway to generate funds by selling some works, and then pour those funds back into supporting the arts.

In closing, I urge you to recognize the consequences this bill represents and realize how invaluable the arts' contributions are to our community. I oppose bill HB1807 and ask for you to reject it today. Instead of stomping on the spirit of Aloha, let us continue building a vibrant, creative, and inclusive future by supporting and funding the arts. Oppose this bill and strike it down.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:32:45 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik Anderson	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

My name is Erik Anderson,

I pay my taxes and I vote.

Taxes in Hawaii are high and the value we get for our money is by far outweighed by the burden on our families. What little art and culture we have on this island are under threat by incompetent leadership that pitchfork money into dead end projects like the monorail and cut out funding for the arts and seemingly anything that gives residents joy.

41.90% of the tax dollars: \$7.28B goes to "multiple recipients" because our representatives are too embarrassed to say "our cronies" the next \$3.13B goes to human services - people too drugged out to live, too lazy to get work, or too deranged to hire - money well spent? Not if you ask me. The next line item: Defense Department \$489.49M grossly underfunded. Nowhere on the list is anything the broader population can enjoy. And yet there's a bill to cut funding for the miniscule amount of arts this state actually has access to. Pathetic.

How about this for congress and the senate: stop giving our money to your buddies and get to work for the people that hired you. You are bankrupting this country and your fellow countrymen.

NO on HB 1807, HD2

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:16:01 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josh Tengan	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Committee Members:

I am writing to express my vehement opposition to House Bill 1807, specifically its amendment to "the Works of Art Special Fund's one percent transfer requirement to exclude the construction of site work."

I am truly embarrassed for all of us that this bill is even being heard. This bill is a betrayal to not only Hawai'i's visual artists and creatives but to everyone who calls Hawai'i home. The Hawai'i State Art Museum and SFCA's Arts in Public Places Collection are part of our cultural wealth as citizens of these Islands. This bill threatens the collections and risks shutting down the Museum.

The APP Collection and the Museum are not just art repositories; they embody our cultural identity, expressions of our shared history, and symbols of our collective aspirations. Beyond being a showcase for creativity, the Museum serves as a vibrant communal space where the people of Hawai'i come together to engage with art, exchange ideas, and foster a sense of belonging.

Sustaining an art practice is already very difficult for our artists. This bill puts the lives and livelihoods of artists, designers, creatives, educators, curators, art handlers, museum workers, and art administrators at even greater risk.

The intent of the one-percent law was to create a funding mechanism to support the arts, "beautify state buildings, and **increase public access to the arts.**" It's time to reaffirm our commitment, ensuring that future generations inherit a Hawai'i that cherishes and celebrates its artistic and cultural heritage.

The future of Hawai'i's cultural landscape hangs in the balance, and your leadership is needed now more than ever to safeguard our artistic legacies for generations to come.

Me ka pono,

Josh Tengan
Pauoa, Kona, O'ahu
96813

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:03:27 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Sato	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

17 March 2024

Senate TCA Committee Members

Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair
Senator Brenton Awa
Senator Brandon Elefante
Senator Drew Kanuha

RE: Opposition to HB1807

Aloha Chairman Lee, Vice Chairman Inouye, and Committee Members,

I am a lifelong resident of Maui County, recently retired after 42 years of service as a public school teacher. I share Pundy Yokouchi’s genuine belief that exposure to art is essential in the development of an individual’s awareness and sensitivity - as important and as basic as compulsory education has become in our society. And that it should be universally accessible to everyone - the “common man” as he put it, not just for the privileged few.

I am not an artist, but I love how art and design has impacted and shaped the way I see, think, feel, and act. I have spent my life working in and advocating for the arts, particularly secondary arts education. My students, like thousands of others across Maui County and throughout our state, in elementary, intermediate and high schools, have been the grateful beneficiaries of SFCA support for many years. They provided valuable opportunities for my students to meet and work with professional artists, private organizations, and numerous outreach programs through the Artists-in-the-Schools program which extended their learning far beyond the walls of the classroom and deep into the community. Many of them, now in varied careers, continue their community-mindedness in admirable ways as young adults. For some, as young parents, they express concern over their children potentially being left without the valuable humanizing experiences they fondly recall looking forward to and engaging in when they were students.

I am grateful to have maintained contact with many of them over the years and love how they have been reaping the rewards of the seeds that were planted years ago. BHS art alumni Jennifer Stephens, Caleb O’Connor, Noble Richardson, and Kirk Kurokawa are now part of the SFCA’s permanent collection. In addition, Kirk has received commissions to paint official portraits for former Governors Abercrombie and Ige, and Senator Daniel K. Inouye. Julia Kimoto is an

engineer who acknowledges her arts-integrated education and field trips to exhibitions at the MACC and Hui No'eau strongly influenced and shaped her secondary education, college path, and career. They all, along with others too numerous to name individually at this time, recall the validation felt when their works received local/national recognition in the SFCA-sponsored Hawai'i Regional Scholastic Art Exhibition. These awards and competitions garner attention from the public for the arts. However, the majority of my students may not have received medals or ribbons, yet they too experienced the exhilaration of bringing an idea to life, working through challenges and disappointments, failing and restarting pieces relentlessly until finally enjoying the personal satisfaction that can only come from working really hard at something you care about.

Currently serving my first term as the Maui commissioner on the board of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, I have been impressed with what I am learning in regard to the breadth and scope of how the SFCA works tirelessly to not only "beautify state buildings and increase public access to the arts" but strives to positively impact every community member on every island through educational outreach programs to ensure that authentic arts and cultural education thrive in Hawai'i. I recently read that when the SFCA got off the ground in 1966, government support for individual arts groups was basically non-existent. Today, the SFCA gets its strength from a healthy, active, and vibrant art community. At this point in our rich history, wouldn't you agree that it is imperative that we collectively uphold the mission of the SFCA, first envisioned by Maui's own Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi, to share a continuing responsibility to protect, perpetuate, and promote culture and arts in Hawai'i?

The passage of HB 1807 potentially affects ALL of our local communities as it cuts deeply in educational, cultural, economic, and historical layers and will ignite a damaging downward shift, stalling the current momentum of the foundation. What has taken decades to build and grow will be lost.

HB 1807 is a damaging, disappointing, and shameful bill to place into action. I hope this committee and this legislative session will not choose to support this as their legacy.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely, Janet Sato

Senator Chris Lee
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye

HB 1807 HD2 (HSCR92724)

IN OPPOSITION

INTRODUCTION

My name is Kaia Stallings. I come to you as a lover of arts and a contributing member of Oahu's art community. I am submitting this written testimony in **OPPOSITION** of **HB 1807**. Below you will find a detailed explanation of the exact issues presented in HB 1807,

“The legislature finds that this program has been a success, with works of art enhancing the physical environment for state buildings and providing educational visual arts opportunities to the public through the art in public places program.”

- **Issue: the language in the bill point only to visual art and educational programming. It does not take performance and entertainment programs into consideration. It seems focused solely on the aforementioned categories. In other words; the bill is not considering what can be potentially lost.**
- **Issue: If the legislature finds that the program has been successful, then they must also understand this success is a direct result of the funding available for public art programs.**
- **Without the funding provided by Act 389, beloved art establishments on Oahu such as Capitol Modern, Arts at Marks Garage, Downtown Art Center and many more would be forced to close down. All of these establishments provide free arts and culture programming for the public to enjoy.**

“The legislature notes that removing the redundancy of applying the special fund to renovations would have no adverse effects on the art in public spaces program, **as the State currently possesses a surplus of artwork in storage for future use.”**

- **Issue: The verbiage in this section of the bill is presented in a way that exhibits a blatant disregard for the value of arts. Not only this; but it treats art as if there is a deadline on creativity and creation. The answer is not to cut the funding due to a “surplus of art,” the answer is to find a place for the art to go. Furthermore, to make the arduous assumption that something as arbitrary as an “art surplus” exists is naive and demonstrates a green understanding of the arts community in Hawaii.**
- **Issue: Art and the collection of such is historical, is cultural, and contributes greatly to the rich cultural tapestry that Hawaii is blessed to have. To halt funding would be a grave disservice to the cultures and communities across the state.**

TO SPEAK TOWARDS THE AMENDMENTS:

- **“Adding two appropriations for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to support performing arts initiatives and the expansion of arts programming in schools.”**
- **Issue: This verbiage is deceptive as HB 1807 will NOT appropriate funding that would make up for the loss to the Special Fund. It makes no sense to “support performing arts initiatives” when they are already being supported with the current funding.**
- **Capitol Modern: Hawaii State Art Museum would still have to close despite the attempt at mitigating the negative impact of the bill, as the amendments do not cover**

the costs needed in order to keep the establishment open and free to the public. As stated previously, it makes no sense to try and negative impact when it can be avoided all together.

I urge the committee to oppose this bill, there are important communities at risk.

Kaia Stallings

kaiastallings@gmail.com

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:08:53 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin Scanlon	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:54:38 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isabella Grace Dearaujo	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. I don't understand why my whole life we have to fight to get funding for something that is so innately human. I'm a professional childcare provider and art is an important cornerstone for development. This bill would shut down funding for essential third spaces and also life saving resources such as RYSE, a residential youth rehabilitation center. In addition, this bill would cut support for the Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center. Both of these programs help the most vulnerable in our society. I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:56:57 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret Sutrov	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I respectfully ask you to NOT pass HB1807.

If this bill passes, it will have a long term detrimental impact on the people, and especially the children, of Hawaii.

The arts are not a luxury. They teach necessary skills we need more than ever, in order to face the multitude of challenges facing our state. Especially given that many aspects of the bill impacts how our haumana, our students, take part in the arts, the effects will reverberate in the vitality and innovation of our population.

These are a few of the benefits the arts provide:

- The arts teach us to be creative problem solvers. When you create art, you are making something that didn't exist before. We have problems that need solutions that don't yet exist. The arts often are where the seeds of innovation begin. Creative thinking and positive risk-taking trickles into the sciences and other fields, but creative thinking needs to be practiced, this muscle to be grown. The arts is where it grows. We need a population able to think creatively, to come up with and consider new solutions—not keep doing the same things that caused the system challenges we face.
- The arts teach us empathy. When we experience art, we see how others perceive the world. We experience the world as they see it. With the growing divisions and challenges in our islands, we need to practice tools of empathy. We need to see that each other's voices, emotions, and visions not only exist, but that they matter.
- The arts teach us that our own perspective is valid. It gives us a way to share how we see the world, what we feel, how we are drawn to express. As the social Dr Brené Brown says, "Unused creativity is not benign. It metastasizes. It turns into grief, rage, judgment, sorrow, shame." Especially given the traumas visited upon Maui after the fires, do not cut the arts. Allow the arts to help stitch our community back together.

I am a teaching artist on the Hawaii State Teaching Artist roster. It was a two year process to get on this list, which allows me to apply for grants to collaborate with classroom teachers to create art residencies that meet their goals with their students. Every step is designed to ensure the quality of what us teaching artists bring to the classrooms and communities we serve, and that

we are providing experiences that benefit the teachers, students, schools, and communities. We connect to the Hawaii Department of Education's Nā Hopena A'o framework, grounding our work in Hawaii. We connect to the teacher's core curriculum and standards, using the arts as a tool to give meaning to the learning. We follow the National Arts Standards. We custom design our projects to not only meet the classroom's curricular needs, but the social emotional needs of the students. For instance, this year I have an Artists In The Schools grant, funded through the State Foundation of Culture and the Arts where I visit Hanā Middle School once a month. I designed this residency in collaboration with the middle school science teacher. She expressed that the students' academic success was impacted by their low self image. (Indeed, as I've gotten to know these students, I've gained some sense of the challenges and traumas they deal with.) So, we designed a self portrait project that connects to their Science anatomy modules. In this project they are being encouraged to find what they like best in themselves, and to consider what their gift is, while also gaining skills in close observation and quality work that connects to their Science learning. These students, many of whom often seek ways to do the bare minimum, are creating beautiful expressions of themselves that not only connect to Science, but will impact how they see themselves as a student, and as a valued member of their community.

This is one project I can speak to, but the Artists In the Schools grants serve 124+ schools around Hawaii. Do not remove these opportunities for Hawaii students to work with professional artists, from teachers to learn alongside professional artists, and from our communities to be engaged and enlivened by art. While those who make a living in the arts will be directly impacted if this bill passes, when the arts are devalued, the vibrancy of our communities is diminished. When the arts are seen as for only a select few, everyone loses out. Everyone needs creativity and creative problem solving. Everyone deserves to have their visions and voice matter. Everyone prospers when we understand how others see and express the world. When these things don't happen, we lose innovation, and we lose wellbeing.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:56:42 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Endicott	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha.

I am submitting written testimony in OPPOSITION TO HB1807 HD1.

For those that are supporters of HB1807 and believe we have enough art I ask for you to please reconsider this very drastic cut of funds as this will irreparably devastate Hawai'i's arts economy and future.

After all the Works of Art Special Fund 1% requirement for the State Foundation of Culture and The Arts is what:

1. Keeps our economy thriving.

It was SFCA funding that kept the downtown triangle of Downtown Art Center, Mark's garage and Hawaii State Art Museum/Capitol Modern alive during the two years that CoVid shuttered many of our local businesses. This funding brought people to our downtown and Chinatown areas and kept these business districts going. It is because of the arts and the art exhibitions which the SFCA supports that restaurants stayed open and sustained. People came to their offices in a limited fashion downtown because these places were open and this triangle was a relatively safe place to walk, dine and maintain their mental health during this most challenging time. Without this SFCA funding, our downtown Honolulu would not have today's vibrancy with new businesses and established ones now being sustained. The monetary return dollar for dollar of funding from the SFCA far exceeded what is typically achieved. Our city is now thriving with residents who discovered what art can do during CoVid and tourists who today seek out these art places when they come to Hawai'i.

2. Teaches students creativity and empowerment.

As a two-time commissioned Art-in Public Places/Doe Artist, I have had the privilege of working with students who were not achieving their best at an elementary school on Oahu. Many of these students spent time in detention and one even told me at the beginning of our project that they were not allowed to be in the same class with another student. At the end of our project, these students were working diligently together to meet our deadline when their artwork would be honored at the dedication for their artwork and mine. Others had failing grades or were on probation. Because of the opportunity to participate in this APP/DOE sculpture commission, these students became empowered as all the other students wanted to be doing what they were doing. As a result of this empowerment, several of the students achieved A's, while others created bonds with their so-called enemies. Still other students bonded in with their parents in new ways when they came to help. One shy student who could barely be heard when answering a question, spoke commandingly into the microphone at our dedication. It was this APP/DOE public art partnership that turned these students into creative thinkers and led them into future success in life. Today this group of students are contributing adults employed in a variety of occupations ranging from engineers to police. Their sculpture garden of literary characters outside the library remains loved as does mine that reflects the schools values. Both serve as a reminder of what is possible when creativity and the arts are supported. **We can all be proud that these students are now contributing to our community in part due to the SFCA art funding that returned much social equity to Hawai'i.**

3. Creates a circular economy. The SFCA funding does purchase artworks directly from artists showing at arts centers and galleries. This is a double circular economy as the money circulates through these two economic drivers. An artist's 50+ percent of the purchase goes to buy food, gas, rent and art supplies at art, craft and hardware stores. The 50% or less the art center/organization gets is used to support employees, insurance, rent, web/social media folks and many more. In addition, a majority of the funds an artist receives through an Art-In-Public-Places commission is returned directly to our local economy. The arts is the one economy that keeps the money flowing and flowing again, just as I wrote about in my children's book, "I Had A Dollar In Hawai'i. **It's a steady and positive flow of money that continues to benefit each island and our state.**

4. Positions Hawai'i as a Global Leader.

The world needs our creative and cultural leadership now. We have challenges of climate change in the face of a divided nation. Hawai'i shows the world how different cultures can exist together while incorporating traditional ways to care for each other and our environment in the face of climate change. The world is looking to us and it will be our creative thinking and arts that will position Hawai'i as a global leader.

I became an artist after visiting a museum. That is where I found the courage to leave my executive job and went back to study art and received my Masters in Sculpture from the University of Hawai'i in Manoa. I built a portfolio after returning to school for two years and was attended the graduate program for another four years. After completing my MFA and theseis at a museum where many children and adults became inspired seeing my sculpture

installation. It was then I committed to a career to create public art. I chose to do so as public art becomes woven into the fabric of our community. It is a place where people become engaged with one another and magic happens.

That is what HB 1870 would take away. There is so much more we have to share. Let's work together and find ways to pair up SFCA funded creatives to solve our social problems. Together we could find ways to address homelessness such as Finland has done...and improve our physical and mental health through art. We can also foster new ideas that could bring up everyone's standard of living. Let's start by taking a tour of HiSam, and our public art and adjacent galleries to see and experience the art around the capitol and our arts district. There we will learn why we have what we have and what it does for all of us. Let's collaborate to make Hawaii a leader again. Just as we did when the 1% was passed and the nation followed. Please oppose HB1807 as I do.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:58:13 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maile Sakamoto	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

To the Senate Committee:

I oppose the raiding of the 1% fund to take money from the arts and move it to other projects. I am very sad that this type of attitude is still happening. The arts receive so VERY LITTLE money, and it is ALWAYS looked at like the expendable item. Art is important to the development of the brain and being able to look at things from different viewpoints. It is not something that should always be treated like the ugly stepchild. Please look to other sources that have larger budgets, or be more resourceful for the funds that have already been allocated to those projects.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:51:39 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurel Nakanishi	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Dear Hawai'i State Legislators,

I am writing to strongly oppose Bill SB 1807. As a teaching artist and parent, I have seen the many manifestations of arts education that the 1% for the arts funds. Through the Artists in the Schools, Arts in Public Places and Capitol Modern Hawai'i State Art Museum programs, thousands of children and adults have access to the arts and meaningful arts education. Please do not cut this vital work!

Best regards,

Laurel Nakanishi

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:59:33 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiara Womack	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

If passed, this bill will devastate interconnected art communities across Hawai'i. Title 1 schools depend on Artists in the Schools to bring high quality arts programming into their classrooms. Artists in the Schools prioritizes Title 1 schools and schools without dedicated arts teachers. Over 100 schools will lose this arts programming. Hawai'i's public schools need help. They need arts programming. Do not take arts programming away from keiki.

100s of arts workers will lose their jobs.

Katelyn Sweeney Ching
March 18, 2024
Honolulu, HI

HB1807 HD2
DATE: Tuesday, March 19th, 2024
TIME: 3:00 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Lee and members of Committee on Transportation, Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on **HB1807 HD2**. Respectfully, I **strongly oppose** this bill.

I want to live in a place where arts and culture are adequately supported by public funding. Please do not reduce the one per cent transfer requirement. This bill sets a dangerous precedent to cut nearly **all of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely eliminating government support for many arts programs and initiatives statewide.**

The majority of the public programming for the arts that the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts implements relies on the revenue from the capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.

Growing up in this state with our strong public arts program allowed me to develop an international career in the arts. I was able to become a professional composer, musician, teacher, and concert producer for several years here, on the continent and in Scandinavia. The public arts programs for our residents regardless of income level fosters international-level development for our keiki. I want future generations to benefit from the same public resources that I had.

The number of artists, artisans and cultural practitioners and organizations supported by these funds is vital to fostering a strong arts and culture community in our state. These publicly funded programs allow artists, galleries to create and provide a necessary source of income for the work that they do.

Thank you for your time and please consider how your vote will impact us all.

Mahalo,

Katelyn Sweeney Ching

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:15:07 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celia Cheng	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill 1807 HB RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND, which would cut essential funding for the arts. Cutting funding wouldn't just cut support for native hawaiian and local artists, and organizations, the ramifications will reverberate throughout society. Without a society that prioritizes the importance of its culture through funding and education, our islands will become more and more driven by values that are vapid and devoid of humanity. Art is a reflection of our history and the essence of humanity, it is how we communicate and innovate. Without creativity, there is no life force. The arts receive so little funding and support as it is, please do not take away what little there is left.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:58:29 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Kaleikini	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Mahalo for this opportunity to voice my opposition for HB1807. My name is Nicholas Kaleikini and I am a musician and educator. This bill will eliminate numerous government supported arts program and initiatives statewide and will have a significant long lasting effect on our arts, cultural, and educational programs. We promote our island as a place filled with cultural significance, yet we take it away from our own people. You thrive off tourism and quite literally make millions off our people promoting the Hawaiian culture, yet you attempt to eradicate it. The irony is clear. My grandfather is the late Danny Kaleikini. He started his foundation, the Danny Kaleikini Foundation, to help promote the arts, particularly music, in our local communities. The main reason? Well, quite frankly, our government doesn't do enough. He has his scholarship at UH and we have made numerous donations to schools to help refurbish their dilapidated instruments.

His foundation also helped me with the POW! WOW! School of Music. I am the Director of the free music intensive program that coincided with the arts festival in Kakaako. I held auditions and brought in keiki from all over the island to work in a creative space, form bands, listen to well-known artists and their stories, and perform. I didn't make a single cent doing this for almost ten years. I knew the lack of music programs and felt an obligation to help, despite me being in my twenties trying to embark on my own musical journey. The point of all this is to highlight the much needed cultural and arts programs, particularly for our CHILDREN. We all know this arts fund is by far quite minimal in the greater scheme of things. So why would anyone consider eradicating this fund that would affect not just one, or two, but 13 art centers, 8 organizations, and 124 schools?

When the pandemic or any major catastrophe hits, what's the first thing we do? Hold music and art festivals to generate donations. I know many musicians, including my grandfather, who gave their time for the benefit of this state and this is the way you repay our craft? If that's the case, you shouldn't ask ANY artist to help promote this state to malihini or to perform pro bono for any cause. You talk about having aloha where there is none to be found. Think about the times you enjoyed a free arts and music festival or exhibition and more importantly hink about how our keiki felt and the inspiration they gained when they got to enjoy those events. We had our free event at the Capitol Modern on Friday and stopped the music mid-song to symbolize what it would be like. The children on the dance floor stopped dancing and smiling. It would be heartbreaking to take that away.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:11:22 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Mild Lau	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Dear Senators ,

As you consider furtherance of House Bill 1807 please also keep mind the irretrievable value of what will be lost if it passes.

Funding for the Arts creates:

Innovators

Problem Solvers

Self Confident Risk Takers

Communicators

Decision Makers

These are all outcomes that were stated goals at my children's and many other schools with which I have had contact over the years as a parent, volunteer and Artist in the Schools.

Funding Arts Organizations:

Builds Community

Enriches Lives

Humanizes our Built Environment

Creates Meaningful Relationships

Forms and Preserves Cultural Identity

Sparks Dialogue

Provides Economic Opportunities

Funding Arts Education Gives:

Children and adults tools to make sense of our chaotic and rapidly changing world.

The ability to recognize and appreciate beauty and excellence in effective and efficient design solutions

Ways to connect to history and culture.

Paths to envision the future.

Recognition of the value of each others' abilities.

Vehicles of self expression to communicate feelings in constructive avenues rather than destructive acts.

The Arts are the foundation upon which civilization is built, a hallmark of a thriving society and a sounding board for a contemporary population. The arts flourish in times of peace and prosperity. Their absence signals a troubled community.

They are a part of a well rounded education and the lives of well rounded individuals. The Arts are an important path to healing trauma and have been successfully employed to help Maui's hurting citizens.

Please maintain funding for the State Foundation for Culture and the Arts, Artists in the Schools and its Art in Public Places Program. Maintain Hawaii's forward thinking legislation which created HSFCA. Fix whatever administrative difficulties brought this issue to the forefront of the legislative agenda and keep the programs which support Hawaii's creators, innovators and thinkers of the past, present and future.

Most Sincerely Yours,

Jackie Mild Lau

Sculpture Out of Hand

Hawaii Craftsmen

Testimony in opposition to House Bill 1807 | March 18th, 2024

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez and members of the Committee,

The decline of our kama'aina population here has many causes, not the least of which are the crisis in housing and the exorbitant cost of living. Yet, despite those onerous hurdles, many of us choose to fight to stay. Again, for many reasons – family, community, meaningful work. But I would also posit that many of us stay because of the culture and quality of life that we engage with when we're not struggling to make ends meet. We stay because we want to share this sense of place, belonging and wonder with our children and perpetuate the meaning and values of our home.

That quality of life is being eroded each day. We see it literally with the avulsion of our beaches but also with the encroachment of corporations from the continent pushing out local businesses. We see it with so many of our friends and family moving away and taking their talents and our collective memories away with them.

The proposed change to the Works of Art Special Fund (the "Fund") is an acquiescence to this erosion. It is yet another diminishment in the quality of life that makes being here worth the struggle. The Fund supports the SFCA, whose mandate is to do more than just acquire works of art to be hung on walls. They provide free gathering places for the community throughout the islands. They engage, challenge and educate our keiki through a wide range of programming, giving them critical thinking skills, creative development and personal connection to history and the 'āina. They help to ensure that Native Hawaiian art is a living practice. They provide respite, joy and reflection in the recognition of the beauty and power of our unique culture, values and surroundings. They create and preserve our collective memories. They perpetuate these gifts that are righteous which, as Kamehameha III said, are the very life of the land.

Another stated mission of the SFCA is "the development and recognition of a professional artistic community." I would ask the Legislature to reflect on the most vibrant neighborhoods, here and on the continent, that were once overlooked and in disrepair. The first stakeholders in the revitalization of these neighborhoods have always been the artists, planting seeds of community. That creative energy attracts other risk takers, innovative food and beverage and retail tenants. That center of gravity then pulls in residents who desire proximity to, I'll say it again, a better quality of life. And all this vibrance brings real fiscal advantage to government and business: increased tax base, Federal funding, outside investment, development dollars. But those first stakeholders leave a legacy as well – they give the place its character. We should all be invested in supporting home grown artists who will continue to define what it means to live in Hawai'i, before the commercial interests of the continent make that decision for us.

This is my thinking as a kama'aina and business owner here on O'ahu. To divert 68% of the Fund's revenue for these purposes to gain 0.25% for the state's facilities repair and maintenance backlog seems short-sighted. Please work on our behalf to find a better way to honor the gifts we have been given.

Mahalo nui,

Dean Harada



HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 12:49:37 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ualani Davis	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I'm Ualani Davis, a Native Hawaiian artist and art educator and I strongly oppose House Bill 1807.

Art is the pulse of a community. It tells us the health and wealth of our culture.

When a community is sick, the art reflects that. When a community is hurt, the art reflect that. And when art is supported and valued, so to is the community.

This bill and a series of other bills attacking public arts comes at an interesting time. In the past 4 years alone, there has been a barrage on our sense of community, culture, and sense of safety. COVID tested the ways we connect with those around us, but then there was also the red hill water crisis, Mauna Kea, Lahaina, and to a slightly less catastrophic degree, how many of us know friends and family who had to move away because they can no longer afford to live here?

When I was younger, I was told the only way to be successful was to move away. For my first year in college, I went to a school in NY, got severely depressed, and then transferred back home to go to UH. I felt like a failure coming home, until I realized all the opportunities that came with it. With in-state tuition, I could pursue an art degree without taking on additional student loans (and this was 2008 and the Great Recession, so that made a difference) and I could learn 'Ōlelo Hawaii. I could make art about my culture, family, and homeland, things that called to me and things that as a Native Hawaiian, I knew needed more support and representation

I am now a working artist and an art educator for the past 10 years at a local private school. But the things is, I say this not to toot my own horn, but offer a reality check: the only way I got this far was because I had support, and the only way I can continue to pursue art on a teacher's pay check here in Hawaii is because I live with my parents. And while I've loved creating for as long as I could remember, for my parents, the turning point, when *I think* they started supporting art as a possible career, was when I won a Gold Key Scholastic Art award in the 12th grade and my parents saw my artwork in the Hawaii State Art Museum alongside other artwork made by amazing, professional, local artists. They could see a future for what I was so clearly passionate about.

Support for the arts isn't just about beautifying public buildings. You invest in what you value. You are not investing into the temperature-controlled vault holding the artwork that

you've already collected. You are investing in the health and wealth of our community so that artists today and tomorrow may know they are valued. It's for people like me, and people like your kids that I teach that will be the amazing artists of our future. Kids that need safe spaces to create, spaces that they lost during Covid, the fire, spaces that may be their only safe space when the money at home is tight.

Safe spaces that allow kids to take risks, to collaborate, connect, experiment, explore, and express themselves, and they need to know that there are people like their parents, like you and me who care for, value, and invest in their future and all they have to offer as artists and creatives.

*We are deserving of a Hawai'i that invests in **that**.*

We're here. We are the community. We are the pulse. So ask yourself this: are you going to invest in keeping this pulse alive?

Mahalo.

Testimony against advancing HB1807
Submitted by Susan Browne, Commissioner, SFCA

I am submitting testimony to plead with legislators to support a basic human right: exposure, education, and participation in the arts and culture of Hawaii. Since 1966 when the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts was established, Hawaii's lawmakers were listening to the voices of the people. We, the people, are saying that, that just like education, we all deserve access to the arts. They must be available to the general public, free of charge. If you send your child to a private school, they will get an education in the arts. If you send them to a public school, they might have an art class here and there. The one consistent, high quality program that schools can count on is the Artists in the Schools residencies, open to all public and charter schools. HB 1807 will eliminate access to this program.

How many people attend First Fridays and other performing arts programs at Capitol Modern? How many of your children have their art exhibited in the State Art Museum? How many arts organizations receive grants from the SFCA? How many Hawaiian cultural practitioners have their art forms and practices supported by SFCA?

If this bill goes forward – there will be silence and death to the arts- exposure, education, and participation. Gone. This is devastating. I urge every member of this committee and every legislator to take this seriously. This is the moment to stand up for a right for the people of Hawaii. The right to art, which is equivalent to the right of education.

Thank you,
Susan Browne

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:03:44 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anastacia Narrajos	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Anastacia Narrajos and I am writing in strong opposition to Bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact Hawai'i's students, teachers and artists, thus interrupting the important effects of arts and culture has on a community.

This bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

Personally, this would affect my livelihood as I am a teaching artist for Honolulu Theater for Youth. Our education program at HTY is funded in large part through the APP grants. I take great pride in my work, and I see first hand how our theater residencies support the artists within DOE students, give support to DOE Teachers, and have touch many generations of learners here on O'ahu. This funding gets students out of there seats, into their bodies and imaginations. It connects students to artwork created by local artists, which deepens their sense of Belonging and connection to Hawai'i. We provide a moment of play during the school day, challenge them to work collaboratively and creatively, encourage self expression, and support rigor and discipline in art making. Even if these students do not go on to become professional artists themselves, these skills can be used in any field of life.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration. Again, I strongly oppose Bill 1807 and urge you to stop it here before we see the long term detrimental impacts to our entire Hawai'i community.

Mahalo Nui,

Anastacia Narrajos

My name is Robert Pollock.

I testify before you today as the result of government funding to the Arts. So for me this is personal. In 1975, I co-founded the New York Guild of Composers. In 1980-1998, I founded and directed the Composers Guild of New Jersey. During that time a pro-Arts Governor, Thomas Kean, increased funding to the NJ State Council on the Arts from 2 million to 22 million dollars. My CGNJ was one of the beneficiaries of that enlightened policy. We presented concerts in all 21 counties of New Jersey; toured Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Poland, Russia, Boston, and South Carolina; produced 3 commercial CD's; and managed a robust education program in the public schools.

In 1999, I founded and now direct Ebb & Flow Arts in Hawai'i. Here in Hawai'i, we have been the beneficiary of biennium grants from SFCA. These have enabled dozens of free concerts throughout the state, as well as the development of a music education curriculum, *Scaling Haleakala*.

But there has been a slow, steady and disturbing whittling away of the SFCA's budget over the years.

I strongly oppose the HB1807 that would erroneously try to fix something that is not broken and thereby make it worse. This bill is a vile, mean-spirited piece of legislation. It would send SFCA into a "death spiral." In my nearly 50 years in the non-profit Arts world, I have never witnessed such a regressive and destructive proposal. It could turn back the clock to before the establishment of the SFCA in 1965!

What would the late Pundy Yokouchi think?? He invested in the Maui Arts & Cultural Center, and was the architect of SFCA. Will this legislature propose to erase Pundy's legacy? He had a vision - that an enlightened society fosters and encourages the arts through government support. These proposed draconian cuts to

the Arts would be the work of unenlightened legislators who do not appreciate the supreme importance of aspiring to an enlightened culture.

HB 1807 is based on the illogical notion that SFCA has enough works of art. It is a vicious circle - a basic logical fallacy - to pose that ALL works of Art that can be possibly held by the State are completed. Our government would close its doors to new Art from its constituents. What about the next piece of Art? Art by its nature is a creative endeavor. Art is defined by the creation of new works. A piece of legislation based on a logical fallacy cannot stand.

The Arts are an economic boon to our society.

In 2022, nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences generated \$151.7 billion in economic activity—\$73.3 billion in spending by the organizations, which leveraged an additional \$78.4 billion in event-related spending by their audiences. The impact of this economic activity is far reaching, supporting 2.6 million jobs, generating \$29.1 billion in tax revenue, and providing \$101 billion in personal income to residents. AEP6 (the authoritative Arts and Economic Prosperity Study - <https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/reports-and-data/research-studies-publications/arts-economic-prosperity-6>) sends a strong signal that when we support the arts, we are investing in economic and community well-being.

However the Arts are essential in more profound ways than the material, economic, and bureaucratic. Imagination and creativity are uniquely human traits. Through our senses we experience colors, forms, sounds, and motion. We transform these objects of the senses into powerful, emotional, intellectual and healthily creative works. Such activity humanizes us and distinguishes us

from the rest of the animal world. Such artistic activity enlivens our spirits and nourishes our soul with its beauty and freedom. Art has always needed outside support: state, church, aristocratic, foundation, corporate, philanthropic, etc. If a market economy could alone sustain Art, then famous artists such as Dutch painter Vincent Van Gogh, German composer Franz Schubert and American author Herman Melville would have been rich men. But they made little money from their art during their lifetimes.

Art is a survival tool. There are countless stories of survivors from the Holocaust and other disasters who attended concerts or viewed exhibits, or heard a poetry reading that allowed them to enter the realm of Spirit and transcend the horrors of their subjugation. They survived because of Art. We must place the enlivenment of our spirits and nourishment of our souls as high a priority as the necessary sustenance of our bodies. Body is a function of Spirit. The experience of Art transcends and includes the experience of surviving. We must integrate Art into our lives and in all sectors of the society, private, civic and government. If we do not, then the reason for surviving disappears. Art reminds us of the priority of things - of what is most important in life. It pulls us away from the dark, destructive societal forces that create the "death spiral."

Cultures are remembered not for their fast food chains, commercial activity, apartment complexes, or consumerism. Cultures are remembered for the Art they create. Art Presupposes Peace. and stimulates the healthiest human process - creativity. Art keeps our imaginations active - a necessary component for future success and happiness.

Reducing funding would cut monetary support for the following:

HISAM!! The State would actually close its marvelous museum?
This is a cultural atrocity! It cannot be allowed to happen!

In addition, SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL
ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Hawaii Island

Donkey Mill Arts Center East Hawaii Culture Center Kahilu
Theatre
Wailoa Center

Maui
Hui Noe'au

Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association Maui Arts and Culture
Center Viewpoints Gallery

Kauai
Kauai Society of Artists

Oahu
Downtown Art Center

Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries

ORGANIZATIONS
Pu'uhonua Society

Hawaii Contemporary Hawaii Watercolor Society Honolulu
Printmakers Honolulu Theatre for Youth

Hawaii Handweavers Hui Hula Preservation Society NOTAE

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
 - Professional development for DOE Teachers
 - The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
 - Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
 - Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony
 - Hawaii Arts Alliance support
 - Outreach programs:
 - Kahauiki Village
 - Institute for Human Services
 - RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment Family Friendly Programming for LGBTQ populations LGBTQ
 - Legacy Foundation
 - Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center
-

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:42:09 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
May Balino-Sing	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Testimony Regarding HB1807

Aloha kākou, My name is May Haunani Balino-Sing and I am here today to express my opposition to HB1807, repeal capital improvement appropriations for state building renovations as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.

This bill, introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita of Maui, raises serious concerns regarding its potential impact on the arts community in Hawai‘i. If passed, HB1807 would slash the funding of the Art in Public Places program by a staggering 70%. This drastic reduction in revenue would have far-reaching consequences, adversely affecting numerous art organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide. It is troubling to note that this bill, ostensibly introduced to benefit constituents, including students, teachers, and victims of the Lahaina wildfires, could inadvertently deprive them of essential relief and services, including vital art education benefits.

One of the arguments presented in favor of HB1807 is that the Hawai‘i State Art Museum already possesses a sufficient collection of works of art, rendering further acquisitions unnecessary. However, this argument fails to acknowledge the fundamental role that art plays in our society, particularly in times of crisis. Art serves as a powerful tool for healing and expression, offering solace and inspiration to communities grappling with adversity.

Should HB1807 be passed, it would have devastating implications for various aspects of the arts landscape in Hawai‘i. For instance: 1. The closure of the Hawaii State Art Museum would result in the immediate end of exhibitions and public programs, depriving residents and visitors alike of access to cultural enrichment and artistic expression. 2. Native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries, and organizations would suffer a significant blow, as the reduction in funding would curtail crucial support systems and opportunities for creative expression and cultural preservation. 3. The impact on education programming cannot be understated. Initiatives such as the Artists in the Schools arts education program, professional development for Department of Education (DOE) teachers, and various exhibitions and ceremonies for students would face severe cutbacks, depriving young learners of valuable opportunities for artistic growth and enrichment.

Among the many galleries, organizations, and outreach programs that would be affected by HB1807 are:

- **Donkey Mill Arts Center, Kahilu Theatre, Wailoa Arts Center and East Hawai'i Culture Center on Hawai'i Island**
- **Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center and Maui Arts and Culture Center on Maui**
- **Kaua'i Society of Artists on Kaua'i**
- **Downtown Art Center and University of Hawai'i Galleries on O'ahu.**

Furthermore, as a cultural artist and beneficiary of the State Foundation on Culture and Arts Folk and Traditional Arts grant, the revival of 'ie'ie basketry, a traditional Hawaiian fiber art, serves as a poignant example of the transformative power of arts funding. It is imperative that alternative solutions be explored to address the state's building renovation needs without sacrificing critical funding for the arts. Art is not merely a luxury; it is a reflection of our shared humanity and a source of comfort, resilience, and empowerment. As a cultural practitioner deeply invested in the well-being of our community, I urge you to consider the profound implications of HB1807 and to prioritize the preservation and support of the arts in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Testimony of Deborah Nehmad
Before the Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts in
OPPOSITION TO HB 1807

March 19, 2024

Art and culture are NOT a luxury. They are a vital economic driver of our economy. Residents and visitors will be severely impacted by the evisceration of this vital part of who we are.

The SFCA receives approximately \$3 million per year from the 1% for art program. HB1807 will eliminate all but 32% of these funds.

There were 338 pages of testimony in opposition to HB 1807 in the House. CARES was the only voice in support. There is a reason for this lop-sided result. Most people in Hawaii oppose this bill because the overwhelming majority of Hawaii residents appreciate how art and culture enrich their lives as well as their keiki. Sunday's paper featured an article on the impact of the Lahaina fires on residents' mental health. Art and culture have long been known to be of comfort for those who are ailing in times of distress and loss.

Art and culture are a necessity as opposed to a luxury. HB 1807 is punitive, narrow minded, devastating and based on a misunderstanding of how the SFCA functions. IT HAS NO PUBLIC SUPPORT!

Every person in Hawaii aches and grieves for the loss encountered in Lahaina. Every artist and cultural practitioner feel their pain. Countless artists have contributed to efforts to help support the Lahaina community who have lost so much. We will continue to do so. Every person in Hawaii recognizes that we all must make sacrifices to lend our support. But such sacrifices should not come at the cost of other's livelihoods and the well-being of our state's keiki.

The funds that will be garnered from this bill are the lifeblood of the artists and cultural practitioners in the entire state but are a literal DROP IN THE BUCKET compared to the funds needed to revive Lahaina. Do not devastate an entire economic segment.

The general budget breakdown of the 1% for art is as follows (although some years, the allocation for Education and Purchases of Work will exceed this amount as it did in FY2023:

Education - \$530,765

For the Artists in the Schools program which serves public and charter schools throughout the state of Hawaii to fill the gap that the DOE has in art, music and performing arts education.

Works of Art Transportation and Installation - \$201,600

Rotation of works of art throughout over 500 sites in the state, which includes neighbor island install and deinstalls of works of art, tools and materials, framing, casing, pedestals for artwork, and van and cart transportation on Oahu and neighbor islands. Kauai buildings will have art installed in December 2023. Air Conditioning maintenance at the distribution center.

Purchase of Works of Art - \$275,450

The purchase of relocatable works of art that are distributed throughout the state and also interpreted on by gallery guides at the museum as well as teaching artists for the artists in the schools program. Works of art are purchased at local galleries and shows on Oahu and the neighbor islands.

Conservation of Works of Art - \$378,328

Maintenance of the collection throughout the state, including relocatable works of art and commissioned works of art. This includes contracting for bronze and stone maintenance, to ensure that the work of art remains in the collection and in good shape. Contracts expand throughout the state including Molokai and Lanai where commissioned works of art are placed. This also includes the maintenance and community engagement of the King Kamehameha monuments on each island.

Commission of Site-Specific Art - \$1,052,938

Large site-specific works of art are commissioned for public buildings, such as Kapolei Veterans Home, Airports Division sites, Wahiawa Civic Center, Women's Community Correctional Center and other buildings that are being built or renovated for public use. Funds are also expended to create statues or monuments as directed by the legislature.

Hawaii State Art Museum - \$1,049,724

Public Programs on evenings and weekends, contracting with Honolulu Theatre for Youth on augmented reality, communication and media on programs, art exhibitions and shows, gallery interpreters, the onsite school visits program called Art Bento, security contract for the works of art, maintenance of the space including the sculpture garden. Additionally, these funds are spent on the regional Scholastic Art and Writing exhibition and awards, and the Young Artists of Hawaii Awards which encourages 7-12 and K-6 students to enter and have their art on display at the museum. An award ceremony is also held at the museum and neighbor island award winners are flown in for that event. Contracting community organizations and curators to create exhibitions in the museum.

Special Fund Assessment - \$400,000

for Budget and Finance to assess the Works of Art Special Fund

The elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would eliminate monetary support for the following:

*THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

*SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Testimony from others in opposition will itemize the impact on specific organizations and galleries on all islands.

PLEASE DPROPOSE THIS BILL.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Nehmad

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:34:25 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Haunani Balino-Sing	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Testimony Regarding HB1807

Aloha kākou, My name is Haunani Balino-Sing and I am here today to express my opposition to HB1807, repeal capital improvement appropriations for state building renovations as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.

This bill, introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita of Maui, raises serious concerns regarding its potential impact on the arts community in Hawai‘i. If passed, HB1807 would slash the funding of the Art in Public Places program by a staggering 70%. This drastic reduction in revenue would have far-reaching consequences, adversely affecting numerous art organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide. It is troubling to note that this bill, ostensibly introduced to benefit constituents, including students, teachers, and victims of the Lahaina wildfires, could inadvertently deprive them of essential relief and services, including vital art education benefits.

One of the arguments presented in favor of HB1807 is that the Hawai‘i State Art Museum already possesses a sufficient collection of works of art, rendering further acquisitions unnecessary. However, this argument fails to acknowledge the fundamental role that art plays in our society, particularly in times of crisis. Art serves as a powerful tool for healing and expression, offering solace and inspiration to communities grappling with adversity.

Should HB1807 be enacted, it would have devastating implications for various aspects of the arts landscape in Hawai‘i. For instance: 1. The closure of the Hawaii State Art Museum would result in the immediate end of exhibitions and public programs, depriving residents and visitors alike of access to cultural enrichment and artistic expression. 2. Native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries, and organizations would suffer a significant blow, as the reduction in funding would curtail crucial support systems and opportunities for creative expression and cultural preservation. 3. The impact on education programming cannot be understated. Initiatives such as the Artists in the Schools arts education program, professional development for Department of Education (DOE) teachers, and various exhibitions and ceremonies for students would face severe cutbacks, depriving young learners of valuable opportunities for artistic growth and enrichment.

Among the many galleries, organizations, and outreach programs that would be affected by HB1807 are:

- **Donkey Mill Arts Center, Kahilu Theatre, Wailoa Arts Center and East Hawai'i Culture Center on Hawai'i Island**
- **Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center and Maui Arts and Culture Center on Maui**
- **Kaua'i Society of Artists on Kaua'i**
- **Downtown Art Center and University of Hawai'i Galleries on O'ahu.**

Furthermore, as a cultural artist and beneficiary of the State Foundation on Culture and Arts Folk and Traditional Arts grant, the revival of 'ie'ie basketry, a traditional Hawaiian fiber art, serves as a poignant example of the transformative power of arts funding. It is imperative that alternative solutions be explored to address the state's building renovation needs without sacrificing critical funding for the arts. Art is not merely a luxury; it is a reflection of our shared humanity and a source of comfort, resilience, and empowerment. As a cultural practitioner deeply invested in the well-being of our community, I urge you to consider the profound implications of HB1807 and to prioritize the preservation and support of the arts in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:32:00 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Toni Lee	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

The arts help build community. The arts document history. The arts make us human. We need to support organizations that are not driven by economic greed. Please oppose this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:49:22 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Chang	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Chair Lee and esteemed committee members,

As a current and former board member of several local nonprofit arts organizations, including the Hawai'i Museums Association and the Performing Arts Presenters of Hawai'i, I strongly oppose this bill. While I wholeheartedly agree that appropriations should be made to support performing arts initiatives and expanded arts programming in schools, these should be made in addition to, not at the expense of, the vital consistent funding that provides for visual arts and related programming across the state. Fiscal responsibility is important, and I'm glad our legislators always have this in mind. The amount from the Works of Art Special Fund is a miniscule portion of the state's total annual budget, at less than 0.05% in FY23.

The reality is that funding for arts and culture is commonly the first to be cut, and the last to be well funded. This is why the Works of Art Special Fund remains a brilliant concept to ensure consistent annual funding for arts and culture, and why Hawai'i's historic legislation has been copied by state and territorial governments many times over. The ongoing display, maintenance and care of artworks will continue to require funds alongside those used to acquire new artworks. The Works of Art Special Fund is an essential source of support as the state's art collection ages. As new construction of state buildings becomes less common and renovation more prevalent, the Works of Art Special Fund will only remain viable as it is currently written, applying to capital improvement appropriations that are designated for the construction **or** renovation of state buildings.

Cutting this consistent funding and replacing it partially with an annual appropriation that is inconsistent at best, and nonexistent at worst, is too great of a risk to the state's art collection and its public service mandate. Adding an **additional** appropriation for the stated performing arts and arts education goals would be wonderful - but not in exchange for damaging the integrity of the Works of Art Special Fund.

I would love to see a proposal to expand arts and culture support beyond artwork acquisition and visual arts programming, that does not include the detrimental actions proposed in this bill. This bill as written results in a net negative impact for the arts and cultural community. Constraining the future funding of the Works of Art Special Fund does not provide a pathway toward responsible, consistent, and comprehensive support for arts and culture initiatives that inspire, unite, enrich, and heal our communities across Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your time, thoughtfulness, and consideration.

With aloha,

Eric Chang

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:46:04 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Iwata	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1807 HD2.

This bill will significantly reduce the Art in Public Places program revenue, resulting in the reduction or elimination of governmental support for many key arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide. The scope of this bill will impact much more than the purchasing of art for the state collection; it will adversely affect the ability of this state to preserve and nurture the arts and culture of Hawaii. HB1807 will have long-term impact on Hawaii's economic health, viability as an attractive visitor destination, and the livelihood and well-being of our people.

HB 1807 will potentially hurt art and cultural organizations that support our youth and communities throughout the state. Arts and culture are more than ideas created by people. Arts and culture are the foundation of our identity and the expression of our humanity. Arts and culture are essential to our quality of life.

The funding cuts of HB 1807 put in jeopardy Hawaii's arts and culture and the future well-being of our people. I strongly oppose this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Elisabeth Iwata

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:45:11 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kilihea Inaba	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Will testify via zoom

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:29:42 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla DuBois	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Greetings law makers—

You're meeting today to discuss how to cut spending and the first thing you want to dissolve is arts funding. This is not the first time I've witnessed this. I was born in Kansas and in 2011, a conservative governor devastated the arts community in a piece of legislation like this one. It was a slap in the face to culture makers and all those who benefit from the arts. It left our community without support, employment opportunities, or places to grow. It left galleries and theaters to close, and their patrons with no where to go. The remaining spaces are now privately owned by the wealthy who curate shows of artists that remind them of themselves. Trust me, when the only people who can afford to be artists come from generational wealth, quality suffers. The art is bad.

The year Kansas cut arts funding was the year I graduated from high school. That same year, I won a silver key from the Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards. To my parents, being recognized by the state meant their kid might actually have real talent. It legitimized my passion and was a major catalyst in my career as a professional artist. In 2023, my painting was chosen by the Hawai'i State Foundation of Culture and Arts and once again, that recognition boosted my career and affirmed my decision to live this life.

Maybe some of you chose your career as a pathway to make the world a better place. That's what every artist here strives to achieve. Arts programming is already malnourished nation-wide. The passing of this bill will prevent a new generation of creators from ever getting the chance to sprout and grow and I am telling you, it will negatively impact all who call this place home. I'm not an elected official, but I can see from here there are plenty of other places to trim the fat. Leave these programs alone.

Thank you.

March 18, 2024

RE: NO to HB 1807

Please vote NO on HB 1807.

I'm 74 years old and I grew up in Aiea in one of the early subdivisions. My aunt helped my parents with the down payment on our house on Uahi St. and both my parents worked, but even as a kid I knew that many times it was very hard to make ends meet. But somehow my brother and I got to do extra things like take classes at the Academy of Arts or at the community center. Parents want those "extra" experiences for their kids. The "extra" is the difference between being poor and being impoverished.

If HB 1807 becomes reality, school and youth related arts programs will be slashed, funding of community arts organizations on all the islands slashed, and even community access to art we citizens already own will be denied us because all exhibitions and public programming at the Hawaii State Art Museum will immediately end.

The art community is part of the entire Hawaii ohana. We stand with our ohana who are homeless, or have lost everything in wildfires, or are dealing with drugs or violence. By thoughtful and far sighted shepherding of our assets and resources we can increase the health and vitality of the whole community. Let's not confuse constructive pruning with careless amputation.

HB 1807 proposes an amputation. Please vote NO to this drastic and very harmful bill.

Aloha,

Mary Mitsuda

2448 Halelaau Pl

Honolulu, HI 96816

contact@marymitsuda.com

Aloha,

My name is Setsuko Morinoue and **I strongly oppose bill HB1807.**

The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact our reflection of Humanity, Life quality & value, to help fulfillment of our identity and lifestyle. I am sick & tired of fighting or testifying every so often for Arts & Culture and its education. We must secure our island lifestyle, the most basic IDENTITY, Arts & Culture which.

When we talk about ECONOMY first is a dangerous game to play, especially in POLITICS, because we will fail fast to see our fundamental value and quality of our lifestyle. We must think for our future generations who won't lose their identity, pride and purpose for managing their sustainability the way we try to demonstrate today. We see in the WESTERN world and its influence, reflection and manipulations in the State today more so than ever. These are in our illusions and it will not stay forever after we leave

If our leaderships are disagree or not to have a clear vision with IMPORTANCE of our CULTURE & ARTS which should be our priority, we will not have any healthy ECONOMY nor guarantee in fulfilled lifestyle today, tomorrow or our longtime future would not follow or sustain.

Therefore we must see the importance in separation of ARTS & CULTURE which should stand its own, away from using by POLITICS, POLITICAL GAME or any AUTHORITARIAN POWER. We have the legacy of STATE FOUNDATION FOR ARTS & CULTURE, originated 1966 by the Governor John Burns, Chairperson Pundy Yokouchi and the first Executive Director, Alfred Preis. We must proud of our state as passing this very important BILL which most directly reflect HUMANITY in the US..., and many other states have followed.

They were thinking and SECURING of our future to be flourishing by CULTURE & ARTS to remember our own identity and sustain "ART is Living, Living is ART" to enrich islanders livelihood.

Please think constructively usage of our State Tax. This is my thoughts..., I would like to see some percent of our annual state tax put aside for securing our Culture & Arts, and its Education for our Youth as our BEST, PURE and DIRECT INVESTMENTS for our future.

Without identity, humanity with creativity in our lives..., our islanders' lives will be doomed on this AINA.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Setsuko Morinoue

A visionary of Donkey Mill Art Center (Home of Holualoa Foundation for Arts & Culture)
Emeritus Director of Donkey Mill Art Center
Advocate for Arts & Culture, its Education, Bridge-builder for PEACE and betterment of
community
Holualoa, HI, 96725

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 12:35:28 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis Dilwith	Testifying for University of Hawai`i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Dennis Dilwith, a music education student at the University of Hawai`i, and I strongly urge you not to hear bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact the students of Hawai`i and the future jobs us as music education students will take on. Cutting arts program will hurt our keiki's social emotional development, creativeness, and traditional cultures that are related to arts. As someone who grew up in the Hawai`i public school arts, I strongly urge you to not hear this bill.

Mahalo

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 6:11:27 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bernard Uy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a concerned citizen, a parent, a local business owner (creative agency Wall-to-Wall Studios) and a Board Member of the Hawai'i Arts Alliance, **I strongly oppose this bill** which would have a devastating impact on the arts.

This bill would cut 68% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide.

The elimination of "renovation" from the percent for art law would eliminate monetary support for the following:

***THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY**

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawai'i Island

- Donkey Mill Arts Center
- East Hawai'i Culture Center
- Kahilu Theatre
- Wailoa Center

Maui

- Hui Noe'au
- Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association
- Maui Arts and Culture Center
- Viewpoints Gallery

Kauai

- Kauai Society of Artists

Oahu

- Downtown Art Center
- Arts and Letters
- Fishcake
- University of Hawai'i Galleries
- Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS

- Pu'uhonua Society
- Hawai'i Contemporary
- Hawai'i Watercolor Society
- Honolulu Printmakers
- Honolulu Theatre for Youth
- Hawai'i Handweavers Hui
- Hula Preservation Society
- NOTAE
- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- Professional development for DOE Teachers
- The Hawai'i State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
- Young Artists of Hawai'i Exhibition and Ceremony
- Hawai'i Arts Alliance support

Outreach programs:

- Kahauiki Village
- Institute for Human Services
- RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
- LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
- Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS HOUSE BILL 1807 for the sake of the future of the arts in Hawai'i.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 4:36:55 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Babcock	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as it cuts funding for a broad range of highly important arts funding that is vital to education and the larger community

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 4:41:34 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter U Hansen JR	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is incredibly wrong to use funds that support the arts, which will have a significant impact on the culture of this state. I can guarantee a citizen of this state will walk into a gallery, museum, art show, etc., rather than the state capital building. I understand it needs repair; budget for it instead of taking money from the Arts. Please understand that arts have a more significant impact on our younger folks. The arts help teach 21st-century skills, which will help our young folks in the future. Please do not vote for this measure. Thank you for your time.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 5:13:59 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stanley Raymond	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the bill!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:42:36 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ken plonsky	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support art in public spaces It is important program in the education of our children

We need this program

thank you for your consideration

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 5:47:55 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lester Gantan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have worked as a Special Duty Deputy Sheriff at bi-monthly events at Capitol Modern (previously known as the Hawaii State Art Museum) since before the pandemic. I have seen Jonathan Johnson and Karen Ewald create a vibrant culture at HISAM these past few years through their 1st Friday events, Jazz Night, Hawaiian culture events etc.

The unique multimedia kaleidoscope of music, art, dance and literature have brought in countless visitors into the museum: from all walks of life, bridging demographics and connecting people that probably wouldn't have been interested in visiting an art gallery in the first place.

Capitol Modern/Hawaii State Art Museum is a special place. Its culture is vital. HISAM events not only support local art and culture, they sponsor events that support the LGBTQ+ community and other community partners in need.

The tragedy in Maui has created a frantic search for funding to help rebuild Lahaina. My heart is broken for our Maui Ohana. But I firmly and emphatically believe such funding should not be taken from Hawaii State Art Museum and money should come from elsewhere. Please look to our visitor industry and do not take away funding from Kama'aina and cultural programs so vital to our island community.

I oppose this proposed legislation and wholeheartedly support Johnathan, Karen and everyone at the Hawaii State Art Museum.

Very respectfully,

Deputy Sheriff II Lester Gantan

Department of Law Enforcement

District Court Patrol Section

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 6:03:56 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob McPherson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong opposition to HB1807.

I have been coming to semi monthly events at the Capitol Modern, the State Art Museum, since during the pandemic. Their sculpture garden made it possible to gather for enriching music and dance during the time of the pandemic. They have truly first class entertainment that enriches my life. I come to every event. That's not an exaggeration. These free events are part of my life. I can ride the bus easily too the event. I can view the gorgeous art. I can buy food and drink from the vendors. The music lifts my spirits.

You must **NOT** cut funding to the State Foundation for the Culture and the Arts. These are popular events for people of all ages. I am 60 years old, and this is one of the few events that I regularly attend.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 7:06:39 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron J. Levine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a public educator I strongly oppose this bill. Reducing funding for the percent for art law would cut monetary support for Native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries and many arts organizations across the state. Please preserve the arts and culture in Hawaii and oppose this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 7:08:56 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chien-Wen Tseng	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We ask our legislators to please oppose this bill. We have been going to Capitol modern and other public music and art events and can't stress how much it means to us to have this available for free for our community. So much art and music is already priced out of range for families and this is so important for seeing our tax dollars making a difference . Plus it brings us to downtown and makes us appreciate public art. Mahalo for your support in opposing this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 7:09:10 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tai-Li Lasure	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We ask the legislation to please not pass this bill to statutes as it will heavily impact our community and the institutions that support Art around Hawai'i. It is important to continue funding Art in Hawai'i due it helping bring families together and allows people of every age to enjoy it. Art has and always will be an important part of Hawai'i's history and we cannot simply cutting funding to it.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 7:19:40 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonah Trole	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Arts and culture funding is what makes Hawai'i "Hawai'i" for keiki for kapuna please keep the culture alive.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 7:26:29 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mikiala Souza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Miki'ala Souza and I strongly urge you to oppose Bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact statewide art and art education programs.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Me ke aloha,

Miki'ala Souza

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 7:58:28 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dustin Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This legislation is deceptively worded, and cannot be justified to withhold funding necessary to keep the state art museums doors open. The museum was one of the first sights I visited when I moved to Hawaii. It's exhibits gave me a base line for understanding the culture I was integrating into. The museums monthly music events provided a social opportunity like none other at a time when I knew no one. The Hawaii state art museum is a staple to the community, a boon for tourism, and a significant force in educating the public. It must be preserved. If funds must be appropriated let it come from elsewhere.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 8:15:59 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Katamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a visual art teacher, I oppose this bill. I work at a public charter school and my students have participated in the Scholastic art awards for the last 11 years. They are so proud to see their artwork displayed at the Capital Modern and getting to meet other art students from around the state. The artist in schools program provides opportunities for students that would not be normally possible. I believe funding for the arts is a necessity and this bill would cut funding to a number of programs that support public art in Hawaii as well as programs to help youth in Hawaii engage with art.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 9:14:01 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andi Struzziero	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The arts are a vital part of what makes Honolulu thrive! Protect arts funding at all costs.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 9:21:44 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Chimera	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear legislators,

As a working artist who relies on the cultural institutions such as the Capitol Modern, Hui Noeau and others not only for arts classes, but exhibition spaces, this bill poses an existential threat to these institutions. Hawaii arts and artist cannot survive without critical finding that this bill aims to slash. Capitol Modern which recently exhibited two of my state foundation purchased artworks featuring portraits of my Filipino family members as well as conservation themed work of endangered Hawaiian honey creepers--this museum would shutter its doors immediately. What a tragedy and impoverishment for the public and for all of us.

with aloha,

Melissa Chimera

Honokaa, HI

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 9:30:10 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Middendorf	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that eliminating the support of the arts is a disservice to society because we need the arts to make a person a complete human being. It's not all about money, business and all things financial. We need a part of our selves to enjoy the creativity of the arts to feel good about ourselves. Without the arts, the world would be a very sad place to live in.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 9:30:35 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elisabeth Mather	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a supporter of the Capitol Modern, I oppose this bill and how it would negatively impact the Art in Public Places program.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 9:37:32 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trever Asam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong OPPOSITION to this bill.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts is a successful steward of art programs and education in the State. We should allow the SFCA to continue to thrive under its current model.

This bill significantly undermines the SFCA's programming and flexibility, limiting its reach. This would be a mistake.

I urge the Committee not to pass this bill.

Thank you.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 9:41:59 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Jay Bonilla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is wrong to cease art exhibitions of local and native Hawaiian art. Organizations like Capitol Modern and the UH Art Galleries provide not only entertainment, but deep, rich knowledge of our island's culture and heritage. To demolish these exhibitions would be akin to burying our culture and our identity underneath layers of politics that have no right in intruding upon our history. To create and support this bill is almost laughable and inconcievably ignorant. It is ignorant of the hard work and dedication put into Hawaiian culture that our people have tried so hard to revive and honor. It is ignorant of the future opportunities that may arise as a result of these exhibitions; opportunities that can foster learning and growth in our keiki. In a world that is so heavily dependent on technology, it is crucial for our keiki to learn and grow underneath the guidance and tutelage of these public displays. In-person exhibitions are amazing opportunities to expand our keiki's idea of what art can be, what the world can be like, and how they can make a difference. To cease these exhibitions would be a tremendous disservice to the future of our keiki's understanding of who they are, what they are a part of, and what they can become. It is places like art galleries and exhibitions where the drive and yearning for knowledge begin to proliferate and grow. Closing down these art galleries will do more harm than good and will inevitably start a chain reaction of destroying more and more ways for our keiki to continue their love of learning.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 9:44:18 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Ng	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Hawai'i State Legislators,

My name is Brandon Ng and I strongly urge you to oppose Bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact myself, my family and the arts community of Hawai'i. As an artist and arts educator, my livelihood relies on a prosperous art ecosystem. I support my family through teaching art to our island's college students, help maintain our city's and state public art collections, and create art that celebrates and enriches our culture. Being born and raised here, I feel proud to be actively sustaining and contributing to the continued success of Hawai'i unique arts environment. I want to be able to stay here to raise my family with the same values we all have absorbed by growing up here. By supporting this bill you will make it impossible for people like me to stay in our home, only to become another statistic of those forced to relocate to the continent. Furthermore, you will be effectively excluding the current and next generation of Hawai'i based artists from the participating in the critical conversation regarding our place in this world.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Me ke aloha,

Brandon Ng, Mō'ili'ili, O'ahu, Hawai'i

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 9:46:03 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kellie Pham	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Funding towards the arts should not be cut. I understand there may be other priorities when it comes to money, but do not cut funds to the point where these cultural organizations are forced to shut down. People lose their jobs, and they lose an avenue to express themselves. How many places are there in the world for local art to thrive? Let alone HAWAIIAN art? The younger generation should still have the chance to express themselves and have a place to do that. If we have to appeal to the economical side of this, imagine what cutting funding would do to the culture and tourism aspect of Hawaii. These are places where people travel and flock to so they can experience it. There was so much support at Capitol Modern today. Why take the time and money to revamp and rebrand it if it's just to shut it down? No one wants it closed, and no one wants the other local art institutions to be cut either. It's a long shot to move the opposite way, but imagine how much more it'd thrive with more funding. It already has so much support with the little funding it has now. Please listen to the people and do not pass this bill. You would cause a rift in so many peoples lives. There can be whole a generation who loses their chance to express themself with an avenue like this taken away. There aren't many accessible paths when it comes to art nowadays. Let this still be an option for the artists of the world.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 10:08:24 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Bernal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose to HB1807, im an an artist and this could be detrimental for my livelihood and my fellow artists as well as my community whose life has been devoted to make a better world through the vital arts.

thank you for your attention

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 10:11:23 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesand Amodo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a local music artist, educator, and citizen of this `Aina, I strongly oppose this bill. In a time where financial uncertainty, anxiety, and suicide rates are at an all time high for communities around the world just like ours in Honolulu, to cut funding for local art, music, and other creative means for self-expression, sense of belonging, and overall mental and emotional wellness, would be extremely detrimental. The programs that the special art fund support are undoubtedly important, and are somewhat of a life line to the communities it serves. From keiki to kupuna, everyone needs art, music, culture, and a safe space for self-expression. Our local community and especially our Native Hawaiian population is already oppressed, pressured, and stressed with the high cost to do pretty much anything here at home. To cut this funding for art, music, and other types of programs, our community would continue to feel even more isolated, pressured, and stressed, which would then inevitably affect the continuing rise of havoc here at home like crime, drug use, alcoholism, abuse, and more; not to mention the negative financial impact this would have on artists, musicians, and local vendors within our community. Please do not pass this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 10:20:54 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Derek Erwin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With all due respect, this is an example of selfishness and Representatives doing as they please with no regard to their constituents. Because YOU don't see the value in art, art expression, and art programs doesn't mean they don't have value to others. Countless studies have shown that art and art related activities get children off the streets and teach our youth valuable problem solving skills and an appreciation and respect for other people's work and belongings. Some of the most visited tourist sites in Hawaii are supported by the funding you seek to eliminate which will leave some of Hawaii's landmarks unattended to and we will see them fall into disrepair, including the Queen Lilioukalani statue, the Eternal Flame, Father Damian, and most crucially, all three King Kamehameha Statues, one of which is the most visited site in all of Hawaii.

The Hawaii State Art Museum will no longer be supported and the main funding support for artists who live in Hawaii will be finished. I'm shocked that anyone would concieve of such a disastrous bill or support it. For what amounts to a drop in the bucket, a small drop at that of the overall budget, cutting this funding will destroy lives, make Hawaii less interesting and beautiful and rob it's citizens of intellectual stimulation to be replaced with what? Drugs and alcohol? This is dispicable and short sighted. Please, do not pass this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 10:22:52 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liberty Peralta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm writing to oppose HB1807 HD2, as it disproportionately will impact arts programs in underserved communities across our Islands.

Art is not a frivolous activity or something that is just pleasant to look at. For artists of all ages, it's a sanctuary, a way through challenging times. Cutting funding to the arts to fund unrelated special projects is not the solution, and sends the message that the arts are expendable, when in fact, they are more vital now than ever. People on our Islands are suffering, and the arts offer a path through healing.

There has been no specific plan on how much will be allocated for arts programs under this legislation, nor has there been specifics on which programs would be funded. What we do know is that HB1807 will halt statewide initiatives that serve some of Hawaii's most vulnerable communities, include Native Hawaiian communities. Let's please consider how the passage of HB1807 will cut off access to programs for keiki to kupuna that may be a lifeline.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Liberty Peralta

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 10:47:20 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan Amicone	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I'm strongly opposed to HB1807. Hawaii needs these funds to keep art alive in the state for our childrens sake! Not to mention many people will be let go from work, in this day and age in Hawaii the loss of a job can cause major problems. Look at what just happened to the family in Monoa Valley, the police believe the motive for the fathers sick acts were financial issues! My family and I just had a wounderful evening at Oahu's center. We experianced great art, food, and dancing. My one and two year olds danced to the live band for two hours, the joy in their faces made my wife and I so happy. If this bill is passed that center would be closed down and many families to come will never experiance some of these benifits to the people. Please do not pass HB 1807, thank you.

Bryan Amicone

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 11:22:59 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Glanz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Because Bill HB1807 HD2 would eliminate capital improvement appropriations for state building renovations, it would endanger the Works of Art Special Fund.

This bill undermines critical public support for local artists and arts organizations such as the public programs at Capitol Modern (Hawaii State Art Museum), the Honolulu Theatre for Youth, the University of Hawaii Galleries, the Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition, and even professional development for HODOE teachers, among dozens of other organizations across our islands and particularly their programs for public outreach.

Critical platforms for public connection to and benefit from art would be undermined or wholly eliminated by this bill, undercutting visual artists, musicians, cultural practitioners, educators, and the benefits we all enjoy from their work. I urge you to support the arts: to oppose HB1807 HD2, oppose any proposed diversion of funding from the Works of Art Special Fund, and oppose any resulting indirect or any direct reduction in revenue for the Art in Public Places Program.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 12:18:55 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eugene Marques	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand before you today to emphasize why we must avoid reducing public funding for the arts in our communities. The arts are not an expendable luxury, but a necessity that enriches our lives and societies in profound ways.

When we maintain strong investments in public arts programs, sculptures, murals, theaters and museums, we are investing in the human spirit itself. The arts allow us to express our hopes, fears, identities and experiences through creative outlets. They bring color, vibrancy, and a deeper richness to the public spaces and places we inhabit daily.

Public art reminds us that we are more than just workers - we are creative, emotional beings searching for meaning and beauty. A community without public art lacks an essential element of expression and awe.

Moreover, the arts play a crucial educational role, sparking creativity, cultural awareness and innovation in young minds. When children are immersed in theatre, dance, music and visual arts, we open up new worlds of skill and understanding.

We cannot take public arts funding for granted or treat it as discretionary. The arts drive economic vitality by attracting tourism, creative businesses, and top talent to regions that celebrate artistic expression. Inspired public art and design make our buildings more sustainable long-term assets.

Reducing funding for arts and culture is akin to diminishing the very soul of our society - the beauty, expression, and creative capacity that elevates our communities from mere functional spaces to inspiring homes for imagination to flourish.

I urge you to protect current funding levels for public arts and cultural institutions. To reduce this investment is to let a piece of our shared humanity wither. The arts make us whole as a society. Thank you.

Chair Chris Lee
Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye

Senate Committee on Transportation & Culture & the Arts

Tuesday, March 19, 2024
3:00 PM

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO HB1807 HD2 RELATING TO THE
WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND**

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation & Culture & the Arts,

My name is Jun Shin. I am a union service worker as well as a labor and social justice activist, testifying as an individual in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to **HB1807 HD2**, Relating to the Works of Art Special Fund.

I believe that the arts should be enjoyed by everyone in society, regardless of class. Cutting the funding that the Works of Art Special Fund receives from capital improvement appropriations for state building renovations would greatly hurt the ability of the State Foundation on the Culture and the Arts to make that possible. There is no funding mechanism set up to replace the loss of the Art Special Fund! This is an existential threat to galleries and organizations all over Hawai'i.

You would be taking away an important chunk of funding that goes into supporting local and kānaka maoli artists as well as the ability for the State Foundation on the Culture and the Arts to purchase, maintain, and exhibit different forms of art for the enjoyment of the broader public. We cannot live without the creativity, the emotions, the passion that art brings to our lives.

Please **DEFER House Bill 1807 HD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,
State House District 23 | State Senate District 12
Cell: 808-255-6663
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 1:09:15 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deirdre A Roney	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts, Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i. The scope and severity of this measure is astonishing.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

The next page lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island

Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center
Maui
Hui Noe'au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association Maui Arts and Culture Center Viewpoints Gallery

Kauai
Kauai Society of Artists

Oahu
Downtown Art Center
Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary Hawaii Watercolor Society Honolulu Printmakers Honolulu Theatre for Youth Hawaii Handweavers Hui Hula Preservation Society NOTAE
Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
Professional Development for DOE Teachers
The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony
Hawaii Arts Alliance support

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

Kahauiki Village
Institute for Human Services
RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center
Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.

Deirdre Roney

Holualoa, Hawai'i Island

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 1:12:17 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Kwon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and the members of the Committee,

I am writing to you in **opposition of HB 1807**. This bill massively cuts the support for several art centers, classroom programs, and the Arts in Public Places program. The 1% in appropriations from construction and renovation does more than decorate the state buildings' empty walls; it creates opportunity for countless artists across creative mediums such as dance, poetry, and traditional art, to name a few.

Further, the impact extends beyond artists who are afforded the opportunities from these funded art programs and centers; HB 1807 negatively impacts the public who currently experience art at little to no cost and appreciate small artists who may not have the opportunity to share their work without the existing programs funded.

The bill begins with the sentiment "art feeds the human spirit and offers priceless value" and boasts "that Hawaii was the first state in the nation to adopt a percent-for-art law." It is hypocritical to say these things proudly whilst redirecting these funds entirely—it is implying that the human spirit has been fed "enough art" in the State of Hawai'i. This is far from true, and I strongly **oppose HB 1807** for these reasons.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 3:28:53 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Beust	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please DO NOT PASS HB1807 HD2. This bill would destroy the vibrant art and music opportunities for local artists to showcase their talents and creativity. Hawaii needs to continue to support art and music programs provided at Capitol Modern, which provides a safe and nurturing venue for creatives to grow and flourish. Without programs supported at Capitol Modern, art, including indigenous art, will die. Do not let this happen, do not pass HB1807 HD2.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 1:26:09 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Sato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am OPPOSED to HB1807

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 3:40:18 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Knocton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not cut funding for the arts programs.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 5:17:34 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer M Fujimoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art is not just decoration. It IS a critical need. ART IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE. Having access to visual art and experiencing the creation of art helps humans contextualize their experiences and connects them to others through the expression of shared identity. Creating these connections and mutual understanding through art supports interpersonal connection, increases empathy, and facilitates healthy relationships between individuals and society.

When you are dealing with your repair and maintenance backlog of over \$1 billion in facilities across the state, you should be considering how 1% funded art can help to beautify and revitalize those same spaces for the people of Hawaii.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:29:45 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tina ah puck	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. As an artist in Lahaina, I have personally seen the Capital Modern programs help so many native and local artists. This bill would be catastrophic. We are living at a time when we should be supporting the arts even more, not slashing their lifeline. Historically, cutting funding for arts programs has negative impacts on communities. Please don't.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:58:10 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mara Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Mara and I strongly urge you to oppose Bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact programming in schools and the community at large.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Me ke aloha,

Mara Garcia, Kailua, Oahu

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 7:43:26 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nina Fukuda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not pass 1807 relating to the works of art special fund. It supports so many organizations that are beneficial to the community.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 7:49:36 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lexus-Angelyse Lopez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am submitting this testimony as an avid attendee of Capitol Modern's (Hawaii State Art Museum) free programs for the community. They've created safe spaces for LGBTQ+ people which is so very important. Their programs are so educational and bring the community together. They give Native Hawaiian people and other marginalized groups a voice and a platform to showcase not only their art but also their experiences and stories.

Art, in all forms, is important. Having the proper funding for art programs is also important. Please consider the people, the children, you will silence by passing this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 7:53:46 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Koch	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill HB1807.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 8:14:01 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Yamachika	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Jason Yamachika oppose HB1807 HD2. I am an artist, I support all artists and the arts. Art is important to perpetuate culture, history, and emotions. It is the livelihood of people and society. Without art the world becomes dark and unfamiliar.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 8:14:38 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Taum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Cory Taum and I strongly urge you to oppose Bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact my income as a Hawaiian Public Artist

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Me ke aloha,

Cory Taum, Kahalu'u

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 8:21:29 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelica Delos Santos Rodriguez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Angelica, and i oppose this bill because the arts are necessary for the growth of individuals and on a community level. Passing this bill would mean many art organizations and artists no longer get the funding, which affects many native hawaiians in their ability to sell/ trade their art which is inherently their right to do so especially on their land.

The arts are for the people and we wouldn't be here today without the arts.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 9:00:01 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2. Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM- ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

Bellow lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

ORGANIZATIONS *SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island Donkey Mill Arts Center East Hawaii Culture Center Kahilu Theatre Wailoa Center Maui Hui Noe'au Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association Maui Arts and Culture Center Viewpoints Gallery Kauai Kauai Society of Artists Oahu Downtown Art Center Arts and Letters Fishcake University of Hawaii Galleries Arts at Marks Garage Pu'uhonua Society Hawaii Contemporary Hawaii Watercolor Society Honolulu Printmakers Honolulu Theatre for Youth Hawaii Handweavers Hui Hula Preservation Society NOTAE Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide. Professional Development for DOE Teachers The Hawaii State Art Museum- Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony Hawaii Arts Alliance support OUTREACH PROGRAMS: Kahauiki Village Institute for Human Services RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment LGBTQ Legacy Foundation Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili, O'ahu

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 9:07:52 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support public funding for the arts and oppose HB1807.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 9:09:45 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
'Alika Leavey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members,

Please kill this bad bill. It was introduced by only one member known for being a zealot in slashing and cutting and destroying good programs that support the people, small businesses and vibrant culture of these islands. I went to the state building Hilo recently. It's like traveling into a 1970s time capsule. The style and art on the walls is 50 years old. What is this member trying to do but deny the public it's future by cleaving off renovations from the funding formula? There is no balanced budget or deficit justification for attacking the arts in public places program except to express a cynical contempt and callous disregard for our dozens of arts organizations and hundreds of working artists across the islands who breathe life into our public places, and to strangle the living culture of Hawaii for one powerful member's extremist anti-culture ideology.

mahalo

Shawn A James Leavey

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 9:11:36 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee McCartan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Passing Bill HB1807 HD2 will threaten the existence of Capitol Modern (Hawaii State Art Museum), public programs, and undermine the support for Native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries and organizations.

Furthermore, visual artists will not be the only ones affected: Musicians, performers, cultural practitioners, and educators (to name a few) will all be negatively impacted.

Art is essential to life itself. As legendary performer and activist Ossie Davis put it, "Any form of art is a form of power; it has impact, It can affect change- It can not only move us, it makes us move."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 9:11:51 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Presley Pleasant	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

As a local artist and patron of Capitol Modern and countless other galleries that support the artistic community of Hawaii, I wholeheartedly oppose this bill and urge you to consider the value and importance of maintaining these spaces.

Sincerely,

Presley Ocean Pleasant

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 9:16:24 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Marie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose cutting funding for the arts

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 9:29:16 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Ruddick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 9:29:29 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kami Pihana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The art culture is essential to Hawaii, locals and Native Hawaiians specifically. Arts, entertainment, music, dance, and performance is not only a form of expression for our people, it is a collective healing process. Every single detail, rhythm, number, stroke, strum, movement ties to something sacred to our own experiences and history. Revoking and stripping away art programs and its funding is an act of blatant disregard and disrespect towards individuals, communities and cultures who have worked tirelessly to have their voices be heard. There is no harm or threat happening in these spaces because there is a common understanding and unspoken "togetherness" that lives within these art forms. Do not pass this bill. It's much bigger than shutting down a few locations and programs; it's affecting the livelihood of our people.

mahalo,

Kami

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 9:35:44 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert "Kealoha" Domingo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Welina mai e Chair Lee and esteemed members of the Senate TCA komike,

O wau o Kealoha Domingo, a longtime and active member of the Hawaiian Community and strong supporter of the Culture and Arts. I am in strong opposition to HB1807 and its drastic cuts to funding streams through the Works and Arts Fund.

We are all fully aware of financial struggles in the State of Hawai'i, however decreasing funding for the Culture and Arts is NOT the answer. Any decrease to what truly identifies us as the rich, unique and beautiful tapestry of Hawai'i would be comparable to throwing our supply of provisions overboard on a long distance transpacific voyage.

Diminished support for the Culture and Arts, the true heart and soul of our identity, will undoubtedly equate directly to the reduction of attraction, uniqueness and value of Hawai'i as not just a destination, but as a place to reside. I am urging each of you committee members to imagine Hawai'i as a beautiful masterpiece while this unfortunate and truly detrimental bill would be the decay and devaluing of what we have been living, building and enjoying for years.

Please stop HB1807. E ola mau ka hana no'eau, e ola mau I ka wailua o Hawai'i Nei.

Me ka ha'a ha'a,

R. Kealoha Domingo

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. ***Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime.*** We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to ***create economic diversity.***

*Consequently, this bill would **ERADICATE** the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.*

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. ***It is simply the soul expression of humanity.***

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

WILL END IMMEDIATELY

The next page lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island
Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center
Maui
Hui Noe'au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association
Maui Arts and Culture Center
Viewpoints Gallery
Kauai
Kauai Society of Artists
Oahu
Downtown Art Center
Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary
Hawaii Watercolor Society
Honolulu Printmakers
Honolulu Theatre for Youth
Hawaii Handweavers Hui
Hula Preservation Society
NOTAE

Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.

Professional Development for DOE Teachers

**The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony**

Hawaii Arts Alliance support

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

Kahauiki Village
Institute for Human Services
RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.

[FULL NAME]

[TOWN, ISLAND, ZIP CODE]

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 10:15:32 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justice Ehia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, as some that is part Native Hawaiian and has grown up benefiting from both visual and performing arts, I am writing to oppose HB 1807. As a keiki I grew my love for visual arts through art programs made available in and out of school. I also grew up learning how to dance hula which was an essential part in building a connection to my Native Hawaiian culture. Art helps to bring communities together, whether it's through visual art (exhibits/galleries) or performing arts (plays, music, dance). As new generations of artists emerge the state can never have a "surplus of artwork". Compare it to old black and white photographs of landscapes, towns, and cities of Hawai'i of the past to current day film/digital photography of those same places. Just as the world and our community around us continue to change so does the style and representation of artists from different generations. That is why it is important to continue to support and collect the works from not only those who currently create but also those are beginning to emerge.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 10:16:23 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Y O Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget. We must value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

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HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 10:20:14 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olivia Lee Mei Ling	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The arts are an integral part of providing the community in Hawaii with positive experiences and appreciation of creative outlets. The removal of the special fund for the arts by excluding renovations would significantly decrease the critical funding needed to support local artists and well-attended arts programming provided by key arts organizations across the state.

A thorough and transparent analysis of the impacts of changing the funding structure for the arts is needed in order to keep strong state support for the arts and preventing the immediate shutdown of valuable arts and artist support.

I encourage the legislature to oppose 1807 HB and keep strong funding support for arts in Hawaii.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 10:30:13 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mari Shiratori	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art is one of the most important ways we have of preserving culture and stories and creating strong communities/identities. Capitol Modern plays such an important role in showcasing local and Kānaka Maoli artists and the state should be expanding funding for them and other similar cultural institutions instead of cutting funds. By cutting off funds/access to artists and art, you are cutting off part of the soul of Hawai'i.

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2. Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries.

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THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

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Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island:

Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center

Hawaii Contemporary
Hawaii Watercolor Society
Honolulu Printmakers
Honolulu Theatre for Youth
Hawaii Handweavers Hui
Hula Preservation Society
NOTAE

Maui:

Hui Noe'au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association
Maui Arts and Culture Center
Viewpoints Gallery

Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.

Professional Development for DOE

Teachers

The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol

Modern exhibitions and programming

Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony

Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and

Ceremony Hawaii Arts Alliance support

Kauai:

Kauai Society of Artists

Oahu:

Downtown Art Center Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

Kahauiki Village
Institute for Human Services
RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society

Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.

Juliette Puplava , Kailua-Kona, Holualoa, Hawai'i. 96725

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 10:46:09 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Kisor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's a bad idea on many levels. It would flush support for the arts down the toilet. While STEM is a good idea, STEAM, including the would be better, as without the arts, life would be a real (yawn) bore. Besides, if tourism fell away as a result of this hideous legislation, the state government would find itself in a tail spin trying to rectify the problem. C'esspool la vie!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 10:48:49 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenny Endo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against HB1807 as it will eliminate funds for arts and arts organizations.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 11:18:31 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cody Roberts	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tam and members of the Committee,

As a local, working artist, I strongly oppose H.B. 1807, which would repeal capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.

If you study art, you can see that it represents the collected wisdom of our civilization. Art is vital to life, as it expands our vision and allows us to consider our world and other people more intelligently and completely. Art offers a window into transcendence, and allows us to establish a link with what is beyond us and our artificial environments. We need that in our lives, because we are finite and limited and this connection to transcendence gives us strength and inspiration to prevail challenges in life that feel daunting.

Since the average person spends more than half of their life indoors, the importance of creating beautiful interior spaces that are decorated with art is imperative to our health and well-being. Beauty leads you back to what you have lost. Beauty reminds you of what remains forever immune to cynicism.

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS BILL! This impacts Hawai'i for generations to come. The culture and the arts nourish and enhance more thoughtful citizens. This bill would end support for Professional Development for all DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian/Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs, just to scratch the surface. It impacts over 10,000 kids, and cultural and art integration impacts ALL islands for generations—also, the ability to cover much-needed staff fees.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration,

Cody Roberts

www.codyrobertsart.com

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 11:24:15 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JW	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 11:28:06 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amelia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is not okay for the artist community.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 11:28:18 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Hartmann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Mahalo nui for this opportunity.

I am testifying today in **OVERWHELMING OPPOSITION** to HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS
WILL END IMMEDIATELY if this passes.

Mahalo for your time and please **OPPOSE HB 1807**. The future of the arts and culture is at
stake.

Hannah Hartmann

Pāpa‘ikou, Hawai‘i Island

96781

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 12:10:43 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kobey Togikawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, as access to the arts helps to uplift out collective culture. By reducing funding to arts in the public space or institutions such as Capitol Modern, we are denying everyone the chance to learn and grow from these works. Not everyone has the privilege of visiting paid museums so having public accessibility is crucial.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 12:29:22 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karl Sakamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write against this Bill which would attempt to cut 70% of the Art In Public Places program revenue. The Bill seeks to negatively impact the promotion of the Arts for the future development of our youth, families, and citizens of Hawaii.

We have experienced first hand, the efforts of the Hawaii State Art Museum (HISM) to improve art exhibitions and public art programs. Their First Friday events draw hundreds of art enthusiasts to the museum to hear local musicians and who walk through the halls of art exhibits on the second floor where various vendors are located. HISM has utilized the museum to be the site of music videos produced by the local boy band, Crossing Rain. This joint venture invites thousands of viewers to the wonders of the arts that can be discovered at the museum. The music video disperses the staid stereotypes of a museum and replaces the images of art as a vivid revival of entertainment. The creativity of their promotions opens a vast avenue of Hawaii citizens to the arts both musically and through the arts. If not for their inspired and creative promotions, the visitors would not have experienced the fine arts displayed there.

The arts in all forms are a crucial part of the spectrum of cultural and educational development of our citizenry. Our childrens' development to become future leaders of diverse industries includes the exposure to sciences, mathematics, literature, and the arts. The formation of their development is capsulized in their use of art in their formative years as forms of communication, and emotional preservation. Art is their mirror of themselves as expressed to the world, and is their contribution of an intimate part of themselves to our community. The respect and promotion of the arts acknowledges the importance our society places with the preservation of the expressions of art found and experienced as the core of our development. Choosing to aim cuts at merely one sector of the spectrum of foundational development of our society denigrates the importance of holistic growth.

Please do not pass this Bill as it is a dagger to the overall progression of the development of our youth and our society. Travels throughout the world ultimately reveal the wonders of the most impressive sites exist through the embodiment of artistic endeavors. The marvels we see, hear, or experince are at its core, the arts.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo

Karl K Sakamoto Judge (Retired)

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 12:39:32 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hana Yoshihata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Hana Yoshihata and I strongly urge you to oppose Bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives that would directly impact the incomes and livelihoods of many artists living and working in Hawai‘i, including myself. As an artist who has had the honor of having my work acquired by the State Foundation’s Art in Public Places program, this support not only drives me to continue creating art that can belong to and enrich our community, but also financially enables me to do so. Getting to have my art publicly accessible to the people of Hawai‘i has been deeply meaningful to me, as I know it has been for many of my fellow artists who also strive to bring beauty and hope to our community. The State Foundation’s support creates many opportunities for these connections between artists and communities and fosters positive collective cultural growth. The State Foundation also provides support to numerous art institutions, galleries, community centers, and arts education programs that play integral roles in nurturing and transforming our community culture, and I believe the loss of this funding will be to our collective cultural detriment.

I also believe that it would be a great loss to our community and keiki’s lives and futures to eliminate funding to initiatives such as the Artists in the Schools arts education program, which serves 124 public and charter schools statewide and provides crucial learning environments and experiences in the arts that these keiki may not otherwise have access to. In my Kona community, the Artist in the Schools Program has enabled Donkey Mill Art Center to offer arts and cultural experiences to tens of thousands of keiki throughout the years.

Please oppose Bill 1807 and allow the State Foundation to continue supporting artists, art and art spaces in our communities, and art education programs throughout the pae ‘āina.

Mahalo for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Me ke aloha,

Hana Yoshihata, Hawaii Island

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 1:04:57 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
diane chen Koch-weser	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Elimination of "renovation" from the percent for art law and mandating a percent for "original construction" would effectively decrease money for art to close to zero, since virtually no NEW construction of state buildings is occurring, but instead money is being allocated to repair existing buildings.

Elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would CUT the following initiatives:

*THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

*SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

*EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists
- The Hawai‘i State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Art Bento Museum Education Program
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade 7-12
- Young Artists of Hawai‘i Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6
- Hawai‘i Alliance for Arts Education support

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 1:47:41 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryland Paulino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Native Hawaiian graphic design major and studio art minor. I discovered my passion for graphic design in high school, where my teacher suggested that I submit my work to the Scholastic Art Exhibition. This was the first time I had ever submitted my work to a contest and I was incredibly nervous. A few months later, I was told that I had won a Silver Key Award and the Pu'uhonua Society Award for my work. I was incredibly shocked. Since I didn't have much experience with art and design, I assumed that I wouldn't win any awards. By shutting down these exhibitions and programs, local artists like me will no longer have the opportunity to express themselves and realize their potential. The bill argues that the SFCA has an adequate collection of artwork. I would like to argue that we should continue to grow our artwork collection in Hawai'i. Over the years, I've seen a multitude of Native Hawaiians and locals distancing themselves from their culture. These art programs and organizations allow us to connect with each other and our culture on a much deeper level. Again, all forms of art play a significant role in celebrating our culture. In this sense, the removal of these organizations, which have been around for decades, will further distance Native Hawaiians and locals from their culture. Thank you for your time.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 1:49:56 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts, Thank you for this opportunity. I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2. Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i. Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity. Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect. ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity. THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY The next page lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season. *SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS
Galleries and Orgs Affected: Hawaii Island Donkey Mill Arts Center East Hawaii Culture Center Kahilu Theatre Wailoa Center Maui Hui Noe'au Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association Maui Arts and Culture Center Viewpoints Gallery Kauai Kauai Society of Artists Oahu Downtown Art Center Arts and Letters Fishcake University of Hawaii Galleries Arts at Marks Garage ORGANIZATIONS Pu'uhonua Society Hawaii Contemporary Hawaii Watercolor Society Honolulu Printmakers Honolulu Theatre for Youth Hawaii Handweavers Hui Hula Preservation

Society NOTAE Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide. Professional Development for DOE Teachers The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony Hawaii Arts Alliance support OUTREACH PROGRAMS: Kahauiki Village Institute for Human Services RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment LGBTQ Legacy Foundation Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.

tlaloc tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 1:54:09 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yasmin Galvis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Yasmin Galvis, appose BILL HB1807 HD2. This Bill will be doing major harm to local art and culture in Hawaii. If passed this bill will result in a 68% reduction in revenue for the art in public spaces program. This will severely negatively impact art organizations, programs, and individuals across Hawaii. As a local artist, I believe art is necessary for Hawaii residents to lift up our community and enrich our culture. Any restriction of art, is a restriction of self expression and communal strength. HD2 will not appropriate proper funding for arts programs in schools to be supported. Not only is art so important as a community, but it is vital for students to be exposed to art and have a right to pursue and cultivate their own path within the arts. Native Hawaiian artists MUST be encouraged and supported to help restore Native Hawaiian culture to the islands. This bill would deny that and stop support for Hawaiian and local artist. Art has the power to impact and influence, and provides amazing value for Hawaii. We need art to strengthen our community.

Thank you,

Yasmin Galvis, Hawaii Resident, yasminkgalvis01@gmail.com

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 1:55:37 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB1807 HD2.

This bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

Thank you for your time and please oppose HB1807 HD2.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 1:55:54 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sin U Cheung	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not shut down Downtown Art Center. I love going there. I appreciate and value the artworks that have been displayed there and I'm so grateful that we get to view them for free!! I had a thought the other day that Hawaii is such a nice place to make art! People here appreciate art like nowhere else does. It's sad to discover the existence of this bill today. Who even came up with it? Do they ever visit those places?

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 2:06:10 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madeleine Longoria Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,
Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm

the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not

value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts

stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We

need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all

major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating

circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food,

and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

The next page lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND**

LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND

ORGANIZATIONS

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island

Donkey Mill Arts Center

East Hawaii Culture Center

Kahilu Theatre

Wailoa Center

Maui

Hui Noe'au

Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association

Maui Arts and Culture Center

Viewpoints Gallery

Kauai

Kauai Society of Artists

Oahu

Downtown Art Center

Arts and Letters

Fishcake

University of Hawaii Galleries

Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society

Hawaii Contemporary

Hawaii Watercolor Society

Honolulu Printmakers

Honolulu Theatre for Youth

Hawaii Handweavers Hui

Hula Preservation Society

NOTAE

Artists in the Schools arts education

program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.

Professional Development for DOE

Teachers

The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol

Modern exhibitions and programming

Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony

Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and

Ceremony

Hawaii Arts Alliance support

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

Kahauiki Village

Institute for Human Services

RYSE Residential Youth Services and

Empowerment

LGBTQ Legacy Foundation

Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.

Madeleine Longoria Garcia

Captain Cook, Hawai'i Island, 96704

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 2:06:30 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
wayne zebzda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The arts are as necessary as oxygen for people to live and thrive in any society.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 2:12:30 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Flory	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts, Thank you for this opportunity. I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments harm Hawaii's. Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

The bill would ERADICATE public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity. THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

Is that what you want?

Thank you for your time. Please deeply consider this ramification here.

Erin Flory, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 2:15:33 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zoe Tong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Zoe Tong
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

03/16/24

To the Honorable Members of the TCA and
Hawaii State Legislature

Subject: Opposition to HB1807 HD2 - A Threat to Hawaii’s Art and Culture

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I write to you today as a concerned citizen, artist, and teacher of young, aspirational artists, to voice my vehement opposition to HB1807 HD2. This bill, under the guise of reallocating funds for state building improvements, threatens the very cultural fabric that makes Hawaii unique by drastically reducing the funding necessary for the flourishing of the arts.

The Works of Art Special Fund has been instrumental in supporting art in public places, nurturing local artists, and ensuring that our community’s cultural heritage is celebrated and preserved. The proposed 68% reduction in revenue for the arts will not only affect the state’s vibrancy but will also have a severe economic impact on the livelihood of numerous artists and the operations of galleries and organizations that depend on this funding.

Specific Concerns:

1. Endangering Public Access to the Arts:

The cessation of all exhibitions and public programs will deprive our communities of spaces where culture is accessible to all, hindering the cultural education of our youth and the enrichment of our citizens.

2. Undermining Support for Local Artists:

Without crucial funding, many Hawaiian and local artists will find themselves without the means to create and share their work, a loss that will echo through our communities and deprive future generations of their legacy.

3. Economic Implications for the Art Sector:

The art sector significantly contributes to Hawaii’s economy, and this bill will lead to job losses

and economic decline, affecting not just artists but also the ancillary businesses that support the art industry.

Call to Action:

I urge you to consider the long-term cultural and economic repercussions of HB1807 HD2. It is not merely a reallocation of funds—it is a statement about the value we place on the arts and culture in Hawaii. I implore the committee to reject this bill and work towards solutions that uphold and strengthen our commitment to the arts, which is integral to our identity and prosperity.

Thank you for your time and for considering my testimony on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Zoe Tong

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 2:22:54 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Asagi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This written testimony is in opposition to this bill. This withdraw of state support for the arts at this level will impact a thriving creative local economy and community for years to come. It may never recover. This elimination of funding for the SFCA Arts in Public Spaces which includes Capitol Modern (Hawai'i State Art Museum), arts education programs for public schools, and professional development for public school teachers affects a broad base of local residents. This bill insures further economic and cultural losses at a time when our state-wide community is still recovering from the impact of a global pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 2:36:57 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Wilhelm	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am saddened by the lack of art education in Hawaii. The lack of space for children to express themselves, learn to process emotions in a creative way. What a loss of potential, hope, and pathway to the future that these beautiful souls shall go undiscovered. Any government who cuts art from the lives of its people is hastening it's loss of humanity.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 2:38:45 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Licia McDonald	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm submitting my testimony in opposition of HB1807. Please do not cut funding for this amazing and long standing arts program. As an artist, long standing member and past president of Kaua'i Society of Artists, I have witnessed over many years the joy and pride of artists whose work has been purchased by the State of Hawaii. Artists reflect the times in which we live. To say there is "enough art" is suggesting there is nothing more to express or feel. I'm especially concerned for young and future artists who will no longer have an opportunity to have their work seen and appreciated by a larger audience. The State Museum is a gem and should be supported and promoted, not left to decay.

Most concerning is the large number of arts programs that will no longer exist. This bill does not represent the Hawaii that I know and love; that values its people, culture, sense of place and the importance of creative expression.

Respectfully,

Licia McDonald

Kauai

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 2:57:22 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Mariano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Hawai'i without art is lifeless. Hawai'i will go downhill because creatives need to express themselves. Would you rather see a blank gray lifeless wall or a beautiful piece of art that brings life and creativity to Hawaii that can help and inspire people to feel better about their day. If anything we need more funding to art and more visual pieces on the island especially the culture of Hawaiians and the culture of Hawaii in general to never forget who's land we are on. So please reconsider stopping this bill because the youth needs it, Hawaii needs it, the world needs it.

Mahalo.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 2:59:28 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pei-Ling Kao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Relocating to Hawaii from San Francisco 7 years ago as a performing artist and educator, I was first disappointed that the support of the arts was poor in Aloha state. Now after 7 years, I am devastating to learn that the funding of the art is being challenged and cut "again". There will be no culture in HI if there is no practice of arts, no venues to witness arts, no place to talk about arts. I understand the value of growing tourism and business. However, I am offering you this quote from the CEO of Ovation Charles Segars, "The rapidly evolving global economy demands a dynamic and creative workforce. The arts and its related businesses are responsible for billions of dollars in cultural exports for this country. It is imperative that we continue to support the arts and arts education both on the national and local levels. The strength of every democracy is measured by its commitment to the arts." I urge you to not pass this bill as it will tremendously impact the performing art and education.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 3:09:20 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Goto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art is not something everyone understands. In fact, most people don't understand it and it even bewilders artists who do it. Cause it's something we all have in us, but some people can unearth it better than others. That's who I call, an Artist. Art illustrates our past, and defines our presence. As for the future, it has the potential to awaken our minds to landscapes we've never envisioned and paths never taken. Without art and people promoting it, what we potentially can have, is sadly absent. If writers don't write books, society will stagnate. if artists don't do art, we won't have hopes and dreams. Dreams are what we need to bind today and encourage our tomorrow, to bring forth what all of us need and want to say, or wish we could have said. It's short sighted to reduce art programs for financial reasons. Because in due time, the money won't be remembered, but our dreams will have been forsaken. We need to encourage artists more and not sour their dreams. We need more art, not less of it.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 3:29:41 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peggy Schechter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please keep all the current funding for all of the arts. They enhance people's, create jobs, and contributd to the economy,

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 3:30:10 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaaron Leesha Sun Lin Leionaonapoina'ole Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to urge you in the strongest way to oppose HB1807 and with deep concern that this bill is even being considered. In a time when STEM is so stressed throughout the education world, it is the Arts and Humanities that teach us how to be human. Culture, language, genealogies, history, and empathy are all transmitted through art in a way that Science and Technology cannot parallel. The idea of taking away support for the arts in Hawai'i feels like a theft of cultural access, which should belong to all people of Hawai'i.

As a child, engaging with the arts helped me manage my depression and anxiety and find a community of my own. Later as a teacher I saw my students find safe spaces within museums and using exhibits as a way to spark imagination and dream of lives and worlds that extended beyond their limited experiences. There is no way to overstate the importance of art in teaching these 'intangible' things to our youth.

Now in my work as a graduate researcher at the University of Cambridge, I see the role of public art in all aspects of daily life. Cutting public support for these art programs essentially removes access to art for those who come from lower socioeconomic groups, further expanding the already significant divide between the 'haves' and 'have nots' in Hawai'i. Surely that is not what this legislature would want to accomplish.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I deeply hope that you will reconsider the implications of this bill and oppose it.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Shaaroni Wong

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 3:54:19 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Elmore	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Gerard Elmore, VP of Film at NMG Network and Executive Director at 'Ohina, a Hawai'i film collective/incubator for local filmmakers and local stories.

As a professional and an artist, I am writing in strong opposition to HB1807.

There are a number of bills floating around to hurt or weaken the arts in Hawai'i. It really saddens me that the testimony has been so overwhelming from the community and yet, here we are.

There is absolutely no doubt that if this bill goes through, it will be absolutely devastating to our artist community. There are a few organizations that count on this funding. So, this is very personal to me.

The arts had a profound impact on me as a student and as an adult. It kept me out of trouble and inspired me to grow as a communicator and find new ways to tell stories as a filmmaker. Art not only has the power to change lives but it can be used to preserve cultures, tradition and nurture talent.

I've seen keiki find their voice through the arts. I've seen people who have had a hard time communicating with people find a way to communicate via their art. I've seen teachers who are lifelong supporters of emerging artists. I've seen it because I was one of those kids.

This bill is detremeterial to our artist community and I stand in fierce opposition. There will be a long line of people in opposition too.

Let's inspire more creators, dreamers and artists all across the state. Let's not go backwards.

Please listen to the voices of the community.

Mahalo for your time in reading this testimony.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 4:37:00 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hunter Van Bronckhorst	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While I understand the intentions behind this legislative act, I believe that it does not go far enough in supporting the arts, a vital sector that enriches our cultural landscape and fosters creativity. Art and culture are essential for a well-rounded society, providing educational benefits, enhancing quality of life, and contributing to the economy. The current allocation, though well-intentioned, is relatively conservative, especially considering the profound impact that increased funding for the arts can have. Investing more significantly in the arts can lead to a thriving cultural scene, boost local and state economies, and provide more opportunities for artists and communities to engage in meaningful cultural experiences. In a world increasingly dominated by technology and practical concerns, fostering the arts is not just a matter of cultural enrichment but also a necessary balance to maintain a holistic, innovative, and forward-thinking society. Therefore, while the act makes important strides, I advocate for more substantial funding towards the arts to fully realize these benefits.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 4:43:31 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Stierhoff	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1807. This bill would end support for the Art in Public Places Program, Professional Development for all DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian/Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs, just to scratch the surface. These art initiatives are critical to preserving and perpetuating Hawaiian culture and building community here in Hawai'i; losing them would be devastating. I just attended a Prince Kūhio day celebration put on by a Hawaiian charter school, Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo, and I cannot overstate the beauty, enrichment, and aloha arts-based events like this provide to Hawai'i. It was such a joy to watch people of all ages, from keiki to kumu, share hula and oli in celebration of this important holiday. The programs that this bill would end funding for are crucial for perpetuating and celebrating Hawaiian culture. This will impact Hawai'i for generations to come. For these reasons, I implore you not to pass HB1807. This is your chance to ensure perpetuation of arts and culture here in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Emma Stierhoff

96720

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 4:44:54 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renée Rudzinski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts, Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

The next page lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island

Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center
Maui
Hui Noe'au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association Maui Arts and Culture Center Viewpoints Gallery
Kauai
Kauai Society of Artists
Oahu
Downtown Art Center
Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage
ORGANIZATIONS
Pu'uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary Hawaii Watercolor Society Honolulu Printmakers Honolulu Theatre for Youth Hawaii Handweavers Hui Hula Preservation Society NOTAE
Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
Professional Development for DOE Teachers
The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony
Hawaii Arts Alliance support
OUTREACH PROGRAMS:
Kahauiki Village
Institute for Human Services
RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center
Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here. [Renee Rudzinski]
[Kamuela, Big Island Hawaii 96743]

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 4:57:35 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Akiko Cutlip	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a teaching artist from Donkey Mill art center. I've been teaching art in public school for over 7years. Even though we only have 10 sessions in each year on each grade, these art sessions give so much joy and opportunity for young artists to express themselves. Eliminating art education in public school absolutely devastating. As a artist myself, creating art in young age is very influenced my own artist life. Growing up in Japan there had three art classes in a week. Creating art in young age and exposed to artists works are most influential moment of our lives. I cannot express how excited our students eyes when I come in to make art with them in their classroom. I am absolutely opposed to this bill HB1807. If we don't have art in school program, we would absolutely lose our children in creativity and individuality, which are absolutely necessity in our future generations.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 4:58:16 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cedar Wilson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

My name is Cedar and I'm a kanaka maoli from Laiewai. I'm writing to you today to oppose House Bill 1807, in regards to the work of arts special fund. This bill would cut 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue and essentially eliminate government support for many art programs across Hawai'i.

The arts are a great part of our communities but especially to kanaka maoli. Our people not only deserve to have their essential needs supported/met, but their creative and cultural ones too. If this bill is to be passed, we would lose the State Art museum along with other cultural programs across ka pae aina.

Please listen to the people as we oppose this Bill.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Cedar

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 5:00:57 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Palma-Glennie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

aloha,

i've been greatly moved by cultural practitioners and other artists who oppose this bill in its current form. one woman who i trust and who has her heart in all that she does for Hawaiian people and the rest of us "visitors" was quoted as saying, " *This bill would be the tipping point of authoritarianism.* A historical repetition of colonial power (Native Americans, Native Hawaiians, Japanese, and more). ... There is a recognizable pattern here."

the arts in Hawai'i isn't about tourism though, lord knows, some people make money selling art to tourists (usually galleries that are off-island owned). the point is that supporting art is of and in itself the crux of the matter. we want to broaden our horizons and those of our keiki as well as the tourists who come to the islands and know little about the indigenous culture. But the point of art isn't tourists. it's about art itself and the processes artists go through and how that process can be an enlightening and transformative one for individuals, communities and societies.

please change this bill to make it look like what indigenous practitioners want it to look like and who they want it to support-- not what HVB wants.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

kailua-kona

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 5:14:28 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Secreto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

I am a HIDOE teacher at Manoa Elementary School. I am in strong opposition to HB 1807, specifically taking into consideration the impact this bill would have on the Artists in the Schools Grant. This important program allows public school students the opportunity to engage with and learn from professional artists and cultural practitioners through artist residencies. These invaluable classes promote creativity, social emotional learning, and a love for school. We cannot afford to further eliminate such experiences, as many DOE elementary schools already lack full-time art educators on their staffs. Please consider the effect of this bill on our children and wider community.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 5:19:23 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodie Chock	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an arts educator at a public high school and I absolutely OPPOSE the devastating effects of such a bill that would take away the arts from the lives of my students. Public high school educators came together to exhibit their works in the Capitol Modern last November. This exhibition opened on a First Friday, where there was live music, and the galleries upstairs were open for public viewing. We invited our students and their families to attend this event, and it was very well attended. Students shared their thoughts with Capitol Modern on their social platforms about their impressions of the educators show and the galleries upstairs. Families walked around and enjoyed the live music. This was a safe, family event that celebrated the arts. Through their attendance, students saw the benefits of the arts in their communities and understand greater connections of why their art making matters. I simply do not understand why these events and other student events such as Scholastic Art Awards would be so greatly and negatively affected by such a bill that tries to impress upon more funding for the arts, when its deceiving language would say otherwise. To see the list of organizations that would be affected by this "renovation" that actually eliminates support is incredibly disheartening, as all of these organizations are geared towards stabilizing the emotional and therefore most crucial aspects of our community and declining society. Defunding the arts in any way, but especially a major one such as this, would cause a tragic downfall to the social emotional learning of our students and their futures.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 5:23:05 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chloe Tomomi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I haven't written one of these before, so my apologies if this is too informal. However, if this bill being passed ends in the consequence of negatively affecting the arts community, projects and museums here in Hawai'i, then I must speak up and say that this is not the way to go. The arts bring culture, inspiration, healing, freedom of expression, beauty, and empathy. We see ourselves in art and art makes the world a more beautiful, rich and worthwhile place. Don't underestimate the damages reducing support to the arts will do to people's mental and spiritual well being. It's more than just music in the air or paint on canvas; it's about the joy that connects us as human beings. It's about the simple beauty that makes life worthwhile. This trend to mute this beautiful part of what being a human means is troubling. We were born to create, dream, and inspire. We are storytellers and healers. It's crucial to support the arts as the next generation fosters their wonder and creativity.

Mahalo for considering what I have written.

Chloe Tomomi

Chloe Tomomi

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 5:32:26 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amada Castillo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 5:32:34 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Lam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body. These spaces allow for all types of people to come together to create and work in differen mediums.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 5:33:04 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jean Garry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an artist and educator it is so imperative for me to testify the importance of creativity. In science creativity is necessary for humans to imagine and hypothesize experiments and solutions to problems the scientist encounters. In engineering, architecture, mathematics, microbiology, medicine, astronomy, composing music, creating beauty,(and the list goes on and on) men and women need a strong creative mind to accomplish everything not thought of before. Practicing art, "MAKING STUFF" from an early age or at any point in someone's life STRENGTHENS creativity in the mind. Creative thought teaches the mind's eye to see. Funding for any art projects, education, exhibits, etc. should be INCREASED not decreased. Art touches many aspects of society. You will be doing a disastrous disservice to all Hawaii's people if you pass HB1807.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 5:34:13 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Oda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 5:42:11 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher K.F. Kam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. As expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. It makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. So whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 5:43:27 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
marisa buhr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill that has absolutely no plan to keep the arts in Hawaii. we have groundbreaking laws pertaining to art, art education and a public access of art--why are we going backwards? art is integral to the soul of our people in Hawaii. we need to keep art accessibility open for the people of Hawaii! for kupuna to established and upcoming artists to keiki, the arts are for all.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 5:44:01 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Minhhuyen Nguyen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 5:44:06 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra Casey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

As well art is an important part of culture and without culture who are we? To deny the up and coming artists their chance to shine will hinder their education and ability to express their culture.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 5:45:54 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Valenzuela	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The arts are essential for the communities of Hawaii, it brings people together, is healing, and we all know creativity is good for the brain.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 5:46:18 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Lerner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807. There are only negatives in this legislation. It would greatly undermine the place of the arts in Hawaii and decimate arts education. Please vote against this bill as the effects on the arts in Hawaii would be disastrous.

Michael Lerner

Hale'iwa

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 5:47:16 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin rupert	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 5:51:08 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
minda goodman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is create a brain drain.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 5:51:33 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Secreto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill would adversely affect students' exposure to art in public schools. As a HIDOE educational administrator I feel that exposure and experiencing art are important for the well-being of the whole child. Local artists are key to the uniqueness of our communities, and perpetuating the culture and history of Hawai'i. Please oppose this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:00:19 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maile Hirota	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:01:29 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joyce Chin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807 even if it will not become active until the year 3000. Shifting money away from the arts to fund other projects sounds like a lack of respect for the arts and culture of Hawaii. Shame on Kyle Yamashita for not understanding this, especially on Maui, where we need the arts more than ever for our keiki post-wildfires.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:01:41 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jana Purington	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it cuts funds for the arts in Hawaii, which are already underfunded. The arts are vital to the rich culture of Hawaii and it's shameful to see a bill that would significantly reduce funding needed to sustain artists and their work.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:01:49 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
A Kathleen Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha leaders we have put in place to protect our culture and civilization

One of the greatest things that my grandchildren enjoy are being able to participate in programs at the Donkey Mill Art Center and Kahilu Theater. I do think the height of our society is being able to support many art programs for our youth, and for us, as the public to enjoy. I urge you not to cut this funding as a grandmother, who appreciates and loves our youth, and all the things that they develop from participating in the arts. I also have a degree in psychology, and I can tell you from my experience and counseling that arts have kept kids away from many destructive activities and drugs, and I think you must consider this the highest and best use of our monies, for our continuation of the support of Youth and their health.

In respect for you and the power, you have to determine our future,

A. Kathleen Lee

Hawi, HI

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:05:40 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. As expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "Art and education is the same. It makes a person aware and that's what education's all about. So whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing, it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:07:07 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey Baucom	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:09:28 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katie Chen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

Supporting art and artists of Hawaii is also supporting the perpetuation of the rich culture of our islands. Spaces for art are crucial to education for people of all ages.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:17:48 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Von Kaanaana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Kānaka Maoli Artist born and raised on O'ahu and live in Honolulu. I have lived on this 'Āina for 30 years. I strongly oppose this bill! The State of Hawai'i must do its due diligence and support Native Artists by providing funding to museums! Hawai'i's culture born modern and ancient is a key contributor to the tourism industry and must be prioritized.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:22:21 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward Lisuzzo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:23:19 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca James	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a professional musician, born and raised in Hawai'i, I oppose bill HB1807 and all other legislation that seek to defund programs that support the education and perpetuation of the arts in the State of Hawai'i. I support the use of public funds needed to keep state institutions functioning for the betterment of the community through access to art and culture education.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:27:32 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Riana Kawamura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body. By defunding art programs in Hawai'i, you take away the accessibility of art to people of all incomes.

As a community, we must recognize the intrinsic value that art programs bring to our society. Art is not merely a luxury but an essential component of a well-rounded education and a thriving culture. Defunding art programs would have far-reaching negative consequences that would affect not only our present but also our future.

First and foremost, art programs foster creativity, critical thinking, and innovation. These skills are vital for success in the modern world, where creativity is increasingly valued in various fields, including technology, business, and science. By defunding art programs, we risk stifling the development of these essential skills in our students, hindering their ability to adapt and thrive in a rapidly changing society.

Moreover, art programs play a crucial role in promoting inclusivity and diversity. They provide a platform for students from all backgrounds to express themselves and share their unique perspectives. By defunding art programs, we risk silencing these voices and depriving our communities of the richness and diversity that art brings.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:29:06 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristi Auyong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807.

Hawaii will lose tremendous amount of resources if this bill passes. No child will be able to have another opportunity to enter scholastic like other states have. As a teacher seeing students not get these opportunities will hurt them more. As a result of this, I oppose this bill and humbly ask you to reconsider this bill

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:30:49 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabryn Matsuo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:31:49 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tadia Rice	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. SFCA was established by the Hawai'i State Legislature in 1965 to promote, perpetuate, preserve, and encourage culture and the arts. It is evident to all that the arts are central to the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i. As Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi said, "Art is as important as education because art is education." Please do NOT support HB1807.

Mahalo.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:35:06 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:37:01 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hasna Atry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:39:44 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jia Alonso	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. As expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. So whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. It's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:44:07 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela anderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I OPPOSE HB 1807 as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same, it makes a person aware and thats what educations all about, so whether you verbalized, or see, or hear, its the same thing. its the same body!

I encourage strongly to oppose this HB 1807.

thank you for your time!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:47:19 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Kau'i Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art is vital, and it should be accessible to all: public spaces help make this possible.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:50:32 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fehren Jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I'm Fehren.

I opposed HB 1807. Having public art really brings relief to the community eys, heart, and soul. It stirs up creativity and gives home.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify.

Mālama

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:52:15 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dianne Ige	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do NOT allow this bill to pass! As an artist and an appreciator of art, I value the unique forms of art brought to us by talented local artists. Their expressions deepen our understanding of our culture and strengthen our appreciation of our heritage. Art enriches our lives and touches all our senses the way the islands themselves bring us joy and well being.

The arts need our support to perpetuate all forms including and especially those that are unique to Hawaii. To cut the support for this important aspect of our culture is to undercut the importance of art as part of our being. For Hawaii to flourish and sustain our heritage we must encourage its artful expression and educate the following generations so they can in turn perpetuate the arts that are so important to our identity.

The losses this bill would allow is crushing and unthinkable and should not be supported!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:58:06 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martin Dixon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Public art spaces are becoming scarce and I believe we should protect the means by which they are funded.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 7:06:19 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Ryan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou

I oppose HB1807 HD2, continued and committed funding for art, artistic expression, and Native Hawaiian art are critical to the success of this community.

With aloha,

Rita Ryan, M.A.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 7:13:16 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Desiree Pacariem	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 7:19:16 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marla Gardner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art is essential to life itself. People need the arts for identity and acceptance and to remember. There are so many expressions of art and to deprive the public from these life nourishing opportunities is cruel. A life well lived includes many forms to be well rounded, to be able to laugh and smile and share.

please do not support this heinous bil.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 7:27:29 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
elysa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 7:43:19 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Maldonado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. I believe public art is important for mental health and should be present especially in places which may not be as nice as others, for example the city where there is less nature. It also allows our community to express themselves while giving local artists an income.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 7:51:28 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanna Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 7:53:08 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sophia Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, I am a multimedia artist (mother of three aspiring artists) with a degree in design from the University of Notre Dame. I have lived in places like Seattle, Washington, Orange County California, and the Bay Area of Northern California. Art is an intergral part of life. It is a center for community engagement. It brings people from all walks of life and abilities together, whether sharing similar or different perspectives. Art can denote a space where these unique perspectives can present itself without pretense. Defunding these places where ideas can come together and clash only promotes monolithic thinking. This is not good for our community, our children, our future. Places like the Wailoa Center and other art centers welcome local artists, thinkers, youth, elderly, wealthy, poor, red, blue, green, and all demographics. It is a place necessary for the development of the colorful fabric of our society. Art is beyond politics, beyond social classes, beyond the walls that divide us. In a time when algorithms do just that, divide us and send us down rabbit holes and echo chambers, we need public spaces like these in the real world to continue to engage our citizens. I plead you to continue funding these special spaces for myself, my neighbors, my children, for our past, present, and future. Mahalo.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 7:57:22 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison L	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. Art is vital to the community of Hawaii. Removing funding from state arts programs would be damaging to our culture and wellbeing. Through events and programs that are made possible by these art funds, I have personally experienced a sense of community and connection that is hard to find elsewhere. Please consider the importance of supporting art and artists.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 8:04:33 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
AUSTIN James Namakaehukai KAILI	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

March 16, 2024

Aloha Hawai'i Legislators,

My name is Ellen Crocker, Teaching Artist of Hawai'i since 1982. I strongly urge you not to hear bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives. This cut would directly impact my income/programming at Konawaena Elementary School and Konawaena High School in the rural area of South Kona, Hawai'i.

I taught visual arts via Zoom during the pandemic at both schools listed above. I was told by the teachers that the only classes students showed up regularly for were art classes. Since the pandemic I have focused art lessons on collaborative projects to help students learn or to remember that we need each other and with the help of each other we make something which we could not make by ourselves.

This money must keep coming to support our keiki and organizations which spread so far and contribute so much to each community.

When this bill first came up it was noted by a Legislator that the arts bring two billion dollars a year to our state and thus our communities. The results of defunding so many state wide programs will impact the two billion dolla influx, many students and important community organizations.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Me ke aloha pumehana,
Ellen Crocker

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 8:23:18 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Azure Wasson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body." Art is a staple of Hawaii's past, present, and hopefully future. Early tattooing in Hawaii was a form of expression which allowed Hawaiian peoples to permeate their culture. Art today is a means of showcasing culture and beliefs. By cutting off funding we are losing the ability to express the culture of the past and future.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 8:41:22 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Sweney	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 8:42:52 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Wolfe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am concerned that the State of Hawai'i will *not* be able to help fund the operations of the Capitol Modern Museum (formerly Hawai'i State Art Museum), which faces the **immediate threat of a shutdown** if this bill is passed. The verbiage in HB1807 is **misleading** and will *not* appropriate funding that would make up for the loss to the special fund if this passes. Furthermore, there are many other organizations that will be affected by this bill such as the **Maui Arts and Cultural Center, Downtown Art Center, Arts at Marks Garage, Kahilu Theatre, Honolulu Theatre for Youth, University of Hawai'i Galleries, etc.** Our community needs these public exhibitions and programs in order to maintain our high quality of life.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 8:49:01 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Padmani Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 8:50:58 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gordon Mason Nash	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to support state arts programs. Hawaiian culture is what draws tourism and money to our state. It is also a important for our local residents to be culturally enriched. Mahalo!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 9:00:52 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Lober	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

This bill will eviserate vital arts programs that are essential to the culture of this state

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 9:10:05 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Freed	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Laurie Freed, OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 9:26:54 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Vernon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against this bill. We need to fund the arts.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 9:38:13 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealii Arakaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I oppose HB HB1807. This bill attacks one of the few great things Hawai'i has left, it's wonderful arts and artists. Please hold the appropriate departments accountable for the lack of funding for these backlogged projects and not our keiki and future generations. The majority of these problems are due to poor planning by State agencies and by cutting funding like this and other "easy methods" only exasperates the problem. Again I humbly oppose this bill and will be watching with my vote. Mahalo!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 9:45:12 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lise-Michelle Childers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 9:53:28 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abbey Day	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lee and members of the committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose this measure as it would have dire consequences on the artists and children of Hawai'i.

As an educator who has been in many of the organizations and initiatives that would be affected by this bill, the rationale of cutting funds over the long term to address today's supposed budgetary needs is clearly short sighted.

Hawaii public schools have extememly limited offerings in the arts and any proposal that reduces arts education through museums and other organizations cheats students out of experiences that have life altering effects.

The arts organizations fulfill a desperate need to help our children see their stories, ancestors, and living practioners, to connect to their place, self, community, and experience the transformative properties that art allows. The arts traditionally give our most vulnerable populations avenues to find self worth and contribute meaningfully to our collective experience.

I will be so disappointed if our legislature takes away from our arts community that allows our children to find their voice and share in the beauty and complexity of Hawaiian history and contemporary experience.

I strongly oppose this bill and ask that it be deferred.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 10:13:09 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mona Rinaldo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This explains it best the importance of the Arts.

Please DO NOT cut funding!

Mona Rinaldo

NATIONAL ARTS ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY PUBLICATIONS DATABASE
(NAAPPD)

[Arts unify communities.](#) 72% of Americans believe “the arts unify our communities regardless of age, race, and ethnicity” and 73% agree that the arts “helps me understand other cultures better”—a perspective observed across all demographic and economic categories.

1. [Arts improve individual well-being.](#) 81% of the population says the arts are a “positive experience in a troubled world,” 69% of the population believe the arts “lift me up beyond everyday experiences,” and 73% feel the arts give them “pure pleasure to experience and participate in.”
2. [Arts strengthen the economy.](#) The nation’s arts and culture sector—nonprofit, commercial, education—is an \$919.7 billion industry that supports 5.2 million jobs. That is 4.3% of the nation’s economy—a larger share of GDP than powerhouse sectors such as agriculture, transportation, and construction. The arts have a \$33 billion international trade surplus. The arts also [accelerate economic recovery](#): a growth in arts employment has a positive and causal effect on overall employment.
3. [Arts drive tourism and revenue to local businesses.](#) [The nonprofit arts industry alone generates \\$166.3 billion in economic activity annually](#)—spending by organizations and their audiences—which supports 4.6 million jobs and generates \$27.5 billion in government revenue. Arts attendees spend \$31.47 per person, per event, beyond the cost of admission on items such as meals, parking, and lodging—vital income for local

businesses. Arts travelers are ideal tourists, staying longer and spending more to seek out authentic cultural experiences.

4. [Arts improve academic performance](#). Students engaged in arts learning have higher GPAs, standardized test scores, and college-going rates as well as lower drop-out rates. These academic benefits are reaped by students across all socio-economic strata. Yet, the Department of Education reports that access to arts education for students of color is significantly lower than for their white peers. [91% of Americans](#) believe that arts are part of a well-rounded K-12 education.
5. [Arts spark creativity and innovation](#). Creativity is among the top five applied skills sought by business leaders—per the Conference Board’s Ready to Innovate report—with 72% saying creativity is of “high importance” when hiring. Research on creativity shows that Nobel laureates in the sciences are 17 times more likely to be actively engaged as an arts maker than other scientists.
6. [Arts have social impact](#). University of Pennsylvania researchers have demonstrated that a high concentration of the arts in a city leads to higher civic engagement, more social cohesion, higher child welfare, and lower poverty rates.
7. [Arts improve healthcare](#). Nearly one-half of the nation’s healthcare institutions provide arts programming for patients, families, and even staff. 78% deliver these programs because of their healing benefits to patients—shorter hospital stays, better pain management, and less medication.
8. [Arts for the health and well-being of our military](#). The arts heal the mental, physical, and moral injuries of war for military servicemembers and Veterans, who rank the creative arts therapies in the top four (out of 40) interventions and treatments. Across the military continuum, the arts promote resilience during pre-deployment, deployment, and the reintegration of military servicemembers, Veterans, their families, and caregivers into communities.
9. [Arts Strengthen Mental Health](#). The arts are an effective resource in reducing depression and anxiety and increasing life satisfaction. Just 30 minutes of active arts activities daily can combat the ill effects of isolation and loneliness associated with COVID-19.

Summary:

The arts are fundamental to our humanity. They ennoble and inspire us—fostering creativity, empathy, and beauty. The arts also strengthen our communities socially, educationally, and economically—benefits that persist even during a pandemic that has been [devastating to the arts](#). The following ten reasons show why an investment in artists and arts organizations is vital to the nation’s post-pandemic healing and recovery.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 10:17:07 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1807. Funding for the arts is crucial to fostering Hawai'i's unique culture for generations to come - the public programs, education, events, and artworks showcased at Capitol Modern and elsewhere throughout the state play a key role in cultivating culture and community through art. I love visiting the events and galleries as it helps me connect with local culture and values. Losing this funding would mean a loss in sense of community and cultivation of Hawai'i's unique culture.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 10:38:45 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Wickstrom	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 10:31:50 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
denise haughian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807 HD2. It will have disastrous consequences on arts education in the state. Also, public art plays an important role in our economy by showing visitors that the people in our state are smart, humane, empathetic, inspired, and full of the aloha spirit. HISAM could be a great tourist activity as it is located right across the street from Iolani Palace. The bill will also cut support from the Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center which is one of the few organizations promoting important harm reduction policies. OD deaths recently increased in Hawai'i. Those of us who have lost loved ones to drug overdose can tell you that this is not the time to cut funding for organizations such as this one.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 10:57:29 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Chang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings,

I am appalled by House Bill 1807. How is this possible to deprive us now, and generations to come, of art, which allows us to express what it means to be human?

The arts create wellness by helping us process our lives individually and allowing us to come together collectively. After the pandemic, it was clear how people started to thrive and build a sense of community at places like Capitol Modern, DAC and Donkey Mill.

What we put our energy and efforts into now will affect what our future looks like.

I definitely OPPOSE this bill!

Sincerely,

Kathy Chang

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 11:06:07 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Symantha Forbes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. As expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 11:07:31 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Drew Daniels	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not defund the cultural pillars that make Hawaii who we are. Invest in culture. Fund the arts for all schools and public places.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 11:33:07 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bobby	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art is essential for culture to thrive. Culture is imperative for Hawaii and its people to thrive and be prosperous. Ongoing updates to art is what keeps Hawaii, Hawaii.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 11:36:03 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cassie Caldarone	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.")

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 12:10:48 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madison	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 12:50:33 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a former high schooler in Hawaii, who's been given the opportunity to perform at marks garage. I can totally vouch for the awesome impact that organizations such as Mark's Garage in Oahu had on me. They weren't just spots to perform and get my creative juices flowing, but were places where I soaked up the vibrant culture and talent of native Hawaiian artists. Shutting down these places wouldn't just rob us of cool opportunities; it'd also kill off the chance to build tight-knit communities both on the island and within the local arts scene. These spots are where folks from all walks of life come together, share stories, and form bonds that make our island home so special. Closing them down? That's like snipping away at the heart of our culture and squashing the potential for future generations to thrive.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 3:12:37 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Scott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I strongly oppose HB1807, HD2, which threatens to dismantle Hawaii's cultural and educational foundation by drastically cutting funds for the arts.

This bill's passage would end support for local artists and organizations, and eliminate crucial art programs serving our schools statewide. This includes programs and organizations such as:

- The Hawaii State Art Museum
- Fishcake and The Downtown Art Center on Oahu
- The Kauai Society of Artists
- Maui Arts and Culture Center
- East Hawaii Culture Center

Moreover, it would terminate countless art programs serving our schools statewide, depriving our keiki of vital opportunities for creative expression and cultural enrichment.

The arts are not a luxury but a vital part of our community's well-being, fostering creativity, unity, and cultural pride.

I urge you to protect our art programs and maintain our commitment to a vibrant and educated Hawaii.

Please vote "No" on HB1807, HD2.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 3:52:18 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
amos kotomori	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art is my life.

HB1807 hurts me.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 6:34:40 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maluhia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this with everything in me.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 5:27:39 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jessica heiman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not vote for legislation that damages the culture and heart of Hawaii through art. You don't need to read a study to understand the power of community building and the prosperity that grows from these programs. Individuals who do not have an outlet perform worse in schools and jobs and this hopelessness is what results in increased violence and destruction. This isn't complicated, cultures that suppress art fail. We appreciate you thinking long term about the effects this bill will have on our islands and community. Please do right by Hawaii.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 6:39:17 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erika Okumura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators,

Art is vital for the health of our communities. Please stop HB1807 and protect the public art spaces and programs of Hawai'i.

NO TO HB1807

Mahalo,

Erika Okumura

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 6:50:04 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Huffman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB1807, HD2 bill seeks to revoke capital improvement appropriations for state building renovations, diverting funds from the works of art special fund. If passed, it would result in a 68% reduction in revenue for the art in public places program, severely impacting government support for numerous arts organizations, programs, and individual artists across Hawaii. The bill argues that the state foundation on culture and the arts (sfca) "already possesses an adequate collection of artworks, rendering further acquisitions unnecessary." Removing "renovation" from the percent for art law would have dire consequences.

Art is not a capital improvement or luxury. It is the livelihood of many creative individuals in our state and needs to be encouraged and supported.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 6:52:46 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Daigle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 7:02:25 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dakota Bow	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Capitol Modern is a recent discovery for me but quickly became a place to call home. Not only are there amazing art exhibitions withheld inside, but the First Friday Events are special to me. I've never seen such a big crowd of locals from Hawaii come together and just enjoy each others company while listening and watching local artists perform. It truly feels like a heartwarming experience just being at capitol modern. I am excited for every first friday to attend the event and try food from local businesses. When I am at Capitol Modern it reminds me how grateful I should be and how much I have being from Hawaii. The art that this place holds reminds me that I can be just as creative and express myself in any way shape or form too. Please don't take this place away from our community, it means too much.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 7:23:12 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelly Choy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Shelly Choy and I strongly urge you to oppose bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact Honolulu Printmakers, and Art in Public Places.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Aloha,

Shelly Choy : avid artist and printmaker

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 7:32:52 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danilene Nishikawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 7:36:44 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Jordan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong opposition to this bill, which would drastically cut funding in the arts and cultural sector throughout Hawai'i. The arts are at the heart of our communities, and are absolutely essential. This bill would adversely impact over 10,000 children, 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, as well as end support for many art centers and organizations that provide equitable access to arts educations and resources, including 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs. Do not pass this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 7:52:13 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Serraglio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Arts and culture is so important to our communities, and this funding will shut it down. This funding provides jobs, increases art access to all of our communities and is especially important here on Maui where we have recently dealt with the devastating wildfires. We need more art access for folks here to help process the trauma and rebuild lahaina with art that reflects the community and journey.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:03:32 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Rowe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

March 17, 2024

To: Chair Tam
Mr. Yamashita

From: Dr. Kristin M. McAndrews

Re: HB 1807 HD2

I am unequivocally against the passage of any revision to legislation that denies Hawai`i's residents and visitors the unique art and culture that defines our State. To pass such a bill, the legislature would further disenfranchise citizens and guests from the artistic work that speaks to the beauty and politics of this place.

If the problem is storage, why doesn't every administrative office within the State have local artwork on their walls? The University of Hawai`i at Mānoa certainly could use some artwork in administrative offices that could demonstrate the creativity of our State. This idea might solve the reported problem of too much art storage. But then, I wonder how can the State of Hawai`i really have too much art? It makes no sense. And if it doesn't make sense, it is not a cogent argument and should be dismissed.

To me, denying funding to art programs and museums speaks to one person trying to silence the majority. And it should not be condoned. I'm not sure why anyone would want to deconstruct a valuable resource for our community—a resource that reflects the artistic wonders of our State.

We need art and responsible leadership.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:13:47 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alba Bermudez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art is important for our community , for our people . Is a way to express ourselves , our culture .
Please stop this nonsense.

Oppose

Alba Bermudez

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:14:00 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naoise magee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

this bill is detrimental to artist of Hawaii. It will absolutely stop a source of revenue income for artists. It will majorly affect arts organizations that are a vital lifeline for our elderly students and youth.

Such a bill will take away decades of support for the arts in Hawaii. Once this support is gone, it will be almost impossible to replace.

there are other solutions to gain money for the state but taking away art funding through purchases of art is not the way.

I oppose Bill 1807

Aloha,

Naoise

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:17:54 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Halsted	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please kill this Bill The State contributes very little to promote art and this bill seems to try and kill the art community.

Doug Halsted

Hilo, Hawaii

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:31:29 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Hoppe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please stop HB1807 seeking to revoke capital improvement appropriations. Art in public places is vitally needed. Art has already been cut from public schools, and as a parent and employee in education, and a Hawai'i citizen who has participated with my own children in programs directly, I strongly urge you to NOT to pass this. A 68% reduction in revenue for the art in public places program and the shutting down of public art programs as a result is nothing short of devastating for the lives of so many. Art is healing, art is educational, art is enriching, and art is something that all people need. I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:34:39 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gina Kerr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Gina Bacon Kerr and I strongly urge you to oppose bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, the loss of which would negatively impact hundreds of local artists' access to gallery space, meeting space, education; and deprive our communities of art in public spaces. The significance of our collective art experiences, break us from perfunctory conformities. In small ways public art informs us of unexpected possibilities and pivots, and keeps our art-making population continually focused on bringing their hearts into the futuring thought space. Art impacts everyone beneficially.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:39:51 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Walker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1807 HD2. It is a short-sighted attempt to save money that ignores the enrichment that the arts provide to every Hawai'i resident.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 9:18:54 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Pecktal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

(I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.")

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:47:06 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ChetYeng Loong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Chet-Yeng Loong and I strongly urge you not to hear bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact the arts program in our schools and hurt the social emotional development of our keikis.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Aloha,

Your name

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 9:21:47 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Liu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts, Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

The next page lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island

Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center
Maui
Hui Noe'au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association Maui Arts and Culture Center Viewpoints Gallery

Kauai
Kauai Society of Artists

Oahu
Downtown Art Center
Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary Hawaii Watercolor Society Honolulu Printmakers Honolulu Theatre for Youth Hawaii Handweavers Hui Hula Preservation Society NOTAE
Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
Professional Development for DOE Teachers
The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony
Hawaii Arts Alliance support

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

Kahauiki Village
Institute for Human Services
RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center
Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.
Erica Liu

Honolulu HI 96815

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 9:29:21 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael James Martin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Michael Martin and I strongly urge you not to hear bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact my programming at my school University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Aloha,

Michael

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 9:30:41 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Browne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom It may concern:

My name is Sean Browne, a practicing artist and retired Instructor with the UH Manoa and Community College system. I write in opposition to HB 1807 HD2, which repeals the capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings.

The repealing of the capital improvement appropriations for the renovations of state buildings would be devastating economically to the vibrancy of our art related organizations and institutions. The HSFCA serves as a cultural and educational ambassador throughout the state of Hawaii and it is vital that they have the economic resources to continue.

As a recipient and participant in the "Artists in the Schools" program administered by the HSFCA, at both at Ma'ema'e Elementary School and Kohala Elementary School, I have been fortunate to provide classroom instruction to keiki from Kindergarten through grade 5. I have witnessed first hand, the joy the keiki derive from active participation in art excersises.

I have also served over the last three decades in an advisory capacity to various committees organized by the HSFCA, facilitating community outreach programs. The breadth and scope of this work is truly amazing.

HSFCA's outreach into the larger community extends to all islands and organizations that help support and make stronger, the cultural and educational fabric of who we are as a state.

In summary, I oppose this bill it's current form. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Sean Browne

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 9:31:25 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katie Yee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Katie Yee and I strongly urge you not to hear bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact arts education at Ka'elpulu Elementary school. Arts education is critical for our keiki and their social emotional development, creativeness, and traditional cultures that are related to arts.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Aloha,

Katie Yee

Testimony HB 1807

Date: March 17,2024

To whom it may concern,

I am a professional artist and art teacher with more than 40 yrs of experience. I strongly oppose any reduction in public spending for the arts in the state of Hawaii. Please do not allow this bill to continue. It is only by supporting the arts that we can build a more knowledgeable and imaginative population that can cope with the unprecedented challenges of our times. Art cultivates the very best qualities in a human being. We need more art in our lives not less. If this bill is allowed to continue you will see a backlash and it will not be pleasant. Hawaii is known as an enlightened state with high ideals and liberal attitudes. Cutting funding for the arts will sink our state into the morass of foolish conservatism typical of the mainland.

Sincerely, George Woollard

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 9:40:48 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brigitte Leilani Axelrode	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I strongly oppose this bill. It is imperative that we protect public art spaces that showcase Native Hawaiian and local artists. Art is not frivolous or something we should view as an add on to our islands- it must be deeply embedded and cherished as part of our everyday life. Diverting from the art special fund will have dire consequences against those (like myself) that rely on these art spaces to not only hone in on a specific artistic craft but view pieces that challenge ways of thinking and being. Passing this bill would be a huge mistake.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 9:42:42 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Lathrop	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony as an individual and in support of the Hawaii Arts Alliance and the State Foundation for Arts and Culture and the AITS and Mural Without Walls grant programs. Passing this bill and taking away funding from arts education through these inspiring programs would be detrimental to the children in our community as well as the teaching artists who who have already written the grants, dedicate their time, talents, and livelihood to art education, and who depend on the income. This funding provides vital programming that improves students access to art, knowledge and experiences of art practices and encourages expression which is essential to the declining mental health of today's youth. These programs have been pegged as literally one of the few things left that supports curriculum that students look forward to and feel a deeper connection to in their learning within the school system.

The idea that anyone in power would dare to suggest cutting funding to arts, in this state, where there is so much desire and focus to preserve and protect Hawaiian culture that naturally focuses heavily on the arts, is honestly, short-sighted and disrespectful to our host culture. My vote as well as the majority of people in my community that I speak with about this issue is a resounding NO to this bill.

Mahalo for listening and reconsidering your position on this.

Kayti Lathrop

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 9:52:51 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Caylin Spear	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to oppose HB 1807. I have been and currently live as an artist and art teacher on the west side of Kaua'i. I have worked in the arts community here for 20 years. I grew up in two worlds, one here with the beauty of the island inspiring my artistic vision and the other in North Carolina where I was able to receive an arts education that enabled me to go on to receive a Masters in Fine Arts and develop into the person that I am today.

As an adult when I came back to Kaua'i I wanted to be able to give the children here the same opportunities that I had on the mainland as a child. I began teaching at my Alma Mater, Eleele Elementary School as the art teacher with my own classroom, what a dream come true! This was in 2005 under a grant that sadly only lasted that year. Since then, in pursuit of bringing the arts to children on the west side of Kauai, I worked for various non-profit organizations (which were often funded by money that the HB 1807 would take away) Kauai Academy of Creative Arts, Circles of Light, Storybook Theatre of Hawaii, and the Queen Liliuokalani Trust. As the funding for these organizations waxed and waned I needed to find a more consistent paycheck so I became a substitute teacher for the HDOE. Since I was known in our community as an art teacher, many of the teachers I work for leave plans for me to do art with their students, this continues today.

The schools I work for really try to incorporate the arts into their enrichment education, but it is often secondary to everything. I have yet to see an elementary art classroom since my time at Eleele School almost 20 years ago. Art teachers are left to scramble around campus toting scrounged art supplies and left with only 30-40 minutes total time with each class, once every two weeks or so. Physically and mentally this is too much for me, so I have declined positions as the art teacher at the elementary schools on the west side. I teach art during the summer enrichment program at Kekaha School where I am given a classroom and ample time to teach art to kids that want to learn. My class has been filled every summer.

I could go on to tell you the benefits I see in my students from getting an early art education, but this may take up too much space. In short, their social and emotional skills benefit, they are better problem solvers, their confidence increases, and they develop into more balanced humans with better coping skills. I see it in my community, and know that it is a benefit to have arts education. Please do not take away opportunities for our youth to grow into the people we need for our community to flourish. I hope next time I write it will be in support of a bill for the Arts. I humbly oppose HB 1807, thank you.

Sincerely,
Leslie Caylin Spear

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 9:54:25 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judy Bisgard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose the passing of HB1807. The state of Hawaii has an excellent program of supporting our history and the arts. Other states look up to us! Lets keep the bar high. We can't afford to lose this asset. Aloha Judy Bisgard, former commissioner for Maui on the SFCA Board.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 9:55:21 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators, please reject this unworthy bill. It will damage into the future the arts and education in Hawaii's communities. As citizens of our Hawaii we should be upholding and strengthening our creativity.

Mahalo and aloha,

Alan Young

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 9:58:20 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kye Harford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts, Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

The next page lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island

Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center
Maui
Hui Noe'au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association Maui Arts and Culture Center Viewpoints Gallery

Kauai
Kauai Society of Artists

Oahu
Downtown Art Center
Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary Hawaii Watercolor Society Honolulu Printmakers Honolulu Theatre for Youth Hawaii Handweavers Hui Hula Preservation Society NOTAE
Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
Professional Development for DOE Teachers
The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony
Hawaii Arts Alliance support

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

Kahauiki Village
Institute for Human Services
RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center
Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.
KYE HARFORD
HILO, HAWAII 96720

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:12:53 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camille	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:27:28 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dominique Meyer Gere	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1807 Repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. This bill would cut 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely eliminating government support for many arts programs and initiatives statewide. While the most recent version of the bill tries to cover the bills negative impact on education and performing arts by making an appropriation, it will not come close to matching the loss of this cut.

This bill will affect negatively so many essential programs, art institutions and the work of artists who reach diverse communities and are cherished by them. Aue!

Elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would CUT the following initiatives:

*THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

*SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

*EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Art Bento Museum Education Program
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade 7-12

- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6
- Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support

Furthermore, the elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would eliminate support for the following:

Hawaii Island

Donkey Mill Arts Center

East Hawaii Culture Center

Kahilu Theatre

Wailoa Center

Maui

Hui Noe’au

Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association

Maui Arts and Culture Center

Viewpoints Gallery

Kauai

Kauai Society of Artists

Oahu

Downtown Art Center

Arts and Letters

Fishcake

University of Hawaii Galleries

Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu’uhonua Society

Hawaii Contemporary

Hawaii Watercolor Society

Honolulu Printmakers

Honolulu Theatre for Youth

Hawaii Handweavers Hui

Hula Preservation Society

NOTAE

Outreach programs:

Kahauiki Village

Institute for Human Services

RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment

LGBTQ Legacy Foundation

Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:31:45 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martha Nakajima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill with full funding. Hawaii is so much more than a beach. We have to keep it that way with public support for the arts. Thank you. Martha Nakajima, Honolulu.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:36:43 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamran moen samimi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for this opportunity. I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i. Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND.

It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect. ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity. THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

The next page lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center Maui
Hui Noe'au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association
Maui Arts and Culture Center
Viewpoints Gallery Kauai
Kauai Society of Artists
Oahu Downtown Art Center
Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary
Hawaii Watercolor Society
Honolulu Printmakers
Honolulu Theatre for Youth
Hawaii Handweavers Hui
Hula Preservation Society

NOTAE

Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
Professional Development for DOE Teachers
The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony Hawaii Arts Alliance support

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

Kahauiki Village
Institute for Human Services
RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Thank you for your time and please deeply consider the ramifications here.

Kamran Samimi,

Manoa Valley, Honolulu, 96822

March 17, 2024

To: Hawai'i State Senate

From: Debra Drexler, Professor
Acting Director of the Museum and Galleries, UHM
Chair of Drawing and Painting Area



RE: Opposition to HB 1807

This testimony is to express my strong objection to HB1807. I have been an art professor at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa since 1992, and am also appointed Acting Director of the John Young Museum, The Art Gallery, and the Commons Gallery at UHM from 8/23-8/85. As an educator and Acting Gallery Director, I see the positive impacts that the 1% for art makes on the community, Native Hawaiian artists, and the emerging artists. The SFCA is one of the only avenues for support for Native Hawaiian artists. Recently, the The Art Gallery at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa held the exhibition Mai Nā Kūpuna Mai, which featured works by Native Hawaiian artists. The SFCA recommended four major pieces out of this show for purchase. Three of those artists had not had work previously collected by the SFCA (Marques Hanalei Marzan, Maika'i Tubbs, Puni Jackson) The fourth artist, Sean Kekamakupa'aikapono Kaonohiokalani Lee Loy Browne, is considered a treasure of the community. While the SFCA has collected his sculpture in the past, this is the first of his paintings recommended for collection. The bill states that "the SFCA has enough works of art and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection." That is not true. The state does not have enough work by Native Hawaiian artists and is working to address that through recommendations of purchases.

The state also does not have enough work by the upcoming generations of emerging artists. Recently the SFCA also recommended for purchase the work of three MFA students part of the current show that is up at the UH Art Gallery, *Still Standing*. There are currently 280 art students at UHM, who have a great deal to contribute to the community. Often the first opportunity students have professionally is funded through programs offered by the State Foundation and Culture in the Arts. The SFCA funds organizations that give young artists the opportunity to exhibit and sell their work and to work in the community doing valuable service such as Arts in the School. Compared to other states Hawai'i is sadly lacking in art education in public schools. Often the only exposure students get to the arts is through SFCA programs. Already, there is a huge brain, drain, with talented students going to other states where there is more opportunity, without the 1% for art, we would lose even more of our talented young artists. Because I work closely with these young artist, I know how passionate driven and gifted they are. I know how much they are willing to give back to the community, and it is important for them to have the cultural institutions in place that allow them to reach their full potential. In sharing their immense talents with the community they make the state a better place to live in. I have taught at UHM for 32 years, and over the years,

I have seen the great impact that my former students have made in the community because of their access to programming that is funded by the SFCA.

Most other states have private galleries that participate in the cultural discourse and support artists. Because of the high cost of real estate Hawai'i has far fewer private galleries. Artists who are making a cultural impact and furthering the pursuit of knowledge in the field of art are completely dependent on public institutions to show and sell their work. Many of the wealthiest property owners in the state live in other states or countries, and support the cultural institutions in their home cities, not here. SFCA is one of the only sources of revenue for nearly every major cultural institution. The SFCA was the first institution of its kind in the country and marks a major achievement for the State.

Tourist destinations are becoming more competitive. Many tourists look for a place that offers cultural engagement. Funding of the arts is essential in making Hawaii a desirable destination. The arts also raise the quality of life for those who live here. Thank you for considering my testimony. Please consider your commitment to the future, to the quality of life for local residents and for the perpetuation of Kanaka culture. Mahalo for your time in reviewing my testimony.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:47:20 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Kamulda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a citizen of Hawai'i and a parent it would be a detriment to pass this bill. Art in our state is already not supported enough. The passing of this bill will force the closure of important outlets for artists and important places for people to enjoy local art. Please support art for our communities and reject this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:56:41 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalia Fornal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposing budget cuts under house bill 1807 which would lead to the lack of support for art, artists, galleries, organizations, & museum threatening the closure & discontinuation of programs.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:57:16 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Armhold	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts, Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:57:18 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Barbeau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,
Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm

the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not

value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts

stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect. ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep

sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY.

Here's a list of the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under deaf ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND
ORGANIZATIONS

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island

Donkey Mill Arts Center

East Hawaii Culture Center

Kahilu Theatre

Wailoa Center

Maui

Hui Noe'au

Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association

Maui Arts and Culture Center

Viewpoints Gallery

Kauai

Kauai Society of Artists

Oahu

Downtown Art Center

Arts and Letters

Fishcake

University of Hawaii Galleries

Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society

Hawaii Contemporary

Hawaii Watercolor Society

Honolulu Printmakers

Honolulu Theatre for Youth

Hawaii Handweavers Hui

Hula Preservation Society

NOTAE

Artists in the Schools arts education

program serving 124 public and charter

schools statewide.

Professional Development for DOE

Teachers

The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol

Modern exhibitions and programming

Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony

Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and

Ceremony

Hawaii Arts Alliance support

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

Kahauiki Village

Institute for Human Services

RYSE Residential Youth Services and

Empowerment

LGBTQ Legacy Foundation

Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Mahalo for your consideration,

Caroline Barbeau

Kailua Kona, Big Island 96740

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:01:31 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrizia Arroyo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Aloha, I am writing now to oppose HB 1807 because this Bill creates a catastrophic domino impact on the State foundation on culture and the arts, sincerely, Patrizia Arroyo

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:03:17 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alaka'i Nobriga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill due to the blatant disrespect towards people who may make their careers from these art forms and kids who also may cease development from the absence of said art. Many exhibitions work around native hawaiian history and are a crucial part of our culture so cutting funding will lead to nothing good for the future of our islands. Though appropriations are being made to cover the negatives they still outweigh the positive by much. On top of that, this directly affects programs at my school.

Thanks for your time

Aloha,

Alaka'i M. Nobriga

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:09:28 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Ishii	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**PROTECT PUBLIC ART!! PROTECT CAPITOL MODERN!! PROTECT OPPORTUNITIES
FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS!!**

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:18:33 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rina Robin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Rina Robin and I strongly urge you not to hear bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact University of Hawai`i and funding for arts programs for keiki across Hawai`i. Cutting arts programs will negatively impact our keiki's social and emotional development and creativity, along with traditional cultural education related to the arts.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Aloha,

Rina Robin

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:28:28 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not cut the funding for the arts in Hawaii. We need this for the growth of the city and the community.

Hello State Senators,

As a concerned citizen and a small business owner, I firmly believe that BILL 1807 (and its various HD revisions) will have no benefit to the people of our State. AND in the long term, will be detrimental. KILL this BILL!

The SFCA's mandate is to promote culture and arts exposure and education in the general community. Is there another State organization that is dedicated to this? The State needs to support SFCA not hamper it!

As Pundy Yokouchi put it so succinctly in his interview published by the Center for Oral History, Social Science Research Institute, UH Manoa in 1991, at the inception of SFCA, "art is as basic as education". His argument was that back in the day, even basic education was frowned upon. Kids were expected to go to work to help out their families. Now we look at basic education as necessary. He was a visionary when he advocated the value of art as part of any education.

"The exposure that — (art) education might be too stiff a word, but it's the development of a person — awareness, sensitivity. That, to me, is education."

Art is not just a "frilly luxury", in the big picture, it's an imperative for well-adjusted individuals, a thriving creative community and a well-balanced society... the State of Hawaii deserves to continue funding the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:30:50 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C. Sakuda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1807.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:39:23 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ignace Jang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ignace Jang and I strongly urge you not to hear bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact myriad of Arts Organizations (see below).

Arts is an essential fabric of our Islands' culture, championed by the likes of Queen Lili'uokalani. A cut of 68% in public places program revenue would be devastating.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Aloha,

Ignace Jang

HAWAII ISLAND:

Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center

MAUI:

Hui Noe'au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association
Maui Arts and Culture Center
Viewpoints Gallery

KAUAI:

Kauai Society of Artists

OAHU:

Downtown Art Center
Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage

Pu'uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary
Hawaii Watercolor Society
Honolulu Printmakers
Honolulu Theatre for Youth
Hawaii Handweavers Hui
Hula Preservation Society

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- Professional development for DOE Teachers
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony
- Hawaii Arts Alliance support

Kahauiki Village
Institute for Human Services
RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:41:55 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Marie-Kaululaau Tom	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 12:11:24 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tasbir Ullah	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill since I think continued arts funding is important for a thriving civilization.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 12:13:51 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Janes-Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairman Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and members of the TCA Committee,

I am Paul Janes-Brown, former co-chair of Education for the Maui Democratic Party, a former columnist for the Maui News and currently have a weekly television show Curtain Call Maui on Akaku, local cable access television as well as YouTube and Facebook and a semi monthly radio show The Alpha and Omega Show on Mana’o Radio. I am also a member of the Art in Public Places Art Advisory Selection Committee for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

It saddens me that you have chosen to hear this bill HB 1807. It is an insult to the sainted memory of the visionary, first chair of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, Pundy Yokouchi, who established the first in the nation percent for art program that has been a paragon for not only all of the state’s of America, but also cities and towns.

It also contains embarrassing language. It states that the SFCA has enough works of art and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection. Outrageous! Does any museum in the world stop acquiring art work? Being a part of the State’s Art Collection is a great honor available only to our finest artists. This bill would deny our next Saturo Abe, Masami Teraoka or Tadashi Sato the opportunity for that honor. It would tell all of the up and coming artists, “Your state doesn’t care about you. You will never be shown in the State museum. Your work will never hang in the offices of the highest state officials and political leaders.”

What a terrible legacy. You have the ability to prevent this from ever happening. Please kill this bill today.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 12:14:59 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mele Hamasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Mele Hamasaki, and I am writing to express my vehement opposition to HB1807 HD2. As a dedicated member of Hawai'i's arts community, I cannot stress enough the importance of sustaining, if not increasing, the funding for the arts. The value of the arts extends beyond mere aesthetics; it is a cornerstone of community, culture, and education in Hawai'i, serving as a beacon of hope, creativity, and unity in challenging times.

The arts play a crucial role in cultivating aloha 'āina—our love and responsibility for the land and our communities. They unlock our imagination, encourage diverse voices to participate in meaningful dialogue, and prompt us to act on behalf of our shared environment and heritage. At a time when the world is rife with conflict and misinformation, the arts offer a pathway to understanding and healing.

I urge you, our legislators, to recognize the immeasurable value the arts bring to Hawai'i. Let us invest in our future by nurturing the creative spirits that have the power to inspire change and foster a more compassionate and understanding world.

Sincerely,

Mele Hamasaki

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 12:16:48 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Aronson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition to this bill which would end what has been a tremendously successful program to bring art into our communities through state buildings and education.

A perfect example is "Art at the Capitol". I am an attorney who has worked at the legislature for the last 3 years and this is one of the best nights for folks who don't come to the Capitol to experience it.

I love that my tax payer dollars go to funding the art that is on the walls in my office and in the FINANCE Committee hearing room.

Please defer this deceptive and poorly thought out bill as it will harm the people of HI by depriving locals of the enriching benefits of arts and culture.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 12:15:50 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel A Curran	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am completely opposed to this measure. This would cut funding for a myriad of arts programs in the State including the Hawaii State Art Museum and artist in the schools programs. Since there are many schools in the state that do not have art programs these programs are essential for our children to be exposed to art and creative thoughts while their minds are developing. Art education is a wonderful thing and is as important as STEM programs and far too overlooked.

These programs also support homeless youth as you can see from the exhibition in the basement of the Capital that is on now until March 28 across from the snack shop called *Not All Backpacks Carry the Same Weight* which is an indirect collaboration between homeless youth from RYSE and Moanalua High School students. Projects such as these pull the homeless youth further into the community making them feel more part of the society and allows the High School students to reflect and understand more deeply some of the social problems we face as a state and nation.

This also supports many artists in the state allowing them to practice their trade and share it with our youth as well as supports music and the many musicians in the state which is great for everyone.

It is very short sighted to cut the minimal funding that these programs have. Please rethink this measure and keep all of the funding in place if not give more funding to the arts. The arts are essential to any complete life. The State owes it to itself and it's citizens to sustain and encourage them!

Sincerely Dan Curran

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 12:17:06 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Timothy L Morehouse	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body. This is a an extremely shortsighted bill, narrow in its intentions and clumsy in implementation. I strongly oppose it.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 12:23:24 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teig Grennan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1807! This is a destructive bill of no value to taxpayers and removes existing benefits enjoyed by the entire State of Hawaii in preserving native/community arts, culture and education. There is no reason one Representative can decide to cut funding for all State Arts against the wishes of the community they are supposed to be serving.

Artists and Teachers implore the Legislature to not pass this destructive measure to punish public arts funding. Allow the arts to continue to thrive and be accessed by the public that needs so greatly needs and relies on them.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Teig Grennan

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 12:24:41 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patti Pease Johnson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation Culture and the Arts,

As a dedicated member of the vibrant artistic community on the Big Island of Hawaii and member of many art Hawaii organizations for decades, I urge you to consider the detrimental impact House Bill 1807, titled RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND, would have on our state's cultural landscape.

According to Hawaii Craftsmen, an over 50 year non-profit art organization in the state, this bill, if enacted, would decimate 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, effectively severing critical lifelines of support for countless arts programs and initiatives statewide. The repercussions would be felt far and wide, stifling artistic expression and depriving communities of the enriching experiences that art brings.

The significance of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) cannot be overstated. It serves as a beacon of support for artists and arts organizations, nurturing creativity and cultural exchange. As a working and teaching artist myself, and as a member of numerous art organizations with juried shows where SFCA has purchased many artworks, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of SFCA's support.

HB1807 not only threatens the livelihoods of artists but also jeopardizes the accessibility of art for all residents of Hawaii. It is a step backward, contrary to the values of inclusivity and cultural enrichment that our state proudly upholds.

Therefore, I vehemently oppose House Bill 1807 and implore you to consider the profound consequences it would have on our artistic community. Let us stand together to preserve and nurture Hawaii's rich cultural heritage for generations to come.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 12:27:03 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Wilson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1807. It is already embarrassing how little the state supports the arts. Hawaii spends less on the arts than Alabama, or Montana. To suck out half the revenue stream while saying they 'support the arts' is the height of hypocrisy. Not sure what horse trade senator Lee struck to support this bill, but I sincerely hope it ends up biting him on the rear end. Arts are essential. They train critical thought, engage community, and allow the space for beauty to exist. This bill does the opposite of all of that. I stand with art and in strong opposition to this bill.

Sincerely,

Michael Wilson

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 12:27:04 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander Czerny	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts, Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in

practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts

stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating

circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

Alexander Czerny, Hilo

Registered Piano Technician (RPT), Piano Technicians Guild (PTG), piano teacher and musician

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 12:33:43 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jennifer antony	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against this bill. I vote against it.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 12:44:04 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaitlyn Victorino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Oahu, The State Art Museum and the SFCA Art in Public Places Program has been a constant reminder of how important the arts is to Hawaii. Deducting funding from this program is detrimental to the residents as we only have few places where our local kind can experience the art of our people. The advocacy of uplifting younger artists has been bolstered by this program; having this bill pass will lose the visual mark of Artists in Hawaii. As an artist myself and working for a local non-profit art organization, HoMA, any and all spaces that gives opportunities for Hawaii Art to be shared with our community, and our world, is paramount to our culture. If this bill gets passed, it shows that the Legislature of Hawaii does not care or preserving and uplifting our culture, contrary to what was promised to us.

March 2024

Dear Honorable Members of the Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts:

As a concerned citizen, longstanding supporter of arts and culture in Hawai'i, and trustee of non-profit Hawai'i Contemporary, I am writing to express strong opposition to House Bill 1807. This measure would effectively gut the ongoing work of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and limit funding to capital improvements, performing arts initiatives and school arts programs.

While the work the bill supports is worthwhile, it is highly limited and insufficient to support the State's creative arts sector, which accounts for 4.5% of state GDP and is the fifth largest private sector source of jobs. Indeed, the State looks to growth of the Creative Sector as an important part of economic development by creating direct jobs and spawning innovations that drive job creation in other sectors.

A vital and vibrant centerpiece of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) is Capitol Modern, a center for promoting, perpetuating, and preserving culture and the arts in Hawai'i. Gutting the budget of Capitol Modern does an enormous disservice to arts and culture overall and especially that of native Hawaiians. Authentic traditions that extend deep into time are part of our identity and form the roots of our community. The perpetuation of these traditions, their expression by today's Hawaiian artists, and the public exhibition of the work provide an essential link between our history and future and bind us as a community.

Moreover, House Bill 1807 would have a devastating impact for Hawai'i Contemporary (HC), an arts and culture organization which showcases the work of contemporary artists across the state, alongside major national and international artists. Since 2017, through 3 major arts exhibitions and year-round programming, HC has contributed hundreds of millions (as measured by DBEDT) in economic impact, generated over 300,000 attendees from across the state and internationally, and generated 200 jobs locally. Several hundred educational programs have been provided free and to the public and 7000 students have benefited from free transportation and exhibition passes. Without the funding which HC receives via SFCA, HC's work is at severe risk.

Yet, the benefits to our people are far-reaching and extend to all ages. Studies show that arts and culture programs enhance academic performance of students, especially those of low income; boost mental health and well-being; help aging brains to remember; and foster community unity. Let us continue to provide this for the people of our State.

In conclusion, I urge you to oppose House Bill 1807 and its negative consequences for the State of Hawai'i. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Gloria Lau

Gloria Lau
139 Makaweli St.
Honolulu 96825
415.307.6441

RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND. Specifies that the works of art special fund's one per cent transfer requirement shall apply only to capital improvement appropriations for the original construction of state buildings. Appropriates funds for performing arts initiatives and expanded arts programming in schools.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 1:15:47 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyla Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The arts provide a number of things but perhaps most important, they help to foster community and education: two things necessary to thrive. Capitol Modern (formerly HiSam), which would cease to exist as we know it because of this bill, is a safe & nurturing environment open to all members of our communities. Their free evening weekend events in particular allow for keiki, teens, adults, and kupuna alike to enjoy culture: live music, local vendors, learning, and creating art. The vibrant, engaging space likely prevents teens from partaking in less desirable/unsafe activities. It also draws more folks into the historic downtown area, encouraging folks to visit local restaurants and watering holes, supporting our economy. Support the arts, support the community. NO to this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 1:22:41 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Van Horne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need more art, not less. Dump this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 1:25:23 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ayaka Takao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same". Before moving on to finish my middle + high school education at Mid Pacific Institute, I was exposed to art at Noelani Elementary. At Noelani, they had a partnership with the Honolulu Museum of Art where one 5th grade class a year would attend classes at the museum school. The year I spent at the museum were one of the most formative experiences of my life.

I struggled a bit though my schooling due to having undiagnosed learning disabilities as well as having a difficult home life. I found it difficult to focus on my studies and began falling behind even as early as 4th grade. If art was not in my curriculum, I firmly believe that I would have a compromised life as an adult today. I notice my peers, mid twenties and older, who struggled academically similarly to me but did not have the privileged access to art that I did. They had an interest in the arts, but no place to practice or expose themselves to it in a formal setting like school. Without exaggeration, many of these peers experience hardships like addiction and unemployment, which is a direct correspondence to quality of education. I do not think it is a coincidence that I was 1) exposed to and encouraged in the arts and 2) possess skills that make me a "valuable" member of society. Without art, I would have completely disengaged from school, which would have led me down an unthinkable path from the one I am on today as an artist + educator. I have seen the way art changes people's lives, old to young. I teach folks from all walks of life at Fishschool here in Honolulu. Art is not a privilege - art is a valuable component in understanding history and building empathy towards others, to open doors for people who would otherwise be left behind. These lessons cannot be understood or quantified in a dollar amount. To de-fund the SFCA is to create a society impossible to live in.

The everyday person, unknowingly, engages with art every single day. From architecture, interior design, television shows and movies, games, food, industrial design: the list goes on and on. A creative person is behind every single thing we love, and these cultural producers are beyond entitled to the support of the state. Art is the thing we turn to when we need a resting place. Art is where we go to understand each other. Art is how we feel understood. Art is an invaluable asset to the construction of a society worth engaging with.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 1:25:55 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Morris	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 1:44:50 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 1:49:16 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Tamosiunas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1807. Lay off the alcohol while you consider these bills.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 1:47:49 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frandee Lum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:02:29 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gaye Chan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been an art educator and artist in Hawai‘i for the past 4 decades. The elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would devastate the arts and art education in Hawaii.

This bill is incredibly short-sighted. The Bill's sponsor must not have done any research and is completely unaware of how the arts contribute to our economy, and how art education enhances innovation and problem-solving skills that reach into every sector of our community. The arts embody our histories and provide opportunities for analysis and reflection.

Passing HB1807 will immediately put an end to all exhibitions at the beloved state art museum. It would also end support for arts organizations and galleries, and all the artists in Hawaii who rely on them for their livelihood. It would terminate the 'Artists in the Schools' arts education program which serves 124 public and charter schools statewide.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 1:54:35 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karolynn Cevidanes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:04:38 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimiko Wu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

As a young artist inspired by the local creative community, I urge you to reconsider passing HB1807. Public art programs are not just about funding canvases and paintbrushes; they're about nurturing creativity, fostering expression, and cultivating a sense of identity within our community. These programs provide invaluable opportunities for artists like myself to showcase our talents, engage with our neighbors, and contribute to the vibrant tapestry of our home.

Art is not a luxury reserved for the elite. It's a fundamental aspect of human experience that transcends social and economic barriers. It speaks to our shared humanity, allowing us to connect with one another on a deeper level and understand perspectives different from our own.

By defunding public art programs, we risk silencing the voices of marginalized communities, stifling innovation, and erasing the rich cultural diversity that makes our island home unique. Art has the power to spark dialogue, provoke thought, and inspire change. Without it, we risk losing sight of who we are and what we stand for as a community.

I implore you to consider the far-reaching consequences of this bill and the profound impact it will have on our artist community. Instead of cutting funding, let us invest in the arts, nurture creativity, and preserve our cultural heritage for generations to come.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Kimiko Wu

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:05:51 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tia Wu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a local artist and passionate advocate for the arts in Hawaii, I strongly oppose House Bill 1807. This bill's proposal to defund the arts in our community and schools is deeply concerning. The arts play a vital role in our cultural identity, education, and economic vitality.

The arts enrich our lives, providing opportunities for self-expression, creativity, and cultural exchange. They foster innovation, critical thinking, and empathy among students, preparing them for success in an increasingly diverse and interconnected world. Cutting funding for arts programs in schools would deprive our youth of these invaluable learning experiences and stifle their artistic growth.

Moreover, the arts contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy, attracting tourists, supporting local businesses, and creating jobs. By defunding the arts, HB 1807 risks undermining this important sector and diminishing our state's cultural vibrancy and appeal.

I urge legislators to reconsider HB 1807 and instead prioritize investing in the arts to ensure a thriving, culturally rich future for Hawaii. Our community's artistic heritage and creative potential are too valuable to sacrifice for short-term budgetary gains.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:06:56 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
samuel schryver	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Samuel Schryver, I am a professional artist based on Kauai. I'm expressing **extreme opposition to bill 1807**. SFCA , and the arts organizations they support , are a crucial platform for professional artists throughout the state and particularly on outer islands. Each islands fine art communities exist as highly delicate ecosystems that need continued leadership- SFCA is our beacon and leader , and THE ONLY bridge for us to Honolulu, our cultural centers, and furthermore to international outlets. Cutting funding proposed by this bill WILL dismantle a vital network that directly creates and excels the careers of professional artists within Hawaii.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:08:56 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelei Kikuchi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

This proposal is a huge insult and will have horrible repercussions if passed. This angers me so badly that I cannot put into words how this would be so detrimental not just for the kids, but the general public and will have far reaching consequences that proponents have zero concept of. Hawaii is dependent upon the tourism industry. Dependent on tourists buying souvenirs, towels, tshirts, tacky aloha shirts. Buying some of the most god awful souvenirs that baffle us but makes them so happy. The livelihood of our tourism industry depends on our artists, past, present, and definitely future.

Whoever thinks this wouldn't impact us is truly ignorant. Not just ignorant, but simply stupid. They may not understand how art programs help children and those with special needs, but they should be able to comprehend that this would affect state revenue. Maybe not. Absolutely ridiculous.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:12:50 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Shun	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representative Yamashita and representatives of the committee:

I was recently informed that **House Bill 1807** was initially cleared by the House Finance Committee, and is now slated for hearings by both the Senate Transportation and Culture and the Arts Committee, as well as the House Culture, Arts and International Affairs Committee.

If my understanding of Bill 1807 is correct, subsequent passage (of this Bill) would lead to very significant trimming of the budget currently devoted to supporting art in Hawaii.

Before you make your final decisions regarding this bill, I would like for each of you to take a stroll through our Honolulu City Hall and Hawaii State Capitol buildings. Take a look and actually make an effort to soak in all the sights around you. Notice the paintings on the walls, 3D sculptures, other pieces of art, various architectural features, chandeliers, etc. Even better, visit our local museums. Do not just view the works of art, but actually spend the time reading the artist's statements. Every piece of art bears meaning. I would expect that each of you are aware of the significant meanings of our Hawaii State Capitol's design, individual art pieces (such as "Aquarius" by artist Tadashi Sato), and surrounding statues?

While you still have these visions within your minds, imagine stripping away all these features so that you have essentially flat, blank, featureless walls. Yes, at one point or another, each of these features were created by the ingenious imagination of artists.

While I do empathize with Hawaii's budgetary crisis, the need for disaster management with recovery and rebuilding especially in light of the Lahaina and Kula fires, and the likely permanent need towards funding the Rail project, I propose to you that all of these issues speak of an even greater need for artistic talent to be promoted within our state.

If any of you have had the opportunity to visit other states in the US, or even other countries, think back as to what you were interested in doing. Aside from the natural splendor many lands have to offer, did you also visit sites such as Disneyland, Legoland, museums, historic structures, wineries, high end restaurants, etc? Imagine if none of these man made sites utilized the talents of artists. How bland and drab the world would be (aside from retreating to our national parks, etc).

It is art that helps stimulate the imagination. For example, art teachers help stimulate active, creative thoughts of young children, and even help serve as ‘outlets’ in those who otherwise might become engaged in non-productive and potentially destructive behaviors. Art helps people realize their potential (creative side) and helps society advance towards higher pinnacles.

Your plan to defund the arts (consider what has been occurring in those states who actively defunded their police force) will help detract Hawaii from gaining meaningful recovery from the current dilemmas we face. I hope you will pay sincere attention to this matter.

Yours truly,

Jonathan Shun, MD

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:10:41 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Wu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our family loves the Hawaii museum. We go frequently and then have dinner in Chinatown frequently. We would not go to dinner as often if the different arts venues are closed.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:13:14 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel Newhouse	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:14:31 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mitchell Kuga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art is essential to these islands. And the ability to acquire new work in a public institution means we get to see art that meaningfully reflects the culture as it's evolving in real time. Stop treating public art as irrelevant to Hawai'i and Hawaiian culture.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:17:00 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yoshitsugu Wada	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:23:19 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Train	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Elizabeth Train, a visual artist and teaching artist who has worked with and benefitted from the SFCA programs for almost 50 years. I am writing to strongly oppose HB1807. It is my understanding that the passage of this bill will cripple the Art in Public Places Program and the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and Arts by taking away 68% of its current budget. We have always been proud of Hawaii being the first state in the nation to adopt a one percent for art law. The program has funded numerous education programs through Art in the Schools and Art Bento and grants to many non-profit organizations such as Hawaii Craftsmen and the Handweaver's Hui. Over the years I have taught in the Artist in the Schools and Art Bento programs and taught hundreds of public school students. I have also benefitted from the workshops that Hawaii Craftsmen and the Handweaver's Hui have sponsored. It is imperative that these educational programs continue to be funded! It is also imperative that the SFCA continue to purchase artworks for the museum collection as well as fund permanent artwork for new state buildings. Many artists rely on these purchases and commissions in order to be successful. The program has been very successful over the years, works of art enhance state buildings and the public is able to see new exhibitions at the Hawaii State Museum. It is appalling that this bill would halt future purchase! Art feeds the human spirit and offers priceless value and we must all continue to support the artists and art educators of the state of Hawaii. Please vote to defeat this bill!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:29:13 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marley Chertok	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:32:16 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin L	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The arts provide a quality of life beyond the economic needs of people living in the most expensive state in the nation. Cutting funding for the arts will remove the cultural driver that inspires the youth, develops the imagination, and gives new perspectives in every area of life. Continuing to provide funding for the arts is an investment with very long term positive effects on the quality of life in the islands.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:39:22 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeena Alvarez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:39:51 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Ugai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We urge you to support the arts and public spaces by opposing HB1807.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:43:09 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alika Spahn Naihe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a kanaka maoli artist, this bill would adversely affect my career, my colleagues, my networks, and the organizations that support us. I do not support this bill. Art is a form of communication deeper than speech that must not only be protected, but also supported and cultivated. Not only is art a vehicle of communication, but it is also a vehicle for community. I have been and am currently involved in large-scale projects that directly tap into the community to become a voice for the people we represent and serve as artists, and function as vehicles for community discourse and cohesion. This is all possible through the very funding that this bill will cut, if it is allowed to pass. As a government that is elected by the people to represent and support the people, to allow such a drastic reduction in funding that supports communication through the arts would be a tragedy. Please, do not allow this bill to pass.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:43:37 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
w kim messier	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Local artists have so few options to sell art in Hawaii.
HSFCA was an important lifeline.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:53:40 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelique Axelrode	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts, Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

The next page lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

*SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island

Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center
Maui
Hui Noe'au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association Maui Arts and Culture Center Viewpoints Gallery
Kauai
Kauai Society of Artists
Oahu
Downtown Art Center
Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage
ORGANIZATIONS
Pu'uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary Hawaii Watercolor Society Honolulu Printmakers Honolulu Theatre for
Youth Hawaii Handweavers Hui Hula Preservation Society NOTAE
Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
Professional Development for DOE Teachers
The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming Scholastic Art
Exhibition and Ceremony Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony
Hawaii Arts Alliance support
OUTREACH PROGRAMS:
Kahauiki Village
Institute for Human Services
RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center
Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.

Angelique Kalani Axelrode

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:56:58 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Holt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Public art provides the creative infrastrucure for our culture, our society and even our economy. As a taxpayer, i want our state to support the endeavors of our artists to bring beauty, insight and kaona to as broad a public audience as possible, including those who visit renovated buildings. The Hawaiian definition of "Fine Arts" is: *Nā ohana haku mele ka pena ki'i*'. Songs, poems, paintings and sculptures. These works enrich and enlighten all of us.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 2:59:06 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fatiha K Curran	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a teaching artist with the Hawai'i State Foundation and am contacting you to oppose **House Bill 1807**, which will be introduced to the Senate floor on **Tuesday, March 19**. It is very concerning to our Arts community and small organizations. It will impact DOE students and youth experiencing Homelessness, who will benefit the most from the artists-in-school programs. With this Bill, the teaching artist residencies planned for next school year will not be funded and will disappear. Many SFCA programs that contribute to all communities in need will also disappear. We remember how much Hawai'i children and adults suffered from connection losses during the pandemic. Art became a tool for rebuilding our community, healing, and helping us find common ground and reconnect.

I became a teaching artist in 2021 with the HSFCA, focusing on community art inclusive of marginalized populations like Ryse Hawai'i. The art installation on the chamber's floor of the State Capitol perfectly exemplifies our community's need for the arts. **Not All Backpacks Carry the Same Weight** has benefited HS students and youth experiencing Homelessness at Ryse. The young adults learn to trust in the shelters and engage with the Hawai'i community safely. Both groups collaborating on this project understood the importance of this art project as it concerns their demographic, offering us their perspectives and experiences.

People have responded strongly since the exhibition at **Capitol Modern** in May 2023, the conference on Homelessness, and the DOE counselors' conference. Visitors have connected, shared their own experiences of Homelessness, and felt that this art installation is necessary for our community.

As I was installing this work at the **State Capitol** last Tuesday, Staff and visitors shared their emotions about the impact of this Hawai'i Community issue.

HSFCA encourages artists like me to bridge communities and engage with marginalized groups and schools in need.

For next school year, I plan an art residency for Jarret MS in Palolo, where I will work with English and Slow Learners classes.

With one class, we will address youth vaping in Hawai'i, an essential issue in our state using the art process.

Thanks to the Hawai'i Arts Alliance program, I will be one of the teaching artists giving art sessions to 27 children at the IHS Kahauiki Village this week. I visited to prepare and immediately knew I should use my Art practice to connect, heal, and contribute to building this community.

The Staff is fantastic, and we are hopeful we can develop this collaboration with one of the grants from HSFCA.

I am committed to helping marginalized groups in Hawai'i and will apply for grants **if Bill 1807 does not pass.**

This Bill will be detrimental to many in our state. Art helps us understand each other and function as a society, building a thriving Hawai'i.

I would love to tour this project with the committee and share stories about the participants and the art process. Let's start the conversation about how arts contribute to our communities.

Feel free to email me: fatihakhed@gmail.com

Please oppose the House Bill 1807.

Thank you for your time

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 3:02:54 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
irene kloepfer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. In todays insane violent world we need all the art and beauty everywhere, especially with the keiki, to try balance out the negativity. Oppose this bill. Mahalo

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 3:07:04 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jobelle Ryder	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 3:07:38 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
janelle holden	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against HB1807. My grandson has special needs and it has been the arts that have helped our family to be able to navigate his behavior issues. With out the support of the arts we will be lost!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 3:11:46 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Chai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha honored lawmakers of the committee,

I Strongly urge you to oppose Bill1807.

This bill will negatively impact not only artists and art teachers but students and the general public as well.

Art education, art activities and art commissions in public places are a vital way to nurture cognitive skills as well as visual communication through a creative outlet or voice.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Mahalo,

Mark Chai

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 3:19:05 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Pasqua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Marcia Pasqua and I strongly urge you to oppose bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings represents a large percentage of the funding that the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts receives. This bill would have a devastating effect on the arts and art education in Hawai‘i.

This bill would directly impact me as a professional artist. The State Foundation has created a robust arts industry that benefits all the arts in Hawai‘i, supporting local artist and cultural practitioners, and providing enrichment for the general public. I am personally thankful for the SFCA’s support to these organizations:

- Honolulu Printmakers
- Downtown Art Center
- Arts at Marks Garage
- UH Galleries
- Hui Noe‘au
- Maui Arts and Cultural Center

“Art has the power to transform, to illuminate to educate, inspire and motivate.”

Harvey Fierstein

This bill would also directly impact me as a teaching artist, as well as the many K-12 students and their teachers throughout Hawai‘i’s public school system who benefit from Education Programming such as:

- Artists in the Schools arts education program (124 public and charter schools statewide)
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Art Bento Museum Education Program
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade 7-12

- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6
- Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support
- Honolulu Theatre for Youth

“We say arts education is good for general education, but that's not the point. The arts are what great nations are remembered for. They are a mirror.” Damian Woetzel

PLEASE, OPPOSE BILL 1807

Mahalo,

Marcia Pasqua

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 3:27:36 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Taylor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **STRONGLY** oppose HB1807. So many fine organizations and activities are dependent upon the funds provided by the State to support art and the artists of Hawaii. We need MORE funding - not less!!! **Please please please DO NOT** pass this Bill. The State of Hawaii should be supporting the arts and expanding financial support - not eliminating them!

Thank you so much for your consideration of my testimony.

Aloha.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 3:38:26 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Sweeney Ching	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am strongly opposed to HB1807. As a public school teacher with the DOE, I can attest to the importance of public arts programs for public school students.

The state foundation on culture and the arts provides arts education programs for classrooms like mine. Without these publicly funded arts education programs, my public school students would receive no arts education. It is so important for these children to develop an interaction and expression through the arts.

HB1807 sets a dangerous precedence for removing public arts funding.

Please vote no on this bill.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to submit testimony.

Aloha,
Pat Sweeney

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts.

Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. ***Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime.*** We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to ***create economic diversity.***

*Consequently, this bill would **ERADICATE** the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.*

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism.

It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY.

This and the following page list the ripple effect this bill will have if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island
Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center
Maui
Hui Noe'au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association Maui Arts and Culture Center
Viewpoints Gallery
Kauai
Kauai Society of Artists
Oahu
Downtown Art Center
Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary Hawaii Watercolor Society Honolulu Printmakers
Honolulu Theatre for Youth Hawaii Handweavers Hui Hula Preservation
Society NOTAE

Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.

Professional Development for DOE Teachers

The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony

Hawaii Arts Alliance support

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

Kahauiki Village
Institute for Human Services
RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.

Erika Pascual
Pearl City, Oahu, 96782

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 3:53:54 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sally french	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please DO NOT pass this bill. Years of work has gone into building the substructure of funding from our State to the grass-roots community composed of scores of not-for-profit arts organizations servicing our culturally isolated neighbor islands, as well as our cultural center of Honolulu. These art centers and organizations provide the follow-through for children at risk and families who are now relying on established arts programming the SFCA will have to cut. Our State Art Museum is our pride, currently providing a safe place of music, theatre and faires attended by a young demographic that has seen cultural gatherings shrink rather than thrive, as our Capitol Modern has. Please don't let your vote take away years of community work and past monies from the State .. once gone, we will not likely be able to regain the vibrancy we see now at Capitol Modern. Please do not vote this 68% cut through, these services you will cut are being used by our keiki to Kupuna on our isolated neighbor islands, it unites our state and all of us will experience a step backwards.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 3:56:26 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 1807, which would decimate Hawaii's half century of public support for the arts.

Many legislators understand the value of this program directly, with many offices displaying works produced or purchased through the program.

To the extent that so many of these works are not on public display apart from government buildings and what's now known as Capitol Modern in Honolulu, the state should instead endeavor to bring art to every county and council district.

[I recently came across a 1973 letter by famed artist Jean Charlot](#) on the program, responding to criticism from Rep. Tony Kunimura of Kauai. It is well worth reading.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 3:59:42 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tricia Beaman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1807. Our state's long term commitment to dedicated funding for the arts and especially art that all of the public can enjoy has made Hawaii a special place. It would be such a shame to end this long time practice and it does not seem like there is a strong reason to do so.

The people of Hawaii deserve to enjoy the benefits of art in public spaces, of arts education and of the development of local artists in Hawaii. I strongly ask that you oppose this bill.

sincerely,

tricia beaman

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 4:05:02 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Hee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not repeal the original 1% of capital improvement funds for the arts. Imagine how drab our city would look without the murals, sculptures, and other artwork that this money has funded. Imagine how barren and uninspiring our schools would be without the artwork funded by the original bill. Imagine the decay of those works currently in place if you remove the funding needed to maintain them. Our city will not just look drab, it will seem neglected. What face do you want to represent to the outside world and the millions of tourists who visit our state? Will you take away one of the best methods we have of showing our children arts and culture?

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 4:05:29 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denis Maurer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 4:10:01 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 4:10:17 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maggie Costigan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to request that you oppose House Bill 1807 HD2 relating to the Works of Art Special Fund.

As you are aware that the Works of Art Special Fund goes far beyond supporting the acquisition of new works of art for the SFCA's collection, it has annually provided upwards of \$600,000 for arts education in Hawai'i public schools and communities on Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, Kaua'i, O'ahu and Hawai'i island, serving tens of thousands of students and teachers.

It is my understanding that appropriations were recently made to the bill to provide continued funding for school arts programs, and I thank you for this. It is not clear, however, specifically how much money will allotted for this purpose. Will it equate to the current State budget that is supporting arts education in Hawai'i public schools?

In addition to bringing arts to Hawai'i public schools, the Works of Art Special Fund has also provided jobs for hundreds (maybe thousands) of artists across the State. I have been a teaching artist in Maui County (on Maui, Moloka'i and Lāna'i) for over 30 years, funded by grants awarded by the HSFCFA. My colleagues and I have made our livelihood in designing and delivering high quality arts education residencies to Hawai'i students, and professional development training for classrooms teachers. Our dollars are earned and spent here in Hawai'i, thanks to these dedicated funds. Our careers will be in jeopardy if this funding faces large cuts.

I sincerely ask, as you move forward in making a decision with this bill to deeply consider the impact you can make (hopefully a good one) on the public education system here in Hawai'i. By maintaining a generous budget for arts education, you will be helping in enriching the lives of tens of thousands of Hawai'i public school keiki.

If you have any questions on the effects and impact of arts education, I invite you to come observe any of our in-school residencies. Come witness how the arts engage students in the learning experience, while building skills that will serve them throughout their lives*.

*The arts develop students' cognitive skills and capacities for critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, and innovation, the personal capacities for self-regulation, self-efficacy, self-

expression, and self-motivation, and the social and civic capacities for communication, collaboration and participation in changing societies.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Maggie Costigan

Executive Director / Teaching Artist

Maui Dance Council

(808) 579-9059

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 4:11:58 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Ellen Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807 because it reduces funding for the state arts fund. The arts are a critical component to a healthy society; they express our distinctive identity and create a sense of community. This is an area that needs to grow as one component of our social fabric to bring people together, as well as supports high educational and economic standards.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 4:16:53 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valéry Atkinson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai e honorable Senator Lee and committee members,

I OPPOSE HB1807. As a student, a community member, and caregiver I wholly oppose this bill. The arts are critical to education, to the support of Native Hawaiian lives and livelihoods, the continued uplifting and perpetuation of Hawaii's rich culture, and for the success of our keiki's futures. As a student of the University of Hawaii, and having attended 3 UH campuses, including Leeward Community College, UH West O'ahu, and UH Mānoa, I can say with absolute certainty that the arts were critical to my ability to graduate with honors and receive a masters degree in applied cultural anthropology. Working with and for the Hawaiian community during that time, I have witnessed the arts improve a students ability to succeed, give marginalized communities a space for action, and even save lives, including my own. As the wife of an elementary school art teacher, I can attest to the arts ability to reach out to our keiki in ways other subjects cannot, teaching them lessons that improve their scores in STEM, give them the confidence to improve their grades in all subjects, and support them during times of hardship. As an employee of Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, I know that the arts have always been an intergral part of Hawai'i's culture, and to lose this would be a injustice to all who have contributed to this rich history and to all who have yet to use art as a way to inform, uplift, protect, and enrich. There are endless studies that outline the extensive benefits of the arts, which makes me continue to be baffled that Hawai'i's legislators always look to them as the first to cut. Finally, defunding the arts will do the opposite of help our economy, it will only assist in disabling it in ways that won't be reparable without it.

I strongly urge you to oppose bill HB1807 as its passing would result in a **68% reduction in revenue** for the **art in public places program**, severely impacting government support for numerous arts organizations, programs, and individual artists across hawai'i, the bill argues that the state foundation on culture and the arts (SFCA) "already possesses an adequate collection of artworks, rendering further acquisitions unnecessary." HB1807 seeks to remove "renovations of state building" from the one percent for art law but that would result in a **\$40 million loss to all state arts programs**. As expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

Mahalo piha for taking the time to read this testimony. Please oppose HB1807.

Valery Atkinson, MA Anthropology

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 4:20:03 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ray Morales	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a 4-year resident of Hawaii, I believe there is nothing more important than preserving and protecting the culture and arts of the people of Hawaii. I have to believe that there are a number of other areas in which to cut expenses, if that is indeed the goal.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 4:23:38 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deanne Oi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807. If it passes, the places and organization we count on to engage in art and community will be negatively impacted.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 4:25:41 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ilana Waxman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to any cut in funding for local art and Hawai'i artists. Our island local culture is unique in the world, and urgently needs public support. There is nothing more important to support with our tax dollars. Funding the arts is everyone's kuleana.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 4:26:03 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sidney Lynch	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I adamantly oppose this bill. Art provides people with the opportunity to get away from the stress of today's life environment. It also provides an opportunity for critical evaluation and commentary on current events. The organizations that provide places for artists to gather and do art or show art are already endangered by the ridiculously high rent situation of Hawaii. The State of Hawaii should do more to promote arts organizations and artists. Many artists work with kids in schools or after school programs providing children who have terrible home lives an opportunity to create and develop skills that are not otherwise encouraged. Seniors go to art centers for socialization.

The state should take a building from the DOE and turn it in to an art center. And have a food market to draw tourists. This could be a fantastic plus for Hawaii tourism benefitting the state's bottom line as well as providing Hawaii's artists with visibility. Look at Granville Island in Vancouver Washington or the OXO Tower in London, England, the Torpedo Factory in Virginia.

Children's programs could be done at this facility.

Do some forward thinking and make Hawaii a place where art and artists not only thrive but bring Hawaii onto the world stage for art support and accessibility.

This bill states that SFCA already possesses enough art. New artists are always emerging. Perhaps from time to time the collection needs to be evaluated and rebalanced but there should be continual appropriations of new art and support of artists and the organizations that support artists and the making of art.

Dear Senators,

Local artists and educators vehemently oppose HB 1807 as it seeks to repeal capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings, effectively slashing around 70% of the revenue for the Art in Public Places program. This move would have dire consequences, severely impacting numerous arts organizations, arts education initiatives, outreach programs, and individual artists across the state. Despite attempts in the latest version of the bill to mitigate its negative effects on education and performing arts through appropriation, the proposed funding falls significantly short of compensating for the anticipated losses.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita from Maui, SB 1807 argues that the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) possesses an adequate collection of works of art, deeming further acquisitions unnecessary. If passed, this bill would halt all new commissions and purchases of artworks.

Removing "renovation" from the percent for art law would result in the cessation of vital initiatives, including:

1. **Closure of the Hawaii State Art Museum:** This action would halt all exhibitions and public programs immediately, with the museum repurposed solely for art storage from July 1st onwards.
2. **Impact on Native Hawaiian and Local Artists, Galleries, and Organizations:** Numerous galleries and organizations statewide would suffer, including but not limited to those in Hawaii Island, Maui, Oahu, and Kauai. This includes well-known institutions such as the Donkey Mill Arts Center, Hui Noe'au, and the Maui Arts and Culture Center.
3. **Education Programming:** The elimination of funding would severely affect arts education programs serving 124 public and charter schools across Hawaii. This includes essential initiatives like the Artists in the Schools program, professional development for Department of Education teachers and teaching artists, and various exhibitions and ceremonies for students of different age groups.
4. **Outreach Programs:** Vital outreach programs serving communities such as Kahauiki Village, the Institute for Human Services, and the LGBTQ Legacy Foundation would also face significant setbacks.

The repercussions of passing HB 1807 would be devastating for the cultural landscape of Hawaii, stifling creativity, educational opportunities, and community engagement. Therefore, I strongly urge against its passage.

Thank you kindly,

Faith Stone, Kailua-Kona

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 5:01:49 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Enomoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art is a living part of our community and should be supported so that it enables the creation of new work and more importantly support the education of our keiki. Many public school do not have a full time art teacher which to me is the equivalent of saving on staffing by having a part time English or Math teacher. My opposition is to the cutting of funds that enable our keiki to art and to help make them "whole" humans. A child cannot thrive of STEM alone and thus the new moniker of STEAM..."A" being Art.

As a retired UX designer from Microsoff Corporation, I have seen the impact of working with teams that do not have any empathy for the "A" aspect of making software... yes software and "art" defined as a painting, or sculpture or dance or. Some of the most successful engineers at Microsoft had an empathy for art or design or actually played an instrument in their spare time. The CEO of Sony was a concert violinist. Steve Jobs and Apple are successful not only because of amazing techonolgy and engineering but at the deep DNA of Apple is an understanding AND appreciation of design and beauty.

To cut the arts is to cut the soul out of society and to rob our children the opportunity to access and exercise a portion of their brain that other disciplines do not.

I oppose HB 1807.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 4:43:55 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Ann Harada	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will negatively impact many arts institutions and organizations in Hawaii. I doubt shuttering museums such as Capitol Modern is the intent of the bill, but the loss of revenue if this bill passes will do just that. Find another way to deal with budget issues. Hawaii has been a leader in funding the arts. Don't stop now. We're seeing a powerful resurgence with the voices of Native Hawaiian artists. That must continue. We need our gathering places so this legacy can continue.

March 17th, 2024

Aloha Chair & Committee Members,

I'm an art educator on Hawai'i Island and I'm writing to **strongly oppose HB 1807**. This bill would have a negative impact across all islands, especially outer-island communities where the arts and art education opportunities are limited. The proposed funding cuts would end monetary support for various arts organizations, programs, and artists in Hawai'i.

As an art educator in Hilo, I've witnessed first hand the positive impact the arts have on my students and local community. Organizations like the East Hawai'i Cultural Center have enhanced art education experiences for my students and it's crucial for these programs to continue receiving support. This bill would also end support for professional development opportunities for Department of Education teachers like myself. The arts are embedded in Native Hawaiian and local culture and we need to continue supporting art and art education efforts in our community.

I urge you to consider how HB 1807 would detrimentally impact the arts, culture, and youth of Hawai'i. Mahalo for this opportunity to submit my testimony.

ʻO wau iho nō (Sincerely),

Ellen Zanetos

Ellen Zanetos
DOE Art Educator
Hilo, Hawai'i

Aloha,

I am writing to provide testimony in opposition of HB 1807, HD1. I have received my Bachelors in Creative Media and will be graduating with my Masters in Social Work. I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of the arts in our communities. Cutting back on public services to balance the budget does not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring to all islands.

Arts are crucial in education and beyond. Art fosters creativity, critical thinking, and interdisciplinary connections. STEAM, which integrates music, visual arts, and drama into daily STEM instruction, is particularly impactful, as it has been shown to enhance student achievement in STEM subjects. This integration acknowledges that creative, real-world problem-solving mirrors the work of scientists and mathematicians. David Sousa (2018) indicate that by engaging with the arts, students learn to approach challenges with innovative perspectives, communicate effectively, and gain a deeper understanding of complex concepts. This holistic approach not only equips students with essential skills for success but also prepares them for diverse career paths where creativity and technical expertise are equally valued. Promoting the arts in education enriches learning experiences, cultivates well-rounded individuals, and contributes to a more dynamic and innovative society.

Moreover, access to the arts is essential for equitable and inclusive communities. Arts education enhances learning outcomes, promotes cultural understanding, and bridges socioeconomic divides. By ensuring that all individuals have access to artistic experiences, regardless of their background or circumstances, we can foster a more vibrant, cohesive, and resilient society. This proposed bill amendment would diminish a portion of the revenue allocated to the Art in Public Places program, potentially harming or eliminating government assistance for numerous arts organizations, initiatives, and individual artists across the state.

With these considerations, I urge you to prioritize funding for the arts and allocate resources to support a diverse range of artistic endeavors, including visual arts, performing arts, literary arts, and cultural heritage.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Rachelle Kozuma
MSW Candidate, May 2024
UH Manoa - Thompson School of Social Work

Sousa, David A., and Thomas Pilecki. From STEM to STEAM : Brain-Compatible Strategies and Lessons That Integrate the Arts. 2nd edition., Corwin, 2018.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 5:26:43 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel A. Kelin, II	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"The life of the arts, far from being an interruption, a distraction, in the life of a nation, is very close to the center of a nation's purpose...and is a test of the quality of a nation's civilization." - John F. Kennedy, LOOK magazine, 'The Arts in America' December 18, 1962.

I oppose HB1807. If it passes, we will have failed the 'test of the quality of a nation's civilization.' This bill stems partially on the mistaken assumption that the state already has enough art in its possession, funded by the one percent law. For those who spend much of their time in the state capital, maybe. For those who wander about downtown, possibly. However, those mistaken assumptions ignore a sizable constituency that regularly benefits from, and will be the most negatively affected by, the potential passing of this bill. Children.

Nearly half of of Hawai'i's public and charter schools receive arts programming because of the one percent allocation. Cutting back on that allocation would mean that thousands of Hawai'i's children would be deprived of direct, interactive, targeted arts experiences that are otherwise not available to them. As Kennedy points out in his quote, the arts sit at the core of who we are as a nation, as a state, and as a society, as well as culturally defining who we are as a people. The arts are about humanity. Creative work in the classroom helps each child become a more balanced, engaged individual who will grow into an impassioned community contributor. Considering the difficultied faced by many in our community due to recent disasters, the arts are needed more than ever to help heal and give us a way to reach out in direct support of each other.

The one percent allocation has provided the state with a great number of artworks and art opportunities. But diminishing the allocation will negatively affect those most vulnerable and who most benefit from the annual experiences supported by that funding. The funding isn't about the art that is in storage or already hanging on the walls in the capital. The funding is about children in rural and neighbor island spaces that benefit from the visiting of a live artist who inspires them.

Avoid relying on mistaken assumptions and instead rise to pass the test that Kennedy set us so long ago. Vote against HB1807 to demonstrate that we are a state that values the arts because we value the many, many children who benefit from artistically inspiring experiences.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 5:27:36 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Kimoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was born and raised on Maui, a beneficiary of an arts education and community that has shaped my secondary education, college path, and now career. Growing up, I was constantly inspired by art shows and field trips at the MACC, an arts-integrated education at Pomaikai Elementary, trained by a DOE teacher with over four decades of service, and validated by programs such as Hui Noeau's Malama Wao Akua and Scholastic Art Exhibition.

As much as the arts have impacted me, I am not an artist. I do not work in the fine arts field. I am an engineer. I create infrastructure such as roads and utilities, seemingly so different than strokes of paint on a canvas or a meticulously carved sculpture, yet I believe suggesting that the work of the SFCA is redundant, that there is a surplus of art, and that the renovations work is not needed is a misdirected effort.

As someone involved in the construction and engineering field, I understand the logistics of construction. But I also understand the importance of place, culture, beauty, and responsibility. Art is crucial to providing a sense of community amongst all who encounter it, therefore increasing longevity and purpose for everyone. This bill will impact multiple organizations, small businesses, individual artists, and larger industries including hospitality and education. Countless jobs, inspiration for young students, and the sense of place in many prevalent places are on the line. I do believe there must be an alternative to your goals for this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts and for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Julia Kimoto

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 5:28:32 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Landreau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art in Public Places funding is crucial to support the expression of Hawaiian culture, especially the training of keiki in unique Hawaiian cultural values. This funding has added incredible value to our Hawaiian society and we urge continued support for the Art in Public Places Program. Strongly oppose HB1807. Mahalo.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 5:29:27 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Littenberg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art education for young people is vital to their emotional maturation, socialization and overall education. This bill takes away thi.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 5:43:37 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1807 HD2!

Mahalo,

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 5:48:30 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristine Kubat	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts provides an essential service to the people of Hawaii. If passed, this bill will lead to unwarranted impacts on Hawaii's arts and culture community across a variety of disciplines.

A robust and thriving arts and culture sector contributes to Hawaii's economy in ways that generate a strong return on every dollar invested it.

I ask all member of this committee to vote against this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 5:50:00 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DAYNA M BEAMER	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While we understand budget constraints this session, the bill to cut Arts funding is far too drastic and will really hurt local communities. For example, Kahilu Theater in Kamuela is an important gathering place for our local families. More, Arts programs for children should not be cut at all.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 5:58:58 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerry Warren	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Oppose HB1807. Why? Because we know that the majority of the state funding appropriations for capital improvements are for renovations, not for new construction. This bill would dramatically reduce the little state funding provided for the arts. A strong arts support program is essential to attract high level successful people and businesses to the State, and without these businesses and high level people, the economy and the tax base suffers. So, bottom line, cut funding for one thing that attracts successful people to the state and you cut the tax revenue generated. And, therefore, the passing of this bill will COST MORE REVENUE to the State that it saves. We really do not want to be one of those states. JUST SAY NO to HB1807. Mahalo

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 6:05:49 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
matt hoyme	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is so important. Art is the foundation of humanity. Of human connection. Of human expression. If this bill gets passed, everyone loses. The kids lose out on culture. They lose out on experience that we as humans need. To have art in our lives, in our public spaces is so vital for the health of our community. Please do not pass this bill into law. Please do the right thing for our keiki. Mahalos for listening.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 6:05:56 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron L Hansen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 6:14:27 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Coppings	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. As expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

Anyone who thinks these tax dollars do not benefit them, or their communities, does not understand how the arts work and how their benefits spread. Art programming is not only about the moment in which is happens. The benefits spiral out from the direct people involved to their families and ohana, to friends of families, to their friends and on and on... We learn to creatively problem-solve, safely take risks, and how to edit and to constructively give feedback. We learn to look, observe, and notice more and more. We learn how to connect to our culture, others' cultures, and be more responsive and resilient in the face of our differences and difficulties. We learn how to be human with depth and empathy. These are skills our communities rely on in order to function and to thrive.

Taking away this funding means losing some of the fundamental programs and institutions that make up the creative centers of Hawai'i. People will lose jobs, and children will lose connections with adults who care and help support them. I strongly oppose HD1807 HD2 as a community member, arts worker, and voter.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 6:18:43 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karly Tangonan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As someone who appreciates and contributes to the art scene on the island, I think that this bill would only do harm. Art is a fundamental aspect of life and it's the thing that everyone turns to in the end. For the art community here to suffer a blow like that which would result from the passing of this bill, I think that it would be detrimental.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 6:19:16 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Morlee Walters	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art in public places is an important part of any vital community. Through the decades of this allotment of 1% of new buildings' cost for commissioning artists to enhance the architecture with their creations that many of us have been exposed to works by our local artists. Please do not stop providing for this fund which supports the perpetuation of public local art in our community.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 6:26:05 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andree Paradis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an Oahu public school art educator and strong supporter of the arts (music and theatre, and visual) offered at the State "Capitol Art Museum", I was deeply disappointed hearing about this Bill 1807 and how it's written cutting the important funds that are needed to sustain the museums operation!

What a very sad proposal that the person who thought of writing this Bill, surely does not understand how extremely significant the arts can contribute towards making a positive difference in a persons life and/or community!!!

Please do not pass this Bill 1807!

Quite the opposite....and rather please SUPPORT THE ARTS and realize how wonderful The Capitol Museum and other local art venues are so appreciated by our State of Hawaii community!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 6:30:09 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JU YOUNG LEE	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I go to this museum at least once a month. It provides so much art inspiration to me. Please keep this museum sustainable even prosperous.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 6:34:00 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Shun	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representative Yamashita and members of the committee:

I am Hannah Shun, a teaching artist. For 17 years, I have taught art to all age groups, especially children. I have personally had the privilege of observing the huge impact that art education has on children's positive development: social and emotional stability, fostering self-esteem, enhancing critical thinking and confidence, and gaining hands-on skills.

Therefore, arts education and arts for children make Hawaii's future brighter. Please do not darken Hawaii's future by defunding the arts program through House Bill 1807. I strongly oppose this bill.

Thank you,

Hannah Shun

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 6:34:22 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rochelle Dela Cruz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an artist, I want to deeply express that we should encourage and support more art, not limit it. After reading HB1807 HD2, it leaves me asking more questions than having answers. Art has so much value to the community that if we were to eliminate capital improvements, where would the current artists/ art go? Why does the state find they have a surplus of artwork in storage for current and future use but nowhere to display it? For outer islands, which lack museums, galleries, and organizations, how will they be affected? Art allows so many of us to freely express, educate, share, and have others resonate with our stories, why would we not allow current Native Hawaiians and local artists to continue to have their work seen? Cutting art out of Hawaii will have a major impact on the current generation, but also on the next generation of artists. Passing HB1807 HD2 will affect all Hawaii artists and the spaces/organizations that support their art.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 6:40:14 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 6:43:25 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anderson Le	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. As expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body." Government support for numerous arts organizations, programs, and individual artists across Hawai'i is crucial in the diverification of locals and Native Hawaiian perspectives and artistic expressions about our home. They are crucial to education and showcasing that Hawai'i's creative industries, in all its forms and disciplines, are important to the cultural and economic framework of our State. Aside from teaching crtical thinking and language, it showcases the rich tapestries of Hawai'i ans Native Hawaiian artists. It is already a tenuous ecosystem and these programs and institutions are the foundations of the State's unique art and culture scene.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 6:46:37 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mina Hostrop	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 6:52:07 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Gleim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

The arts are our future, and for future generations. I greatly OPPOSE HB 1807!!!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 6:53:40 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnny mclaughlin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It will hurt hawaii art community.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 6:59:28 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenina Amoguis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 7:03:04 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kylie Redican	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear committee members,

I am submitting this testimony in OPPOSITION of HB 1807, on the basis that passing this bill will severely harm Native Hawaiian and local artists. Art is a necessity, not a luxury.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 7:10:25 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts committee,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever to create economic diversity. The ARTS mean BUSINESS!

This bill would ERADICATE the 'Art in Public Places' program. It would also end support for professional development for all 'DOE' teachers. It would negatively impact thirteen art centers, and eight organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with numerous outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. Please don't short change our keiki!

Sincerely,

R A Culbertson

Honokaa

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 7:18:07 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 7:19:24 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jen May Pastores	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Jen May Pastores. I am a photographer, writer, mentor, and a director of education at HIFF. When I was a high school student growing up in Honolulu it was music and art that put me on a path to imagine more for myself. I strongly believe that art is integral to who I am and should be also for our society to thrive.

I strongly oppose HB1807. It is crucial to support Public Programming in Education and the Arts and to support Native Hawaiian and local artists, exhibitions, and galleries like that of the Capitol Modern - Hawai'i State Art Museum. This bill puts many organizations at risk in serving the community and would affect programming significantly, especially for public and charter schools and the youth of Hawai'i. As someone who works with schools through the education programs at HIFF, I know first-hand the importance of how any medium of art and storytelling can positively influence and change a student's life which ultimately contributes to the well-being of our community.

As expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "Art and education is the same. It makes a person aware. And that's what education's all about. So whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. It's the same body." Please do not pass HB1807.

Sincerely,
Jen May Pastores

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 7:34:22 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carissa Miyamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Carissa Miyamoto and I strongly urge you not to hear bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact my career, income, and funding for the arts programs at my school, Mililani 'Ike Elementary.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Aloha,

Carissa Miyamoto

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 7:43:08 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne Levin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing in opposition to HB 1807, HD2. This bill is a mean spirited attack on the entire arts community of Hawaii. It is also an attack on the Native Hawaiian community's ability to perpetuate their culture. It would drastically cut support for the arts, and make it much more difficult for Hawaii's artists to practice their art. I feel that the authors of this bill are completely unaware of the importance of the arts, and the perpetuation of native Hawaiian culture, in Hawaii's maintaining the beauty of Hawaii, and its culture.

This bill would shut down the ability of the HSFCA to purchase new art for its collection, saying that HSFCA already has enough art in its collection. Are the authors of this bill so unaware of the importance of the art that is being done now, as well as the art of future generations? This bill may also force the closure of the Hawaii State Art Museum. The lack of foresight and caring in this bill is breathtaking. I urge you all to vote against HB 1807, HD2.

ALOHA

My name is Gunda Nollenberger, and I am writing today as a concerned citizen to testify in opposition of HB1807 `Relating to the Works of Art Special Fund` and I am in support of leaving the fund as is.

As I understand it, the proposed wording of H.B. No. 1807 repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the Works of Art Special Fund. This bill would cut 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and initiatives statewide.

The elimination of “renovations” from the percent for art law would cut and eliminate support for the following:

- the Hawaii State Art Museum (Capitol Modern) – all exhibitions and public program would end immediately;
- cutting monetary support for native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries and organizations

Education programming:

- Artists in the schools’ arts education program, serving 124 public and charter schools statewide
- Professional development for DOE teachers
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony
- Hawaii Arts Alliance support

Oahu

Downtown Art Center
Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage

Organization:

Pu’uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary
Hawaii Watercolor Society
Honolulu Printmakers
Honolulu Theatre for Youth
Hawaii Handweavers Hui
Hula Preservation Society
NOTAE

Outreach programs:

Kahauiki Village
Institute for Human Services
RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
Family Friendly Programming for LGBTQ populations
LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Firsthand, I experience how excited our community is, whether they are artists or people enjoying the works of art, to get together at Capitol Modern's special events. Why would anyone try to jeopardize this opportunity of gathering and exchange, let alone laughter and conversation shared in person?

Giving artists the opportunity to present their work and audiences to experience creative ideas expressed in art forms makes our world as a whole, and Hawaii in particular, a culturally richer place. Art is not always tangible, but it inspires people in so many different ways. We need innovative concepts to explore new avenues to move forward, think outside the box, and feel positive about the place we all share and most of us call home. From my experience, museums are places of interest when filled with people (life!) who get to meet artists and get involved with the arts, including events after hours. Buildings, rooms and walls provide the platform for conversation.

The arts cannot exist in a space that lacks an outlet to give it expression. A drastic cut in funding would dramatically shift the landscape and diminish people's enriching experiences with the arts.

We are in desperate need of vision and visionaries.

MAHALO

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 7:52:20 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reyn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 7:52:35 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Tanimoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am wholeheartedly AGAINST bill 1807! We should vigorously protect the arts, for without the arts, we have no culture and without culture we will loose the essence of what makes Hawaii stand out in ways that matter. Let's not make shortsighted decisions at the expense of the essence of who we are!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:00:58 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raf	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The bill unnecessarily guts the creative departments here in Hawai'i, creating a closed door for those who want to pursue the arts here in the islands.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:01:09 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Veronica	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art is essential to our daily interactions and in curating fond memories and conversations. This should always have a place in Hawaii, keep art funded

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:04:33 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noah	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It would be devastating to have HB1807 pass for all residents. The funding allocated for art as is allows for diverse opportunities to engage community, cultivate creativity and education. This specifically, in the case of capital modern (formerly and still known as the STATE ART MUSEUM), is important to allow these funds to stay where they so that special programming for keiki that oppritunities to engage with art, show art and learn about art, which enriches life. Passing this bill will be fundamentally wrong and detrimental to the community bond that art helps cultivate. I urge you to not pass this bill and think about why opprtunities for arts programming, contemporary shows, and local artist showcases is not something to be defunded. Thank you.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:05:04 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ewa Moscicka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill HB1807 because there is no equivalent alternate funding specified to replace the money that will get cut if this bill passes. The artists, art educators and cultural institutions that rely on the current funding are a crucial part of the art scene in Hawaii. Losing this source of funding would be absolutely devastating for the local artistic community and the public that benefits from it.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:07:15 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Andrade	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1807.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:11:21 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
EDWIN USHIRO	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a child growing up in the island of Maui, all I wanted to do is draw. I was lucky enough to be invited in the art enrichment program at Wailuku Elementary School. It offered me opportunities to experience the many forms of art. My passion continued to grow as I took more art classes in Iao Intermediate School and at Baldwin High School. At Baldwin, I had the opportunity to participate and compete in art programs like the Scholastic Awards, Art Maui and Sterling Scholar Awards. Presenting my work at the Maui Arts and Cultural Center was definitely a highlight. These programs gave me the encouragement to pursue a career in art. It exposed me to other students who were like-minded, built a community and gave us all access to art professionals who were supporting the next generation of artists. This would never be possible if it were not for the support of the state and government. And if this fund never existed, I would not be writing to you as a professional artist that is able to do what I love as a career by sharing my childhood growing up on Maui and ghost stories through illustrations. These opportunities allowed me to see how I can support the next generation of artists. And as a faculty member at the Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles and lecturing at the Art Center College of Design, the Liliuokalani Trust and the Honolulu Museum of Art, I am passing forward the encouragement and knowledge that was given to me. Continuing to fund art will enrich lives and build communities.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:16:32 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce L Hultgren	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to strongly oppose HB 1807. This ill-advised bill would greatly reduce the Art in Public Places Program and negatively impacts our public schools and DOE teachers. Art programs in our state are grossly underfunded (as are almost all programs) and this would make that situation worse. Our keiki deserve better, as do our teachers.

Please oppose this bill.

Respectfully,

Bruce L Hultgren MD

Kailua

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:23:08 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Affinito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a visitor from New Jersey. I took my first ever flight in my life solo from there to here. My experience from the moment I've landed has been incredible. Fortunately I'm blessed with a dear loving friend who's been super generous, kind, and considerate who invited me down to visit for a week.

The lifestyle, culture, art, music, everything that makes humans great and unique has been phenomenal. I'm taken away with how rich the culture is here and I admire it. Art is one of those things in life that makes the world go round and brings people closer together. From my time here I can attest that I've met good people through my friend who invited me down thru Art and Music. This is something I truly believe should be supported in the fullest. In a world that's becoming dim, Hawai'i possesses something special within its history and it would be a shame to see the Arts funding get cut. As an outsider I don't know how much this will help. I testify that the funding needs to remain untouched and supported throughout time. Art is important and without it, humanity would be missing something crucial to thrive. I hope that compromise is achieved. Mahalo. -Chris

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:27:08 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Wynne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill . Do not hear it in the Senat4e.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 8:21:11 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
asia lanoway	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm not good at this. I will just say how art out in public, inside public places and all the programs that are available to the public means so so much to my family and to my sanity. It's really pulled me out of some serious difficult moments throughout my life. Being around and participating in art has really helped my family and especially my brother with special needs. Mahalo for your time.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:27:21 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carlene Keller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am vehemently opposed to this bill & do not hear it in the Senate.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:28:00 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gertrude Koszarek	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill. Please stop this bill. Do not hear it in the senate It is not good for the state and especially our youth.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:37:15 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chloe Kaneshige	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:37:21 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maile Yawata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an artist, arts educator and concerned citizen of Hawaii, I strongly oppose HB1807. We are going through difficult times on our island state as well as nationally and globally. Children especially are affected negatively by the turmoil. Please, do not pass HB1807. Instead, continue to provide those funds necessary to enrich educational curriculum through the Artists in the Schools program, Art Bento, and Professional Development in Art for Teachers, Scholastic Art Exhibition, etc. Art can be therapeutic! I have seen children being 'saved' in finding some freedom they needed in an art activity. It is very much needed at this time.

Do everything you can to promote our unique position in the world through our multi-cultures, through the arts. Our museums, multiple smaller arts organizations, provide the life blood of our island state.

Respectfully,

Maile M. Yawata

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:39:25 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aiko Yamashiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I write to oppose HB1807. The 1% from original and renovation construction has helped to create a strong and reliable foundation for statewide arts, cultural, and education resources and programming. It has been a mechanism for the State to prove it values the soul and beauty of our community, and has the responsibility to care for these elements into the future.

Although the recent amendment to HB1807 appropriates a set amount for performing and educational arts, it will not come close to matching the loss of the cut. It also leaves arts funding vulnerable to additional future cuts, depending on the politics of the moment.

Many nonprofit, govt organizations, and individuals throughout Hawai‘i depend on SFCA for funding, educational resources, and professional development. If a change needs to be made to the funding of the arts, it is important to work closely with SFCA and the many community stakeholders to find a way forward.

The educational programs that will be affected by this cut include:

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Art Bento Museum Education Program
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade 7-12
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6
- Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support

What we have learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and from the Maui wildfires is that art and culture are not luxuries, but absolutely essential to our health, well-being, and ability to recover from crisis. Investing in the arts means investing in a resilient and thriving community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:45:46 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jhalak Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to demand that the Senate Committee on Transportation Culture and the Arts dismiss/not hear the House Bill 1807. This bill will be devastating to the livelihoods for our local communities.

Here are the reasons why House Bill 1807 should be eliminated/not heard and the funding should remain:

BENEFITS FOR SOCIETY

Economic Drivers: The arts create jobs and produce tax revenue. A strong arts sector is an economic asset that stimulates business activity, attracts tourism and expands a state’s work force and tax base. The arts have been shown to be a successful and sustainable strategy for revitalizing rural areas, cities and populations struggling with poverty.

Educational Assets: The arts cultivate young imaginations and facilitate success in school, enhancing academic achievement in multiple subject areas. They provide the critical thinking, communications and innovation skills essential to a productive 21st century workforce.

Civic Catalysts: The arts create a welcoming sense of place and a desirable quality of life. The arts also support strong democracy, engaging citizens in civic discourse, providing forums for important issues and encouraging collective problem solving.

Cultural Legacies: The arts preserve culture and heritage, passing along our state’s unique character, diverse cultures, and traditions to future generations of citizens.

BENEFITS FOR PUBLIC POLICY

The arts improve the impact of other state policies and services. Numerous states have incorporated the arts into economic revitalization, education, literacy, work-force development, tourism, community sustainability, social service and veterans-care plans.

The arts are a dynamic contributor to the small-business sector. The creative industries are composed of many talented workers who are self-employed, freelancers or employed by microenterprises. According to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) analysis of U.S.

Census occupational data, artists are nearly 3.5 times more likely than the total U.S. work force to be self-employed (33.6% vs. 9.8%). Many nonprofit arts organizations, too, are small businesses and play an important role in training creative workers and incubating artistic enterprises.

The arts make communities vibrant, welcoming and desirable. Cultural places and events are magnetic, attracting not only artists but also families, travelers and businesses. Creative placemaking—the gravitational effect of culture on neighborhoods—positively impacts local economies and quality of life. It creates jobs and stimulates commercial traffic, all of which leverage neighborhood revitalization, attract diverse populations and strengthen communities. Capitalizing on these effects of creative placemaking requires strong public-sector support.

The arts are a hallmark of innovation. The arts are part of creative capacity, spurring innovation and generating unique products and services. Creativity is part of any competitive edge in the global marketplace, where distinctive design and effective communications can spell the success or failure of a business or policy venture.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:51:44 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Seikai Darcy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose bill HB 1807 HD2.

Mahalo,

Lisa Darcy

Kula, Maui, HI

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:54:48 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
HeNaniNoOeKaWahineUioIkePono Wandakan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha committee members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on HB1807 HD2. The reduction of funding for the arts will bring negative impacts on our society in the future. Our kānaka maoli and local artists, organizations, and programs will be affected by the lack of support/funding. This is also detrimental as the next generation will have limited access programs that educate and perpetuate Hawaiian and other cultures.

I urge you not to pass this bill.

Mahalo,

HeNaniNoOeKaWahineUioIkePono Wandasan

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 8:58:38 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bailey Onaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I vehemently oppose this bill as the arts are crucial to the wellbeing of our community. Several of our schools are already in major crisis of having minimal / to absolutely no presence of art teachers or programs in the classroom. I would not be an aspiring illustrator today if it weren't for all the opportunities I received as a child growing up in Maui. Opportunities that were funded by representatives that cared for healthy means of expression. Now more than ever children need the arts to comprehend, let alone process the devastating events of the past few years. Local artists who were born and raised here, are struggling to get by. And these individuals have a unique sense of place by having roots here in Hawaii. There are little to no opportunities for these local artists to showcase their work. Artists document history and are able to convey our community voices in a variety of media. Who will tell our stories when our venues and resources are defunded and even forced to shut down?

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 9:12:37 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Frasier	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I am writing to oppose the passing of HB 1807. As a public school educator in the state of Hawaii for over 12 years, I have seen firsthand the benefits that this funding has done for our keiki. The artist in the school program Has allowed teachers to partner with Artists to bring enriching curriculum into the classroom that allows for connection and deeper understanding. The arts are a vital part of a child's education. As an art educator myself, I see firsthand the importance of allowing students the outlet to be creative and explore their artistic side. Losing this funding would be a major detriment to our keiki that gain so much from this funding. As an artist and art teacher, I am always so proud to be able to tell people about the exceptional public arts programs that we have here in Hawaii. The art in public places program is something to be celebrated not drastically cut. I personally know many artists who have their work in public places around Oahu, and in the Capitol Modern museum. This program helps to create a livelihood for artists in Hawaii. The Hawaiian culture celebrates art and community. Passing this bill would mean that the legislature believes that supporting Hawaiian arts and culture is unimportant. I respectfully ask that you oppose this bill.

Mahalo,

Leslie Frasier

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 9:21:04 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lahela Maio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of this bill, as a young Native Hawaiian adult just recently graduating from college. Cutting the funding which supports our local and cultural arts will greatly diminish and displace the beauty, diversity, and educational value of our Hawaiian culture and communities. There is extreme value and impact in showcasing what makes Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i, through the ways in which they were first portrayed, which is art. As a hula dancer and speaker of Hawaiian language, numerous aspects of the Hawaiian culture can only be fully shown and understood through art, whether it be in the form of dance or singing, or fashion and paintings. It is imperative that we as an island and local community to perpetuate and upkeep the original and right ways of exhibiting and performing our indigenous heritage; the way our ancestors had intended it to be. Local non-profits and groups which fund and provide these services have become and continue to operate as the modern-day bridge of the past to our present future. And without our culture and arts, we are no longer what Hawai‘i truly is.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 9:21:46 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Gere	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am just SHOCKED!

I understand that the Lahaina fire requires funds= lots of funds, but gutting the ARTS to cover

another tragedy is NOT the solution. This bill can only have come from someone who never got the arts training being eliminated in the schools as a child or this bill would never exist. It is the arts we need for our children EXACTLY now, facing new challenges & changes. The Arts teach people to be resilient & resourceful, which is how I hope the Legislature will be WITHOUT cutting off funding for the arts... without limit... forever. HUH? To do so is to provoke a NEW catastrophe - made by YOU, the legislature. No no no. The 1% for the arts is not a huge sum for the bang of services given to the entire school system, and it is an especially paltry sum given to performing arts! I vote, I am watching, and I am vocal. I love the arts in our life, and I love the State Art Museum! I deeply oppose this House Bill 1807. Ask me & I will rant further- NO NO NO!

Very Sincerely. I am watching this.

Jeff Gere

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 9:27:12 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cyndy LaPorte	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

o Whom it May Concern,

I am a grandmother of two grandchildren. One of them shows the propensity for drawing, and she is only two years old. She has already been to Downtown Art Center, where she is mesmerized by paintings. We have been taking her regularly to see various exhibitions.

If HB 1807 were to pass, and public places were to be shut down, what should we tell her?

We need to really prioritize our values and ensure that they get passed along. The children of the future need to be given the opportunity to see and feel the importance of art. It is essential for our well being.

I oppose HB 1807.

Thank you,
Cyndy LaPorte

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 9:52:46 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Nanbu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807.

I believe we need to preserve that capital improvement program appropriations for the renovation of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:05:00 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Van Heukelem	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Please **vote no** on HB1807 to ensure the Works of Art Special Fund remains intact.

I worked for the SFCA for the first 14 years (1989-2004) of my career. I was first contracted as an art installer, then the first collections manager, and acting public art manager through the opening of the Hawai‘i State Art Museum (HiSAM). I believe in the visionary concept of the original Art in State Buildings Law, or 1% for art. From SFCA website -

The works of art special fund shall be used **solely** for the following:

1. Costs related to the acquisition of works of art, including any consultant or staff services required to carry out the art in public places and relocatable works of art programs;
2. Site modifications, display, and interpretive work necessary for the exhibition of works of art;
3. Upkeep services, including maintenance, repair, and restoration of works of art;
4. Storing and transporting works of art.

Preserve and honor the intent of the 1% for art law. Over the past 10 years, 1% funds established for visual arts of permanent and lasting value have been increasingly diverted beyond the original and stated purpose to contracted curation, private management of the museum, performing arts, and unnecessary rebranding. Shift focus to rebuilding the integrity of the agency and programs through recruitment and retention of qualified staff.

New state buildings continue to be created and each major project deserves site specific commissioned art, integrated into the building fabric or given thoughtful placement. Public art should continue to be created to enhance buildings and enrich the public, visitors, and staff. The Art in Public Places portable and commissioned art require sustained funding for professional stewardship, conservation treatment and ongoing maintenance to preserve our shared cultural heritage.

Rather than cut funding for the arts, it is critical to retain visual arts funding for the Art in Public Places Program through the 1% for art and dedicate additional, **separate** and sustained funding for the performing arts in Hawai‘i.

Artists engage with issues, inspire creativity and enrich our lives. Arts are vital to healing communities; they are critical to the health and wellness of society.

Mahalo for your consideration and dedication to serving for the betterment of our community and the arts in Hawai'i.

Malia Van Heukelem, Kaneohe

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:05:58 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeremy Richards	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. This bill would decimate the creation and maintenance of art in Hawai'i. It's hard enough for artists to survive in Hawai'i as it is. Art is creativity. Art is Soul. Without creaivity, without soul, Hawai'i becomes bland concrete and asphalt. Utilitarian. Who would want to come to see that? What happens to all the culturally priceless art curated by the state? It gets auctioned off to greedy investors, to the highest bidder? Please support Art in Hawai'i!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:08:44 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsay Terkelsen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear TCA and WAM Committee Members and Legislators,

I write to express my **strong opposition** to the proposed amendments in **HB1807**, which threaten to undermine the vital support and funding for the arts in our communities. As someone deeply immersed in the arts, both as a patron and an artist, I understand the profound impact that the arts have on our lives. My family and friends regularly visit public places to enjoy the art on display, and it plays a significant role in enhancing our quality of life.

Furthermore, as an artist myself, I recognize the importance of the funding provided to support artists and showcase their work. This funding not only sustains individual artists but also bolsters small arts organizations, ensuring that culturally relevant spaces exist for the display and sharing of their creations.

It is disheartening to witness the dismissal of **over 240 testimonies from constituents opposing** this bill. These voices represent a collective concern for the preservation and promotion of the arts in our communities, and it is imperative that they are acknowledged and respected.

Living on Hawai'i Island, I am acutely aware of the disproportionate impact these amendments will have on out-island educational and art programs. The outer islands rely heavily on equitable support to thrive culturally and artistically, and **any cuts to funding will severely limit opportunities** in these communities.

The proposed amendment to replace "renovation" with "construction" in the law threatens the State Foundation for Culture and Arts (SFCA) budget, impacting our children and communities across the islands. By shifting the focus to construction, this bill **risks diverting resources away from preserving existing cultural assets** and undermining educational programming on the outer islands.

Neglecting the arts not only undermines our collective well-being but also diminishes our ability to cultivate a rich and diverse cultural landscape. It is essential that we prioritize the preservation and promotion of the arts for the betterment of our society as a whole. **Thus, I urge you to oppose HB1807.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:49:20 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Walter Greenwood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807 HD2 in the strongest possible terms. The arts have already suffered too much.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:13:16 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jean Nishimura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807.

As expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

Having been a teacher in the public schools for 35 years I could not agree more with Mr. Yokouchi. The arts were always the vehicle through which my students learned basic skills as well as about the world around them.

I am opposed to any measure that will take away from our State's arts programs.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:16:18 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roselani Oga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do NOT pass this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:19:55 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alec Bayer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Funding for art is important to the well being of the community and should not be cut.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:58:31 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Sherer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please reconsider cutting funds for arts organizations, including capital improvements. In my community in South Kona, Hawaii County, we have few resources and one in particular, the South Kona Society for the Arts, provides meaningful activities and programs. Since the COVID pandemic, they have struggled to restart inperson activities and need support to continue with their service to the community. As an historical site, it has been lively and engaging for decades, including learning opportunities for preschool age children as well as adults and senior citizens. Programs include cultural activities, physical exercises, and visual arts. I will appreciate your consideration of the importance and resilience that arts education offers the people of Hawaii.

Sincerely, Alice Sherer

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:21:15 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aja Toscano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a member of the public, specifically the arts community here in Honolulu, I am writing to show my strong opposition to Bill HB1807 HD2 as it aims to eliminate capital improvement appropriations for state building renovations, endangering the funding source for the works of art special fund.

This threatens the existence of Capitol Modern (Hawai'i State Art Museum), public programs, and undermines support for Native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries, and organizations. These types of institutions are a pillar to support full-time/part-time artists and the next generation of artists here in Hawai'i. And this isn't just about visual artists; it impacts musicians, performers, cultural practitioners, educators, and beyond.

As we see time and time again, arts and culture programs are always first to financial cuts. However, these vital programs are what our communities most. Your opposition to HB1807 HD2 is vital for preserving arts and culture and avoiding widespread harm in Hawai'i's art economy.

Mahalo nui,

Aja Toscano

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:36:18 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Bisquera	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please OPPOSE HB1807. It would cut an estimated 68% of funding for the SFCA Art in Public Places Program, which includes the Hawai'i State Art Museum, arts education programs for public schools, and professional development for public school teachers. This would be completely unacceptable and devastating to our arts community. Thank you for your consideration.

The Honorable Chris Lee
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: **Please OPPOSE HB1807**

Dear Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1807 (HB1807), HD2, "Relating to the Works of Art Special Fund." As someone who has long benefited from the arts in Hawaii, I believe that this bill poses a significant threat to the vitality of the arts in our community and undermines important initiatives that enrich our state's cultural landscape.

HB1807 seeks to revoke Capital Improvement appropriations for state building renovations, diverting funds from the SFCA Works of Art Special Fund. This diversion of funds would have devastating consequences for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) and its crucial programs aimed at promoting art and culture throughout our state.

One of the most alarming aspects of this bill is its potential impact on the SFCA Art in Public Places Program. By cutting an estimated 68% of funding for this program, HB1807 would severely limit the SFCA's ability to carry out its mission of enhancing public spaces with meaningful works of art. This reduction in funding would directly affect projects like Capitol Modern (Hawai'i State Art Museum), which serves as a beacon of cultural expression and community engagement.

Furthermore, the proposed cuts would also have a detrimental effect on arts education in our public schools. The SFCA Art in Public Places Program supports arts education programs for public schools and provides essential professional development opportunities for public school teachers. By slashing funding for these initiatives, HB1807 would deprive our students of valuable opportunities to explore their creativity and engage with the arts.

It is essential to note that many individuals have voiced its strong opposition to this bill in previous hearings. Additionally, as a respected authority on matters of art and culture in our state, the SFCA's concerns should not be taken lightly.

In conclusion, I urge you to reject HB1807 and to uphold the important work of the SFCA in promoting the arts in our community. The arts play a vital role in enriching our lives, fostering creativity, and building vibrant communities. We cannot afford to undermine these critical initiatives that contribute to the cultural fabric of our state. Thank you for considering my concerns on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. J. i." or similar, written in a cursive style.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:36:59 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Stadnyk	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Victoria Stadnyk, I am a resident of Kauai; and submitting my testimony in strong opposition to HB 1807.

Funding for arts is crucial for Hawaii; and cutting funds would be devastating. The loss would adversely affect all of us; not just the statewide artists, galleries, schools, organizations, special programs and projects that greatly depend on support.

All arts are woven into the fabric of who we are as individuals and a society. Cutting funds tears at the fabric of our creative expression, Hawaiian culture and history; as well as greatly limiting accessibility to, and preservation of, the diversity of arts across our islands.

Mahalo for considering my testimony in opposition to HB 1807.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:44:18 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Cronin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an artist but especially as a new parent, I cannot stress enough the extreme Value of arts in the role of child and human development. So many social, interpersonal, community, and self-reflective / healthy developmental skills come from the arts and nowhere else.

One does not have to pursue a career in the Arts to appreciate the hugely great benefit to the well rounded, educationally successful emotionally intelligent human and child we all wish we will be and raise to lead our next generation and enrich the curren one.

With regards and hope that the right choice surfaces,

Tara Cronin

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:46:41 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kimura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this measure because of the severe decrease in funding it will cause, and the resulting loss of promotion of arts programming in our state. I believe that studies of communities indicate that where art does not flourish and provide opportunities for personal, creative development, despair and crime thrive in its place.

Featuring varied, innovative and vibrant new exhibits and projects that reflect the diversity of our multi-cultural communities also makes our islands highly marketable destinations for visitors in search of art and art activities with a uniquely Pacific perspective.

If the state is going to continue its dependence on tourism, instead of development of other industries, it ought to regard increased arts development, not decline, as the means to increase visitor interest and spending here.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:51:30 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gisel Rivera	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The capitol modern museum hold a lot of precious memories to artists and all people og Hawai'i. We all cherish this place to the core so getting rid of it will really do nothing but damage the happiness of people in the island. Capitol modern is a statement and well loved. Getting rid of it will only ruin the chances of people enjoying their time living in Oahu. Therefore, I stand by my case and will NOT agree with getting rid of the memories that's are help and cherished in the museum. Every piece of art is previous and means a lot to every individual so please re-consider and do not make us part with Captitol Modern.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:58:31 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nadia Richards	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807. The idea of cutting funds to the arts programs in Hawai'i because we "already possesses an adequate collection of artworks, rendering further acquisitions unnecessary" is, frankly, ridiculous. Cutting funding that threatens support for museums, native Hawaiian and local arts, and education programming is detrimental to the people who live on these islands. Art, whether visual, performing or audio, is essential to a well balanced society.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 10:59:47 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapua Amina-Lorenz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I had an amazing time at the Capitol Modern museum. It is a literal piece of art itself, the people and the art exhibits in general are so beautiful. The events they hold to help artist and Small businesses are really thoughtful and definitely brought light to these businesses and native artist/art. This bill will indefinitely end with the museum shutting down and in turn will hurt so many of the individuals that use The Capitol Modern as a way to get themselves and their businesses out there. I stand by NOT wanting this bill to get passed because it is just selfish when this museum has already given many people blessings. I personally loved the museum itself and the amazing atmosphere it had when I've went. The museum is a literal hidden gem in downtown and I hope that someday everyone gets to experience it!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:03:43 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Cameron	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition of bill HB1807, I do not believe it is a necessary means to divert funds that can actually help with the preservation of hawaii's culture and people.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:04:18 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leigh Wong-Miyasato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. As expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "Art and education is the same. It makes a person aware. And that's what education's all about. So whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. It's the same body."

I am writing to urge the Legislature to not pass HB1807 in its current form. Its stated appreciation for the arts is but lip service when its substance would strip the funding from art across the state. There is no doubt that in a time when the state budget is beset upon by challenges from the Lahaina fires to the perennial affordable housing crisis, sound fiscal management is imperative. However, it is dubious to suggest that limiting the allocations of Art Special Fund is going to have a meaningful impact on the broader budgetary woes facing the Legislature. The arts are not simply a piece of low-hanging financial fruit, they are the way a people makes sense of the world around them. It is disheartening to see such a proudly Democratic state go the way of the Republican party and demand reform of art funding. I am not an accountant, and therefore I cannot provide an alternative to how to address the quite real financial concerns the legislature faces. I am simply writing as a consumer of the arts whose life, like hundreds and thousands of others, is enriched by the works that our great state patronizes and displays.

A “surplus” of art, as the bill describes yet provides no metric as to how they determined a “surplus,” does not mean the state can wash its hands of art patronage. Art is the window into the soul of a people. Long after all of our current state legislators have voted for their final bill, the works of art that the people of our state produce will live on and tell our stories. Funding for the arts is an investment in our heritage, it is not a legislative pet project. Great societies around the world and throughout history have patronized the arts, and our great state has the moral imperative to ensure that local stories, especially Native Hawaiian stories, are told through art. We have a duty to preserve a heritage that has been stifled for generations. How can we, in good conscience, take away a primary source of funding for native artists when the world has already taken so much from them? Can we not leave them this single penny of state funds? Can we not give an oppressed people the dignity of support for their voices and their stories? Are not our islands’ heritage worth more than a penny? It would seem in the eyes of those who drafted this bill that they would rather put a penny towards a building rather than what fills it. It would seem that they would rather take a penny away from the voices of our islands.

The works that the fund heretofore has supported may not have been commercially popular, they may not be in the massive galleries around the world, but they are part of our identity. They are works of resistance and beauty and pain and anguish and love and liberation. They are the beating heart of our state, and this bill would cut off its oxygen. It would leave our

arts starved and abandoned, left to the devices of private collectors and institutions to decide what of our heritage deserves to go on. Our people are already starving and on the streets, must our souls be too?

If you must pass this bill, at least amend it to include funding specifically for art projects. Do not be blinded by this vague notion of a “surplus,” as if there is an adequate amount of art that a people can have, as if there can be too much art in the world, as if we can say that the people have expressed themselves enough and it’s time to move on. How can we ever say that there is too much humanity, too much spirit, too much soul in our world?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:18:50 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support public arts in Hawaii. Please oppose this bill and continue to fund these community spaces for art to be enjoyed by all.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:25:13 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isabella Herrom	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Isabella Herron and I am an artist, dancer, and director of multiple dance teams on island. I oppose HB1807 because the arts have historically been underfunded, especially that of indigenous peoples. Through arts funding, the dance teams I lead have been affordable to be a part of. The dancers have been able to perform and network at events such as those at Capitol Modern. They have gotten opportunities that they would not have had otherwise due to the cost. They have been empowered through arts funding and organizations that aim to uplift artists. They gain the confidence that they can pursue their artistic dreams. However, the less funding the arts get, the less options they have to pursue their true passions. The less opportunities they will get to showcase their hardwork and dedication to their crafts. This leads to increased depression, bullying, suicide, and more. We must provide outlets for not only children, but the adults they become, to enjoy, create, and pursue art.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:21:37 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noah Omori	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

By defunding public art, we would not only deprive our community of its cultural heritage and creative expression but also stifle its economic potential and vitality. Instead of cutting funding for public art, we should be investing in its expansion and accessibility, ensuring that all members of our community can benefit from its transformative power.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the proposed defunding of public art funding. Let us continue to support and invest in public art as a vital component of our community's identity, vibrancy, and prosperity.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:29:38 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Mayerle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:32:53 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaclynn sabado eitel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Am testifying today in Opposition to hb1807. I believe it is crucial now more than ever to support the state foundation of the arts and programs that spread art education through capital modern and art in public places. I believe it is important for the state to have a museum to tell the stories of Hawai'i through our own artist and it seems antithetical to just stop our history told through art because of a single legislative. In a moment where local arts of all ages are thriving to end our premier venue to display these artists is a travesty. I believe Kyle Yamashita of upcountry Maui needs to come home and talk to his constituents about how art does serve his community and maybe consider how to open more museums to show this so called abundance of art and not draft bills that serve to eliminate a foundation that has been the backbone to many institutions of art in Hawaii for generations

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:47:25 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rolan Mariano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:10:05 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Dubsky	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While HB1807 purports to "appropriate funds for performing arts and other initiatives in schools", the truth of the matter is this: by limiting the sources of funding, the bill actually reduces funding and, as such, it ultimately cuts appropriations for school programs as well as for public art. Therefore, I implore the members of the Legislature to vote against HB1807

As noted in the opening lines of Section 1 of the proposed bill, "...art feeds the human spirit and offers priceless value. Art inspire, educates, and challenges individuals to think differently, while making the world a more beautiful an interesting place." Living as we are in dark times, why would the legislature endeavor to limit that which beautifies our public spaces and uplifts our populace? Rather than diminish funding, I implore the Legislature of our Great State to rededicate itself as a state that values art. I implore you to build upon our history as the first state to adopt a percent-for-art law. Forgo limitations on public art funding and find creative, outside-of-the-box ways to encourage, incorporate, and display a proliferation of art along our highways, parking areas, bridges, roads, athletic fields and courts, as well as on our public buildings. Do not miss this opportunity for Hawai'i to again lead the way in support of public art. Please vote against HB1807.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:10:05 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Dubsy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While HB1807 purports to "appropriate funds for performing arts and other initiatives in schools", the truth of the matter is this: by limiting the sources of funding, the bill actually reduces funding and, as such, it ultimately cuts appropriations for school programs as well as for public art. Therefore, I implore the members of the Legislature to vote against HB1807

As noted in the opening lines of Section 1 of the proposed bill, "...art feeds the human spirit and offers priceless value. Art inspire, educates, and challenges individuals to think differently, while making the world a more beautiful an interesting place." Living as we are in dark times, why would the legislature endeavor to limit that which beautifies our public spaces and uplifts our populace? Rather than diminish funding, I implore the Legislature of our Great State to rededicate itself as a state that values art. I implore you to build upon our history as the first state to adopt a percent-for-art law. Forgo limitations on public art funding and find creative, outside-of-the-box ways to encourage, incorporate, and display a proliferation of art along our highways, parking areas, bridges, roads, athletic fields and courts, as well as on our public buildings. Do not miss this opportunity for Hawai'i to again lead the way in support of public art. Please vote against HB1807.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:11:02 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CJ Aloe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:11:02 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CJ Aloe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:45:27 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Hurst	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:45:27 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Hurst	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:51:40 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Bambara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please reach into your souls and support the arts and culture of this beautiful land and her peoples by OPPOSING Bill HB1807 HD2.

Please help to preserve and keep the arts and culture of this great place of Hawaii through the expression of Art & Culture of the local people of this land; the actual reason people came and continue to visit here. Art and culture here are what makes and preserves the heart of Hawaii. The Art and culture of the people of this and all lands need to continue to be cultivated and preserved in a socitey all to heavily disconnected from the sacredness of art and culture preservation.

A land without art is a land without a soul. Please vote with aloha by OPPOSING Bill HB1807 HD2

Thank you for hearing my plea for the art of the people of this sacred place and being part of preservative goodness rather thanongoing erasure and vampiric destruction of the heart of Hawaii.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:53:53 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Iijima	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Chris Lee, Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly oppose HB1807 and respectfully request that the Committee not pass this bill.

The Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) and all the programs and funding it supports, are being threatened by HB1807.

Should this bill go through, our local arts community will be seriously devastated. Many arts organizations are already on the brink of survival, and the loss of funding from the SFCA could mean their demise or could severely restrict what they can offer to the community at large.

One of these arts organizations is the Honolulu Printmakers, which is struggling to pay high rent downtown, and fees for electricity, water, and other key expenses. Even if the Honolulu Printmakers could survive the loss of grants from the SFCA, it would have to cut programs that bring mainland artists to Hawai'i or allow local artists to offer workshops. The Honolulu Printmakers has recently brought Hiroki Morinoue, a nationally known Japanese woodblock printing artist and resident of the Big Island, and another Big Island artist, Faith Stone, to Oahu to teach workshops. The Printmakers also has an annual exhibition that is open to artists from all the islands and draws valuable support from the community.

The Honolulu Printmakers, like the Downtown Art Center and the Hawai'i State Art Museum, draws visitors and members of our community downtown and makes this area safer for everyone. They help adjacent businesses to thrive, and they bring income to the state. As in New York City and elsewhere, artists and arts organizations here in Hawai'i are actively contributing to the improvement of urban areas.

The Honolulu Printmakers is only one example of many exemplary arts organizations, throughout the islands, that would be affected by SB 1807.

SB 1807 would also cut valuable funding to programs supporting educators, exhibitions for young student artists, and outreach for struggling individuals. This funding supports those who are working to make life better and more meaningful for everyone.

The arts are much more than the sale and collection of artworks. The arts are a vital expression of our humanity. Whether it is visual arts, writing, music, dance, theater or most importantly, cultural practices, the arts encourage us to unite, help, and share with each other.

HB 1807 will take away decades of support for the arts in Hawai'i. This support once gone, will be impossible to replace. Organizations, businesses, and institutions will all be irrevocably impacted and may disappear. Our local community will lose resources that help to keep us whole and inspired for the future.

Please help us to keep what is working for our community and keep the arts alive in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Warmest aloha,

Renee Iijima

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:51:40 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Bambara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please reach into your souls and support the arts and culture of this beautiful land and her peoples by OPPOSING Bill HB1807 HD2.

Please help to preserve and keep the arts and culture of this great place of Hawaii through the expression of Art & Culture of the local people of this land; the actual reason people came and continue to visit here. Art and culture here are what makes and preserves the heart of Hawaii. The Art and culture of the people of this and all lands need to continue to be cultivated and preserved in a socitey all to heavily disconnected from the sacredness of art and culture preservation.

A land without art is a land without a soul. Please vote with aloha by OPPOSING Bill HB1807 HD2

Thank you for hearing my plea for the art of the people of this sacred place and being part of preservative goodness rather thanongoing erasure and vampiric destruction of the heart of Hawaii.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:08:35 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jon Goebel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an artist and a professor at UH Hilo, I can attest to the importance in the arts I have observed in my time in Hawaii. During my decade in the UH Hilo Art Department, we have relied on funding from the SFCA to fund nationally/internationally renowned visiting artists, bringing new perspectives in culture to the community and visitors of the Big Island. This timeline of SFCA support at the university extends well beyond my tenure at UH Hilo.

As an isolated community on the B.I. and having no museums, these funds have helped the arts flourish in many community accessible establishments. My experiences has included working with numerous visiting artists at UH Hilo, community programs at the Donkey Mill, exhibitions and workshops at UH Hilo, the Wailoa Center and East Hawaii Cultural Center. All of these were made possible, in part, because of the SFCA. The cultural enrichment and connections made from these activities have made an immeasurable impact for the community and our future artists.

Just one of many examples include the UH Hilo Art Department [2016 Pacific States Series Symposium](#) where we invited five visiting artists with SFCA support, to present, provide lectures, workshops, and demonstrations to both students at UH Hilo and the community. These artist/educators from five different states also offered graduate studies in printmaking. This in-person connection with our students and reviewing their work resulted into acceptance into several MFA graduate programs across the country. This symposium would not have been possible without the support of the SFCA.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:17:30 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Saumolia Puapuaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Saumolia Puapuaga and I strongly urge you to oppose House Bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact my income and countless opportunities to survive as an artist in Hawaii. More importantly, cutting funds will KILL our State Museum and all the educational programs that enrich our keiki mind and spirit. HB1807 will harm our livelihood, I highly urge you to oppose House Bill 1807.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Me ke aloha,

Saumolia, Hau'ula

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:27:07 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zenues-Jay Vaimanino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As both a performer and partaker of the arts made available throughout the islands, these places have quickly become pillars of hope and a safe space for many individuals including myself. Cutting funding for these establishments will begin to take us back a couple of steps in the wrong direction considering there still aren't many ready and available safe spaces for "outcasted" people to feel safe or celebrated.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:20:30 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Jampel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a member of the public to express my strong opposition for HB1807 HD2, which threatens the existence of so many institutions, public programs and undermines support for Native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries and organizations. Its impact on Hawai'i's creative community and future would be absolutely devastating.

Local art programs and organizations in Hawai'i are essential to life, culture and future here and must be protected and supported. I urge you to please oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

Emily

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:47:15 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason McDonald	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it endangers Capitol Modern, the Hawai'i State Art Museum, which is an important center for the arts in Honolulu. There are already very few museums in the state of Hawai'i. To pass a bill that would divert funds away from one of these few art museums and force it to stop exhibitions and public programs would be a travesty. Passing this bill would be a huge blow to the community of artists the museums supports, as well as the general community, myself included, who have enjoyed the many exhibitions presented at the Capitol Modern over the years, which is why I believe opposing it is the right position.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:50:55 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Tyson Akiona, I am a current student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am pursuing a bachelor of studio arts degree, and have been an artist my whole life. I am in opposition of bill HB1807. Bill HB1807 will decrease funding in arts legislatures that will have a vast effect on the acquisition of future artworks for the upcoming generation. The idea that the building development and managers have “enough” artwork is extremely damaging to the future of the state and art. Art like life and development is ever changing in this day and age and providing funding through that will encourage future generations of creatives to engage in communal activities. HB1807 will decrease funding and make it harder to obtain these opportunities many individuals and organizations put through. Overall this bill is damaging to a select number of groups and organizations providing necessary changes to Hawaii’s landscape and living conditions

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:28:34 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana Kanahele	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Esteemed Officials,

I am submitting testimony in strong opposition of HB 1807 HD2, as it would cut 68% of the Art in Public Places (APP) Program revenue, adversely eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide. The website for the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts explains that, "The Art in Public Places (APP) Program acquires completed, portable works of art, and commissions artists to create works of art for specific locations. Works of art are displayed in over 640 sites statewide including schools, libraries, hospitals, airports, state office buildings, the State Capitol and at Capitol Modern (the Hawai'i State Art Museum). The APP Program also supports excellent arts education programming in schools during the school day, out-of-school arts education for pre-K students and lifelong learning for adults."

As I agree to the importance of doing well to manage government spending responsibly, I urge you to consider the impact that art has on the wellbeing of our society. Currently, the government funds art processes, which goes far beyond the accumulation of art products. I believe this is a good and important contribution, and that the law should not change to diminish this amount.

Mahalo for your consideration,

K. Kuulei Kanahele

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:32:01 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Rodriguez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it reduces funding for vital programs that help our community thrive.
Thank you.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:45:18 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvia Lopez-Takahashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a United States citizen, teacher, and artist, I oppose this bill which would strip away funding for the arts. It is crucial that governments continue to support the arts as artists reflect the soul of a community. It would be detrimental to Hawaii's culture and community to strip away funding and opportunities to Hawaiian artists.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 5:16:43 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nona b wilson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please consider the impact this bill would have on our ability to teach share and exhibit our culture. I am humbly asking it be denied

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 6:06:27 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colleen Rost-Banik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Colleen Rost-Banik and I am a resident of Honolulu. I ask you to oppose HB1807 as it would negatively impact many schools, teachers, and independent artists. Art should NOT be primarily for the purpose of or under the purview of business and economic development.

Thank you for your consideration.

Colleen Rost-Banik

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 6:51:42 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamen Christ	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This program is vital for the community and the future. Give the people an opportunity to create instead of getting into trouble or doing drugs. Malama our beautiful community 🙏 Mahalo

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 6:54:35 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Kiyon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 6:56:23 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joyce Jeffers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Bill HB1807 is detrimental to all artists and art educators across Hawai'i. Please vote this bill down. The negative impacts to individuals and communities cannot be overstated. Arts inspire; art reflects, shapes and feeds culture. Funding cuts will rob future generations of ideas and visions.

As an exhibiting artist, a purchase by the State Arts Foundation is something I aspire to.

As an arts educator, the public school outreach work I do will end.

Vote NO to HB 1807

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:16:33 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Sherman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

Sincerely,

Matthew Sherman

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:17:46 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy Nawilis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and other Committee Members,

I strongly oppose HB1807. The support for art education in the schools and training for teachers and the art programs in the community most definitely needs to continue and funding not compromised. May I remind you some of the economic impact of public art programs, which Monica Lee has laid out in her testimony:

1. Job Creation and Tourism: Public art programs can create jobs for artists, designers, fabricators, and maintenance workers. Studies suggest that every \$1 invested in public art generates \$4-7 in economic activity through tourism, retail spending, and property values.

2. Increased Property Values: Studies have shown that properties located near public art installations can experience increased value, ranging from 3-12%. This can benefit neighborhoods by attracting businesses and residents, further boosting the local economy.

3. Enhanced Retail Sales: Public art can attract foot traffic to businesses, leading to increased sales. A study in San Diego found that businesses located near public art experienced a 9% increase in sales compared to those without nearby art.

4. Community Development: Public art projects can revitalize neighborhoods, attracting investment and encouraging com

I implore you to not cut funding to the arts. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:19:00 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Iden	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. As an art edacator having seen the positive impact that art has on all ages I oppose this bill! As expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. It makes a person aware, and that's what education's all about. So whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. It's the same body. Please vote this Bill down. For the good of a well rounded healthy community and society.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:19:13 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rose Anne Jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this bill which seeks to demolish Hawaii's financial support to the arts. Hawaii was the FIRST in the nation to establish this bill and provide support to the arts because in Hawaii..."Culture Mattered".

I agree that the fire on Maui was devastating and that the funds to help rebuild Maui are enormous. PLEASE don't devastate funding to the arts which has been in place since the mid 1960's...in order to address the devastation to Maui. We used to be a State that valued the art and cultural influences of ALL the citizens of Hawai`i.

YES...the devastation on Maui needs to be addressed. PLEASE find another way to support the suffering people on Maui. Raise the sales tax, if needed. Raise the taxes on the Millionaires and Billionaires who live like Royalty on our Islands.

You are SMART people...please do not destroy the humanity of the first state to declare that the ARTS and CULTURE of Hawaii are TREASURES to be acknowledged and respected. Please leave that legacy alone and find another way to fund the rebuilding of Maui.

Mahalo nui loa for your wisdom and care for the land and culture of our beautiful State. Aloha.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:20:12 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danelle Guion	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose HB1807 HD2 which significantly and negatively impacts ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs, 124 public and charter schools on all major islands.

This is not pono!

Mahalo for your opposition to this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:27:37 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellie Tsuchiya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Ellie Tsuchiya and I am writing to OPPOSE HB1807. I am a strong advocate of arts and culture and believe that it is an essential part of our wellbeing and life in Hawai'i. I believe that funding for arts and culture is an important part of bringing justice to the Native Hawaiian community who have experienced unimaginable loss and destruction due to forces of imperialism and colonialism. I urge you to listen to the people who find so much meaning and value from arts and culture and to vote no on this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:29:02 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chezlani Casar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

It is paramount that we protect all current funding for SFCA. This organization does so much for so many across the state.

I am the public librarian in a small, rural, economically depressed town on Hawaii Island. Every summer we receive funding from SFCA through the Statewide Cultural Extension Program, or SCEP. SCEP funding allows us to present traveling performers, who we could never otherwise afford. Library budgets do not include any funding for performers; last summer SCEP provided us with three performances in our tiny rural town. We hosted slack key guitar with Jeff Peterson, hip-hop Dr Seuss rhymes for kids with beatbox artist Mr Kneel, and an incredible live theatre performance of Era Of Change: Oral Histories of Civilians During WWII. All these were offered free of charge, to people who might not see another live arts performance all year long.

SFCA funding offers a reliable opportunity to make this happen annually. Please do not reduce any funding to this incredible organization that literally makes magic happen before people's eyes. SFCA provides arts education for those who could not otherwise afford it; don't let art be only for the rich! In this age of digital addiction and complacency, we as a community need art more than ever. Mahalo for your time.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:40:16 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert I Nehmad	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of the City & County of Honolulu and I understand that we need to provide resources and support to the survivors of the Maui Wildfires.

However, we should not take the resources of other programs that offer solace and meaningful value to our communities.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:45:41 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Haia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It is short sighted and seems that the person that initiated it is looking for money to help in Maui's recovery. He is wrong in doing this as Maui is getting a great deal of support and the arts funding is ever decreasing.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:48:22 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings,

I would like to register my opposition to this bill. I have been a part of community building through the arts in my previous home of Phoenix, AZ where a handful of artist run nonprofit spaces were the seeds of a complete downtown renewal. Phoenix is a better place because of the artists who persevered in a dying downtown that is now vibrant and active with all kinds of new restaurants and commercial venues that still need the draw of the arts to thrive, not just survive. This bill is a huge mistake and will hurt the entire community in ways unimagined by the proponents of this bill. It will cut out the very foundation of our community that I have been a proud member of for 7 years now. Please reconsider the damage this bill will introduce into the community. Please stop this bill.

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. ***Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime.*** We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to ***create economic diversity.***

*Consequently, this bill would **ERADICATE** the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.*

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. ***It is simply the soul expression of humanity.***

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

WILL END IMMEDIATELY

The next page lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island
Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center
Maui
Hui Noe'au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association
Maui Arts and Culture Center
Viewpoints Gallery
Kauai
Kauai Society of Artists
Oahu
Downtown Art Center
Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary
Hawaii Watercolor Society
Honolulu Printmakers
Honolulu Theatre for Youth
Hawaii Handweavers Hui
Hula Preservation Society
NOTAE

Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.

Professional Development for DOE Teachers

**The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony**

Hawaii Arts Alliance support

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

Kahauiki Village
Institute for Human Services
RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.

Respectfully yours,
Jade Sunouchi

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:50:05 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcus Ascencio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"ANY FORM OF ART IS A FORM OF POWER; IT HAS IMPACT, IT CAN AFFECT CHANGE - IT CAN NOT ONLY MOVE US, IT MAKES US MOVE."

-OSSIE DAVIS

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:50:50 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Powlison	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an art historian and art handler who has worked in the arts world for nearly 20 years. I took a position with the state at the SFCA last year, working directly with the Arts in Public Places collection as an exhibit specialist.

Everyone knows that it is extremely difficult to make a living as a working artist or creative, but in my many years of work in the arts, I have never encountered such direct support for such a wide range of creative endeavor as I have met here at the SFCA. Music events, keiki programs, scholastic awards, direct buying and commissioning of work from artists, theater, residencies, grants, teacher programs, etc., etc. -- it is truly phenomenal what this agency is able to do. There is a small, committed team here who is passionate about working through the bureaucracy that is entailed in being a state agency and bringing real benefits to artists and all the various arts communities of our islands.

Please do NOT pass HB1807 in any form.

Mahalo nui

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:51:32 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezgi Green	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

As a concerned local and supporter of the arts, I would like to express my strong opposition to the bill HB1807 HD2. This bill aims to eliminate capital improvement appropriations for state building renovations, which endangers the funding source for the works of art special fund.

The Works of Art Special Fund plays a vital role in supporting Native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries, and organizations. By cutting this funding source, the bill threatens the existence of Capitol Modern, the Hawaii State Art Museum, and public programs that showcase our state's unique art and culture.

These works of art serve as a source of cultural pride and contribute significantly to our economy. The arts industry in Hawaii generates millions of dollars in revenue and provides jobs for many individuals.

The passage of this bill would harm our state's artistic and cultural heritage and economy. Therefore, I urge lawmakers to oppose it and continue supporting the Works of Art Special Fund and the arts industry in Hawaii.

We love visiting state museums as a family and connecting with others who appreciate art. Please don't let this bill take local art away from us. We desperately need to heal and connect.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Ezgi Green/ Waialua

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:52:21 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna Ah Sam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. As expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:52:39 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelly Skees	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have visited the museum several times when visiting HI and have attended many extra events...the homage to Hawaiiin history and its people is immeasurable...the Art in Public Places program is very unique and the pieces are always beautiful, thought provoking or both. Please don't let this priceless tradition stop!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:54:09 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE Bill HB1807 HD2 . It is appreciated that HD2 attempts to cover some of the bills negative impact on education and performing arts by making an appropriation, it will not be sufficient to matching the loss.

I OPPOSE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:01:05 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the House,

Please appose HB1807 HD2!

The arts in our state enrich our lives and that of our children.

Please consider the impacts of removing support for the arts.

Thank you,

pamela burrell

Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:05:56 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
May Izumi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Severely cutting the budget of the Art in Public Places by eliminating the small percentage of construction revenue allotted to it is a huge mistake and a disservice to local communities. The idea that the arts is somehow a drain that props up lazy people rather than an economic engine is something perpetrated by prejudice and ignorance. The arts generate jobs, income, and good PR/marketing for the state. The fact that the majority of revenue generated stays here in the islands and benefits local communities on all islands should be supported rather than eliminated. Please do not pass this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:06:07 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margo Ray	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Margo Ray and I strongly urge you to oppose bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact health and vitality of arts organizations, artists and cultural practitioners through out the state. The arts are a vital part of a healthy society and economy.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration,

Margo Ray

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:06:49 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharmaine Ramirez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Maintaining public programs and art exhibitions are necessary for the public! Continuing to provide artistic spaces for our communities is essential to quality of life and by, "rendering further acquisitions unnecessary," our state government is failing the public as a whole by limiting our access to everything that art institutions provide for us. These institutions provide support for both the Kama'āina and Kanaka artists and supporters of art. There are already limited spaces for artists, specifically Kanaka artists, to express themselves and to further reduce these spaces is to disrespect and silence the art community and all of its supporters.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:13:59 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Shigeta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1807 fundamentally alters the SFCA arts support process. The original 289/389 frameworks are replaced with arbitrary legislatively determined appropriations. Short sighted and political.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:17:08 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Sakoda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807 HD2. My understanding is that this bill, if passed, will disrupt and/or end funding for a number of art and education programs currently providing benefits to our community. The programs that will be affected negatively contribute to restoring and building communities in our respective neighborhoods. HB1807 HD2 undermines the effort to bring us together thru the arts; building stronger communities leading to a better life for those calling Hawaii home.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:17:14 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandy-Alia Serikaku	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Brandy-Alia Serikaku and I strongly urge you to oppose Bill 1807.

The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact my livelihood as a Native Hawaiian artist, my children and my community. This is an opportunity for myself and Native Hawaiian artists to thrive in our home and create modern Hawaiian artifacts for the next generation. Our mana is in creating the future and we have the vision many of our outside foreign leaders are not capable of creating nor imagining. If not for arts, the reminder of kuleana to the land and it's Native people is lost, it's presence is a direct reflection of the state of economic health and mental health of our Native Hawaiian artists. Art opens minds, hearts and doors, it is a universal language that connects us to Ke Akua and our kūpuna. This would be a detriment to our imagination and innovation, key factors in creating a better future for all of Hawai'i.

Mahalo, e no'ono'o pono i kā 'oukou hana a kuleana.

Me ke aloha,

Brandy-Alia Serikaku

Hilo, Hawai'i

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:25:30 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carl FK Pao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I completely oppose HB1807.

Why? [HB1807](#) Repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. This bill would cut 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely eliminating government support for many arts programs and initiatives statewide. While the most recent version of the bill tries to cover the bills negative impact on education and performing arts by making an appropriation, it will not come close to matching the loss of this cut.

Elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would CUT the following initiatives:

1. THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY
2. SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS
3. EDUCATION PROGRAMMING
 - Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
 - SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists
 - The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
 - Art Bento Museum Education Program
 - Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade 7-12
 - Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6
 - Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support

The elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would also eliminate support for the following:

Hawaii Island

Donkey Mill Arts Center

East Hawaii Culture Center

Kahilu Theatre

Wailoa Center

Maui

Hui Noe'au

Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association

Maui Arts and Culture Center

Viewpoints Gallery

Kauai

Kauai Society of Artists

Oahu

Downtown Art Center

Arts and Letters

Fishcake

University of Hawaii Galleries

Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society

Hawaii Contemporary

Hawaii Watercolor Society

Honolulu Printmakers

Honolulu Theatre for Youth

Hawaii Handweavers Hui

Hula Preservation Society

NOTAE

Outreach programs:

Kahauiki Village

Institute for Human Services

RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment

LGBTQ Legacy Foundation

Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

HB1807 will not only have life damaging effects on ALL of those organizations, programs, and the people who are reliant on those programs and the positions that they provide a livelihood for, but on a personal level too. My 'ohana and I have greatly benefited from these programs over the decades. As not just a Visual Arts educator for over 30 years, but also as a practicing Native Hawaiian artist for even longer. Through the services that this HB1807 will eliminate, we will all be losing out. Not just in the present, but damaging generations of our creative community.

Every time that our State Legislature proposes cuts to the visual arts programs, and HB1807 is no different, it makes me sick that as elected officials who have and continue to benefit from these very programs would go blind to the damage that HB1807 would cause. Visual Arts is the voice of our community. These programs foster and nurture the creativity of our keiki. They provide safe places. They provide spaces for reflection. They provides spaces where we can all be true to ourselves and celebrate our own unique voices. Do not take that away from us.

Again, I oppose HB1807!

Mahalo nui.

Mālama,

Carl F.K. Pao

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:33:29 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you oppose HB1807. This bill would cut 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely eliminating government support for many art programs and initiative statewide.

Please say NO to this bill.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:41:04 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Hee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1807 because of its profound negative consequences on arts and culture practitioners and organizations across the state and because of the harms it will inflict on our Native Hawaiian communities.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:41:37 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathleen Murayama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1807, HD2. I am a retired teacher from Maui. Maui Arts and Culture Center has played a major roll in arts education for the students and teachers of Maui. Any elimination of arts exposure and education for Maui students will be devastating as opportunities on Maui are very limited.

As a teachers whose students benefitted from the artist in the schools program, I can't imagine eliminating such a rich educational program that would be difficult for a classroom teacher to provide.

The elimination of the SFCA sponsored Professional Development for DOE teachers and teaching artists would be devastating for classroom teachers. As a former teacher we relied heavily on these workshops to enrich our knowledge in arts to enhance our teaching.

Everything our ambassador for the arts, Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi developed for the state would be lost through all the funding cuts.

Do not pass HB1807, HD 2!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:42:51 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Geraldine Joy Ibarra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807, as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "Art and education is the same. It makes a person aware. And that's what education is all about. So whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. It's the same body."

Art programming, especially in Hawai'i, does a multitude of things: inspires, instills pride, promotes creativity, appreciation, hope and also something else so important in this community: continues the history and culture of the Hawaiian people. Arts receives such a small portion of funding that to reduce it further through the passing of this act is an injustice to the people, and mainly the children of these islands. Do not pass HB1807.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:43:57 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Bronson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Aaron Bronson and I strongly urge you not to vote against bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact the immersive gallery experience and performance that my special education classroom participated in.

I am a DOE special education pre school teacher who has benefited from the amazing work Danica and her team does. The light and excitement they brought to my students who face many challenges in life should be recognized and rewarded. Please continue to fund this wonderful organization much much as possible.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:45:44 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abbey Seitz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong OPPOSITION to HB1807, which if enacted, would significantly reduce funding for the state’s special arts fund. This would have detrimental impacts to our state arts museum, as well as community and school arts programming across Hawaii.

I am writing in my personal capacity as an individual who is passionate about the arts. Over the last eight years, I have been fortunate to host crowd-funding events for local artists and public art projects. Through this work I have learned first hand the power of public art to bring together neighbors that may otherwise be divided, shine light on our history that may otherwise be forgotten, and uplift community talent that may otherwise go unnoticed. I’ve also learned that in a field as underfunded as the arts, every dollar counts.

While the preamble of this bill highlights the significant role the arts plays in Hawaiian society and even underscores the successes of the state’s special art fund program, it then proposed amendments to our current statues which could reduce funding program funds by an estimated 67%, thus forcing the state museum to immediately cease all exhibitions and public programs.

All those opposing this bill represent a unified voice calling on policy makers to go further than simply recognizing the value of the arts in this bill’s preamble and ensure the continued allocation of resources to the state’s special arts fund. We urge you to “walk the walk” and stop this bill from moving any further in the state legislature.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Abbey Seitz

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:49:01 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

A strong art and cultural community is vital to the well-being, vibrancy, economic success, and civicness of our city and community. This bill is the exact opposite of what the legislature should be pursuing.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:49:19 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelani Puniwai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

When I travel abroad, I marvel at the amazing architecture, artwork and design of the buildings and cities. Hawai'i does not have the similar appeal. Our older plantation buildings are beautiful, our newer buildings and developments lack our own art. We lack a way to share our culture with others through artwork. We need to support more art in our communities. I oppose this bill.

Aloha,

My name is Elizabeth Nakoa and I strongly urge you to oppose bill 1807.

Start at the beginning, the inception of the statutory authority in 1967, of the Percent for Art Law, [chapter 103-8.5](#), Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

Hawai'i was the FIRST state in the nation to adopt a percent-for-art law with the enactment of the Art in State Buildings Law, which designated one percent of construction costs of new buildings for the acquisition of works of art, either by commission or purchase. In 1989, State Legislature of Hawai'i created the Works of Art Special Fund, expanding upon the provisions of the Art in State Buildings Law to include having works of art available to all state public places.¹

1) Hawaii legislators of the time should be lauded and applauded for their foresight in considering the value, not only of sharing the importance of art to our state and community, but of our state and community, and the historical considerations of the native Hawaiian culture and community and the educational impact on the many generations of Hawai'i residents.

2) Our legislators were the pioneers in recognizing the importance of art to the human spirit and development. Today, there are over 300 public art programs nationwide at the federal, state and county levels.² This is an indication and validation of the importance and value of the concept of financial support for art in public places.

I am personally appalled at the introduction of SB 1807 by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui). My growth as an artist started at McKinley High School (1969 – 1971) with classes taught by Charles Higa and James Nakamoto. I attended the University of Hawaii Manoa and graduated with a BFA in Graphic Design. I studied printmaking with Charles Cohan and Allyn Bromley at UH Manoa before attending graduate school at Colorado State University where I received a master's degree in Printmaking. After returning to Hawai'i I was fortunate to join the art department at Kapi'olani Community College for the past 20 years prior to my recent retirement. While teaching at KCC and participating in various aspects of the Honolulu art community, such as the Honolulu Printmakers (founded over 93 years ago), I always included visits to the many art venues available in Honolulu such as the Hawai'i State Art Museum and the Honolulu Museum of Art (HoMA). The access to such valuable resources was and still is vital to the learning and growth experiences of student's development. While traveling around the world and in different states on the mainland I was able to see and experience different art venues and communities and in comparison, I have always been proud of the strong support and thriving art community in the whole state of Hawai'i that was part of my growth through the years.

Please have heartfelt consideration for the Percent for Art Law and the implications of its elimination that will impact many native Hawaiian and local artists and the loss felt by future generations of a healthy, thriving art community.

Mahalo,

Elizabeth Nakoa

¹ <https://sfca.hawaii.gov/art-in-public-places-program/percent-for-art/>

² <https://sfca.hawaii.gov/art-in-public-places-program/percent-for-art/>

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:53:43 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Pillen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1807, which greatly reduces/eradicates the Art in Public Places Program. It also significantly and negatively impacts ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs, as well as 124 public and charter schools on all major islands.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:55:14 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Committee members,

I am writing in opposition of HB1807 HD2 because it will greatly reduce/eradicate the Art in Public Places Program. It also significantly and negatively impacts ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs, 124 public and charter schools on all major islands.

Mahalo for your service and commitment to our communities,

Tamara

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:55:45 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherri Thal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. As a Music Educator of thirty-one years and a lifetime performer, I have endless thoughts about the extreme negative effects of this bill.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2, introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i. With no Culture nor Arts, our society is doomed and dead! We live in the most unique place in the America: an Island State with its own native culture. Hawai'i needs to uplift and treasure the gift of a thriving culture, and HB1807 HD 2 would do just the opposite and much more damage to all the Arts! I live in Puna, and it would strip funding for many Hawai'i Island programs and galleries, including the East Hawaii Cultural Center, which houses the Orchid Isle Orchestra, a community orchestra where professionals and students intermingle and perform concerts to a Standing Room Only crowd twice a year. To lose that alone would be a disaster, but there is so much more at stake!!!!

This bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect. It ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. The Arts can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, Music, Dance, Theater, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity. THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY. THIS IS A TRAVESTY IN EVERY WAY!!

This bill would do the unthinkable: it would take away our hearts and souls and our self expression. IT ALSO HAS THE POTENTIAL TO ERADICATE THE JOBS OF MANY ARTISTS AND CULTURAL PRACTITIONERS THROUGH LOST FUNDING!!!

PLEASE OPPOSE HB1807 HD2 TODAY AND EVERY DAY!! PLEASE SUPPORT ARTS
AND CULTURE!! OUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT!!

Aloha, and Mahalo for your time,

Sherri Thal, BA, Summa Cum Laude, Music
Music Educator, Performer, Composer, Kea'au, HI 96749

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:56:42 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jen Schultze	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jennifer Schultze and I strongly urge you to oppose bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations

or renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact the art community, mental health for adults and a creative outlet for our children.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

~Jen Schultze

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:57:54 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Gagnon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing to you to express my opposition to HB1807, HD2 We simply cannot afford to take away funds that support the state's art programming. It doesn't make sense to provide public funds to initiate the building up and expanding out art programs in Hawai'i to then let the initiatives and good work of individuals and organizations go to waste by not being provided funding to move this work forward. HB1807, HD2 is detrimental to the success of the existing and future educational and community art programs in Hawai'i.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:58:30 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cate Wyatt-Magalian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Cate Wyatt-Magalian and I strongly urge you to oppose bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact all the art, artists, and art organizations across the state of Hawaii.

Art is vital to the health and well being of everyone who lives in this state.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Cate Wyatt-Magalian
Artist
Honolulu, HI

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:58:59 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaz Kaili	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:00:05 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leo Nahe Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for this opportunity. **I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.** Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on **EVERY ISLAND** when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would **ERADICATE** the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for **ALL DOE** teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, **ON EVERY ISLAND**. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

The next page lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies **OPPOSING** this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Galleries and Orgs Affected-

Hawaii Island

Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center

Maui

Hui Noe'au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association
Maui Arts and Culture Center
Viewpoints Gallery

Kauai

Kauai Society of Artists

Oahu

Downtown Art Center Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS-

Pu'uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary
Hawaii Watercolor Society
Honolulu Printmakers
Honolulu Theatre for Youth
Hawaii Handweavers Hui
Hula Preservation Society
NOTAE

OUTREACH PROGRAMS-

Kahauiki Village Institute for Human Services
RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
LGBTQ Legacy Foundation Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

**Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here!
Me ka ha'aha'a,**

**Leo Nahe Smith
Wai'ehu, Maui 96793**

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:01:38 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shirley Thompson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am a Hawai'i-based filmmaker and local business owner and I OPPOSE HB 1807. This bill would be devastating for the Arts in Hawai'i if passed. Artists are workers who rely on the support of patrons, including local government, for their livelihoods. This bill effectively cuts jobs in our local community with no thought given to how these folks will survive without the income they derive from all the programs that will be cut. Public school children, many of whom receive no other arts education except that which they receive through state-funded Artists in Schools programs, will have their only access to arts education eliminated. We have a BILLION plus dollar Rainy Day Fund. I think the Lahaina Fire no doubt qualifies as an emergency and that money should be tapped for the much needed funds required to rebuild on Maui. Let's not cut jobs and education when there are other sources of money at the ready.

Shirley Thompson

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:04:48 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pam Murphy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote no on this!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:06:11 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline Wah	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am STRONGLY OPPOSED to HB 1807.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts **supports more than the purchase of art work.** It also **helps fund many arts organizations that cater to communities across the state.**

Cutting funding to the SFCA hurts not just artists, many whose livelihood depends on selling their artwork, it also hurts:

- The many arts organizations who provide venues for exhibitions for artists to show their work. These organizations depend upon funding from the SFCA to mount these exhibitions and provide gathering space for community.
- The families who rely on the arts education programs the SFCA provides to children and adults. It also hurts the arts organizations across the state who provide these programs.
- Performance artist who receive funding to create new works. It also cuts funding to the venues that provide the platform to present their works to the community.

Those are just a few of the ways this bill will decimate the arts community, as well as the general public, who receive so many benefits from experiencing the arts in all forms whether through direct experience in a hand-on workshops, viewing a thought-provoking art exhibition, or through seeing a music performance or a play. The arts provide a wonderful way to bring our communities together so the loss of these opportunities would be immeasurable.

Please **VOTE AGAINST HB 1807** as it will decimate the arts community whose outreach goes far beyond what the legislature may fully understand and whose trickle-down affects will set our state back and will have many unintended, negative consequences.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:06:57 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sophia Tran	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:08:59 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jay Pitt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Jay and I am a second year MFA student at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa studying theatre and dance. As an artistic person and someone who wishes to pursue a career in the theatre industry, this bill would put myself and many of my colleges at risk of being unable to financially support ourselves.

I STRONGLY urge you to not hear this bill and continue to support the arts across the islands.

Mahalo

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:09:04 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raechelle Villanueva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 18, 2024

Dear Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and members of the Committee,

I am writing to you in strong opposition of HB 1807. This bill will potentially cut 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide. The bill states that the SFCA has enough works of art and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection

As a public school teacher at Wai`alae Elementary Public Charter School, through the Hawai`i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (HSFCA), my class and school was able to participate in the Hawai`i State Art Museum’s (HiSAM) Art Bento Program, which is funded by the HSFCA’s Art in Public Places Program (APP).

This outreach program brought a well-trained teaching artist into our school. She conducted lessons using reproductions of artworks from the APP collection on view at HiSAM as a catalyst for engaged learning. My student stated, “I felt elated to dance because I let my body be free to move wherever I wanted to and be free to make mistakes and nobody cares.” Another student stated that, “It was very calming at the same time while it also felt fun. I felt quite exhilarated while I was dancing with Ms. M. and my classmates. I felt relaxed when I was dancing and felt like I released tension from my body.”

Perhaps the most special, magical experience was going to the Hawai`i State Museum. There is a bus shortage and buses are really expensive. Thanks to the funding by the HSFCA’s Art in Public Places Program, students like my class got to experience this truly magical experience. My students were enthralled. One student stated, “I really liked the art in the museum because every picture has a hidden message for something by the artist for people to find out. Then that might make an impact on those people and could help the world to be a better place for other people and the aina. So if there is a picture of the `aina or a kalo that is getting destroyed could mean to help the kalo or the aina so it can last as long as possible so if you save this program then there is a possibility that the kids who go

to this program could help the world be a better place when they grow up! I liked the art museum a lot because these art pieces are very interesting and important because they have a hidden message like if there is a picture of the aina that is getting destroyed by factories or bulldozers then we know we should do something about it before it becomes a reality.”

It saddens me that if this Bill goes through, the potential 50% cuts will deeply impact art programs that have benefited thousands of students throughout the islands. Our keiki may no longer have the opportunity to visit and experience the wonderful art museums we have! My student stated, “I highly suggest that the Art Bento Program continue to be funded for future generations of public schools to see these amazing art pieces. I understand how much work goes into protecting Hawai`i. On the other hand, students in public schools in Hawai`i need field trips and other experiences that take them outside of the classroom.” Another stated, “I genuinely think we need to keep Art Bento for all of the other future classes in all public schools in Hawai`i to see all the amazing art that's in the museum. Others may think the art is not as important and will not fund the Art Bento Program. I do realize that there are other important needs in Hawai`i like the high cost of living in this amazing place. Despite having all this in Hawai`i, I still feel that we should fund the Art Bento Program for all the future classes of public schools in Hawai`i. Art comes in many forms like, drawing, coloring, dancing, etc. Children learn in different ways and art is one of the ways some children can learn. No matter what, art helps children to express their feelings and thoughts.” This is a testament of how continued funding by HSFCA’s Art in Public Places Program (APP) is vital.

To conclude, as another student stated, “In summary, I think we need to keep the funds for Art Bento so that others can experience Art Bento! I know that some people don't think art is of any importance. I understand that Hawai`i has some problems that need to be solved like violence and homelessness. However, art can be very beneficial to our society! I've seen with my own eyes that art can make great changes in people. These changes include more empathy, more expression, less violence and much more good overall! I know that we can protect all the hope and beauty of Hawai`i!” I cannot say enough how important it is to continue funding. Some in our community and even Legislature, may feel that funding Art is not important. I know that budget is always an issue. We have so many needs in Hawai`i. However, I have seen the true transformational power of funding Art programs. Through the Arts, our children learn empathy, creativity, and so much more than is needed to become well-rounded and truly good people that will be change makers that we need. For so many of our youth, Art is a way to express, heal, share, and find hidden talents. Art helps our children to express their voices. That is why I am in strong opposition of HB 180 because of the potential it has to severely cut funding for HSFCA’s Art in Public Places Program. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Raechelle Villanueva

4th Grade Teacher

Wai`alae Elementary Public Charter School

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:10:36 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria lesko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kill this bill!!!!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:12:41 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Loren Bullard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Legislature,

I address you today with a sense of urgency regarding the proposed bill, HB 1807, HD2, which poses a significant threat to the arts and cultural landscape of our state. This bill seeks to revoke capital improvement appropriations for "state building renovations," diverting funds from the "one-percent-for-art special fund," as outlined in Session Laws of Hawaii 1967 (ACT 298).

If enacted, this bill would result in a drastic 68% reduction in revenue for the art in public places program, profoundly impacting government support for numerous arts organizations, programs, and individual artists across Hawaii. The bill argues that the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) "already possesses an adequate collection of artworks, rendering further acquisitions unnecessary." However, it fails to recognize the ongoing need for art acquisition and support within our communities.

Furthermore, HB 1807 aims to remove "renovations of state building" from the one percent for art law, projecting a loss of \$40 million to all state arts programs. The bill's purported appropriation of funds for "performing arts initiatives and expands arts programming in the school" is misleading. In reality, no such program exists, and these funds will not reach the performing arts and art programming currently managed by the State Foundation.

If HB 1807, HD2 is passed, all state museums (including those in the outer islands) and public art programs will face closure on July 1, 2024. This poses an existential threat to our cultural heritage and artistic expression.

As stewards of our state's future, I urge you to oppose the passage of HB 1807, HD2. The arts are not expendable—they are the soul of our communities, the expression of our identity, and the cornerstone of our cultural heritage. Let us stand together to protect and preserve them.

Thank you for your attention and consideration on this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Loren Bullard

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:13:04 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven P. Katz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Special Education teacher, a licensed mental health professional, a father a citizen of this beautiful State of Hawaii, I find it incredible that this bill was proposed and has gotten this far. The clamities this bill would cause are as follows:

Elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would CUT the following initiatives:

***THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY**

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

***EDUCATION PROGRAMMING**

- **Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.**
- SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Art Bento Museum Education Program
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade 7-12
- **Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6**
- **Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support**

PLEASE DEFEAT THIS HORRIBLE BILL!!

Aloha, Steven P. Katz, LMFT, Kailua HI.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:14:14 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Avalon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am writing in opposition of HB 1807, which aims to effectively cut 70% of funding to the Art in Public Places program. This action will have devastating results for numerous organizations and art centers throughout our islands, negatively impacting thousands of individuals, keiki and kūpuna alike, who benefit from the arts in various capacities.

We do not need less funding for the arts; we need MORE. As a budding professional artist entering my first year of being self-employed in this arena, this bill threatens my livelihood. I personally know numerous artists who have benefitted tremendously from Art in Public Places; it has boosted their careers and self confidence, all while allowing them to perform the basics like providing food for their families. If there is truly a surplus of art currently saved for future public building projects, I say either obtain another adequate storage facility (the state can absolutely afford this) OR, better yet, start actually displaying the art that has been amassed. There is no reason to only have one or a small handful of artworks displayed in public spaces. Truly, the more art, the better. There are plenty of bare or mostly-bare walls that can use some color.

Please recognize that this bill is harmful to our arts community and greater population. Please continue to fund the SFCA, AND procure additional funding for other public artwork initiatives. The state can most certainly afford to spend more money on art.

Mahalo, Avalon Paradea

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:17:00 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hallie Hunt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my vehement opposition to House Bill 1807 (HB1807), which proposes the repeal of capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. This bill threatens to decimate the Art in Public Places program revenue by a staggering 68%, effectively slashing vital support for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. If enacted, HB1807 would spell disaster for countless arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide.

The ramifications of eliminating capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings are dire and far-reaching. Not only would this drastic measure strip away crucial financial support for the arts, but it would also undermine the cultural fabric of our communities. The arts play an integral role in fostering creativity, expression, and social cohesion. By gutting funding for the arts, HB1807 would deprive countless individuals of access to artistic experiences and opportunities, disproportionately impacting underserved communities.

Furthermore, the timing of this bill's potential passage is deeply concerning. With the decision to hear HB1807 in the Senate Committee on Transportation Culture and the Arts looming, immediate action is needed to prevent its advancement. It is imperative that we voice our opposition and mobilize swiftly to safeguard the future of arts funding in our state.

I urge you to reject House Bill 1807 and uphold the critical support systems that sustain our vibrant arts community. The stakes are too high to allow this bill to proceed unchecked. Our collective cultural heritage and the livelihoods of countless artists hang in the balance.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely, [Your Name] [Your Position, if applicable] [Your Contact Information]

March 18, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Eileen Towata and I oppose Bill 1807.

I understand Bill 1807 will negatively impact the arts in our state by significantly reducing the viability of Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) and the programs and funding it supports, including the operation of the Hawai'i State Art Museum. There are numerous reasons I believe we must nurture culture and the arts, but I will highlight only one. Some years ago, research began to examine the effects of the arts on both physical and mental health (example: "The Connection Between Art, Healing, and Public Health: A Review of Current Literature" from the American Journal of Public Health of February 2010, Vol. 100, No. 2). A growing body of research continues to support the arts' positive role. In current times of increased division and more stressful living, finding our human commonalities through culture and the arts is more important than ever. We all deserve access, exposure and inclusion in these enriching experiences.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Eileen Towata
Kailua, HI 96734

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:20:41 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal DeRosier	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this bill. HB 1807 HDI would result in a drastic cut in support for the arts in the state, reducing over 50% of the Arts in Public Places revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs, Hawai'i's artists, and art in schools programs.

As an artist and member of an organization that strongly supports the arts, I have witnessed the growth of the art scene here and the impact it has made in a positive way on the community. It needs more support to continue to foster this favorable trajectory, not less. The scope of this bill would strike at a foundation that has barely finished curing, not to mention destroy the potential success of several organizations' and individual futures.

I am disappointed that this bill was even proposed. It demonstrates a lack of understanding of the priorities and features that create a strong, healthy society.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:22:22 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SCOTT SWARTZ	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in OPPOSITION of HB1807 SD 2 RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND.

I am an actor, SAG-AFTRA member, and full time resident of Oahu.

I support education and access to the arts; I support the State Foundation for Culture and the Arts and its decades-long history as a national leader in community-based arts funding; and I support keeping the funding for this important organization intact. [HB1807](#) HD 2 repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.

While this measure seems innocuous on the surface, it would cut nearly 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, eliminating government support for many arts programs and initiatives statewide. The appropriation proposed in this measure would not make up for the drastic cut in funding. Here is a list of organizations and activities that will be affected:

***THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY**

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

***EDUCATION PROGRAMMING**

- **Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.**
- **SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists**
- **The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming**
- **Art Bento Museum Education Program**
- **Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grades 7-12**
- **Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6**
- **Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support**

Please do not pass this bill.

Respectfully,

Scott Swartz

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:23:47 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meredith Buck	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Meredith Buck, and I am an artist and cultural practitioner residing in Kailua Kona, HI. I **strongly oppose** this bill as it would undermine the arts in Hawai'i, with ripple effects reaching education and literacy overall within the community. By removing funding for HSFCA, especially with no alternative plan to ensure that it is able to continue, this bill implies the immediate loss of a major center of arts and culture for Hawai'i at large. Please do not pass this bill and instead consider finding more constructive ways to support artists, cultural practitioners, and overall access to arts. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:25:36 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mistee Uyehara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for this opportunity, I am in strong opposition of HB 1807 HD2.

We absolutely need as much support as can for our artists, creatives and arts organizations here in Hawai'i! HB1807 HD2 would be incredibly harmful and would be eradicating the Arts in Public Places Programs and also would be taking away such needed support for so many creative programs, arts organizations and individual artists (which also include taking away opportunities and hope for so many children in our next generation).

If this bill is passed, the Hawaii State Art Museum and all exhibitions and public programs will end immediately. I have expereinced seeing such joy, wonder, engagement and amazing learning opportunities in attending and participating in the programs and events with the Hawaii State Art Museum for both myself and my 5 year old daughter, not to mention seeing the wonderful crowds of families and individuals in our community getting involved. It would be devastating to see this all erased if this bill is passed and support is taken away.

As an artist living here on Oahu, I have experienced and seen how much support is needed for our artists and creative community and how much of that support can affect an individual's life and well-being with the programs, opportunities and support. I strongly oppose HB1807 HD2, let's please continue to support and advocate for our artists and creative commnity here across the islands!!

Mahalo for your time,

Mistee Uyehara

Aiea, Oahu, 96701

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:27:31 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Koide	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Christina Koide and I strongly urge you to vote against bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact the immersive gallery experience and performance that my special education classroom participated in. There are few field trip options for my students to engage and learn in a safe environment as they have extensive support needs. Having this safe and engaging space for my students helped them to practice their daily living skills, socialization skills, and learn more about Hawaii's diverse culture. The exhibits we have visited this year and previously have taken my students extensive support needs and allowed for them to engage and explore safely. If we as a state are to consider all students, we must keep funding that supports all even those who have extensive support needs.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Christina Koide

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:29:22 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tia Brady	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Hawai'i state legislators,

I am a local printmaking artist and teacher. I am supported by multiple organizations on the list that will be negatively impacted if this bill passes. Our community relies on these institutions providing us with opportunities to learn and grow in the arts, and any cuts to their funding will have an immediate affect on our collective well being.

I strongly oppose HB1807 and plead with our lawmakers to find another solution.

Sincerely,

Tia Brady

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:30:51 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ERIKA J MOLYNEUX	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

Sincerely,

Erika Molyneux

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:32:41 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brienne Skees	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe arts education programming should be made possible across all islands and this bill will strip their funding and won't allow them to achieve this mission.

TESTIMONY OF SHERMAN WARNER
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 Conference Room 224; Videoconference at 3:00 p.m.

HB 1807, HD2 RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND

Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Inouye and members of the Committee, I am Sherman Warner, a resident of Hawai'i Island, and I'm thankful for this opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 1807, HD2.

I have been involved in the arts professionally and as a volunteer since 1969. In my retirement, I served for 8 years as a commissioner with the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and for several years as a director, president of the board, and as chair of the exhibition committee that oversees the art galleries at the Kahilu Theatre.

In the 22 years since I retired and returned to Hawaii (where I was born, raised and educated), I have followed the health, the challenges, and the resiliency of Hawaii's arts and cultural sector. I have also followed legislation and policies affecting artists, arts organizations, cultural practitioners and cultural organizations. I cannot recall another bill that presented such an existential threat to the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts having advanced this far in the legislative process. The damage that HB 1807, HD2 might cause is hard to overstate. I can't imagine what reason there might be for inflicting such damage on the essential work of the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts as it continues its mission to promote, preserve, and perpetuate the arts and culture of Hawai'i. To undercut the pioneering funding model that inspired arts funding across the nation would be a loss to the people of Hawaii that would be akin to arbitrarily deciding to cut public library funding by 50 percent.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts is at the center of Hawaii's uniquely diverse arts and cultural sector and it also provides important exposure to the arts for students in our public education system, where the arts receive far less attention than they deserve.

Please stop HB 1807, HD2 now.

Mahalo for your service to the arts,
Sherman Warner

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:34:36 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Yoell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Scott Yoell and I strongly urge you to oppose bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact artist, educational institutions, museums, non-profits, local business and over all creative richness of everyday life in Hawai'i. Not only does it add meaning to spaces it also allows communities t to exhibit their uniqueness. It adds an intersection between past, present, and future, between disciplines and between ideas. Public Art is accessible and communicates and place's strong sense of place and identity within a community.

As an artist and owner of Island Eclectic a professional art handling and art restoration company; I would be directly affected by these cuts. My business employs numerous artists and artisans throughout the state of Hawai'i.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Scott

Scott Yoell

64-5217 Mokuloa Dr.

Kamuela, HI

96743

808.217.5523

islandeclectichi.com

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:34:46 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Marker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts:

As an individual who loves our island arts and culture, I oppose HB 1807 HD2.

The current version of the bill will greatly impact our public programs, exhibitions, support for our Native Hawaiian and local artists, and educational programming for children and youth. The severe budget cuts to our arts would eliminate a very large portion of our education programs. This would be devastating for everyone who should have access to and participate in our arts.

Children and adults, particularly in our rural communities who would not always be introduced to Hawaii's rich artistic talents, have benefited greatly from the work of the Commission and its spread of arts education and appreciation. I'm so thankful for what we're able to view and experience and I spread the word to many people. When I have visitors, I take them to see as much of our arts and culture as possible, pointing out the outdoor public arts as well as those in buildings such as our Capitol Modern. It should make us proud that we've done such a good job with cultivating and sharing our arts. I respectfully ask that you not move this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Nancy Marker

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:37:33 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Parkinson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose the change.

Why would you put all these programs at risk?

Elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would CUT the following initiatives

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

EDUCATION PROGRAMMING, including...

Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide

SFCA sponsored professional development for DOE teachers and teaching artists

The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming

Art Bento Museum Education Program

Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students in grades 7-12

Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students in grades K-6

Hawai‘i Arts Alliance support.

Respectfully,

John Parkinson

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:38:05 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DIANE E NUSHIDA-TOKUNO	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Access to the arts is a fundamental right and need for the development of a whole and compassionate human being in modern society. Art, artists, museums and arts organizations contribute to the highest quality of life that society strives for. Children need to be allowed to experience and create art to understand themselves, society and appreciate nature and community.

Please do not cut funding to the arts as the impact will be far reaching in our community. We need museums, art, artists, arts education and access and availability to the arts for all in our community.

Thank you,

Diane Nushida-Tokuno

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:38:41 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nakemiah Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello!! I would like to oppose this bill on behalf of myself who is alumni of (UH) Manoa. If it wasn't for Hawaii, I wouldn't be the artist that I am today. It's because of the Āina that I was blessed to help translate, my trauma into my art to help me heal while transitioning (retire) out the Army there.

Art is an important part of life, because without it, you could not heal your inner child, or let alone pass it down to your children to help them cope with different things by using their creativity. I don't know if y'all realize that y'all have such a big, strong art community here that it's a force of light. Really hope that y'all continue to support these important spaces for more people to grow as artist.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:43:08 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Navid Najafi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition to HB1807 HD2 which proposes to repeal capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. This bill would cut 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely eliminating government support for many arts programs and initiatives statewide. While the most recent version of the bill tries to cover the bills negative impact on education and performing arts by making an appropriation, it will not come close to matching the loss of this cut.

Elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would CUT the following initiatives:

*THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

*SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

*EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Art Bento Museum Education Program
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade 7-12
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6
- Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support

Supporting the arts and artists is vital to our community. Please stop HB1807 from eliminating these vital resources.

Mahalo!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:43:43 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Dauw	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

WILL END IMMEDIATELY

The next page lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

*SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island

Donkey Mill Arts Center

East Hawaii Culture Center

Kahilu Theatre

Wailoa Center

Maui

Hui Noe'au

Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association Maui Arts and Culture Center Viewpoints Gallery

Kauai

Kauai Society of Artists

Oahu

Downtown Art Center

Arts and Letters

Fishcake

University of Hawaii Galleries

Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society

Hawaii Contemporary Hawaii Watercolor Society Honolulu Printmakers Honolulu Theatre for Youth Hawaii Handweavers Hui Hula Preservation Society NOTAE

Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
Professional Development for DOE Teachers

The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony

Hawaii Arts Alliance support

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

Kahauiki Village

Institute for Human Services

RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment

LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here. [FULL NAME]
[TOWN, ISLAND, ZIP CODE] Janice Dauw Keaau, Big Island 96749

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:45:26 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Misha Chun	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I disagree with the passing of this bill as it not only reduces the amount of art events and activities for people of all ages, but also further prevents those within the art community to spread their craft while being able to live in our state from the services they provide. With this bill passed, there will be a significant decrease in events used to bring the community together and Hawaii will no longer have a home to its local artists.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:47:45 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
diana nicholette jeon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Diana Nicholette Jeon and I strongly urge you to oppose bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact my and other artist who reside and attempt to earn a living from our work.

The last thing we need is MORE cuts in the arts. I strongly oppose this bill. Hawaii was once a leader in the arts. Now it appears you want to shred that. Say no to HB 1807.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:48:41 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roberta Arita	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807 HD2. Why are you removing the arts which is so necessary for the development of children? How do Preschoolers express themselves before they can read and write? And what of those children like my grandchildren who thrive on art expression and appreciation. Is Mr. Yamashita taking us backward when the arts was not considered "education." This is an outrage and Kyle Yamashita's bill should be voted out.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:51:24 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 18, 2024

This is testimony in strong dismay at HB 1807. Please vote against this bill today.

Elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would sever several key programs and initiatives that are critical to our community, and especially to our keiki. Among the important programs under threat are

- Our Hawai’i State Art Museum exhibitions and programs that are part of the fabric of our community;
- The State Foundation for Culture and the Arts assistance for DOE teachers and teaching artists that are absolutely critical to many facets of arts and arts education;
- Support for Native Hawaiian artists
- The very important Artists in Schools program
- Hawai’i Arts Alliance support

As an artist and arts educator in Hawai’i for 30 years, I can testify to the good work of arts educators in our state, and to the programs and institutions above. It is critical that our state continues to support the arts!

Dr. Betsy Fisher

Professor Emierita, UHM

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:52:19 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bon Moore	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I speak as an artist living on the island of Kauai who works with coconut husk fiber. I learned from a traditional Polynesian craftsman from Tahiti who lives on Kauai. I see the coconut husk fiber craft in museums and books as a Polynesian craft from the past, but it is not well known in modern times.

I've been exploring between folk crafts and modern art with coconut husk fiber, and I am greatly encouraged by the SFCA's recognition of three works as part of the Art in Public Collection at the 2017 Art Kaua'i Exhibition, 2021 Hawaii Craftsmen Annual Exhibition, and 2022 Art Kaua'i Exhibition.

The Art in Public Places Program continues to tell the story of the lives, thoughts, and philosophies of the people living in Hawaii.

Now that times are changing dramatically, I believe strongly that Art is a voice of these times, and It will be of great significance in the future to pass down the story of what is happening now. I strongly oppose HB1807, and wishing strongly to keep SFCA funding the way it is.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:52:27 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalehua Fung	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Kalehua Fung and I oppose HB1807.

I believe the bill at hand should be challenged for several violations concerning HRS Section 9-21, along with Article IX Section 9, and Article X Section 4 of the Hawai'i State Constitution.

HRS Section 9-21 states the function of the grants this bill seeks to cut. That is:

“Support, promote, and recognize excellence of the State's diverse cultural, creative, and traditional artists; and [3] Create, display, and maintain in public places and the state art museum a collection of works of art that: [A] Represents the diversity and excellence of the State's artistic expression; and [B] Provides to all the citizens of the State the fullest possible access to the highest quality aesthetic and educational experiences available “ In which there is no substantial evidence that all of these requirements have not been met.

The Hawai'i State Constitution Article IX Section 9 declares, “The State shall have the power to preserve and develop the cultural, creative and traditional arts of its various ethnic groups.“ Along with this, Article X Section 4 expresses that the State must promote Hawaiian culture, history, and language. The state must provide Hawaiian educational programs consisting of language, culture, and history, and several art institutions currently do this with the funding granted.

Concerning these statutes, we have reason to believe that up until now, all art centers that will be affected have upheld their purpose and function of not only beautifying the State but also serving as educational platforms about the State & Kingdom's history, therefore HB1807 remains unsupported.

With the passing of HB1807, there will be many places that will no longer be able to continue their important art programs, such as the Youth Poet Laureate program.

The Youth Poet Laureate program seeks to bring art education and cultural significance to our youth. Poetry is a form of art, it is also a form of Native Hawaiians perpetuating culture. As a former Youth Poet Laureate, granted the opportunity by funds like these given to places like Maui Arts Cultural Center, I get to travel America and carry out this function. Exchanging, but also teaching, culture & art; while additionally representing

Hawai'i. It is imperative that our youth understand art as an outlet and as a way to perpetuate culture.

The loss of funding like this would be exponentially damaging to the State's image wherein we would no longer be able to carry out important arts and education programs.

So, to no longer fund programs like the current ones is the state no longer upholding their duties, and deeming arts & education unimportant.

This bill violates the understanding that art is to promote the greater good while also exceeding in perpetuating cultural significance. Without art, there is no history, expression, or life, especially in a place like Hawai'i. Your funding and allowance of funding continue to express the State's idea that Art is important.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:53:32 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bob Grossmann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The bill's fiscal impact is unclear to assess the overall impact, in part, as no appropriation amount was included for public review.

How much funding would be lost by eliminating the 1% for new construction is not noted nor how much exists in the Works of Art Special Fund.

Hawaii may be the only state that has no art requirement in schools.

More after-school and art-in-the-school programs are needed, not less. With reduced support to local artists, art teachers will be an endangered species.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:54:18 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yukie Shiroma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senate TCA Committee members,

Please dismiss/not hear the House Bill 1807. This bill will be devastating to the livelihoods for our local communities.

Here are the reasons why House Bill 1807 should be eliminated/not heard and the funding should remain:

BENEFITS FOR SOCIETY

Economic Drivers: The arts create jobs and produce tax revenue. A strong arts sector is an economic asset that stimulates business activity, attracts tourism and expands a state’s work force and tax base. The arts have been shown to be a successful and sustainable strategy for revitalizing rural areas, cities and populations struggling with poverty.

Educational Assets: The arts cultivate young imaginations and facilitate success in school, enhancing academic achievement in multiple subject areas. They provide the critical thinking, communications and innovation skills essential to a productive 21st century workforce.

Civic Catalysts: The arts create a welcoming sense of place and a desirable quality of life. The arts also support strong democracy, engaging citizens in civic discourse, providing forums for important issues and encouraging collective problem solving.

Cultural Legacies: The arts preserve culture and heritage, passing along our state’s unique character, diverse cultures, and traditions to future generations of citizens.

BENEFITS FOR PUBLIC POLICY

The arts improve the impact of other state policies and services. Numerous states have incorporated the arts into economic revitalization, education, literacy, work-force development, tourism, community sustainability, social service and veterans-care plans.

The arts are a dynamic contributor to the small-business sector. The creative industries are composed of many talented workers who are self-employed, freelancers or employed by microenterprises. According to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) analysis of U.S. Census occupational data, artists are nearly 3.5 times more likely than the total U.S. work force

to be self-employed (33.6% vs. 9.8%). Many nonprofit arts organizations, too, are small businesses and play an important role in training creative workers and incubating artistic enterprises.

The arts make communities vibrant, welcoming and desirable. Cultural places and events are magnetic, attracting not only artists but also families, travelers and businesses. Creative placemaking—the gravitational effect of culture on neighborhoods—positively impacts local economies and quality of life. It creates jobs and stimulates commercial traffic, all of which leverage neighborhood revitalization, attract diverse populations and strengthen communities. Capitalizing on these effects of creative placemaking requires strong public-sector support.

The arts are a hallmark of innovation. The arts are part of creative capacity, spurring innovation and generating unique products and services. Creativity is part of any competitive edge in the global marketplace, where distinctive design and effective communications can spell the success or failure of a business or policy venture.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:54:43 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenny chang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill. Without arts, people will not have jobs as most of them rely it as an only income. This is not fair for the people.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:00:15 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Swanson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill.

Jason Swanson

Citizen of Hawaii

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:01:22 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to HB1807.

Art is community. Art is important. Please protect community art programs!

Thank you,

Emily Standfield

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:01:24 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerome Narciso	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. As expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. It makes a person aware and that's what education's all about. So whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. It's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:01:28 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Gong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Lily Gong and I strongly urge you to vote against bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact the immersive gallery experience and performance that my special education classroom participated in.

All of my students have special needs. A lot of them have sensory disorder that prevent them to learn the same way as typical children. When we participated in Forest Flutters program, we saw all the students were engaged and learned a lot. After the workshop in the classroom which is the first part of the program, I heard my parents talking about their children shared what they did in the class. They love how their children were able to talk about school with the excitement. During the field trip to the Capitol Modern, all of the students were able to explore the settings in their way safely. When I showed the pictures and videos later in the classroom, I could tell they were so excited to recall what they did. All these experiences cannot be replaced with learning in the school setting. We really like to have more of these in the future.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:02:34 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen H. Yuen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mon 18mar 2024

Submitted for HB1807

This testimony is written in strong opposition to HB 1807.

Lifelong Kaimuki resident and architect.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle—a fundamental corollary to the 3 R’s understood by our society and by architects is the notion that we need to re-use our buildings, rather than tear them down and build new. As this trend to focus on renovation increases, more of our Hawaii capital improvement projects will be and should be renovation projects, and thus should continue to be a source of funds for art.

There should be no distinction between new construction and renovation projects in the assignment of funding for art.

In times of change and emergency, art plays a critical role in our well-being. According to the University of Washington: Art has an incredible way of connecting the world and allowing us to express ourselves. Because of these feel-good effects, art is a powerful tool for self-care and mental health. Studies have shown that expression through art can help people with depression, anxiety, and stress.

<https://thewholeu.uw.edu>

Please consider the opposite thought to cutting programs—

That continuing funding for art and art programs including art education and classes, will actually help Hawaii through challenging economic times in the most cost effective way.

The structure currently organized provides value and is efficient and should not be repealed.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:02:57 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zoe Brooks-Jeffiers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in strong opposition of HB1807 HD2. A cut in funding for the arts would be a massive loss to the vibrancy and beauty of all the communities across the Hawaiian Islands. Art is so fully integrated into the Hawaiian culture. From fine art, to mele, to dance. Cutting funding will directly impact the hawaiian culture as well as many others. Whitle this bill seemingly supports the arts, it actually has pieces which will drastically cut funding in the arts budget, equating to about 70%. By replacing a dedicated funding source with the need for regular legislative appropriations and with no guarantee that the appropriations will live up to the current funding. Many artists depend on the income they recieve to integrate art into the classrooms, as well as selling art to the foundation. Many of the artists would no longer be able to afford to stay on the islands-- forcing more people to move away.

Hawaii has set a goal to be a trauma informed state, yet this bill would create more trauma, financial, mental, and emotional.

I strongly oppose this bill and hope you do to. Mahalo nui.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:05:56 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick mizumoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a local artist, an oil painter, living in Hawai'i. Please do not let this bill pass. This would immediately cut funding and close Capitol Modern (Hawai'i state art museum) and all the wonderful art programs and exhibitions there. We don't have many options for local artists to show work on an elevated scale and Capitol Modern has been one of the top entities for showcasing local artists and events for the community. It would greatly impact the artists across all of Hawai'i! Please don't let this integral art institution be shut down because of this bill. It is so important we have a place like Capitol Modern to continue nurturing the arts within our community!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:13:51 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annie Thomas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Annie Thomas and I strongly urge you to oppose Bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact arts programming around the state

Arts education and programming is fundamental to the future of our keiki and it will be a great loss for our community if this is cut.

Me ke aloha,

Annie Thomas, Ewa Beach, Hawai'i

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:11:47 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clara Whippy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

I would like to testify that I strongly OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

This bill would have a devastating effect on my livelihood as a full time teaching artist at Honolulu Theatre for Youth (HTY). The vast majority of my work is conducting arts integrated drama residencies on DOE K-12 schools, which rely on the Artists in the Schools grant and the Arts in Public Places grant. Daily I see the empowering effect of arts integration in the classroom on our keiki- problem solving, collaborative skills, deeper empathy, a personal connection to the academic content being covered, confidence, tools of expression, communication skills, emotional literacy, a sense of belonging, and so much more. This funding supports all this amazing work deep within communities.

This bill would put a halt to this work and would negatively impact the hundreds of public DOE students and dozens of their teachers I personally have the privilege of working with through the Artists In the School grant and Arts in Public Places grant (Thousands of students if you count my fellow HTY colleagues alone. Tens of thousands if you count all the residencies made possible through this funding). These children deserve quality arts education, deserve the empowerment and collaborative skills they build in these residencies, many of which live in under-served communities. I would also like to maintain my livelihood doing work that I am passionate about, work that is truly meaningful.

Please, please oppose this Bill.

Thank you for taking the time to consider all the ways this bill would be devastating to our community.

Clara Whippy

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:14:21 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vera Zambonelli	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In times when we need art and artists more than ever, this bill halts a very much needed support.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:17:12 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Trangmar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

It will be devastating to the Arts community and society at large if that much funding is cut from the Arts. The Arts are enjoyed by so many people for so many different reasons, culturally, spiritually, environmentally. It helps us understand and record who we are, it can be healing, it gives us an avenue for self expression, our sense of purpose and place. It helps us explain things that can't be explained with other forms of communication. Culture & Arts stimulates economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. All of this will get eradicated if funding is cut so drastically. So many people, on every island, will be out of jobs, if funding is cut. For many of us, the arts is all we know and all we want to do because it is so rich in value for us and our society. The skills and knowledge we have developed living in Hawai'i will be lost if we don't have opportunities to pass them down to generations to come through education and exhibition of craft.

This bill would eradicate the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

Along with the Hawai'i State Art Museum having to end all public programs and exhibitions here is a list of other organizations (plus everyone that works for them and, with them, participates in their programming, moves through their spaces, learns something from them) that will be directly affected:

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawai'i Island
Donkey Mill Arts Center

East Hawai'i Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center
Maui
Hui Noe'au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association Maui Arts and Culture Center Viewpoints Gallery
Kauai
Kauai Society of Artists
Oahu
Downtown Art Center
Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawai'i Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society
Hawai'i Contemporary Hawai'i Watercolor Society Honolulu Printmakers Honolulu Theatre for Youth Hawai'i Handweavers Hui Hula Preservation Society NOTAE

Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
Professional Development for DOE Teachers

The Hawai'i State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony Young Artists of Hawai'i Exhibition and Ceremony

Hawai'i Arts Alliance support

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

Kahauiki Village
Institute for Human Services
RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center

Thank you for your time, please consider how deeply this could affect artists, teachers, children, our local community and expressions of our unique culture.

Lauren Trangmar (Artist)
Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96816

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:18:36 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lele?iohoku	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1807 HD2

House Bill 1807 HD2 seeks to, among other things, remove the existing requirement that one percent of construction costs for the original construction of any state building be allocated to works of art in the State Foundation on Culture and Arts' Works of Art Special Fund.

This testimony in opposition summarizes key reasons why this bill should not be passed:

Weakening of the State's Artistic Culture: The proposed bill undermines Hawaii's robust arts and culture scene. The percentage for art law was initially established to increase public access to the arts by funding the acquisition of artworks for state-owned buildings. The removal of this provision could lead to less public exposure to works of art, stifling the growth of Hawaii's artistic culture.

Negative Impact on Local Artists: The Works of Art Special Fund has been a critical resource for supporting local artists in Hawaii by offering them opportunities to create art that reaches a broader audience. Removing the one percent allocation of funds could result in fewer opportunities for local artists to showcase their works, depriving them of an essential funding source to create more artworks.

Decreased Public Access to Art: State-funded building construction projects that prioritize the allocation of funds for artworks helps popularize art and increase public access to art in the state of Hawaii. With the removal of the funding requirement, construction projects might choose not to allocate funds to artworks, resulting in less public access to art within state buildings.

Conflicts of Interest: Permitting state agencies to incorporate donated art raises concerns about accountability and conflicts of interest. Artwork acquired this way may not be appropriate or effective in the agency's context.

In sum, I strongly oppose House Bill 1807 HD2 because as it will weaken Hawaii's artistic culture, negatively impact local artists, decrease public access to art within state-owned buildings, and create conflicts of interest by permitting state agencies to incorporate donated art.

I urge lawmakers to reconsider this measure, protect the Works of Art Special Fund, and continue to promote Hawaii's diverse and thriving artistic culture, mahalo.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:27:42 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruel Mannette	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As far as places in the world go Hawaii uniquely contributes to world culture through its art. Hawaii is one of the few places recognized the world over because of this unique contribution from songs to plastic arts. What Hawaii contributes globally also pales in comparison to what art contributes for local people as well. Art is an essential component of culture and it is what makes places unique. Italy and France are world famous not just because the place has interesting history, the food is good, or the landscape pretty but also because of their contribution to the arts. Art has been a key component of the Hawaiian renaissances and continues to thrive offering local culture a way of uniquely expressing itself that stands out on the world stage. Any modification to funding the arts could drastically harm such an ecosystem particularly due to the high cost of living Hawaii already faces. Artists don't mind working for little but they need to live and government support of projects can be essential for that. Furthermore, the less support there is the more quickly the Art will become erased the the commercial entertainment culture will overtake it. Hawaii already suffers a deep artistic appropriation from commercial giants like Disney whose version overtakes the narrative. Keeping support for local arts in placd helps fight this by providing alternative means to tell the story and share unique artistic and cultural projects that can be found nowhere else.

Thank you.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:27:52 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa McCowan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Again, I provide strong comment that this bill is a horrifying idea. Why is it that our community is hell-bent on reducing access to art and culture? WHY do our leaders take away from what makes us human, what makes us great? WHY do our leaders always vote to save a dollar at the expense of the arts?

The great cultures that we look at through history we look at through the lens of art. Art is what persists. We cherish the paintings, the photos, the rock carvings, the architecture of before. We look to the art of the past to help us enjoy the present.

Passing this bill means that the art of today cannot be the art of the past for our children. **Our children always suffer when our lawmen pass a bill to save a buck.** Take the money from the rich overseas investors, take the money from the cuts we give the military. Take from those who can give and who wouldn't notice the cut. Do NOT take from the arts.

To the esteemed members of the House of Representatives,

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 1807, which seeks to repeal capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. As a passionate advocate for the arts in Hawaii, I believe this bill would be profoundly detrimental to the vibrancy and sustainability of our state's artistic community.

First and foremost, I must emphasize the critical role that art plays in our society. It serves as a cornerstone of our cultural identity, a catalyst for creativity and innovation, and a powerful medium for expression and dialogue. The arts not only enrich our lives on a personal level but also contribute significantly to our economy and overall well-being.

It is deeply concerning that this bill would undermine the longstanding commitment of Hawaii to support the arts. By eliminating funding for the works of art special fund, it would severely limit opportunities for artists to showcase their work and for the public to engage with art in state buildings. This, in turn, would have ripple effects throughout our artistic ecosystem, stifling creativity, stifling economic growth, and depriving our communities of the myriad benefits that the arts provide.

Furthermore, I urge you to consider the broader implications of this bill. The Hawaii County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) rightfully recognizes the arts as a critical economic sector for the growth of our economy. By cutting off funding for the arts, we would not only jeopardize the livelihoods of countless artists but also undermine efforts to diversify and strengthen our economy.

In conclusion, I implore you to reject House Bill 1807 and uphold our state's commitment to supporting the arts. Now, more than ever, we need to invest in creativity, cultural enrichment, and community well-being. Let us not turn our backs on the arts but instead reaffirm their value and importance to the fabric of our society.

Thank you for considering my testimony, and I urge you to stand with the arts community by opposing this detrimental bill.

Sincerely,

Matt Stevens
Kapa'au, HI

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:29:13 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donald Carreira Ching	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am strongly opposed to HB 1807. This bill would cut adversely eliminate support for many important art programs and initiatives. Although the most recent version of the bill attempts to address some of these impacts, it does not meet the the needs of the community and the needs of the programs. Please do not vote in favor of this bill.

Take care,

Donald

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:30:10 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ms. Patricia Maryanne Coughlin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to HB1807. Hawaii needs to protect and prioritize funding for museums, culture and arts programs for Hawaii citizens.

Senator Chris Lee
Chair, Committee on Transportation and Culture, and the Arts

RE: Opposition to HB1807 HD2

March 18, 2024

Sen. Lee and Committee Members:

My name is Elizabeth Lentz-Hill, and I am an independent dance artist and arts educator. I am testifying in **opposition to HB 1807 HD2**.

The drastic cut in funds would eliminate a significant amount of the arts education programs run through the State Foundation for Culture and the Arts, many of which are the only exposure to arts and cultural practices that keiki get. The funding cut is an issue of equity, as the cuts to programs would particularly impact neighbor island students and those from low-income areas, who may not have other opportunities to engage with the arts.

The amount of the state budget allotted to funding arts, culture, and arts education is very small. The “1% rule” is the assurance that all youth across the state have exposure to arts and culture. These programs run on relatively small budgets but have significant impacts on youth cognitive, social, emotional, and creative development.

Again, I stand opposed to HB 1807 HC2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Elizabeth Lentz-Hill, M.F.A.
Mō‘ili‘ili

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:30:57 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yuting Cheng	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition for HB1807 - A bill for an act relating to the works of art special field.

I am writing in opposition for HB1807 - A bill that revises the original arts special fund to

1. specify that the works of art special fund's one per cent transfer requirement shall apply only to capital improvement appropriations for the original construction of state buildings; and
2. Appropriate funds for performing arts and other initiatives in schools.

Art drives motivation. Art drives creativity. Art drives inspiration. Without constant energy onto this practice, people turn complacent. As an artist that have lived in both Californiat and Hawai'i', there are times when I see new appartments churn that start to look like the apartments and suburbs of Irvine, Orange County - lacking personality, history, character, education, culture.

Please, as art is already under funded, don't do this.

Thank you,

Tina

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:30:58 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Desori Bermudes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Laughing my ass off!!!!!!!!!! You clowns have nothing better to do than cut funding for arts and museums that benefit native Hawaiians and the taxpayers who live in Hawaii. SHAME. Do something worthy of our tax dollars you pathetic excuses of so called leaders. What a joke. We should cut your salary and benefits instead. If you don't value, arts, culture, community, music, and more that says a lot about how much substance and critical thinking you LACK as a HUMAN BEING.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:32:07 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristine Andrada	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am submitting a testimony in opposition of this bill and it's actions to remove support from local artists, organizations and programs that benefit the community.

Art matters and public funding for the arts matter.

There's a general misunderstanding of the importance of art. Where some people see art as a luxury, a drain on resources that could be use for things they deem more important. Due to lack of understanding we often overlook the importance of the arts and public funding for them.

I can list all the ways art is beneficial to our community such as boosting ones mental wellbeing, creating a sense of identity, connecting people through creativity and storytelling, some of these ways may be hard to measure but art is all part of humanity.

Art needs more support not less. Please do not allow this bill to move forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:32:19 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hawkins Biggins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

As a working artist/photographer and middle school photography teacher I appose bill HB1807 HD2 which would cut support for Native Hawaiian and Local Artists, Galleries and Organizations. The act of making and viewing art enriches our lives. Art is an important aspect of our society/culture/history and should be avialable to everyone. Art provides means of expression for cultural exchange and understanding, learning and education along with social change. Please continue to fund programs that support the arts.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Hawkins Biggins

Photographer/Artist/Teacher

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:33:00 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleialoha Lum-Ho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair & Committee members,

I humbly submit my testimony in OPPOSITION of HB1807, which will “repeal the requirement that capital improvement program appropriations for the renovation of state buildings be a source of funds for the works of art special fund.” The arts are already severely underfunded in Hawai‘i. I can speak to this first hand as the child and grandchild of struggling artists. This funding appropriation is a critical lifeline for current and future artists to be able to sustain their families. Furthermore, you will be robbing future generations from a rich repository of visual and performing arts and discouraging budding artists from pursuing their passion and dreams. I grew up visiting art galleries and museums and attending art shows and performances, and being surrounded by art has shaped who I am as an educator and Native Hawaiian. If you believe, as stated in this bill that “art feeds the human spirit and offers priceless value,” please consider the ramifications of passing this bill. Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Kaleialoha Lum-Ho

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:33:23 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jihae Kwon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art is an essential part of civilization. Human has longed and seeked for beauty throughout history to possess and to enjoy. As societies have grown, art has grown with them. Art has enriched and inspired human lives. Without art, people will have nothing to write, sing, or look at anymore. Art provides experiences that are strongly linked to brain and mind development that math and science cannot provide. Tactile experience, eye-hand coordination, problem solving, etc. are some qualities art develops. Cut the art budget and see how your life will be without any art in your life. Remove any photography, paintings, sculptures, graphic design, furniture, and products in your life. They are all art. Live without them and see how inconvenient and uninspiring your life will be.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:34:09 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol M. Arney	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 18, 2024: submitted at 10:00 am

Aloha,

My name is The Rev. Carol Arney. I am an Episcopal Priest serving the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i and I strongly urge you **to oppose bill 1807**. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact countless institutions that make our Hawai'i Culture so rich.

I was shocked to see that the Institute for Human Services was listed among the organizations affected. The IHS has been first in supporting the "house-less population of Hawai'i long before the problem was well known.

I am also concerned about the many Educational programs that would be affected including:

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Art Bento Museum Education Program

- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade 7-12
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6
- Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support

I sympathize with your concern for providing more funding for Maui, however as I see it, the federal, State and County governments as well as many private charitable institutions have reached deep into their funds to provide assistance. Please do not take valuable support for these and other affected institutions.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

(signed)

Rev. Carol M. Arney

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:34:36 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Fujitani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807 because I believe it would negatively impact artists and cultural practitioners in Hawai'i.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:35:11 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
leimomi bong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Cutting art funding by 70% in public places... eliminating government support for statewide programs... taking away performing arts or arts education... puts access to a critical piece of cultural and diversity behind a paywall. Hawaii is a creative state that celebrates arts and culture. Losing public access to great bodies of work will have huge consequences for our haumana.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:35:19 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katharena Rentumis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please leave **§103-8.5 Works of art special fund** as is. Without it, many local organizations, arts educators, and artists are at risk of losing critical support for their programs and careers.

As a direct response to the idea of HSFCA's Art in Public Places Program already having enough artwork in it's collections- if our local leaders had thought like that back in the late 60's we would not have the APP collection as it is today. If we think like this now, what will future generations have to look back on our generation of arts and culture?

Capitol Modern/HiSAM also serves as the only free art museum on our island which provides access to schools, families, and individuals to have cultural experiences that they may otherwise forego due to cost. Please consider ways to continue supporting this program and providing our community with access to arts and culture that is equitable and accessible.

SFCA supports programs like AITS which not only provides jobs for Teaching Artists, but provides crucial arts education for our keiki in their schools. Many classroom teachers also find great value in utilizing the arts to help boost creativity, critical thinking skills, communication skills, and collaboration in their classrooms and also to aid in teaching other subjects.

Please continue to honor the 1% law and §103-8.5 Works of art special fund and consider new ways to increase funding/access to the arts and arts education across all of our neighbor islands. Please also take into account the number of people, programs, and organizations that this decision will impact as SFCA plays such a big role in providing arts and culture support in our communities.

Thank you for listening and I hope you will do the right thing for our current and future generations.

Sincerely,

Katharena

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:38:37 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Halie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

All forms of art are forms of power with the ability to impact us as individuals and as a community. This place provides a platform for local artists to express themselves through their art. The world is nothing without expressions of art. It's what helps us connect. Stop taking it away to replace it with meaningless nothingness. As a society, we thrive off art.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:40:42 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annemarie Paikai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Annemarie Paikai and I strongly urge you to oppose Bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact the continuation of arts and cultural experiences within our communities and particularly for our keiki as well as the many artists whose work carries forward our unique cultural heritage. I urge you to consider a different solution for funding renovations of state buildings.

Me ka mahalo,

Annemarie Paikai, Waiiau, O‘ahu

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:43:12 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isabela Ure	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and TCA Commitee.

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

I am an artist, musician, art educator and live my life with the support of "art in public places'. I urge you not to pass HB1807.

I strongly oppose HB1807 as I dircourage the immense toll it would take on necessary arts and cultural organizations for our community in Hawai'i.

Isabela Ure

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:43:17 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sugki Suguitan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Hawaii State House,

I come before you today to express deep concern and opposition to HB1807, HD2, a bill that seeks to amend crucial provisions regarding the Works of Art Special Fund. This bill, if passed, would have profoundly detrimental effects on the arts community across Hawaii and severely undermine the cultural enrichment of our state.

First and foremost, HB1807 aims to revoke capital improvement appropriations for state building renovations, effectively diverting funds from the Works of Art Special Fund. Such a measure would result in a staggering 68% reduction in revenue for the Art in Public Places Program, jeopardizing vital support for numerous arts organizations, programs, and individual artists throughout Hawaii. By restricting the application of the one percent transfer requirement solely to original construction projects, the bill neglects the importance of maintaining and enhancing existing state facilities, which also serve as platforms for showcasing artistic endeavors.

The argument put forth in the bill that the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) already possesses an adequate collection of artworks, therefore rendering further acquisitions unnecessary, is deeply flawed. Art is not static; it evolves and reflects the dynamic cultural landscape of our society. Limiting acquisitions to existing collections stifles creativity and denies emerging artists the opportunity to contribute to our state's cultural heritage.

Furthermore, while HB1807 purports to appropriate funds for performing arts initiatives and expanded arts programming in schools, it is essential to recognize the deceptive nature of this verbiage. The proposed funding allocation falls woefully short of compensating for the loss to the Works of Art Special Fund, thereby exacerbating the already dire situation facing Hawaii's arts community.

The repercussions of passing this bill would be felt far and wide, negatively impacting over 30 galleries and organizations across the state. Hawaii's vibrant arts scene is not only an essential economic driver but also a source of pride and identity for our residents. We cannot afford to undermine its vitality through shortsighted legislation.

In conclusion, I urge each of you to consider the devastating consequences of HB1807, HD2, on Hawaii's arts community and to reject this bill in its current form. Let us work together to support and nurture the rich cultural tapestry that makes Hawaii truly unique.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Sugki Suguitan

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:43:39 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kris Grimsley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. As expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "Art and education are the same. It makes a person aware, and that is what education is all about. Whether you verbalize, see, or hear, it's the same thing; it's the same body". I am adding that I find this bill reprehensible. I will never understand why our government feels the need to continue to serve only themselves or certain greedy individuals, and not the people(the majority of the people) for whom they were elected to serve. Shame on anyone who is in favor of this bill. Please do the right thing here. It is glaringly obvious what the right choice is....now have the courage to acutally follow through instead of worrying about upsetting individuals putting pressure on you to do the wrong thing.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:43:41 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Tran	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I whole heartedly oppose the state legislature taking away public art programming. I support the mission of Capitol Modern to provide arts education programming across all islands. It is a vital to cultivate a creative and artistic mindset across the generations. As a science teacher, I believe art education only strengthens a student's overall academic experience.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:44:54 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Iten	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807. The citizens of HI are in need of the arts to enrich our culture. Thank you

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:45:44 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deejae Yalung	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The continued support of funding for the arts is crucial for Hawaii. It is another way of bringing together everyone, locals and visitors alike. It also keeps a sense of culture alive, especially Hawaiian culture. With the funding potentially being cut, it'll discourage any future artists from showcasing their special talent to the world. Places like Capital Modern all the way to small businesses like Harbkes Vintage rely on the art to not only bring in people who appreciate it but also want to give people, especially local and indigenous people a platform to showcase their work.

Frank O. Hay
kokee@okauai.com

18. March 2024

Senators Chris Lee and Lorraine R. Inouye and the Honorable
Members of the Committee on Transportation and Culture & the Arts
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii 96813

MEETING IN HONOLULU ON Tuesday, March 19, 2024

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 1807, Relating to the Works of Art Special Fund

Aloha,

I have been a resident of Hawaii for more than sixty years. Over those many years, both my wife, Karen Gally, and I have been active members of the arts and culture community – with the Kōke'e Natural History Museum, the Kauai Society of Artists, the Hawaii Museums Association, the Kauai Museum, and the National Tropical Botanical Garden, among other organizations.

All those and many more organizations and individuals throughout the islands have received important and valuable support from the Works of Art Special Fund. For more than fifty years, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts has been a national leader in community-based arts funding and decision-making. Restricting funding to the original construction of State buildings would be a tragic step backwards.

I respectfully urge the honorable members of these two committees to oppose House Bill 1807 as currently drafted.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping loop at the end of the word.

268 Hua Place, Wailua Mauka, Kapaa, Kauai, Hawaii 96746-9608
(808) 635-3226

Frank O. Hay
kokee@okauai.com

18. March 2024

Senators Chris Lee and Lorraine R. Inouye and the Honorable
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268 Hua Place, Wailua Mauka, Kapaa, Kauai, Hawaii 96746-9608
(808) 635-3226

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:47:32 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blaise lum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that art is an important part of culture. By shutting down events like this it will affect local businesses by taking away opportunities for them to make sales and spread their brand. Without art and other entertainment forms life would be dull and young people will lose passion for life. Please reconsider

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:47:39 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makiko Miyamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:47:50 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Summer Peach	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

One of the great things about Hawaii are the many public art displays. There are so many talented artists in HI and I love to see their work celebrated and showcased! I would hate to see any limitations placed on these public displays.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:52:41 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Custino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am writing to oppose HB1807.

This bill would cut 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely eliminating government support for many arts programs and initiatives statewide. While the most recent version of the bill tries to cover the bills negative impact on education and performing arts by making an appropriation, it will not come close to matching the loss of this cut.

Elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would CUT the following initiatives:

1. THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY
2. SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS
3. EDUCATION PROGRAMMING
 - Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
 - SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists
 - The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
 - Art Bento Museum Education Program
 - Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade 7-12
 - Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6
 - Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Ian Keali‘i Custino

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:54:39 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Goff	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha pumehana Legislators of Hawaii,

I am writing to oppose HB1807 HD2, Works of Art Special Fund. According to the description, "that art special fund's one per cent transfer requirement shall apply only to capital improvement appropriations for the original construction of state buildings," reduces, prevents and stops community exhibitions by artists to express themselves freely within our community.

According to @artandflea on an Instagram reel, "68% reduction in revenue in art in public places." Art and its presence on our islands is unique due to history, culture and the physical environment we're surrounded by. I believe the funding should not be taken from public art to capital improvement as it limits access to citizens' exposure and joy to art and how art enhances life.

I am someone who benefits and is in community with artists who share their art with me and the larger community. I am also an elementary school teacher and love making connections with art in the classroom and art in community -- if this is omitted those connections can and will not be made.

Mahalo nui loa,

Renee Goff

Resident of Pearl City, 96782

Working in Ewa Beach, 96707

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:55:44 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kara Akiyama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1807 would cut special funding by 68%. That is an enormous amount that would disrupt many organizations and peoples livelihoods. It is so difficult to make a living in this state and the cut of this amount would make it impossible for local and native Hawaiian artists to continue to make art or live in Hawai'i. We as a state need and rely on artists. The state profits off of the arts in many ways and brings in travelers and revenue. They inspire young people to create and express their feelings in a healthy, safe and beautiful way. With violence and suicide numbers at an all time high this is needed here. Also, I and many others would be heartbroken if Capitol Modern would be shut down.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:56:43 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helena Costa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e kākou,

I am writing to OPPOSE bill 1807 HB. I am a public school elementary educator, and have seen the many benefits the special art fund has provided our public school keiki. For the past eight years, I have been one of hundreds of teachers who has been able to work with a visiting artist to secure an AITS grant for our school, allowing a working artist to come to our school and teach our students art for a ten-week session. Like many public schools, we no longer have funding for a dedicated art teacher, and so our students look forward to our visiting artist all year long. This program brings a much needed balance to the curricula, allowing students to explore and discover other strengths and talents besides math and reading, to practice quality work and refinement of process, and to have exposure to future careers and pathways.

Additionally, the very popular Young Artists of Hawaii competition is also funded by this fund. This annual competition challenges our students to reflect on their own familial culture and place in Hawai'i, and provides a fantastic opportunity for our haumāna (particularly those from our other islands) to come together with their peers on O'ahu to celebrate their art, visit exhibits, and display their work publicly. I have been lucky enough to bring several rounds of Big Island students to O'ahu for this competition, and it is a highlight of their elementary career.

Finally, the SFCA sponsored professional development provides excellent PD opportunities for public school teachers trying to fill the gaps of arts education in the classroom, allowing us to learning both art skills and art teaching practices from working artists. Like many other subjects (particularly at the elementary level), cross-curricular and project-based learning are encouraged, but many of our educators lack the artistic confidence to truly teach and include these elements in the classroom. These annual opportunities for teachers to better their teaching practices through professional development in the arts are invaluable- everything from bookmaking, printmaking, movement, dance, watercolors- these are the elements that make projects come alive for our students, and empowering our educators to include them is powerful. Of the many professional development opportunities listed for educators, the SFCA-sponsored courses are almost always the only Arts-related PD offered.

We cannot insist that our students explore their interests, practice creativity, chase quality and find balance in their lives if we continuously strip them of the opportunities to do so. These

programs directly support our Nā Hopena A'o standards (HĀ), which are supposed to be the heart of public education, and focus on the total wellbeing of our keiki. We cannot pay lip service to the importance of total wellbeing, and talk about how important our Nā Hopena A'o Standards are if we are not willing to keep the monies in place to support that wellbeing. Thousands of students benefit from these programs annually, receiving much needed opportunities for creativity, exploration, reflection and refinement of work. They speak directly to Nā Hopena A'o standard 3, A Strengthened Sense of Excellence, which asks our students to:

- a. Define success in a meaningful way*
- b. Know and apply unique gifts and abilities to a purpose*
- c. Prioritize and manage time and energy well*
- d. Take initiative without being asked*
- e. Explore many areas of interests and initiate new ideas*
- f. Utilize creativity and imagination to problem-solve and innovate*
- g. See failure as an opportunity to learn well*
- h. Assess and make improvements to produce quality work.*

Elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would completely CUT the following initiatives:

***THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY**

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

***EDUCATION PROGRAMMING**

- **Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.**
- **SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists**
- **The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming**
- **Art Bento Museum Education Program**
- **Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade 7-12**
- **Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6**
- **Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support**

This bill will eliminate these chances for our students to work with their community artists, collaborate with their artistic peers, and learn from artistically prepared teachers. It will specifically target our PUBLIC school students, for many of whom school is their only access to these types of experiences. While it may seem like just another line item on the budget to those removed from our schools, these funds are necessary for the success and wellbeing of our keiki. Please do NOT cut funding to these vital programs, and vote NO on Bill 1807 HB.

Mahalo,

Helena Costa

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:57:38 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapulei Flores	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in opposition of HB1807 that would eliminate funding and threatens the existence of the Hawai'i State Art Museum, public programs, and undermines support for Native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries, and organizations. This doesn't just impact visual artists, but also musicians, performers, cultural practitioners, educators, and beyond. In a time where there are so many issues surrounding the world and Hawai'i in specific, it is more dire than ever to have public access and funding to art related projects. Passing this would not only destroy people's livelihoods, jobs, passions, and communities, but it would also take away an outlet for people to express their voice and freewill. Please oppose this bill for the health and benefit of our people and community.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:58:04 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynda Hess	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to present testimony in opposition to HB1807.

I'm deeply offended at the misrepresentation of the purpose of the 1% for art bill in the proposed HB 1807 which seeks to withdraw most of that funding. The goal of the original charter was not to create a collection, which would some day magically be declared 'finished' but to support cultural and artist practitioners to allow them to survive and thrive here in Hawaii.

The immediate effect of this legislation would be to eviscerate the arts community in Hawaii. The SFCA reaches into every island and every community in ways that most don't appreciate. It's mere existence gives visual artists like myself hope that there is potential for engagement through its programmings and support of institutions and potential remuneration and acclaim through its Art in Public Places program. It represents a valuing of the our essence as creative individuals and our place in our local communities.

My daughter, although not having an art class in school until this, her senior year in public high school, is currently showing in the Scholastic Art Competition at Capitol Modern (a museum which would have to immediately close if this legislation is passed.) She has been nominated for Scholastic's national art award. She is contemplating a career in the arts. What this bill is saying to her is that she doesn't have a place in local society or even a chance to make living through her artistic calling on the island where she was born and raised. The SFCA has contributed valuable support for her father and I as a family through their Art in Public Places program over the years. I worry that we, too, will lose support as we enter old age after long professional lives. I imagine that there are countless artists and cultural practitioners in Hawaii in the very same boat, with varying levels of other resources to fall back on.

I understand this bill started on Maui and I find that interesting in several ways. First, perhaps Maui, hurting after the fires is simply looking for monetary resources to support their own

community. I understand this, but find this particular solution misguided. Pre-fire Maui was the #2 place for art sales in the entire country. While I'm sure most of that was focused in art-centered Lahaina, it brings up the actual monetary value of culture and the arts, both as enhancing a tourist destination and as a revenue stream in and of itself. While the SFCA primarily supports the nonprofit arts community, this is where our artists are birthed and nurtured. This is the place our cultural practitioners are supported so they can share and and keep their knowledge alive. These people keep our culture alive, but they also contribute mightily to our local economy as non-imported resources and repositories of cultural knowledge and expertise. Using the SFCA in this way is to cut off one's nose to spite one's face. Government support is a given in virtually every industry. The arts have continually earned this support and the arts continually pay it back. If we stop supporting our artists and cultural practitioners, we have wasted an invaluable resource, one that makes us civilized, loving, caring human beings.

Bill 1807 should not progress any further. This bill ignores that without culture and the arts there is no need for government, nothing to preserve or defend, nothing to share or uplift, novices to speak of who we are. It tears at the heart of common sense. As long as there is culture and the arts, there is society and for that to continue, they must be supported.

Mahalo for stopping this misleading and misguided bill. Kill HB1807.

Aloha,

Lynda Hess

Waimanalo

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:58:47 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Ma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Save the arts

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:59:17 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Codie M. King	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Codie M. King and I am a retired State Parks employee of the State of Hawaii. I'm the retired Art Director of the Wailoa Center in Hilo. HB1807 is a terrible idea. Art and Culture in our society is essential to our existence as a healthy community. I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body." I am in disbelief that this is even happening in our community and with this action, countless non profit organizations who have been working tirelessly to bring art and art programs to the community will not be supported.

I am appalled and DO NOT SUPPORT HB1807!!!!

Sincerely,

Codie M. King, Artist

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:59:20 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noa Dettweiler-Pavia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in opposition to HB 1807. The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts is critical to the promotion of cultural literacy among the people of Hawaii. HB1807 would be a death knell to the important work undertaken by the SFCA in sustaining art across our islands. Please vote no on this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:00:01 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nora Beck Judd	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Nora Beck Judd and I have been involved in the Arts, both visual and performing, for most of my life. I strongly urge you not to hear Bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding tht the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact programming at my school and others arts organizations.

Thank you for taking the time to read my perspective.

Mahalo,

Nora Beck Judd

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:00:15 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marata Tamaira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Dr. Marata Tamaira and I want to offer my testimony as an Art Fellow who is currently participating in the One Nation, One Project National Arts and Health Initiative, which is set to launch its annual nation-wide celebration of the arts on July 27 (for more, go to: <https://www.onenationoneproject.com/>). Notably, Hawai‘i is one of 18 sites involved in this worthy undertaking to advance health, equity, and community connection through the arts.

It is in this capacity that I am writing in **opposition** to proposed bill HB 1807.

If HB 1807 is passed it will set Hawai‘i’s creative industry in the areas of the visual and performing arts back decades, impoverishing Hawai‘i’s people of not only aesthetic beauty in civic spaces, but even more importantly it will severely minimize the social, political, and informative discussions that creative engagement with the arts activates in people and communities. Further, the proposed cuts will severely impair what is still a developing arts economy in Hawai‘i and as an extension will negatively impact the ability of artists, local and especially indigenous, to make a viable living from their craft. I argue that the proposed bill will cause that local economy to crash.

Art is the centerpiece of a healthy and strong civil society. The arts matter. By cutting funding to worthy arts initiatives and organizations across the Islands, HB 1807 sends the clear message that the arts *do not* matter. Do we want to live in a Hawai‘i where that kind of message is accepted? It’s a rhetorical question. The answer is a resounding “No.”

In the last number of years we have seen an efflorescence of the arts in public places, most notably with the establishment of Hawai‘i Contemporary, which moved Hawai‘i from its marginal position as an arts backwater to a burgeoning hub that attracts the participation of high profile local and international curators and artists. Hawai‘i is finally achieving its place as a serious contender on the global arts stage. Yet if HB 1807 passes, this vital momentum—not only in relation to the ongoing growth of Hawai‘i Contemporary but in consideration of all the other arts organizations that stand to lose vital funding—will come to a crashing halt. It will set Hawai‘i back not move it forward.

Whatever revenue the State thinks it will save through passing this bill is nothing compared to the far reaching deficit that will ensue when it comes to the health and wellbeing of Hawai‘i’s creative industry and the communities it serves. The cutting of funding for the arts should never

be considered a "saving" when subjected to the dispassionate appraisal of cost-benefit analysis. It will only ever always be a loss.

Please vote "No" to HB 1807.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:00:21 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Pike	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

1. I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:01:04 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emanuel Pangilinan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong opposition to HB1807 and HB1807HD2. Please do NOT pass this bill.

Local artists, musicians, performers, cultural practitioners, educators are the spirit of Hawaii and what makes it unique, attractive and authentic. Cutting these funds will make Hawaii less unique, less attractive, and negatively effect the cultural health of the state.

Please do not pass this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:01:22 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Domingo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello!

I am opposed to the change to be made in HB1807 HD2.

Capital improvements only for "original" construction of state buildings do not explicitly clarify that this can apply to improvements for already constructed buildings. As read, it should be amended so that it explicitly mentions that capital improvements designated are for original "and existing" state buildings.

Understandably, this will push the fund expenditure ceiling for FY 2024-2025, but please consider modifying other budgets to justify the continued support of our art programs. The investment towards the continued beautification of our state's art programs should remain as it, as mentioned, something that offers priceless value to both the many visitors to come to the islands as well as its citizens.

As once an art student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa who worked and attended various galleries and shows on Oahu, I hope to see continued support for our programs best interest towards maintaining and improving our arts and culture programs with best interest, not to cut funding or reallocate funding in a way that deprives our programs.

Thank you,
Joshua Domingo

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:01:24 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madison Hall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS BILL!!! Artists work are the only things keeping areas like Kaka'ako and China town looking lively rather than run down and dirty. There are so many more ways to reduce expenses and you guys are choosing to reduce ART? There is a direct correlation between how advanced a society is and how much they value the arts. Please keep funding for artists as they are helping keep our island beautiful.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:01:37 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Saggars	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Deborah Saggars and I am a resident of Kāne‘ohe, a public school teacher, and a parent. I have read through the bills that are affecting the Arts and I noticed that bill HB1807 will limit the one percent funding for arts to only original construction and not all construction, including renovations. This change would drastically affect access to arts in our schools which is already severely limited. As an active voter, I ask that you reconsider this. I am for being both fiscally conservative and supporting the arts. Having access to the arts helps our haumana expand their perspectives and think deeply and critically about the world around them by teaching them to think outside of the box. The arts are already limited. We need not limit them more. Please consider other ways to produce revenue.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Deborah Saggars.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:01:41 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Bennett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill would detonate 60 years of successful guardianship and sow chaos.

I'm a 69-year-old self-supporting (professional) artist living on Kauai. I've completed over 200 corporate and public art commissions and am represented in various museum collections.

From the years of 1975- 1990 i had a solid career in LA:I worked at Disney, taught at 2 art schools and had a loft in the DTLA Art District. In 1990 I strategically walked away from this- I was drawn to Hawaii because of HSFCA's vibrant art advocacy. It's 1% for the Arts was trendsetting and provided the template for most all the States in the Union. The annual ART KAUAI NOW show, that HSFCA Funded, created an opportunity for my first Museum Acquisition, assuring me that I'd made the right choice to relocate to Hawaii.

HSFCA is unique and completely unlike other Museum venues such as MACC and HOMA: HSFCA commissions permanent Public Art installations for the people of Hawaii that last beyond our generation. Its Permanent Collection gives us access to generations before us, and it's Art in the Schools seeds creativity in generations to come.

My own HSFCA museum Acquisitions and public Art Commissions validated me, and in turn empowered me, to join in national and international cultural exchanges. In 2024 my work will have presence in NYC, LA, Zurich and Germany. I submit that this presents Hawaii as a cultural player on non-provincial stages, and my life's work is testament to HSFCA has fostered.

Again, this bill would detonate 60 years of succesful guardianship and sow chaos.

Thank you, Carol Bennett

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:03:28 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittany Horn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts, Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2. Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect. ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity. THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

The next page lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season. *SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS Galleries and Orgs Affected: Hawaii Island Donkey Mill Arts Center East Hawaii Culture Center Kahilu Theatre Wailoa Center Maui Hui Noe'au Lahaina Plein Air

Painters Association Maui Arts and Culture Center Viewpoints Gallery Kauai Kauai Society of Artists Oahu Downtown Art Center Arts and Letters Fishcake University of Hawaii Galleries Arts at Marks Garage ORGANIZATIONS Pu'uhonua Society Hawaii Contemporary Hawaii Watercolor Society Honolulu Printmakers Honolulu Theatre for Youth Hawaii Handweavers Hui Hula Preservation Society NOTAE Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide. Professional Development for DOE Teachers The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony Hawaii Arts Alliance support OUTREACH PROGRAMS: Kahauiki Village Institute for Human Services RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment LGBTQ Legacy Foundation Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.

Brittany Horn, Kailua Kona, 96740

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:04:40 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jillian Ikehara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1807 HD2, which will ultimately negatively affect art and creative programs across all of the Hawaiian Islands.

As a Hawaiian artist myself, one of my reasons for creating art in the first place is to make art that benefits and reflects the Hawaiian community, to tell the world and Hawai'i our stories that matter so much! Truly, this is one of the reasons I make my art-- it is for the people and to perpetuate the love and inspiration art can be for others, especially those who are in the Hawaiian community. It is the art programs and communities, especially for me on Maui, who have contributed to my love for art. I wouldn't be the person I was because of those dreams and these places and opportunities.

I struggle to understand the benefits of putting this bill into place. Art is something to be appreciated. Why put in place measures that will absolutely ruin and destroy the passions and lives of so many creatives? What do you have against us? The Arts are always threatened, but if not for art and creatives, how would we be able to express ourselves in the way we do? How are so many people able to understand and visualize Hawaiian culture? It is because of us! Our society will become dystopian as many novels have warned us, if you cease public art funding and the ability to create art.

Please truly take the time to understand where we are coming from as creatives, and to reject this bill and proposal. If you want Hawaiian artists to stay in Hawai'i, do not let this bill be passed. Anything that helps to make creative endeavors hard for anyone to access should not even be thought up in the first place.

Do what is right.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:08:26 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chenta Laury	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807.

This bill would be devastating to the livelihood of artists and practitioners of the arts, as well as to all organizations and institutions that promote and encourage the arts for entertainment, education or therapeutic purposes. The health of the arts reflect the health of the soul of a community/culture. Now more than ever, in light of all the that is happening around the world and at home - particularly here on Maui, do we as a community need the arts to thrive!

Aloha Sen. Lee, Sen. Inouye, and Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

I am writing as an individual in strong opposition to HB1807 HD2 for the following reasons.

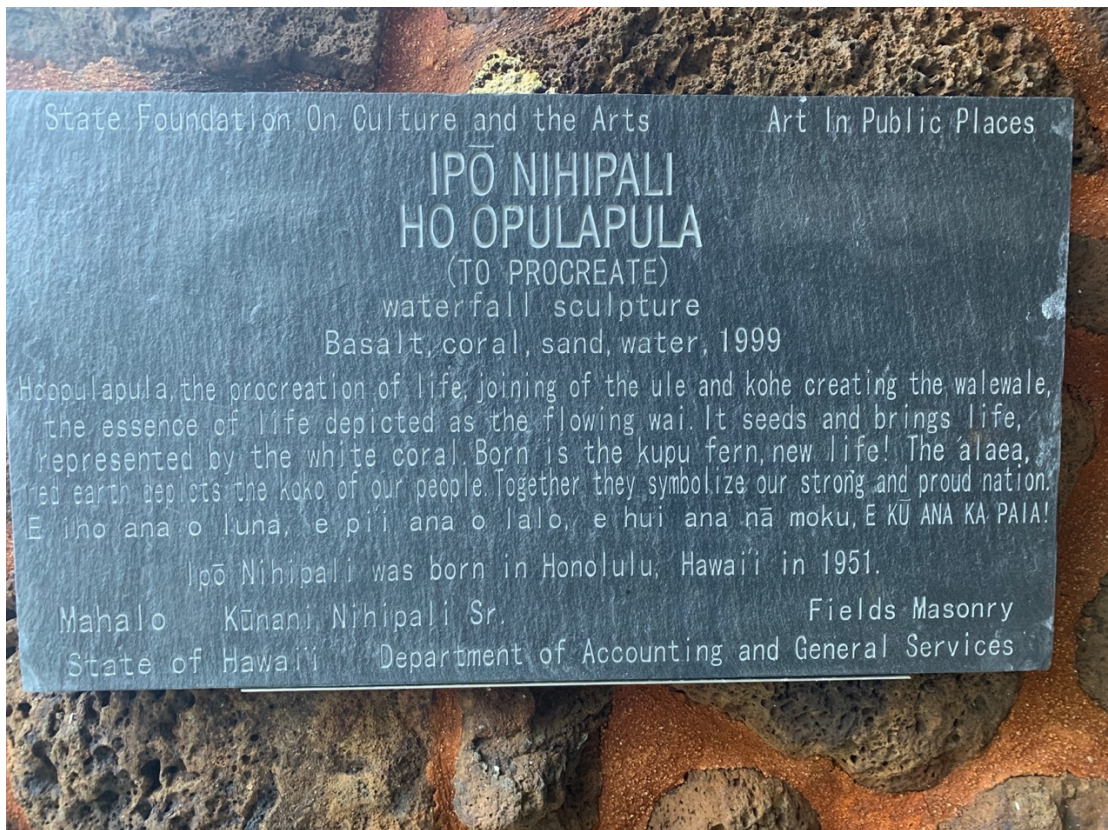
Reason #1: The 1% Works of Special Art Fund includes moveable art and permanently installed works of art in state buildings. According to HRS 103-8.5b(3), “**Upkeep services, including maintenance, repair, and restoration of works of art**” are to be included. The 2023 Annual Report, APPENDIX A (3/3), Art in Public Places Program: Maintenance, APP Contracts on page 31 of the pdf downloaded from the SFCa website, details payments under the category of “maintenance” that do not fit the above description, e.g.,

- Roberts Hawaii School Bus, transportation services for the Art Bento museum education program for public and charter schools (\$40,319.36)
- Royal Media Network, purchase of a cargo van (\$66,800)
- Staffing Solutions of Hawai'i, interpretive guide services at the Hawai'i State Art Museum (\$199,693.92)
- Tree Concepts Hawaii, landscape maintenance of the Sculpture Garden and Courtyard (\$37,420)
- Wall-to-Wall Studios, Inc. marketing coordination for the Hawai'i State Art Museum (\$88,617.77)

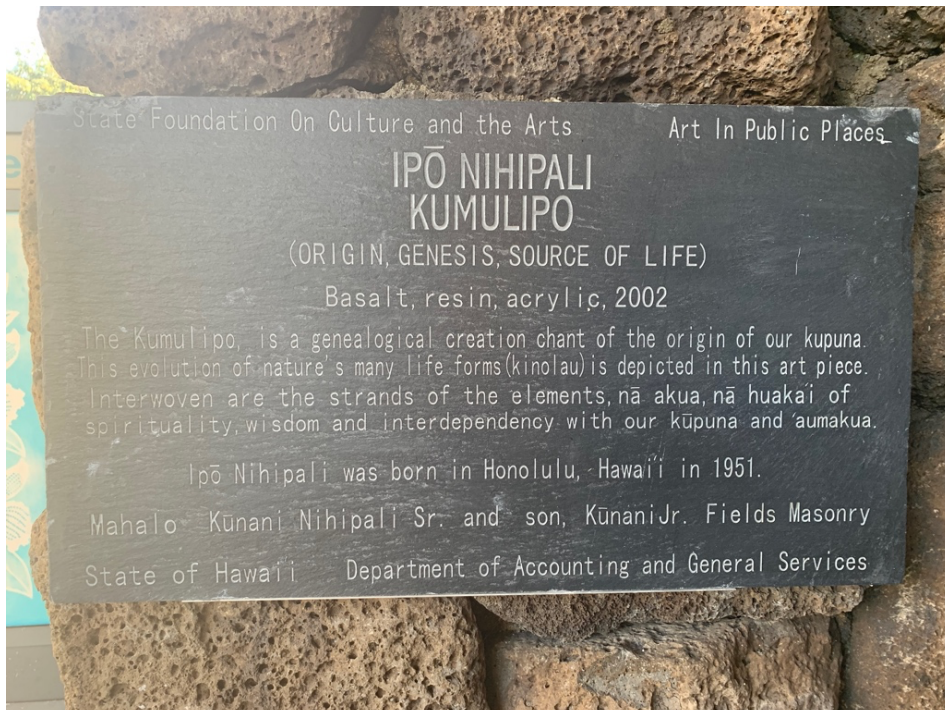
How are payments to these organizations/businesses “**maintenance, repair, and restoration of works of art**”? There are no payments for conservation or artworks listed.

Take, for example, the Hawaiian Studies Building at UH Mānoa which was completed in 1997, and two permanent works of art were installed by SFCa Art in Public Places program. The artworks were created by Ipō Nihipali specifically for the Hawaiian Studies buildings (see photos below).

Ho'opulapula (to procreate) on the ground floor is a waterfall sculpture but no water is flowing as it used to and the designs on the floor surrounding the cairn are molded and discolored (see photos on next page).



The second artwork close to Dole Street is entitled *Kumulipo* which depicts kinolau in the genealogical creation chant. This work was installed in 2002 and is in very poor condition and direly needs renovation/conservation.



Damaged face of the bottom right kinolau.



The tail of the eel is broken exposing the wire frame beneath the resin.



These photos are samples of the damage to a few sections of the mural. The 1% Works of Art Special Fund is required to provide “**maintenance, repair, and restoration of works of art**” installed in the builds too. The Hawaiian Studies building is only 27 years old but clearly, the artwork has not been maintained.

Why was the rebranding of HiSAM as “Capitol Modern” an expense from the 1% works of art fund and the HRS 9-22?

[§9-22] State art museum; establishment. The state art museum is established within the foundation. The operations of the state art museum shall be funded and supported by the Works of Art Special Fund, pursuant to section 103-8.5. [L 2004, c 125, pt of §2]

The HRS was not amended to change the name. Why were funds used on this initiative instead of on maintenance and conservation or permanent artworks?

Reason #2: Artwork that is permanent in a building, e.g., the murals at Kapolei Hale, have specific meanings linked to place and the function of the building. On the UHM campus, take

Sinclair Library as an example of a building being renovated. Sinclair was completed in 1956 and though the tropical climate was taken into consideration, there is no artwork because the building predates the 1% Works of Special Art Fund. I am in **OPPOSITION** to the change in purpose for Act HB1807 HD2 as stated on page 2, lines 16-20, that deletes RENOVATION of a State Building like Sinclair Library.

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:
17 (1) Specify that the works of art special fund's one per
18 cent transfer requirement shall apply only to capital
19 improvement appropriations for the original
20 construction of state buildings; and

The UH Board of Regents approved the \$57 million renovation to transform the outdated library into a state-of-the-art student success center in the Sinclair Library (<https://www.hawaii.edu/news/2023/06/16/work-begins-student-success-center/>). Why would works of art that are in storage fit or enhance the new building and concept that the student center stands for? What permanent artwork will be commissioned for the building? What is the 1% of the building cost that has been set aside?

Reason #3: If one of the issues of HB1807 HD2 is that there are too many works of art in storage, then why not have an appraiser help SFCA determine which works of art could be sold/auctioned to fund the installation of relevant new works of art in new buildings and newly renovated buildings? Surely there are works of art that may not be so meaningful to Hawai'i (e.g., out-of-state artists) that could be sold. Can provisions for that?

Reason #4 : The 1% Works of Art Fund was NEVER the purpose nor was the Fund established to support art education in the schools or performing arts. Though I agree that both need to be funded, they should not be supported by this fund. I am in **OPPOSITION** to the change in purpose for Act HB1807 HD2 as stated on page 3, lines 1-2.

1 (2) Appropriate funds for performing arts and other
2 initiatives in schools.

And SECTION 4 on page 4, lines 1-5.

1 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024—2025 for
4 the state foundation on culture and the arts to expand arts
5 programming in schools.

In summary, the 1% Works of Art Special Fund is critical in a multiplicity of ways. It is an important part of the legacy from Alfred Preis (SFCA founder & 1st E.D.), Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi (Maui Arts & Cultural Center (founding chairman), and Rep. Calvin Say. This forward thinking trio realized that new artwork relevant to a new building or a renovated building is critical. It is doubtful that artwork in storage will complement a state-of-the-art high-tech 21st Century Student Success Center. Conservation of existing artworks needs to be a priority for "**maintenance, repair, and restoration of works of art.**" The State, aka, the Art in Public Places Program has a moral and ethical responsibility to care for the works of art, e.g., the Ipō

Nihipali artwork at Hawaiian Studies which demonstrates severe neglect. Where artwork is removed for building renovation, it should be conserved/repared before being re-installed and such work must be done by skilled artisans or the artist who created the work if s/he is still living. If there is too much artwork in storage, liquidate the holdings and put the money back into the 1% Works of Art Special Fund.

Last but not least, as an experienced music educator, I urge the SFCA to seek grants and other support for arts education and performing arts that will not endanger and decimate the 1% Works Fund.

Mahalo for your time and permitting me to share my opinion. **I stand in opposition to HB1807 HD2.**

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teri G. Skillman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Aloha,".

Teri Skillman

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:09:22 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eugene Ching	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm lifelong residence of Hawaii, born and raised in Kaneohe, Oahu. Graduated from Castle High School in 1972 and fortunate to have who raised and nourished my family here. I and my community benefited and continue to benefit directly from public arts funding. This bill will have far-reaching impacts on my family, community and Hawaiian cultural practitioners for future generations. I strongly ask you to oppose this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:09:22 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
susan hogan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It cuts off at the knees a state-wide art program the bill itself identifies as a success. It proposes to cap the acquisition of new artworks, and cuts funding to care for and display the works now in the Art in Public Places Collection.

Adding (even in theory) funding for "performing arts and education in schools" is vague at best and woefully short-sighted at worst. Building education programs in HiDOE schools is a Herculean effort, and one which will not be accomplished merely by throwing money at it; general funding will never be as effective as using special funds for education (for a state arts agency). Procurement entanglements alone will stunt any effort to general-fund all SFCA education programs.

Visual art can address the issues of its time in ways that are both unique and time-specific. Stating that "...the State currently possesses a surplus of artwork in storage for current and future uses" denies the potential of artwork to engage the viewer on current topics of social importance. What society ever produced such a "surplus" of artworks that made it wise to cut off the making/acquiring of new artworks which address the present day? Time is not static, and neither is art.

Aloha Chairpersons Lee, Inouye & members of the Transportation & Culture & the Arts Committee, Elefante, Kanuha, & Awa,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2. Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

As an artist & supporter of Hawai'i and Hawaiian culture, this will impact many organizations that I myself, my family and friends are connected to. We proudly support the Native Hawaiian and local artists on all islands. Art is what connects each of us. It creates a positive impact and enhances our community in more ways than one. Art is healing. It helps us with our overall mental, spiritual, and emotional well being. It also supports our economy in the best way by supporting small businesses.

While I understand the pressing need to rebuild Maui, I believe it's essential to recognize that the Works for Art Special Fund DOES contribute to this effort. Rebuilding Maui is not just stacking cement to build buildings. Rebuilding Maui also means healing its people. The Works for Art Special Fund goes towards so many artists and organizations dedicated to the healing of our community! Art has scientifically been proven to have healing properties. So we should be supporting the arts and culture now more than ever - not taking away from it.

Austerity politics and policies threaten the future of our society across every island. When we cut back on public services to balance the budget and overlook the positive impact of culture and arts, we risk losing essential practices that nurture our sense of self, spirituality, pride in our surroundings, and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts play a crucial role in stimulating circular economic impact that benefits numerous industries. Without them, political leaders paint a future rife with dysfunction and crime. We urgently need more healing, circular economic vitality, and innovation to foster economic diversity.

As a result, this bill would completely eliminate the Art in Public Places Program and cease support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations offering Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools across all major islands, as well as outreach programs. The bill's repercussions would affect over 10,000 children, our next generation, on every island, and disrupt much-needed staff fees, leading to a catastrophic domino effect.

HB1807 poses a significant threat to public art support, particularly for marginalized outer island communities that lack adequate culture and art representation in public spaces. Culture and arts serve as healers for both people and land, offering understanding, purpose, and stimulating circular economic pathways. They instill a deep sense of pride and belonging, representing the soul expression of our people.

The negative ripple effect of this bill is undeniable, especially considering over 700 testimonies opposing it since the legislative season began. It is imperative that this bill does not continue to pass under defiant ears, as it would have far-reaching consequences.

Please kill this bill.

Mahalo,
Sara Samiano
Honolulu, HI 96819

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:10:59 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauryn-Ashley Myers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to HB1807. I am a local to Oahu, born and raised in Kahalu'u. I am 25 years old, and am a photographer, poet, sewist, and writer, who has found a sense of community and belonging with the artist community here on Oahu. I oppose this bill because during these times where so many of us are experiencing economic hardship, for many of us, the only things we can turn to are our art and our communities for a respite from the stresses of life. If HB1807 passes, where else can local artists come together to showcase our work on such a scale? Given the rising rents for studio spaces, and many artist spaces in Kaka'ako being torn down for new housing developments, it is extremely difficult for artists to find a place to showcase our work and intermingle socially. If we do not foster our artist communities, and especially the works of Kanaka OIwi artists, what are we saying about the value of art? Human beings have been artists since time immemorial. If you are concerned about the lack of revenue, art, like anything else, will provide profits if you invest in it. But also, art has value because they are a reflection of our lives and the times we live in. We need artists in society, we always will. We need artists to provide escapism, to foster conversations about current events and societal trends, to provide beauty in this world that has so much ugliness. And artists need to create, it's a drive for so many of us that is innate and strong. Cutting funding by passing this bill is basically telling artists that their passions, their values, their lives' work, does not matter to the state of Hawaii. I urge you to oppose this bill on behalf of all artists that are just trying to find joy and meaning through their art.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:13:36 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Cadavona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill would cut the majority of state funding for public art, and I oppose it vehemently.

This bill would negatively affect amazing programs that already exist, like the State Art Museum to name a few. Art and creativity are crucial to a thriving society. One of the most meaningful effects of public art is that it creates “community fingerprints”—spaces that make people feel represented, foster community ties, and give people a sense of ownership and belonging in their neighborhoods. It gives representation to people from all corners of life.

Whether in the form of a community organization, school mural, or installation, brings education and opportunity to our communities. **A thriving arts industry is worth far more than the amount of money you think you’re saving by cutting its funding.** In the long run, I believe you would be losing out on opportunities and thus, money.

Public Art is so important for the community and for our keiki. Thank you for your time.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:13:36 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julio Uyesugi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii needs to keep its culture of art and this is bullshit. Go take the money from police. They just waste time at speed traps instead of stopping crime

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:13:55 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Atis Puampai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am reaching out to strongly oppose bill HB1807 HD2. As an art educator at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and a Pearl City native, the arts is a significant voice of locals and youth and is essentially ground zero for the expression of new issues and topics unique here on the islands. Taking away our voice of expression will further the discontent of the people here -both as art producers and consumers. What good is it if the state does not support our ability to express? It will only benefit mainlanders and deepen the wound of exploitation here in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your time to read this, and I hope the pono decision is made to not pass bill HB1807 HD2.

-Atis Puampai

Lecturer in Photography/Photography Lab Manager

Dept. of Art and Art History

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:14:22 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keisha Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, members of the committee,

I am testifying in solid opposition to the HB1807 bill that would severely impact many art organizations, programs, and individual artists. As a dedicated member of Hawai'i's artist community, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power the arts can have in enhancing our neighborhoods, fostering civic pride, and perpetuating cultural identity.

Public art initiatives are not merely decorative; they are essential investments in the well-being and vitality of our communities. They catalyze economic growth by stimulating local businesses, attracting visitors, and creating a space for visitors to interact with Hawai'i's unique cultural identity. Access to art contributes significantly to our economic prosperity by beautifying public spaces while also sustaining the integrity of the culture the art is trying to reflect.

In conclusion, I urge you to oppose this bill and defend public arts funding. Let us reaffirm our commitment to fostering creativity, promoting cultural equity, and enhancing the quality of life for all residents. Together, let us ensure that public arts flourish as integral components of our vibrant and inclusive communities.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Me ke ha'aha'a,

Keisha Tanaka

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:15:16 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexia Thrash	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It Concerns,

I am a citizen who sees very high value in education, but specifically seeing extremely high value in the arts. I believe that spaces held specifically for cultural and historical expression through art are dire for our society to progress.

I oppose HB1807 because this bill largely negatively impacts public spaces for Hawaiian art, history, and culture to exist and be expressed. This negatively impacts not just the organizations and programs, but individual creators/artists, and the overall education on Hawaiian culture and elevation of Hawaiian artists and voices.

Art is an evolving process and movement. We as a society release our humanity when we limit our space for arts. Major advances in humanity would not exist without art and the power of positive progressive change we can invoke. We're all adults who have gone through school and learned history. We can understand the strong correlation between art movements and societal progression without overexplanation. With that being said, there will never be enough art spaces & programs that will be able to express the on-going struggles and beauties Hawaiians have endured throughout history. To reduce the amount of funding into public education spaces such as The Capitol Modern robs our society of learning and seeing Hawaiian cultural representation in all different forms.

Even if funding is allocated to allow for these programs to be present in schools, it is still vastly important to kids, teens, and adults to have a safe 3rd space to exist and learn. Organizations like The Capitol Modern allow for this safe space. This bill largely affects so many cultural galleries and organizations, and would essentially contribute to the suppression of Hawaiian culture and voices. It sounds like a repeat in history where Hawaiian language, art, and overall culture is suppressed and not given the space to truly exist and flourish on Hawaiian Land.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:23:02 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina El Gamal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for this opportunity. **I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.** Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

The next page lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island Donkey Mill Arts Center East Hawaii Culture Center Kahilu Theatre Wailoa Center Maui Hui Noe'au Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association Maui Arts and Culture Center Viewpoints Gallery Kauai Kauai Society of Artists Oahu Downtown Art Center Arts and Letters Fishcake University of Hawaii Galleries Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS:

Pu'uhonua Society Hawaii Contemporary Hawaii Watercolor Society Honolulu Printmakers Honolulu Theatre for Youth Hawaii Handweavers Hui Hula Preservation Society NOTAE

Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide. Professional Development for DOE Teachers The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony Hawaii Arts Alliance support

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

Kahauiki Village Institute for Human Services RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment LGBTQ Legacy Foundation Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.

Christina El Gamal, Chicago, IL, 60660

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:23:33 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Casera Lord	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this ridiculous bill that should have never been proposed in the first place. Proposing a bill that is detrimental to the people...what are you all thinking? Or do you not think at all? Get it together and focus on matters that actually need fixing. You don't fix something that is not broken, especially when there are many other broken things that need immediate fixing.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:23:51 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Orr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"There is a quote by Vladimir Nabokov that reads, 'There is, it would seem, in the dimensional scale of the world a kind of delicate meeting place between imagination and knowledge, a point, arrived at by diminishing large things and enlarging small ones that is intrinsically artistic.' I've kept this quotation on my desk for days now after seeing it used as an epigram to a James Lasdun poem and I have to confess, I can't paraphrase what it means (which I would say is a sign of great art). But the sentence is beautiful and the cloud of unknowing it puts me in reminds me of why I do love art. Often with art I feel I'm talking with someone who knows something I don't, something I'd like to know. Art stretches me, challenges me, makes me think and feel. I'm a curious person and want to know. Art is the place where huge concepts like love and war are distilled for us to reckon or small things like a flower is held up to all. And akin but different to Nabokov's thought, things become right sized with great art. Money, power, status are so easily and quickly overvalued and things like relationships, beliefs, or even happiness, the stuff of art that makes life worth living is devalued in our world that is constantly pushing us apart toward isolation. Art gives us a reality check as to what's really going on and what could go on if we cooperated. As a society the place where imagination and knowledge meet is where we want to start." – Sidney Smith

Gutting the public arts program in Hawai'i would be a act of war on humanity, culture, and the economy. A total devastation to the future, well-being and success of the entire community. We need programs like this to be expanded, not de-funded. Mahalo.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:23:59 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sofia Enriquez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ChatGPT

Good day,

My name is Sofia Enriquez, and I am a visual artist hailing from Southern California. I had the privilege of collaborating with Capitol Modern, affectionately known as HiSam. Following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in Hawai‘i, I was invited for the opportunity to embark on my inaugural large-scale installation project in the state, aiming to craft an immersive experience for museum patrons and online audiences alike. My installation drew inspiration from the museum's permanent collection, serving as a welcoming space designed to nurture my artistic journey while also fostering collaboration with local talents such as lighting artists, musicians, and photographers residing in Hawai‘i.

The passage of this bill would not only foreclose future opportunities for artists like myself to continue pursuing our careers, but also deprive forthcoming generations of the chance to explore their artistic aspirations. It is incumbent upon the state to uphold its commitment to its citizens by providing support across all domains, including the arts.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:26:27 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin O'Kief	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Erin. I am testifying against HB1807. HB1807 is a destructive bill that would drastically cut funding for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts' many arts programs and initiatives statewide. Elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would CUT the following initiatives:

***THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY**

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

***EDUCATION PROGRAMMING**

1. Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
2. SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists
3. The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
4. Art Bento Museum Education Program
5. Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade 7-12
6. Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6
7. Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support

I strongly urge you not to hear Bill 1807, and to please consider continued support for the arts and arts education in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:27:05 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
yutaka kawahito	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

As we have a small number of local art organizations in Hawaii, it is painfully clear to me that we need more funding for arts not less.

As cost of living in Hawaii is very high, oftentimes Arts in the community or in schools are forgotten or put aside for different career paths. However, would that create well-rounded individuals away from screens in schools and at home? I don't think so. We need to enrich our children in schools and communities by having more opportunities to submerge, exploring their identities, learn creativity / creative ways to problem solve, and connect to each other in our communities, not isolate into basic standardized demands.

Through various Arts, traditional to contemporary, in this unique Pan-Pacific State that is Hawaii, we can develop GREATER POSSIBILITIES AND POTENTIALS through Arts funding.

Please do not cut any funding that we have for art, if anything we need more, not less these days. our future needs dynamic, creative, resourceful stewards, we cannot cut out our enrichment. Thank you very much.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:27:30 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Gannaway	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong opposition to HB1807 and HB1807HD2. Please do NOT pass this bill. As a teaching artist, I have seen the direct positive impact Capitol Modern (HiSAM) and it's public programs constantly have on the community. The loss of any programming will cause a devastating blow to the arts, education, and society as a whole.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:28:07 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serafina Gajate	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose HB1807, don't cut funding to the arts!!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:28:55 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kai Johnson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Henri Matisse once said, “Creativity takes courage,” and I am of the opinion that if you support this bill you are a coward and do not understand the value of art. First I will make some pointers directly quoting the most recent iteration of the bill available to me via the State website. While your bill opens by stating that, “Art inspires, educates, and challenges individuals to think differently,” I do not think you believe that. By cutting funding to art in public places and only appropriating funds to “capital improvement” you are stunting the outreach and capabilities of art reaching people throughout Hawai‘i. The bill does state that separate funds should be found “for performing arts and other initiatives in schools.” How laughably vague. Performing arts is incredibly important, but this wording could allow for misuse of funds in the future, such as pulling funds from art in classrooms if they are not performing arts. Another point made in the bills is, “The appropriations made in this Act are necessary to serve the public interest.” What interest? I have not seen any major survey go out. The original funds provided to art in public places are already barely enough to fund anything in this state and you want to cut their funding? There are no major public art museums on other islands like Maui and Kauai. In most American colleges diversity classes are required to graduate, ART is required to graduate. I do not think I should have to tell you this but art has been valuable to every culture and every group of Humans on Earth in some form. There are many other wasteful programs that the state wastes money on. To quote a 2nd-grade student, “Get your own money.”

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:29:05 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madison Audette	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art is very important for people of ages. It gives people a place to express themselves in ways that words alone cannot describe. Learning many ways to express oneself and one's feelings are important for developing communication and mental health. Mental health is a huge issue in today's society especially among young people. By reducing their ability to deal with mental health problems we make next generations less able to function and flourish in society.

Cutting funding would also get rid of First Fridays at the Hawaii State Art Museum. This is one of the most well known events for performing artists to showcase their work at and connect with other artists. The elimination of this would disconnect local artists and significantly decrease performance opportunities.

There have been complaints about the amount of art in storage at the Hawaii State Art Museum. Certain pieces of artwork are displayed all the time. This is because not good for the art itself to be constantly displayed as it can become damaged by oxidation and sunlight exposure. This is not just a practice done at art museums but all kinds of museums such as the Bishop museum which also has collections in storage for the reasons listed above and others.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:31:07 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sophia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The arts and art community is so special, especially here on Oahu. I have met so many amazing people through going to the events here and have learned about so much history, culture, and about art in general through these events. They allow the community to come together and broadens the sense of community we have here in Hawaii. As well as gives the Native Hawaiian community a platform and place to share their culture and history and art as well. It also gives smaller artists the platform and ability to share their art as well.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:32:18 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arilyn Au	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:32:24 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Nguyen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a concerned citizen and advocate for art education, **I strongly oppose this bill** which would have a devastating impact on the arts.

This bill would cut 68% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide.

The elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would eliminate monetary support for the following:

***THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY**

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island

- Donkey Mill Arts Center
- East Hawaii Culture Center
- Kahilu Theatre
- Wailoa Center

Maui

- Hui Noe’au
- Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association
- Maui Arts and Culture Center
- Viewpoints Gallery

Kauai

- Kauai Society of Artists

Oahu

- Downtown Art Center
- Arts and Letters
- Fishcake
- University of Hawaii Galleries
- Arts at Marks Garage

Organizations

- Pu'uhonua Society
- Hawaii Contemporary
- Hawaii Watercolor Society
- Honolulu Printmakers
- Honolulu Theatre for Youth
- Hawaii Handweavers Hui
- Hula Preservation Society
- NOTAE
- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- Professional development for DOE Teachers
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony
- Hawaii Arts Alliance support

Outreach programs:

- Kahauiki Village
- Institute for Human Services
- RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
- LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
- Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS HOUSE BILL 1807 for the sake of the future of the arts in Hawaii.

Mahalo.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:32:56 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Chong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807.

Support for the arts is vital to our community's wellbeing. Maui's Pundy Yokouchi was especially astute in understanding this and taking action to give resources necessary to support art in public spaces and the artists who inspire all of us. He also saw the incredible value of the arts in education. Please continue in his footsteps.

Support for the arts should be increased.

Thank you,

Cathy Chong

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:33:55 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
adele balderston	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Committee Members,

As a kama'aina and an artist, I **oppose** this measure because it WILL have adverse effects on the art in public places program. The fact that the State "currently possesses a surplus of artwork in storage" does not justify a reduction in funding for the Art in Public Places Program. No museum, gallery, institution, or private collection ever has 100% of their collection on view, this "surplus of art" reasoning is ludicrous and absolutely does not justify cutting over 60% of state funding for public art.

Opportunities for local artists are already incredibly scarce and this measure would increase the brain drain by eliminating a vital source of income. The percent-for-art law and the Art in Public Places Program are meant to facilitate the production of artwork, not merely acquisition. Reducing funding for a successful program because the state already has too much art is like cutting funding for free and reduced school lunches because the program has already fed too many disadvantaged children.

Mahalo for the opportunity to **oppose** this measure.

Adele Balderston

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:34:01 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sachelle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am one of the artists that have been lucky enough to have their work purchased by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. I was raised on Maui and fortunately found a way to express myself through art and stay out of trouble. My passion brought me to Philadelphia where I studied art and I eventually moved back home to Maui. I never thought I would be able to make it on Maui as an artist but through opportunities like the SFCA purchase it offered serious support and opened doors. Many cities have multiple large art museums with vast collections. Why are we knocking down opportunities to support artists and enrich our community? It is not about decorating wall space but offering continual support to artists that are currently alive, breathing, and contributing to our islands. If politicians truly wanted to diversify the economy and steer away from tourism they would continue to invest in the people of Hawai'i that have a voice outside of tourism and would like to make art about our modern day experience here in the islands beyond stereotypical tourist paintings you often find lining art galleries. Please consider the people and communities this would impact, behind every piece of art is a person.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:36:41 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David ashe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is David Ashe and I am writing in strong opposition to bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives. Disrupting the allocation of these funds would directly impact hundreds of DOE students, teachers, arts and culture organizations, and Hawai'i centered teaching artists. It would also essentially close an important community public art space (HiSAM), disrupting education, community gatherings, and personal feeling of belonging and connection to Hawai'i.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration. Please deeply consider the ramifications here and stop HB1807.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:38:55 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Chung	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

As an Art Fellow selected by Vibrant Hawai'i to participate in the One Nation/One Project campaign Arts For Everybody, I am writing to oppose HB1807. Our fellowship is meant to show that increased arts participation increases health and wellness in communities. Without adequate funding from the State, keiki and kūpuna in particular will lose critical access to programs that enhance their well being by adding connection and creativity to their daily lives. An abundance of funding for the arts should be directed to the arts, not reappropriated for other projects. Mahalo for your consideration.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Erin Healani Chung

honomu, hi 96728

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:42:43 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rich Richardson	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art is the number one driver for an an creative community which translates to higher returns for businesses and a better more respectful visitor base which respects our environment and culture.

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HB2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawaii.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS
WILL END IMMEDIATELY

The next page lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

*SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island
Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center
Maui
Hui Noe'au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association
Maui Arts and Culture Center
Viewpoints Gallery
Kauai
Kauai Society of Artists
Oahu
Downtown Art Center
Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary
Hawaii Watercolor Society
Honolulu Printmakers
Honolulu Theatre for Youth Hawaii Handweavers Hui
Hula Preservation Society
NOTAE

Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
Professional Development for DOE
Teachers
The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony
Hawaii Arts Alliance support

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

Kahauiki Village

Institute for Human Services

RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment

LGBTQ Legacy Foundation

Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.

Brianna Nicole Morse

Mililani, O'ahu, 96789

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:51:07 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Uyeno-Pidot	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the committee,

My name is Julie Uyeno-Pidot and I'm providing written testimony in strong opposition to HB 1807 (Relating to the Works of Art Special Fund). Funding for the arts has already been cut several times and the passage of this bill would cut it even further. It is estimated that if HB 1807 were to pass, this would result in a reduction of special funds by up to 68%. This would be devastating for Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (HSFCA) and might even lead to the closure of the state art museum, Capitol Modern.

HSFCA's mission is "to promote, perpetuate, and preserve culture and the arts in Hawai'i." It does so through an innovative mix of arts education and public programs, including Art Bento, Artists in the Schools, the Hawai'i Regional Scholastic Art Awards, Poetry Out Loud, and Young Artists of Hawai'i. It also displays, maintains, and stores Hawai'i's public art collection, which contains works that capture the unique ethnic and cultural diversity of this state. I humbly request that you preserve public funding for these critical educational programs by voting against HB 1807.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Julie Uyeno-Pidot

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:54:35 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the continued funding of the Capital Improvement appropriations for state building renovations and do not want cuts or diversions of funds from the SFCA Works of Art Special Fund. The arts are critical for the mental health and well being of our communities, especially the preservation and perpetuation of Hawaiian arts and artisans.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:54:50 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Pullman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It seems this bill is designed to hide the fact that it is eliminating funding for the arts. Please oppose.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:55:45 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Hanson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a concerned citizen, parent, and designer working adjacent to the arts community, **I strongly oppose this bill.** Although it would provide a modest amount of additional funding for renovation projects, the same amount lost from the support of the arts would have a devastating impact.

This bill would cut 68% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide.

The elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would eliminate monetary support for the following:

***THE HAWAI‘I STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY**

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island

- Donkey Mill Arts Center
- East Hawaii Culture Center
- Kahilu Theatre
- Wailoa Center

Maui

- Hui Noe‘au
- Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association
- Maui Arts and Culture Center
- Viewpoints Gallery

Kauai

- Kauai Society of Artists

Oahu

- Downtown Art Center
- Arts and Letters
- Fishcake
- University of Hawai'i Galleries
- Arts at Mark's Garage

Organizations

- Pu'uhonua Society
- Hawaii Contemporary
- Hawaii Watercolor Society
- Honolulu Printmakers
- Honolulu Theatre for Youth
- Hawaii Handweavers Hui
- Hula Preservation Society
- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- Professional development for DOE Teachers
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony
- Hawaii Arts Alliance support

Outreach programs:

- Kahauiki Village
- Institute for Human Services
- RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
- LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
- Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS HOUSE BILL 1807 for the sake of the future of the arts in Hawai'i.

Thank you.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:55:54 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tash Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm writing to oppose this bill. The Arts are fundamental to society and removing this small amount of funding would be a mistake to current and future generations. The ability for all Hawaii residents (and visitors) to be inspired by and learn from arts and culture currently supported by the fund in question is important to our economy as well as to our identity.

Twenty years ago, as high school student in downtown Honolulu, I would often visit the State Art Museum (now Capitol Modern), as well as surrounding galleries in China Town. This experience gave me such inspiration as a young person that I pursued various creative and commercial arts. I now have a successful career in tech, which allowed me to come home and work remotely in Hawaii. I can trace my success back to those formative experiences gained by exposure to the arts that this bill would eliminate.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:58:00 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Louise Adams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

First of all, the Arts in Hawaii are SO important. As a teaching Artist with The Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts for 3 decades I have been able to teach thousands of Keiki in the Visual Arts. Most of these students would not have art instruction without the grants that make me free to the school.

My name is Lisa Louise Adams and I strongly urge you not to accept bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact my income but more importantly the critical training I can offer to Hawaii's Keiki.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

With Aloha and Creative JOY, Lisa Louise Adams

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:58:23 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Koa Lance Kuroda-McCormick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In order to continue for our keiki and haumana to freely express themselves. We must continue to support our culture. Hawaiian culture is rooted with story telling using art. Speaking, creating and sharing is art. If we reduce the support we fail the younger generations.

Mahalo, Koa

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:00:19 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lyssa Fujie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2. Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i. Art in Public Places provides an outlet for all residents, from keiki to kupuna, to improve their well-being and learn about the places around them. With less and less focus on arts in schools, programs like these need to be preserved.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice opposition.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:00:20 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bianca Wagner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family and I have always gone to these spaces where the arts are centered in the community and the value they add is actually invaluable. To lose the funding from this bill would debilitate and destroy a community of artist, native and local, that keeps the rhythm and heart of Hawai'i alive. An argument against funding the arts is a deeply wrong one and this bill is a blatant attack on a community that keeps culture alive here. You will be taking so much away from us, it will break our hearts, take options away from young local kids with dreams, and ultimately bring the overall state of the islands down. We need culture like we need medicine, especially native culture expressed through the arts, you can't have Hawai'i without it.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:00:29 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabrielle Rochon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Arts and culture are so important to the livelihood of Hawai'i, and self-expression should not be limited.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:01:40 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose HB1807 HD2.

I work in the arts and see the direct and positive impact that programs like Artists in the Schools and Art in Public Places has on my community. Kids are impacted directly by this funding - their healing and ability to create will be severely limited with this bill. I work directly with local artists from and working in Hawai'i that are instrumental creatives & cultural storytellers in our community sharing educational and impactful stories of place. The Art in Public Places program is a critical support of these artists. **Pulling that support is a detriment to our community with a negative and lasting cultural impact.**

This bill would eradicate the Art in Public Places Program and end support for Professional Development for all DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, on every island. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

It is due to these reasons that I strongly oppose HB1807 HD2.

Mahalo,
Cynthia Smith
Holualoa, HI 96725

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:01:49 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiara Liquido	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill and support the public art

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:02:13 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alex Narrajos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Alex Narrajos (96826) and I am writing in strong opposition to bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives. Disrupting the allocation of these funds would directly impact hundreds of DOE students, teachers, arts and culture organizations, and Hawai'i centered teaching artists. It would also essentially close an important community public art space (HiSAM), disrupting education, community gatherings, and personal feeling of belonging and connection to Hawai'i.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration. Please deeply consider the ramifications here and stop HB1807.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:02:22 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald H Skees	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Banyon Tree in Lahaina is just a plant. So much was lost in that fire that will cost so much more to replace, why all the attention to a stupid old tree? It is old, anyway.

As a Kentuckian, much of what I know about important symbols in the state comes from the news. I've learned from the New York Times at the extreme other end of the country, that the tree will live and many folks are happy about that. Symbols have meaning well beyond their numerative cost.

As a parent of adult children in Hawai'i and a sometimes visitor, I know a bit more about the archipelago; especially indigenous symbolism and pre-World War II culture (which many mainlanders don't know).

I've been impressed with state programs that show appreciation for the value of symbols. The Art in Public Places is a perfect example. Now this bill proposes to gut all that. Sweep it away.

This bill: ignores your citizens while claiming the buildings are more important. Implies that other money will fill the gap and that money is needed in Maui. This very program has funded essential endeavors like the Arts and Healing workshop that took place in Maui.

Save funding. Kill this bill. Value the symbolism that makes Hawai'i such an important part of our country. Thank you.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:03:39 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelani Piters	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge the legislature **not to pass** HB1807 HD2. The arts in Hawai'i have always been a vital means of cultural and personal self-expression, and of sustaining community and aloha. The richness and vibrancy of Hawai'i's people is showcased in the many different arts scenes in Hawai'i. As a Kanaka Maoli individual, I urge you not to strip financing and resources from the many indigenous Kānaka and local people who rely on them. I spent many happy days of my childhood visiting art museums and events (like Hawai'i State Art Museum, now Capitol Modern) on O'ahu and learning about my culture and the cultures of others. **Native Hawaiians and Hawai'i locals should not have to rely on private institutions to learn about and experience art.** Please invest in the culture of Hawai'i, and the lifeblood of our people, by continuing to support the arts in Hawai'i.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:03:47 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jolyn Okimoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

My name is Jolyn Okimoto and I am writing as a individual citizen opposed to HB1807 HD2. This bill proposes to cut the Art in Public Places program revenue, which would in turn mean cuts to many arts programs and initiatives statewide. Among the likely cuts would be the Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide, and State Foundation on Culture & the Arts-sponsored professional development for DOE teachers and teaching artists.

The benefits of arts education are significant reasons to oppose the bill. In this age of phones and technology, art provides a way for our youth to develop hands-on, creative learning and foster a lifelong appreciation of the arts. I first learned art in a DOE elementary school, and I continue to create ceramic scultures and appreciate art locally and in my travels. Please support the arts and OPPOSE HD1807 HD2.

Thank you, Jolyn Okimoto

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:04:16 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
alec singer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

At what point will people elected in office to represent our communities understand that ARTS IS CULTURE, and that by making decisions like this to cut funding for the arts THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN CUT IN THE PAST, it will have detrimental effects on culture and community ka pae aina. The fact that it is on the day when we choose to honor Kamehameha III, someone who made mandatory such as the royal hawaiian band, which in perpetude have cultivated, preserved, and shared culture and community through the art of mele and music shows how much the local government cares for the youth that will have to grow up in a Hawai'i that may be stumped because of lack of funding for the arts.

do better, if not for people like me, then for the youth and Hawaiians.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:08:58 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:09:56 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Wagner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please to do not cut funding for public art in Hawaii. In our small and isolated state it is important for the state to provide as many opportunities for its youth and citizens to participate in art as a way of understanding their culture and environment. Art in public places builds pride of place and understanding of our issues in our social and cultural context, It offers our citizens the opportunity. to interact with art in a way that is meaningful to them and reflects their values and beliefs about their home. Please do not cut the Artists in the Schools program. As an elementary school teacher on Kauai in an educational environment that focuses mostly on test scores and academic achievement there is a void in the development of critical thinking and problem solving through the arts. I have been working with an artist in residence from the Artists in Schools program for the past three years and each year my students have benefitted from learning from a working artist through project based learning to arrive and a culmative project. Without this program the students simply would not have the depth of experience and learning that this program offers. Our students need to understand their connection to their community and culture and have a "why" for their learning. The Artitist in School Program provideds this. It also provides working artist with an opportunity to earn a living as an artist by educating others. The state of Hawaii should value the arts and continue to support the arts rather than cutting funding and eliminating valuable programs. Mahalo, Ellen Wagner

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:11:05 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christianne Michel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Especially in an age where support for artificial intelligence is increasing at a concerning speed, threatening the very existence of art as the inexorably human endeavor it has always been and will always be, it's baffling to me that we would even propose reducing funding for the arts. This bill would severely impact government support for numerous arts organizations, arts programs, and individual artists across Hawai'i. In the times we're living in, support for artists, especially Native Hawaiian and local artists, is more important than ever. And the ramifications of this bill would be felt by more than visual artists. This bill's effects would impact musicians, performers, cultural practitioners, educators, and beyond. Art is *vital*. I don't say that lightly. Art connects us to each other across barriers of all kinds -- borders, languages, worldviews. Art makes us better people -- in fact, I would even argue it's what makes us people, in general. If you take away art funding, you take away the truest expression of our humanity. In our darkest times -- in every time -- we need more art, not less. Please do not pass this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:11:38 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Parish	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting local Arts, Culture, and Lifestyle is crucial to the appeal and longevity of Hawaii's attraction as a tourist destination.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:12:20 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John S Endicott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a poorly thought out bill. It will gut the Arts in Hawaii and will move us backward.

We need to continue to support the Arts and this unique funding is a nation leader. For once, do the right thing and Do Not Pass this short-sighted legislation. We have a thriving Arts community for such a small state. This bill would change everything and would send us to the back of the pack. We need to continue to promote The Arts and integrate it into tourism. I strongly oppose this Bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:12:28 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Penelope Hazzard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The arts are a vital part of a state's culture. Art in public buildings is one of the best laws we have, children learn creativity in arts education , creativty that carries over to many jobs in the future.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:14:16 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karin Noguchi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Arts and cultural events such as this are the heart of hawaii. They are the space in which locals are able to express and have the opportunity to make a living on their passions. This is also one of the most authentic and unique ways in which visitors to the island residential and temporary are able to connect with and learn from the local community. Please do not pass this bill. We desperately need spaces like this.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:14:52 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Elizabeth Miller. I have been a full-time working artist and arts educator in Volcano/Big Island for 20 years. I STRONGLY oppose HB 1807! It would deal a devastating blow to me personally, as well as to all the visual artists, writers, dancers and performers and to arts organizations throughout the State of Hawaii, AND to all the schools and cultural groups who also depend on SFCA funding to bring artists into their communities. Artists beautify public spaces and make environments more liveable; we engage and empower students and teachers in the creating of visual expressions of their personal and collective hopes and dreams; and by teaching any art form, students are exercising the "right" side of their brain, where innovation and inventions occur and imagination is allowed to soar. It is called "right brain literacy" and our state cannot afford to let that spark wither away in the hearts and minds of our keiki...they ARE the future. They need the training and expertise artists have to help them imagine, express and implement a POSITIVE future for themselves, their families and our communities throughout Hawaii. To hamper these opportunities would be a travesty.

Thank you for seriously considering my perspective on this most important topic. Please reject HB 1807 and give the SFCA, and artists, the funding to continue our work and purpose in this world.

With sincere respect, Elizabeth Miller, Volcano, HI 96785

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:15:02 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
janice Corsino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:15:07 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ardel Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Arts enhance all communities and should always have support from new building projects. It is for the benefit of all. We must help preserve human creativity and positive principles. As the first in the nation to provide this funding for the arts, Hawaii needs hold steady and set the example for a highly divided country.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:15:19 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rick Quemado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

As a frequenter of exhibitions held in spaces for art, I am sick to my stomach that a bill like this exists to take away funding for such environments. Not only do you remove the culture, heritage, business, and jobs associated with this, but you run the risk of trying to find ways to recapture it later when needing to reconnect to what was lost. I implore you not to follow through with this and as such, **I oppose the passing of bill HB1807.**

Rick Quemado

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:15:40 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Lau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. As expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "Art and education is the same. It makes a person aware, and that's what education is all about. So whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, its the same thing. It's the same body.

As an individual of the local art community, I believe in access to art in public spaces. Passing of this bill, is detrimental to the essential support for native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries, and organizations. Art is essential to life itself.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:18:36 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Macadangdang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Funding for art is crucial to perpetuating our culture and keeping it well and alive!!!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:19:44 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josephine Bergill-Gentile	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Josephine Bergill-Gentile. I am testifying against HB1807. HB1807 is a destructive bill that would drastically cut funding for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts' many arts programs and initiatives statewide. Elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would CUT the following initiatives:

***THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY**

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

***EDUCATION PROGRAMMING**

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Art Bento Museum Education Program
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade 7-12
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6
- Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support

I strongly urge you not to hear Bill 1807, and to please consider continued support for the arts and arts education in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:19:52 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tania Arens	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My Name is Tania Arens and I strongly urge you to oppose bill HB1807.

Cutting essential funding for the Arts will have nothing but negative affects on our community which will reflect on tourism negatively in the aftermath. Loss would occur on many levels.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Tania Arens

Committee: Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
Bill Number: HB 1807, RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND
Hearing Date & Time: March 19, 2024 at 3pm
Re: Testimony of Malia Wisch **in Opposition to HB1807**

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members:

My name is Malia Wisch, I am a partner and creative director of the local branding and design agency Wall to Wall Studios. I am a third-generation Kailua resident and graduate of Hawaii's public schools.

I am testifying in opposition of HB1807, which repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.

The resulting cut in funding for arts programs statewide would not only be an absolute tragedy in principle, but – from my perspective as a local professional in an arts-related field – would have a significant **adverse impact on efforts to diversify our local economy, especially for historically underserved communities.**

Those who undervalue the arts perhaps don't see how **arts education and experience leads to career prospects in visual design** – my field – which includes skills in a wide range of visual arts like illustration, animation, motion graphics, web design, interactive design, lettering, photography and cinematography to name a few. And then there are whole other fields like interior, fashion and product design – all rooted in the visual arts. These are GROWING professions. I'm sure you're hearing testimony from many local artists who are now thriving with paid work.

Changes in conventional thinking have also resulted in a very recent increased interest and effort in increasing opportunities for artists from **underserved communities**, precisely the communities that would be most affected by such a budget cut. How offensive – just as we're finally working toward righting a wrong, seeking out more artists of native Hawaiian descent to balance out a collection that long favored caucasian and asian artists – to pull the funding!

Please do not advance this bill and effectively send the message that the State of Hawaii does not value nor wish to elevate the perspectives of native Hawaiian and other local artists, thereby also cheating businesses like mine of up-and-coming, locally-grown arts professionals.

Mahalo nui loa for considering my testimony.

Sara Malia Wisch
629 Hanale Place, Kailua HI 96734
808-341-4543
malia@wisch-design.com

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:22:23 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ʻIlikea Ferge	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposition to HB1807, HD2
Protecting Hawaii's Artistic Community

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1807, HD2, which seeks to revoke capital improvement appropriations for state building renovations, diverting funds from the Works of Art Special Fund. If passed, this bill would result in a 68% reduction in revenue for the Art in Public Places Program, severely impacting government support for numerous arts organizations, programs, and individual artists across Hawaii.

The proposed legislation's argument that the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) already possesses an adequate collection of artworks, rendering further acquisitions unnecessary, fails to recognize the dynamic and evolving nature of artistic expression. Art is not static; it reflects the diversity and cultural richness of our communities. By limiting funding for art acquisitions and renovations, HB1807 would stifle the growth and vibrancy of Hawaii's artistic community.

Art in public spaces plays a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. It fosters a sense of identity, pride, and cultural exchange, contributing to the overall well-being of our society. Moreover, the economic impact of the arts cannot be understated, as it generates revenue, supports local businesses, and promotes tourism.

Removing "renovation" from the Percent for Art Law would have dire consequences, not only for artists and arts organizations but for the entire state. It would undermine decades of progress in promoting cultural enrichment and diversity.

I urge you to oppose HB1807, HD2, and instead, support initiatives that prioritize the preservation and advancement of Hawaii's artistic heritage. Let us work together to ensure that our state continues to thrive as a beacon of creativity and cultural excellence.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
ʻIlikea Ferge

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:25:15 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Domingcil	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and to whom it may concern,

I writing to express **OPPOSITION** to House Bill 1807 HD2.

With my understanding, this bill, if passed, would severely and negatively impact important arts programs statewide. While only new projects would be funded, older projects which need upkeep and restoration would not have the funding to proceed. Furthermore, it would affect Professional Development for teaching artists and teachers.

As both a student studying art education and a practicing artist, I am a supporter of the arts. I strongly believe in the productive force that arts have in both fostering community and stimulating economic growth. Art educational programs especially have the power to introduce people to new insights for both personal and professional development.

The Capitol Modern, Downtown Arts Center, and all of the other galleries and programs that will be affected if this bill passes will not be able to continue to offer the services they have well-provided across the years. Art is not simply a frill for decoration – it is an essential means by which we create connections, perpetuate culture, and discover ourselves. The processes by which we interpret, make and study art are important for future generations as well, and all of the programs that rely on the funding have helped to nurture and grow the communities which they serve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:25:46 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ara Laylo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members of the Legislature/Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1807, which proposes significant cuts to city and state funding allocated for the arts and culture. As a passionate advocate for the arts and a concerned citizen, I believe that such drastic measures would have devastating consequences for our communities, economy, and cultural heritage.

The arts and culture sector plays an indispensable role in enriching our lives and fostering a vibrant, diverse society. It serves as a powerful vehicle for expression, creativity, and social cohesion, bringing people together across diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Whether through visual arts, music, theater, literature, or dance, the arts have the unique ability to inspire, provoke thought, and stimulate dialogue on critical issues facing our society.

By slashing funding for the arts and culture, this bill threatens to undermine the very essence of our communities and jeopardize the livelihoods of countless artists, cultural organizations, and creative professionals. These individuals and institutions contribute immensely to our economy, driving tourism, generating revenue, and creating jobs in sectors ranging from hospitality to retail. Moreover, they play a crucial role in revitalizing neighborhoods, attracting businesses, and enhancing property values.

Furthermore, investing in the arts yields significant returns beyond economic measures. Numerous studies have demonstrated the positive impact of arts and cultural engagement on education, health, and overall well-being. Access to arts education enhances cognitive development, improves academic performance, and fosters critical thinking skills among students. Additionally, participation in cultural activities has been shown to reduce stress, promote mental health, and build social connections, particularly among marginalized communities.

In times of crisis, such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the arts have proven to be a source of solace, resilience, and hope for millions of individuals grappling with uncertainty and hardship. Artists and cultural organizations have adapted swiftly, providing virtual performances, online exhibitions, and creative outlets to uplift spirits and unite communities in solidarity.

Now more than ever, we must reaffirm our commitment to supporting the arts and culture as essential components of our society's fabric. Cutting funding to these vital sectors would not only

undermine our collective well-being but also deprive future generations of the beauty, inspiration, and diversity that enrich our lives.

Therefore, I urge you to oppose HB1807 and instead advocate for policies that prioritize investment in the arts and culture. Let us stand together in safeguarding our cultural heritage, nurturing creativity, and building a more resilient, inclusive society for all.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Pagibig Ara Laylo Feducia

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:26:40 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Rose Craig	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators,

As a 20-year active voter in Hawai'i, active church member, educator (public and private schools), and former business owner, I strongly oppose HB1807 and the defunding of the arts in our state. The arts are vital in enriching our cultural heritage, fostering social cohesion, promoting mental well-being, and providing cognitive stimulation for individuals of all ages.

Culturally, the arts are integral to Hawai'ian identity, reflecting our unique traditions, values, and history. By supporting the arts, we preserve and celebrate our diverse cultural heritage, ensuring that future generations can appreciate and learn from our rich artistic legacy.

Socially, the arts bring our communities together, creating opportunities for people to connect, collaborate, and engage with one another. I saw this, especially after COVID-19 teaching adults in 2022 and 2023 many were coming out of isolation (Kapuna) or were dealing with chronic stress and had come to my classes to deal with the hectic nature of their lives. To regain some balance, to find some joy. Whether through attending performances, participating in workshops, or visiting art galleries, the arts provide shared experiences that foster empathy, understanding, and a sense of belonging.

From a mental health perspective, engagement with the arts has been shown to reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, while promoting feelings of happiness, relaxation, and well-being. I don't know if you have sensed the heightened tension as you drove or watched the gun violence on the news, but our state and its people are in crisis. Cutting programs that foster their well-being for better roads is not the way forward. Numerous studies have demonstrated the therapeutic benefits of activities such as music therapy, dance therapy, and visual arts interventions, highlighting the importance of supporting the arts for the mental health of our citizens.

Furthermore, the arts provide important cognitive stimulation, enhancing creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Recent peer-reviewed research has shown that exposure to

the arts can improve academic performance, boost cognitive development, and enhance brain function across the lifespan.

As I am sure you are aware Senators that public confidence in our state and government spending is at a all-time low. With enhanced focus on the lack of self-accountability in the attempts to kill the Clean Elections legislation and the extreme spending of Hart as well as the many examples of corruption in recent months. I believe it would greatly boost confidence to have our state continue to support its public programs that directly benefit its citizens in a real way.

In light of these numerous benefits, we must continue to invest in and support the arts in Hawai'i. Defunding the arts in this way would not only deprive our communities of cultural enrichment and social engagement at a critical time of recovery both from the pain of COVID-19 and the Lahaina fires but also undermine the health and well-being of our older citizens who often are the hardest hit. I urge policymakers to prioritize the arts as a fundamental component of a healthy and vibrant city.

Here are some specific studies and research findings that support the benefits of the arts:

Disproportionate Impact on Vulnerable Communities during the Pandemic:

Williams, David R. "The Social Structure, Stress, and Mental Health." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, vol. 45, no. 1, 2004, pp. 53–67.

Role of Arts in Addressing Mental Health Challenges:

Stuckey, Heather L., and Jeremy Nobel. "The Connection Between Art, Healing, and Public Health: A Review of Current Literature." *American Journal of Public Health*, vol. 100, no. 2, 2010, pp. 254–263.

Impact of Arts Programming on Underserved Communities:

Penrod, Rena L., et al. "Arts Participation as a Pathway to Community Development in Rural Areas: A Network Perspective." *Community Development*, vol. 43, no. 1, 2012, pp. 95–113.

Potential of Arts in Promoting Public Health Post-Covid in Polynesian Communities:

Pekmezi, Dorothy, et al. "Cultural Adaptation of a Physical Activity Intervention for Arab Americans: Results and Lessons Learned." *Translational Behavioral Medicine*, vol. 4, no. 2, 2014, pp. 163–173.

Cultural Benefits:

- Bowes, L., & Wilkinson, D. (2003). "The significance of cultural participation for subjective well-being." *Journal of Cultural Economics*, 27(1), 57-72.
- Stern, M. J., & Seifert, S. C. (2014). "Cultural ecosystem services and the role of arts in quality of life." In *The Economics of Cultural Services* (pp. 221-245). Springer, Cham.

2. Social Benefits:

- Williams, D. R., & Dixon, P. N. (2013). "Impact of museum learning on children's social attainment: A naturalistic study." *Curator: The Museum Journal*, 56(2), 197-214.
- Kreutz, G., Bongard, S., & Rohrmann, S. (2004). "Cultural participation and well-being in European countries: Trend and contexts." *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, 7(3), 275-292.

3. Mental Health Benefits:

- Stuckey, H. L., & Nobel, J. (2010). "The connection between art, healing, and public health: A review of current literature." *American Journal of Public Health*, 100(2), 254-263.
- Fancourt, D., & Finn, S. (2019). "What is the evidence on the role of the arts in improving health and well-being? A scoping review." *Health Evidence Network Synthesis Report*, 67.

4. Cognitive Stimulation:

- Winner, E., & Hetland, L. (2000). "The arts and academic achievement: What the evidence shows." *Arts Education Policy Review*, 100(5), 4-9.
- Schellenberg, E. G. (2011). "Examining the association between music lessons and intelligence." *British Journal of Psychology*, 102(3), 283-302.

These studies provide evidence for the diverse benefits of the arts, including cultural, social, mental health, and cognitive advantages.

Aloha &

Blessings

Amy Rose Craig

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:26:49 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Love	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to please vote NO to HB1807. This bill would drastically decrease funding available to the SFCA to support local arts organizations, the arts in public places collection and the state art museum.

The arts are essential in so many ways. The arts and culture sectors stimulate the economy by providing jobs, drawing visitors, and building self confidence in our keiki. Cutting funding is short sighted and will cause an enormous amount of harm to Hawaii's reputation as a place that holds art and culture in high regard. Please allow the SFCA the funding it requires to continue to work for the good of all in the state. Do not pass this or any bills that cut vital arts funding.

Mahalo.

Katherine Love

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:27:17 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raquel Curtis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. *Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime.* We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to **create economic diversity.**

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. *It is simply the soul expression of humanity.*

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

WILL END IMMEDIATELY

The next page lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island
Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center
Maui
Hui Noe'au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association Maui Arts and Culture Center Viewpoints Gallery
Kauai
Kauai Society of Artists
Oahu
Downtown Art Center
Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary Hawaii Watercolor Society Honolulu Printmakers Honolulu Theatre for Youth Hawaii Handweavers Hui Hula Preservation Society NOTAE

Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.

Professional Development for DOE Teachers

The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony

Hawaii Arts Alliance support

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

Kahauiki Village
Institute for Human Services

Ryse Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.

Raquel Curtis

Honolulu, O'ahu, 96816

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:28:37 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayna Yogi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

I am writing in strong OPPOSITION to HB 1807, which would cut approximately 70% of the Art in Public Program Places program revenue, adversely eliminating government support for many arts education programs and initiatives statewide. Please consider the mission of the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), which is "to promote, perpetuate and preserve culture and the arts in Hawaii", and the impact it has on our communities through the educational and outreach programs it provides, art centers, galleries, organizations and museums. From art and music classes for students statewide, to live music performances in the courtyard of the Hawaii State Art Museum, to exhibitions and public programs that showcase and support Native Hawaiian and local artists, these are just some examples of how the SFCA fulfills its important mission and ensures access to art for everyone in the community.

These programs uplift our community by creating opportunities that would not otherwise exist. To cut majority funding is to eliminate such opportunities and put an immediate halt on current programming that is so important to the community. Please keep the arts in our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 1807.

Dayna Yogi, Honolulu

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:30:43 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Shinsato	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to consider the effects of bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives that would directly impact programming at my school.

I have seen how my 3rd grade students benefited from the Artist in the Schools program where HTY instructors came and taught my students drama. We were able to witness students' strengths and talents outside of the academics, like Language Arts or Math. I had typically quiet students who came out of their shells and took risks in ways they do not normally do. A rascal bunch of students loved the movement and stories and were thoroughly engaged in the drama activities. Drama class was a motivator for students to come to school since they enjoyed it so much. Our instructor also encouraged many social emotional topics and skills within his time with our classes and brought in stories that represented Kosrae, a Micronesian island that is not commonly represented in stories or texts. We were able to see the benefits that the Artist in the Schools program had on students and development of the whole child.

Additionally, I remember how I loved having my photography be a part of the Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade 7-12 as a senior in high school many moons ago and how amazing it was to see the art of my classmates and fellow high school students on display. These appropriations would impact programs like this to happen for our students.

Please know that this bill can affect programs, such as the Artist in the Schools program or Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony, that have positively impacted students' learning and growth.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration. I kindly ask that you keep in mind the budget for these programs and look at the funds that will be allotted to these programs as a result of these bills.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:30:54 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Forrest Leonard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm Forest Leonard, a local artist and ceramics teacher at the Honolulu museum of art. I'm writing to you in opposition to HB1807, which removes vital funding from various crucial arts organizations throughout the state. Without this funding, several arts organizations would have to immediately shut down their programs, such as K-12 art education, native Hawaiian arts programs, exhibitions and events, teacher training, and SFCA purchases. These programs are vital to our art economy here in Hawaii, and severing this funding lifeline will have devastating consequences. These programs are direct drivers of the art economy, with many artists relying on them for employment, education, teaching opportunities, and sales opportunities. These artists then directly contribute to the economy in a variety of ways; Art attracts tourists, stimulates businesses, and improves the quality of life. In addition, the educational programming provided by this funding is vital for keeping art accessible to various communities in Hawaii. Without these programs, arts education would be devastated, with many rural and low income communities losing much needed art programs in their areas. The arts are a vital part of our culture here in Hawaii, which is a primary driver of tourism and economic development. Without this funding, Hawaii would lose a small but essential aspect of its economy and its culture. Please vote no to HB1807 to ensure the continuity of this vital art economy in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

-Forest Leonard.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:31:50 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
bailey a ferguson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts, Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

The next page lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island

Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center
Maui
Hui Noe'au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association Maui Arts and Culture Center Viewpoints Gallery
Kauai
Kauai Society of Artists
Oahu
Downtown Art Center
Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage
ORGANIZATIONS
Pu'uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary Hawaii Watercolor Society Honolulu Printmakers Honolulu Theatre for
Youth Hawaii Handweavers Hui Hula Preservation Society NOTAE
Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
Professional Development for DOE Teachers
The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming Scholastic Art
Exhibition and Ceremony Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony
Hawaii Arts Alliance support
OUTREACH PROGRAMS:
Kahauiki Village
Institute for Human Services
RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center
Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.

bailey ferguson.
[kailua-kona, hawaii island, 96740]

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:32:26 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marie Eriel Hobro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Marie Eriel Hobro. I am a photographer, filmmaker, writer, and photography teacher from Wahiawā.

I am submitting this written testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** of HB 1807, which would eliminate public funding for the arts. As a teaching artist, I am devastated by this bill and the horrific impact it could have on the arts in Hawai'i.

Art changed my life when I was a kid. As a photography teacher at Leilehua High School, I get to watch it change my students' lives every day. It helps them become more connected with themselves, the community around them, and their roots. By cutting this funding, it eliminates the chance for local kids to have that same opportunity.

One way is how this bill would force Capitol Modern to cease all its operations and exhibitions. This would essentially end the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, a prestigious art competition that Hawai'i art students enter every year. This competition has had an amazing impact on participants. It boosts their confidence, inspires them to pursue art professionally, connects them with other young artists, and can provide them with amazing financial and educational opportunities. Losing that would be devastating for Hawai'i's youth.

Furthermore, this bill deprives local artists of the chance to grow and thrive here in Hawai'i. Ultimately, this will push creatives to the mainland to pursue their dreams. No one will be left to tell our stories the way they should be told.

We should push to create a stronger economy for the arts in Hawai'i instead of weakening it. Hawai'i is home to so many brilliant artists who want to elevate these islands through art, but so many are forced to leave due to the lack of economic opportunities.

Please save the arts so that it can continue to save lives in Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Marie Eriel Hobro

Wahiawā

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:33:16 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Warren Loos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to HB 1807.

Preserving funding for the Arts is crucial for the Native Hawaiian community and for local artists. Your vote in opposition will continue to support and ensure a thriving artistic community. Artists play a crucial role within the community by facilitating creative and artistic expression, providing education, and contributing to the economic vitality of our entire community. Truly, the Arts nourish our roots and the people of Hawai'i.

I would appreciate your opposition to HB 1807 and, thus, your continued support of the Arts and our community.

Mahalo nui loa,

Warren, R Loos

4300 Waiialae Ave. B1002

Honolulu, HI. 96816

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:35:43 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isabella Hughes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my deep opposition to HB1807. Hawai‘i has a vibrant, robust, and dynamic arts community that enables us to celebrate who we are, our culture, community, values and in turn, not only expands our minds, but is a vital contributor to our economy. As a lifelong arts supporter, co-founder of Hawai‘i Contemporary and former board chair, I know first hand how detrimental this bill would be to our local arts ecosystem. Please do the right thing and oppose HB1807!

Mahalo,

Isabella Hughes

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:36:27 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Hagopian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The community benefits greatly from the public arts funding and this bill, if passed, would have far reaching impacts on my family, friends and community. It would end the SFCA support for Hawaiian arts and culture programs in our public schools, many arts programs, organizations, and individual artists. The funding that would be impacted not only provides works of art in public places, but supports a broad range of important art and culture programs, making them available to everyone in the state, from all income levels. I ask you to oppose this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:55:54 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
A.Kimberlin Blackburn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB 1807

A.Kimberlin Blackburn, Kapaa, Kaua'i, HI 96746

My Personal Testimony

Aloha from Kaua'i!

I first directly worked with Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and The Arts in 1988 when after returning home I became Board President of Kaua'i Society of Artists. I remained Board President for ten years and worked closely with HISFCA staff and some of the HISFCA Commissioners. HISFCA staff were very helpful and I was grateful for the education and efforts towards supporting Non Profit Culture and Arts Boards and staff, crossing T's and dotting I's so to speak and supporting us in wide community outreach. The artists working in the public education programs supported by HISFCA have the best things to say of their experience teaching within the HISFCA program that have become highly important in the school systems, as school art budgets get cut the arts. There have been numerous studies over the years about the importance of the Arts, individually, collectively and especially relating to supporting the education of our youth, for example the relationship between music and math and drawing towards careers in the graphic arts and architecture.

Having a Neighbor Island Commissioner is vital to communication networking, nonprofit leadership, and growth of individual and collective expression, and on and on.

Please DO NOT dismantle this highly evolved system/process of enriching and educating students about our culture, the viewing of local artists selected for HISFCA purchase, to mention but a few of the very important work this agency does and promotes.

On a personal note, I am honored and grateful to be included in the HISFCA collection and thru my volunteer work with Hawaii Craftsmen, Kaua'i Society of Artists and HISFCA I now have a piece in Smithsonian American Art Museum Collection. I bring this up as I believe that those of us who are awarded and are honored to be in the HISFA Collection, that this acknowledgement has promoted a national and international attention towards the value of Hawaii artwork.

In the early 1990's NEA Chairwoman Jane Alexander travelled to numerous states supporting NEA efforts for the Arts and the Humanities, telling us she saved Hawaii for last as Hawaii had been the first state to implement the Percentage for the Arts Program. A few years ago I was delighted to have seen Ms. Alexander and thank her for her good work. I bring up Ms. Alexander's visit as once again the Arts are under attack. Dismantling/Defunding HISAM/Capital Modern, HISFCA and the Commission once again threatens what can be seen as one of Hawaii's most important assets-Culture-which is how Hawaii is "marketed." Of course, our culture should be more than a vacation sales tool. PLEASE stand with continued support and funding for one of Hawaii's most valuable assets; Our People, especially Our Keiki and Our multifaceted Culture. Thank you for your time and consideration, A.Kimberlin Blackburn

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:43:11 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
christy vail	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Whenever I go into a airport, library, courtroom, or M walking and run across an outdoor artwork I think how wonderful are one percent for public art funding is. It set us apart from other states in recognizing something that is positive, helpful and healing to our Hawaii citizens.I beg you not to eliminate this important source of funding.

I beg you not to eliminate this important source of funding.

Thank you,

Christy Vail

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 1:30:33 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krista Davidson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the House Bill 1807. Arts in Public Places programs does important work providing education and opportunities for artists, especially student artists. These programs help by positively contributing and uniting the community. Cutting their funding makes these misisions even more difficult.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 5:18:27 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapono B Beamer	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The arts are very important to our society. Art has qualities that human beings need to thrive and survive. Our species draws on art for inspiration, identity, consolation, solace, edification, motivation, and many other basic human wants and needs that cannot be fulfilled by other means. Please keep art alive for the people of Hawaii.

Aloha,

My name is Parish Cherry, and I strongly urge you to oppose bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact the very few, integral outlets for art and it's appreciation throughout the state of Hawai'i.


I am not someone who was raised in Hawai'i. But in the few years that I have observed and integrated into the culture, I can honestly say that my values as an individual have improved greatly. Getting to know the people who are of this place, taking in the strong sense of community, and the set of knowledge and veneration regarding how to care for the land that we all rely on, whether we acknowledge it or not.

I am an artist myself, so of course taking these lessons to heart, and developing an empathy that the aspects of this land provide, have greatly affected my work. Most definitely for the better. I even had the opportunity to showcase this newfound mindset in the fall of 2023 during a solo exhibition, fully focused on the qualities and lessons I've taken in since moving to Oahu. I also felt it was right to include a new piece that I created specifically for the people affected by the Lahaina fires, entitled 'Na Kaikuahine O Maui'. At the beginning, I did have mixed feelings about taking up space for my own art, especially in light of the fires and everyone being at emotional highs. But in the end I felt this was actually an opportunity to have art perform one of it's most crucial roles in society - empathizing with and soothing the souls of the people. In my piece, I portray a woman, standing tall, staring into stronger future, lovingly supported by her seven sisters. My hope really was to represent hope itself, and to create an image that the people of Hawai'i can look to during such a difficult time, and any that may come in the future.

Great art can be there for people's spirits in depths other mediums could hardly ever reach. It can act as an empathetic mirror, or as a horizon-expanding door that can affect people in an immediate and heavy force, or as slow but steady relationship that can shift a person's perspective before they even realize it. I know the art world can seem like a racket a lot of the time, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't take the time to appreciate great works and give them the space they so righteously deserve.

Mahalo nui loa, for taking my perspective and opinion into your consideration.

X

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Parish Cherry', written over a horizontal line.

Parish Cherry



Nā Kaikuahine O Maui - Sisters of Maui -
Oil on Wood Panel | 20 x 24 in

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:39:14 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Gumapac	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill moving forward as I am a Native Hawaiian Artist and work as a Fine Arts Teacher in the DOE. I have worked closely with Capitol Modern to create spaces for DOE Art Teachers, DOE Students for over 15 years in Arts Programming, currently WESTAF in the Equity and Inclusion Committee, First Peoples Fund, Bishop Museum, PA'I Foundation and multiple artists from across the nation to bring our Native Hawaiian voices to art spaces. It is critical that we keep our access to our art museums and arts education programming open so that our youth can gain inspiration and build upon their skills of creativity and voice to express who they are, socially, emotionally, and spiritually as mental health is a huge overwhelming burden right now across the world. In so many ways, art provides an outlet in so many capacities and if their bill moves forward, it will shut off what little access to art we already have.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:40:17 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Polanco de Couet	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislature,

I am in opposition of HB1807 HD2 as it would greatly impact our community as we know it. The arts and the funding for this project not only provide vital educational opportunities for our children, community and visitors but for the support it provides to many who create and businesses that depend on the creative community to survive.

Please do not pass this or any iteration of this effort.

repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. This bill would cut 68% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely eliminating government support for many arts programs and initiatives statewide. While the most recent version of the bill tries to cover the bill's negative impact on education and performing arts by making an appropriation, it will not come close to matching the loss of this cut.

Elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would CUT the following initiatives:

1. THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY
2. SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS
3. EDUCATION PROGRAMMING, including...
 - Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide
 - SFCAsponsored professional development for DOE teachers and teaching artists
 - The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
 - Art Bento Museum Education Program
 - Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students in grades 7-12
 - Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students in grades K-6
 - Hawai‘i Arts Alliance support

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:40:41 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Powlan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I can't exprees how imortant the arts are to our children and the community of Hawaii.

Whether traditional or non tradition art education, and exsperiences enhance all our lives.

The arts give people hope and joy in troubled times as well as good times.

In Bilbao Spain they have a saying "**Art Changes Everything**". One museum The Guggenheim which opened there transformed a dirty industrial city into a destination for prople around the world. Creating not just pride for the residents but lifted the city with jobs and and well being. Every sector of life there has improved because they took a stand to make art a part of their culture.

Art in public spaces needs to change and evolve with the times reflecting what is happening around us whether thought provoking or just for pure enjoyment.

It enhances visitor exsperiences as well and encourages them to return and also visit different areas of the islands. Many plan there holidys around art events.

It is so short sighted to take funds away from something so important to our culture and identity not to mention our childrens education and appreciation of what they can be.

I urge you to not take money away from the arts and vote no on Bill HB 1807.

We are counting on you to help Hawaii not hurt it.

Much Aloha

Jim Powlan

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:41:30 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marion Ano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kāua,

My name is Marion Ano and I am submitting written testimony in strong opposition to HB1807 and HB1807HD2. Please do NOT pass this bill. As an art instructor at Capitol Modern's Super Saturday events I can attest to the positive impacts that the Museum and its public programs have on our residents and visitors. This bill will undermine impacts on Native Hawaiian artists, local artists, students, children, families, galleries, and other organizations that provide art programs for Hawai'i's people.

Once again, please do NOT pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Marion Ano

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:43:31 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rubymarie McCann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings,

It has come to our attention that this is impact capitol museum. Capitol museum was a place that provided a space for crossing rain to perform, mto, and many other artists. It also provided a space for many local artists of all ages to showcase their skills in many different art mediums. As we have many fond memories of the museum, we hope to see it last for lifetimes.

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. ***Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime.*** We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to ***create economic diversity.***

*Consequently, this bill would **ERADICATE** the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.*

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. ***It is simply the soul expression of humanity.***

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

WILL END IMMEDIATELY

The next page lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island
Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center
Maui
Hui Noe'au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association
Maui Arts and Culture Center
Viewpoints Gallery
Kauai
Kauai Society of Artists
Oahu
Downtown Art Center
Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary
Hawaii Watercolor Society
Honolulu Printmakers
Honolulu Theatre for Youth
Hawaii Handweavers Hui
Hula Preservation Society
NOTAE

Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.

Professional Development for DOE Teachers

**The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony**

Hawaii Arts Alliance support

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

Kahauiki Village
Institute for Human Services
RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.

GIANNA BAILEY, MHC

WAIALUA, HI 96791



HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:46:45 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy Chadwick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha esteemed House Representatives,

I am Christy Chadwick, a Teaching Artist and Therapsit deeply invested in arts education in our community. I write to express my strong opposition to HB1807, which would negatively impact our work with teachers, artists, and students.

The arts play a crucial role in promoting social and emotional well-being, especially during these challenging times. HB1807 would hinder our ability to support educators and engage students through creative programs, which are vital for holistic development.

I urge you to reconsider HB1807 and recognize the importance of arts education in nurturing our communities. Feel free to contact me at chadwickchristy@gmail.com or 808-633-3759 for further discussion.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Christy Chadwick, MS, MA MFT

teaching artists

808-633-3759

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:46:56 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyce Dodge	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As someone who has worked with children and the arts for many decades, I am against Bill 1807. Please do not cut any funding to the Arts. The Arts only receive a small percentage of the whole budget as it is. To take away the 1% for renovations of state buildings will have an adverse effect on the Arts in Hawaii. This would result in cutting funding for cultural practitioners, for art museums and galleries, for art organizations throughout the state, for public artworks, and for local artists and teachers. The bottom line is that the children of Hawaii will be deprived of these sources of inspiration, of beauty, of creativity, of collaboration, of creative problem solving and of future jobs - all things that matter and that are much needed in today's world. To take away any funding source for the Arts is like removing strands of thread that hold the tapestry of society together. It would leave the children threadbare - a very Scrooge-like and avoidable action. The little percentage for the Arts yields great returns. Please don't cut any funding for the Arts. Please vote 'no' on Bill 1807.

Mahalo,

Alyce Dodge

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:48:14 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lei-Anne Jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whomt It May Concern,

Please do not take away public events for our artists. We need to be able to share creativity with the world. Let's do more to support our artists!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:48:34 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Taylor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha esteemed House Representatives,

I am Catherine Taylor, a Maui Arts & Cultural Center Development Associate deeply invested in arts education in our community. I write to express my strong opposition to HB1807, which would negatively impact our work with teachers, artists, and students.

The arts play a crucial role in promoting social and emotional well-being, especially during these challenging times. HB1807 would hinder our ability to support educators and engage students through creative programs, which are vital for holistic development.

I urge you to reconsider HB1807 and recognize the importance of arts education in nurturing our communities. Feel free to contact me at catherine@mauiarts.org for further discussion.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Catherine Taylor

Development Assoicaite

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:50:00 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Chris Lee

Senator Lorraine Inouye

Senator Brandon Elefante

Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha

Senator Brenton Awa

Dear Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Inouye and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and Arts:

I oppose further cutting public funds for arts and culture and limiting such funding to schools only. The very diverse community of Hawaii deserves a robust program with more opportunities to honor, appreciate, and empower said. I may not always agree with directions that were made at SFCA (e.g., spending on the re-branding of the HiSAM), but many of the works and programs are doing their job. Rather than cutting funding, a robust evaluation should be in place for impact on equity and fiscal responsibility.

Traveling in the US and abroad, one realizes that visitors and residents increase their sense of curiosity and caring about places when they are met, engaged, and provoked by art in public areas-- such as airports, bus and train stations, parks and parklets, cultural programs, or formal museums. I am also proud to have such art pieces and programs on our islands.

In places where significant disasters have significantly shaken communities, I note that public arts contribute to community resiliency—having them allows us to reclaim those values and sensibilities we must draw upon to build back our communities.

Thank you.

DATE: March 18, 2024

TO: Senate Transportation and Culture and the Arts Committee

FROM: Kathleen Storm

SUBJECT: HB 1807

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

I am writing to you, respectfully in **opposition of HB 1807**. I am an artist in Haiku, Hawaii, represented by Viewpoints Gallery, and an instructor at Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center. Before moving to Hawaii, I worked for eight years as a division head in the economic development department and Executive Director of the Business Improvement District in the city center of Beloit, Wisconsin. In my last year as director, we won the Great American Mainstreet Award through the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a pinnacle honor for revitalization efforts in downtowns across the nation.

I state my background because I have seen how integral the arts are to a community's vitality. I have used art to create community engagement and have experienced the positive psychological and economic impact of a vibrant art scene on the community at large. Art is a powerful expression of identity and aspiration. It is a catalyst for economic and social prosperity as it opens minds and hearts toward better solutions and cohesive community action, paving the way for improvements in infrastructure, public and private partnerships, conservation, preservation, entrepreneurship and more. Art helps the community envision what the future can hold and creates ways to communicate goals. It breaks barriers and builds bridges toward better stewardship and quality of life. The arts, whether visual or performance based, contribute substantially to the economic, social and cultural strength of our communities across the state.

When government funds the arts, it's typically to the nonprofit arts and culture organizations as we have seen in Hawaii. And it's an appropriate question to ask: What's the return on investment for the public? Here are the data.

HAWAI'I ARTS FACTS:

- **PUBLIC FUNDING RECEIVED FOR HAWAI'I ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR FY23**
 - State Appropriation FY23 \$7,277,189
 - NEA Grant FY23 \$805,300
 - NEA Direct Grants FY22-23 \$2,311,200
- Hawaii arts and culture sector was a **\$2.9 billion industry** in 2021 (**3.2% of the state's GDP**), representing **19,268 jobs (2.9% of Hawai'i's workforce)**, and **total compensation of \$1.6 billion**. Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis & National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, 2023 (Note: ***This is 2021 data collected during the pandemic and***, so it can only be assumed that numbers **will be even more robust in post pandemic years.**)
 - *In fact, Hawaii arts and culture value added decreased by 19% between 2019 and 2020. In addition, arts & culture employment decreased by 24%, dropping from 23,773 to 17,941. Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis & National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, 2022 (2020 data collected during the pandemic)*
BOTTOM LINE—look for growth here and higher return on investment in post pandemic years.
- **ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NON-PROFIT ARTS INDUSTRY ONLY & THEIR AUDIENCES Statewide in Hawai'i** (Source: Americans for the Arts, Arts & Economic Prosperity 5, Hawai'i report, 2017)
 - **\$205.6 M Economic activity annually**
 - **\$23.2 M State and local government revenue generated**

Arts and cultural engagement are critical to the educational, economic, and social well-being of individuals, communities, and the State of Hawai'i.

Public investment in the arts pays dividends in an increased tax base, stronger social connections and community support, reduced health risks, higher empathy, and more community pride. These things, together, pave the way for communities to progress toward common goals.

In addition to the return on investment that every dollar of public investment in the arts provides, there should be the calculation of detriment to our communities in reduced funding. You may save a dollar, but **for every dollar you remove, you will lose three-fold in State and local government revenue generated**, and close to **THIRTY-fold in economic**

activity annually. It is counter intuitive and short-sighted to remove a catalyst for so much good in our state.

HB1807 repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. The removal of "renovation" from the *percent for art* law would significantly reduce financial support for native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries, and organizations. This bill would cut an estimated 68% of the Art in Public Places program, and reduce or eliminate government support for many arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide.

Another concrete example, this bill will cut 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide.

The bill states that the SFCA has enough works of art and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection. In Hawai'i, art is not simply a commodity that reaches a threshold of "enough". It is an evolving reflection of our culture and society that gives voice to each era. To limit the "inventory" to not include current and upcoming artists and voices of our future, would stifle the impact that the program was created to achieve. There is benefit in showing that art and the reflections it offers of contemporary society does not stop because one has collected enough.

Please do not pass this bill.

Thank you for your attention and this opportunity to testify in **opposition to SB 793.**

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Storm". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen Storm

Haiku, Hawai'i

Artist | www.kathleenstorm.com

katstorm@me.com

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:53:54 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Chan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 1807, as a member of the arts industry on Oahu, an advocate for the arts, and a resident who believes that public art is essential for the enrichment of our community. I believe that this bill endangers the continued growth and accessibility to art in our communities across the islands. Art is not just decorative, but inspires critical thinking, cultural understanding, social cohesion, and personal development, making it an important part of our of public infrastructure.

The Works of Art Special Fund has played a crucial role in enhancing the physical appearance of state buildings, providing educational opportunities to the public through the art in public places program, and supporting local artists with much-needed employment and recognition.

Instead of diminishing our commitment to the arts, we should be exploring how to expand and diversify public art initiatives to better reflect the rich cultural tapestry of Hawaii. I urge you to oppose House Bill 1807 and support the arts for the betterment of our state.

Mahalo for considering my testimony on this matter.

-Tracy Chan

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:53:54 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristina Swenson-Stewart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and the members of the Committee,

I am writing to you in opposition of HB 1807. This bill massively cuts the support for several art centers, classroom programs, and the Arts in Public Places program.

The 1% in appropriations from construction and renovation does more than decorate the state buildings' empty walls; it creates opportunity for countless artists across creative mediums such as dance, poetry, and traditional art, to name a few.

Further, the impact extends beyond artists who are afforded the opportunities from these funded art programs and centers; HB 1807 negatively impacts the public who currently experience art at little to no cost and appreciate small artists who may not have the opportunity to share their work without the existing programs funded.

The bill begins with the sentiment "art feeds the human spirit and offers priceless value" and boasts "that Hawaii was the first state in the nation to adopt a percent-for-art law." It is hypocritical to say these things proudly whilst redirecting these funds entirely-it is implying that the human spirit has been fed "enough art" in the State of Hawaii. This is far from true, and I strongly oppose HB 1807 for these reasons.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:54:48 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Aoki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

One of the aspects that make Hawaii a vibrant place that feels alive and supportive is the arts in its everyday life. Any attempts to reduce or minimize it is a blow. A world without art is dull and boring indeed. A society that values art is a society that will attract kind people who value beauty, creativity and humanity. A society that makes it hard for artists, is a society that makes it hard for its people. Please do not reduce funding for the arts.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:55:10 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Vilhauer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii needs to do more, not less to support the arts for so many reasons. The arts scene in Chinatown brings people to the classes, to the galleries, to the restaurants, to the boutiques. It is a vital part of lifting that area out of decay and crime.

And the State museum is a jewel that should be cherished and supported. Something that we can be proud of. Its very existence elevates the importance of the city, the state, and is invaluable to the artists who struggle to contribute to the art and culture of Hawaii. That it could be shut down and used as a storage facility is abhorrent.

Artists contribute so much to the culture and the economy, and they are often at the lowest rung on the economic ladder. Their contribution is too often discounted or taken for granted. Please defeat this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:55:38 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Weissman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art humanizes a society, and cutting the funds for making the arts accessible to our community is just plain short-sighted and wrong thinking.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:55:43 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mario Nanguse	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads & Judiciary Committee Members:

I am writing in strong opposition of HB1807 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:58:04 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clare Nelson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807.

As expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

We need art. We need education. We need accessibility to expanding our mindsets.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 12:59:36 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Isono	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1807 HD2 is damaging to the thriving artist community in Hawaii and any support for such a bill that reduces artist funding should not be encouraged.

Art is an expression of self, a way of sharing perspective, an important aspect that pushes culture forward. The local art community is one that is thriving, providing opportunities for people to share their works, make a living, or just to get their voice heard, that did not exist 10 years ago. Passing of this bill could ultimately lead those invested in the community, whether individuals or businesses, to leave Hawaii, resulting in an absence of creativity and people that is damaging to all.

I can personally attest that without the community (and the numerous public events that were funded by the Art in Public Places Program), I would have left Hawaii and would not have received the same opportunities and experiences that came with living here. Hawaii is known as a beautiful vacation destination, but it would be absolutely foolish to reallocate funding and to cut the funding of a community that benefits all - the same community who is also struggling to create, push the culture forward, and most importantly, stay in Hawaii.

Passing this bill silences the voices of numerous voices in the community, from the kids to the elders. It absolutely creates a disadvantage to individuals and squanders creativity and individualism, two ideals that many in Hawaii struggle with. Any support for this bill should not be encouraged.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:00:23 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alika Seki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am writing to oppose HB 1807 on the grounds that it would eliminate funding to the successful arts programs and projects that have enriched my community and the lives of many talented artists. Art is how the culture of an area makes itself seen and heard. A vibrant art scene is vital to the community. Mahalo.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:00:49 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cyan Garma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against the defunding of art/creative programs in Hawaii across the board. Art benefits the culture and people in an immeasurable way. If anything there should be more funds/resources for art programs.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:01:05 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dena Nakahashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to hb 1807. It will cut funds that are absolutely important to the cultural wellbeing of Hawai'i, its people, and its future.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:02:15 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Sanchez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. In my keiki days and into my adult life I have been a benefactor of the programs and initiatives that have been funded by government funding. To name a few:

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade 7-12

It is through these programs and exposure to art and I pay homage to in my professional and personal life. To make art and to engage in art is to build an understanding of the world around you. It is to express your being in hopes that another person out there feels the same things you do, to share the experience of being alive. Perhaps you have read this quote many times this day but I hope it does not again fall on deaf ears. Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

As a practitioner of the arts, as an art educator of youth and adults I oppose this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:02:24 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CS Shizuru	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:05:05 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noah Kutaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The argument for HB 1807 reads as though the author believes art and culture are static and part of the past, instead of dynamic and changing reflections of the experiences of the people of Hawaii.

In supposing that the program has been “a success,” I would think that would be a reason to continue the program, rather than hobble it. If the lives of people have been enriched by art in State buildings and educational programs, we should perpetuate it for the benefit of future generations, as well.

I’m sure there can be better use made of the “surplus” of artwork in storage, but that seems to demonstrate a need to periodically cycle through artwork displayed in the state, or perhaps lend pieces to other museums and galleries. The bill suggests the notion that the State has all the artwork it needs and nothing else that is created later will be worth considering.

The reasoning for the bill also leaves out the impact on funds appropriated for cultural outreach programs and performing arts, which generally are experienced activities, which cannot be stored in the State’s catalog of artwork. The effect on these programs is much more immediate, since they continually operate, employ people, and provide services to the community.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:07:12 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Ellinwood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts, Thank you for this opportunity. I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2. Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i. Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity. Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect. ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

Thank you for your time and please deeply consider the ramifications here.

Jason Ellinwood

Kāne' ohe, O'ahu, 96744

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:07:36 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

I, Travis Kailikea Paradea, a lifelong Hawai`i Island resident feel compelled to **submit testimony in opposition to HB1807 HD2. Due to widespread community opposition.**

The opposition to this bill is so widespread that I wondered if it was even worth my time to submit YET ANOTHER opposititon testimony. I took the time to review the bill and the available testimonies and I believe I have a small contribution to offer.

Available for review on this site there are about five testimonies in support of this bill. Four of them from - Rexanna Dubiel, Sharon Sussman, Tamara Moan, Tlaloc Tokuda - all appear to have been filed in error. They clearly wished to oppose this bill. I have included quotes from their testimonies here.

"I do not support HB1807 relating to Artists in the Schools No cut in funding, please." - Rexanne

"I completely support funding for the arts. This is the wrong place to cut funds. I especially enjoy seeing artwork in the public buildings." - Sharon

"What does Rep Kyle Yamashita (Maui) have against Art & Culture? Rep Kyle drafted this terrible (bill) that would cut over 50% of the Art in Public Places program..." - Tlaloc

"I wish to support continued funding of the SFCA as it has been configured to date. As a teaching artist, I rely on several programs funded and administered through the SFCA including Donkey Mill..." - Tamara

You will noticed Tamara mentioned Donkey Mill.

Donkey Mill is a treasured educational resource for the children of West Hawai`i Island. You will also notice that Donkey Mill in particular, along with the State Foundation of Culture and the Arts, have submitted VERY STRONG TESTIMONIES against this bill. I surmise, with fairness to Tamara, she meant to oppose the bill that Donkey Mill opposes, in no uncertain terms. I also surmise all of these support testimonies are in fact in opposition to the bill at hand.

The last available testimony of five IN SUPPORT of this bill comes from CARES Hawai'i. Their written testimony states only... "CARES testifies in strong support." Indicating they will do that via Zoom.

I suggest they too will give testimony that is in oppositon to the bill and not in support of it. Or, perhaps, that they were too cowardly to state their reasons in text given the massive opposition.

Finally I echo Tlaloc when he asks - "What does Rep Kyle Yamashita (Maui) have against Art & Culture?"

Charitably, I can only guess that Rep. Yamashita does not hate art. I guess he felt that the state could save some money and this was an appropriate action to save that money. Clearly, the public is showing it was not the appropriate place to save money. Particularly, while these programs and their goals are maturing - see submitted testimony here from the world famous Soloman Enos.

If Rep. Yamashita would like to actually perform his values I recommend he create a detailed plan or bill that shows how to save money without gutting this MEAGER and beloved set of funding programs.

I would encourage Rep. Yamashita to put forward a detailed cost savings plan. One that gives due respect to the goals of previous legislation and the communities STRONG wish to preserve the arts. A plan that is respectful of our citizens ability to read. A plan that is not deceptive. A plan that includes legislation that is written clearly. The kind where people can submit testimony knowing clearly what side they are on.

Hopefully it will be a plan that provides more compelling arguments for spending cuts than there being "an excess of art" available. This weak and disrespectful line of argument is quite well refuted by many, many submitted testimonies. See again, Soloman Enos.

I would also encourage Rep. Yamashita to try harder to make the case for cutting this funding. I give his current attempt at this a very low score, it makes him look very bad. Surely there are some hard facts Rep. Yamashita could have clearly cited here to help his arguments. So far his arguments in support are underwhleming and come off as uninformed and confused. Much like this bill.

I would also suggest he suggest spending cuts across many sectors of the state at once instead of just focusing on the arts. Because right now, it really does look like Rep. Yamashita just doesn't like art.

Rep. Yamashita should be embarrassed by his poor workmanship and this flagrant display of disconnection with the people's desires. While I cannot speak for the voters of Maui, Rep. Yamashita has damage himself and would be securing his exit from elected politics were he from Hawai'i island.

- Kailikea Paradea

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:12:09 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell Sato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am respectfully submitting my opposition to HB 1807 and urge all committee members to carefully consider the longterm negative impacts this bill would potentially set into motion. Thank you.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:12:19 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Moan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1807. As a teaching artist, I have engaged with the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts in different capacities, as a teacher of both children and seniors, as an artist whose work has been acquired by the state, and as a participant in high-caliber trainings. I've found that the opportunities to expose students of all ages to works from the SFCA collection is invaluable. They engage with portrayals of issues that are relevant to our communities, they find mentors and inspiration in the artists who are working and come from this place, and they see what an important role art and creativity can play in society. Continuing funding of SFCA allows the state to support currently working artists, not just artists of the past, and share with our citizens work that grapples with contemporary themes. This is not only historical art of a bygone age but art that speaks to us now.

In addition to my role as a teacher and visual artist, I have benefitted from other programs funded by SFCA. Most recently I've learned to weave lauhala through classes sponsored by the Puuhona Society. This work perpetuates an important Hawaiian craft and is part of a fabric of cultural undertakings that bind together the Hawaiian community.

All the programs supported by the SFCA are so important to continuing the vibrancy of our local arts. To cut their funding would do damage to all of us here in Hawaii! Oppose HB 1807!!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:12:34 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Shintani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. Arts should not be defunded. Art is education and part of learning. We need to feed our minds and imaginations young and old. Art is part of Hawai'i's culture and should never be defunded, we need art to live and exist, it's part of what makes living worth it. Art needs to continue existing in public spaces, our art museums and programs are priceless and needs to be funded, now and forever.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:13:28 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanna Mackin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing." Programs that will be defunded if this bill is passed are essential to the well being of everyone in our State's community. I personally, in my retirement, have gained a meaningful retirement through actives supported by SFCA.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:14:25 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation, Culture and the Arts Committee, Thank you for your consideration: I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2. HB1807 HD2's amendments that drastically cut arts funding -- affecting school-children, teachers, organizations and outreach programs -- will harm the future of Hawai'i. Please save the culture and arts funding: make us all smarter and healthier.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:15:12 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brooks G. Bays, Jr.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou!

I oppose the proposed bil HB 18807. Funding of the arts in public spaces (and in public education) is a hallmark of civilization. As a resident of Hawai‘i Nei, I am proud of our public arts programs and the work they do inspiring future generations. Please do not undermine these important programs.

To quote Masaru “Pundy” Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, “art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.”

Mahalo piha!

Brooks G. Bays, Jr
Honolulu, Hawai‘i

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:16:33 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Becker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807 because I believe in the power of the arts to enrich our lives and build community. In particular, the free programming at Capitol Modern has given me opportunities to feel, to grow, to be in public and be in the presence of art and music with my community members. I absolutely believe in supporting local and Native Hawaiian artists because we all benefit from their gifts. We need to keep our funding for the arts. Mahalo.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:17:42 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Soto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair Chris Lee and Committee Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye,

I am submitting my testimony opposing HB1807: For the repeal of capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.

As I understand it, HB1807 would essentially defund the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, effectively shuttering the bulk of its public programs. Hawai'i arts and culture in educational and public programming have long endured censure through a profound lack of financial support. Arts and culture are often touted as indulgent and gratuitous in regards to funding, and yet arts and culture define us as a people and a community. They are essential to promoting and supporting a healthy and civically engaged society. Education in arts and culture do not hinder our ability to make solid plans and decisions that contribute to shaping and building viable economic structures for our future, rather they enrich and inform this process—they better ensure we are making choices based on holistic, compassionate, well informed perspectives.

Mahalo for your time,

Elizabeth Soto

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:20:17 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JEFFREY LIM, M.D.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do not repeal appropriations which serve to fund the works of art special fund. I am a practicing physician specializing in pediatrics here in Hawaii for the past thirty years and have seen the steady erosion of support for the arts in education throughout my decades in practice, with its inevitable chilling effect on the balance and comprehensiveness of education in the State of Hawaii, encouraging and promoting long-term narrowness of perspective in the general population, not to mention its glaring concomittant marginalization of the artistically inclined.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:20:56 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiera Strohm-Herman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807 HD2. Art funding is vital and rare and should not be reappropriated for other uses. Thank you for not supporting this short-sighted bill.

Mahalo!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:21:28 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Antonellis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I say NO to this bill!!!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:21:32 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolina Higa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To my understanding, this bill would take away funding from the DOE teachers' ability to provide educational opportunities for the community. For that reason alone, I respectfully oppose this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:21:38 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melina Murayama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1807. As expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. It makes a person aware and that's what education is all about. So whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. It's the same body.

As a parent of a child attending an arts integration elementary school on the island of Maui I personally see how my son is thriving educationally due to the schools philosophy of teaching to the whole child through integrating the arts and technology. I strongly oppose this bill as it will put programs such as the one my son and all of his peers, and the hundreds of children to come, greatly benefit from in jeopardy.

Mahalo for your time,

Melina Murayama

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:22:52 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Billbonn Sanchez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

As someone who attends and supports the oahu art community this bill just seems like the government mistep. These art communities/events are (in my opinion and experience) already pretty frugal but creatively resourceful. I just don't understand the logic behind it.

I don't know what to call this. It just seems like maybe someone is making a decision looking at numbers on a spreadsheet but is not looking at the whole situation holistically or not considering the intangibles of the situation.'

Respectfully, please do not pass this bill. Or maybe please reconsider and reach out to the communities and people who would be affected before making a decision.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:22:10 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Spruill	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The impact this bill will have to not only the arts in Hawaii but native arts is atrocious. In recent years we have seen more participation in the arts and also have seen life put back into the arts district in downtown. The breakdown of funds displayed in this bill are not sustainable for the programs that are showing a positive impact on our community. Please reconsider this bill altogether as I believe that if this is passed it will cause harm and nothing positive will come from it.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:22:57 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiani Kiaha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairpersons and members of the Transportation & Culture & the Arts Committee,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2. Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

HB1807 ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of our people.

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY! There WILL be a negative ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears even after over 700 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season. Please kill this bill.

Mahalo for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.

Kaiani Kiaha

Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i, 96793

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:25:56 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Eitel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed legislation that would defund public arts programs. Art is an integral fabric of society. Art creates Beauty. Art creates emotions. Art sparks creativity. Art has an economy.

Everything we use was first designed. Good or bad, art has function, literally to beautify, and even more so a platform of collaboration. What would Kakaako be without art? What about Kailua? Or Makawao?

It may seem on the surface an easy thing to cut from the budget, but by cutting that fabric you are cutting the mesh that makes communities beautiful. By saying that art isn't important to the State of Hawaii, you will be uninspiring generations.

Please stop the defunding of public art. If there is too much art, then share it with the neighbor islands. You can put more art in the Maui airport, or all the airports for that matter. Look inside to the creative person that exists inside of all of us, and think of another way to balance the budget.

Mahalo

James "Jimbo" Eitel

Wailuku Art Space, Maui, Hawaii

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:25:57 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rae Douglass	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The arts represent the soul of society. In Hawaii they also act as a catalyst for local based business and innovation to thrive, and keep our unique culture fresh and alive. Fledgling artist need the support the state provides, so please do not take this away.

***Rebecca Dunning
2780 Booth Road
Honolulu, HI 96813***

Re HB1807

Dear Senators:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1807, which repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. This bill would cut over 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide. The bill states that the SFCA has enough works of art and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection.

The Arts in Public Place Fund is not just about buying artwork for the state collection. Several important arts education programs are dependent on funding from the Arts in Public Places fund and will be cut back or eliminated all together if this bill passes. Some of the programs that will be affected are:

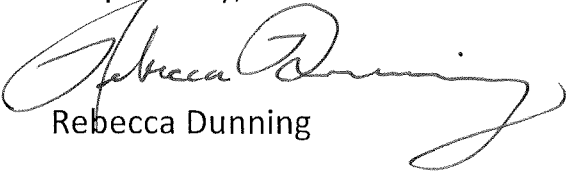
- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- Professional development for DOE Teachers
- The Hawaii State Art Museum exhibitions and programming
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony

I have been involved with various arts organizations in Hawaii for over 45 years and am currently the Managing Director for Honolulu Theatre for Youth. I see every day the positive impact the arts have on students in Hawaii and fear that all of the positive progress we have made using the arts to improve student learning will be eliminated.

Support for the arts should not just be about using the arts to entice more visitors to Hawaii it should be about enriching the lives of all Hawaii residents especially our keiki.

I hope you will carefully consider the impact of this Bill on Hawaii students and oppose this measure.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Dunning". The signature is fluid and extends to the right.

Rebecca Dunning

Date: March 18, 2024

Honorable Chair and Committee Members

I am writing this letter to oppose HB1807

Why is it whenever there is a cost cutting measure or a money grab, it is the people of Hawai'i that suffer? And when I say people of Hawai'i, I more deeply mean the native Hawaiians and the Hawaiian culture. The Hawaiians by their very nature, are artist, educators, nurturers and stewards of all that makes our island home a place like no other on earth. They express their culture and their feelings through the visual arts, music and dance. And now we want to severely, and maybe Irreparably, strike down the efforts of the State Foundation Culture and Arts ability to integrate art and culture to our community? Please do not let this happen! Surrounded by hotels, shopping malls and asphalt, art is the only outlet left to us.

Without art we will become concrete, asphalt and mindless inhabitants of a place that is being driven and dictated by politics, greed and special interest!

For many, the funding to SFCA is a lifeline of opportunity that will be stripped away. Art is a critical tool that supports healing, coping, communicating, and has transformative power to heal our hearts and souls. With the recent pain Hawai'i has had to endure, I see no upside to crippling such an important program.

Do Not pass this bill!

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Wendy Cheuk

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:31:38 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evelyn de Buhr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do NOT raid this precious 1% fund that is the life blood of so many arts organizations and artists in Hawaii. This fund belongs to the people of Hawaii to encourage, support and enable our hugely important part of the economy. Stop this effort NOW! Sincerely, Evelyn de Buhr

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:31:00 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Siobhan Mercado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807 HD2. The intersection of and symbiotic relationship between art, education, and expression is critical in the mental and emotional well-being of our community. Public art spaces are sacred to all demographics and should be supported in as many ways as possible.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:32:33 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ana Gaion	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting my dissent against HB1807 and ask you to consider the huge negative impact this bill would have in our communities in so many ways .

Please do not pass this bill!

Respectfully,

Ana Gaion

Dear Committee Chair Chris Lee and Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye:

I am submitting my testimony opposing House Bill 1807: For the repeal of capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.

This bill would cut 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely eliminating government support for many arts programs and initiatives statewide and Hawai'i's vibrant arts and culture community and the nonprofit sector we hold dear.

Elimination of "renovation" from the percent for art law would cut important programs such as:

- The Hawaii State Art Museum - All Exhibitions and Public Programs will End Immediately
- Support for Native Hawaiian and Local Artists, Galleries and Organizations
- Education Programming, Which Includes the Following:
 - Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
 - SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists
 - The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
 - Art Bento Museum Education Program
 - Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade 7-12
 - Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6
 - Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support

The elimination of "renovation" from the percent for art law would eliminate support for the following:

Hawaii Island

Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center

Kauai

Kauai Society of Artists

Maui

Hui Noe'au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association
Maui Arts and Culture Center
Viewpoints Gallery

Oahu

Downtown Art Center
Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage

Organizations

Pu'uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary
Hawaii Watercolor Society
Honolulu Printmakers
Honolulu Theatre for Youth
Hawaii Handweavers Hui
Hula Preservation Society

Outreach programs:

Kahauiki Village
Institute for Human Services
RYSE Residential Youth Services and
Empowerment
LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

In advance, thank you for considering my testimony opposing House Bill 1807: For the repeal of capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.

Stacy Hoshino

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:34:46 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maureen Brock	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill; our community needs local art and the funds to support it.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:35:26 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Matheis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Danica Rosengren has brought new ideas that are aimed at helping diverse communities throughout the islands flourish, by expanding and developing new initiatives, that HB 1807 would devastate. I am currently working with public school Kiapuni, or immersion students, on a project awarded by APP funds. My students are accessing ancestral knowledge through creating traditional featherwork pieces. They are creating lei hulu inspired by engaging with an artwork on their campus, that is part of the State collection & learning how design elements can create deeper meaning, while they are keeping cultural practices alive. Anyone who would support this bill is ignorant to the depths of what these funds provide to our community through experiences with lasting reverence. I am in the process of applying for the same funds, to share this project with another group of students next year.

This year, I have also proposed a very different art project for the new Museum Without Walls initiative. The project I have proposed is for two of the state's low income senior residences. This proposal would bring art making experiences that connect seniors to each other, and the state's collection, through handmade postcards, collaborative artwork for common areas, and game boards & pieces, that will bring residents together, long after the project is completed. These experiences and finished products would truly enhance the final years of our kupuna, who lack the finances to engage in arts otherwise.

Art strengthens individuals and communities, and I am hopeful as I imagine what equitable projects could be realized with continued funding in the coming years. Taking these funds away from our community would rob more than artists selling work. It would prevent many meaningful and lasting educational experiences that bring equity for diverse groups throughout these islands.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:37:11 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juvana Soliven	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony that opposes HB1807. Removing the funds for renovations of state buildings would have an extreme negative impact on the Arts in Public Places Program and the art community, closing off opportunities for both emerging and established artists. Renovations imply that here is a need for upkeep of any space or place. Can that not be said for the arts? The Arts in Public Places program and its committees consult with artists and engineers to create public work that is archival, but the usual wear and tear should be accounted for when considering renovations and the need for upkeep and refreshing of the collection and art in public places.

To remove the funds from renovations is to block access to artists from entering the state collection, because it would limit funds significantly.

The funds that are a part of the 1% for Art Fund helps support multiple community programs through re-granting programs. These programs not only create opportunities for artists and teaching artists to make a living, but they enrich communities. All of our communitie -- which include children who have for years been supported by the SFCA and exhibited in the Scholastic Art Exhibition and Young Artist Exhibition, students at the University who would lose opportunities to have their work collected and would be given less career prospects as a result of defunding, multiple creative community initiatives that formed after losing space during the peak of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.

If you've ever enjoyed a locally produced play, or took an art class, or bought a necklace or mug at pop-up shop, or listened to music in the Capitol Modern Hawaii State Art Museum courtyard, or benefited from free health care and counseling, or learned some 'Ōlelo Hawaii, or enjoyed watching a dance or walking a gallery -- then you are also part of the community that would be affected. DO NOT be the legislators who are responsible for harming the creative spirit of our community.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:38:06 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Lee Mitchell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support education and access to the arts and support the State Foundation for Culture and the Arts and its decades-long history as a national leader in community-based arts funding; and I support keeping the funding for this important organization intact. [HB1807](#) HD 2 repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.

While this measure seems innocuous on the surface, it would cut nearly 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, eliminating government support for many arts programs and initiatives statewide. The appropriation proposed in this measure would not make up for the drastic cut in funding. Here is a list of organizations and activities that will be affected:

***THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY**

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

***EDUCATION PROGRAMMING**

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Art Bento Museum Education Program
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grades 7-12
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6
- Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support

Please do not pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Lisa Lee Mitchell

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:40:02 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Layton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1807 HD2- art is essential to the cultural, educational, and community fabric of Hawai'i. The art programs that will be affected by this bill are priceless to myself and many others.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:40:57 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marion Cadora	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in opposition HB 1807. The arts are vital for all Hawai'i residents, with many depending on them economically. It's not just about creativity; it's a livelihood for thousands in our culture and art sector. SFCA is our lifeline, this bill will severely harm our communities and nonprofit organizations, especially after the pandemic's heavy toll on the arts. Cutting funds by 70% will be disastrous. Please oppose HB1807!!!

Dear Senators,

My request is extremely important. Please oppose Bill 1807 HB relating to the WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND.

Art programs here in Hawaii give purpose and meaning to all age groups; furthermore it is a livelihood for many in our diverse communities. Our hallmark of being unique, vibrant and talented Hawaiian society would be very negatively impacted

It is well documented that communities that fund and support THE ARTS are advanced in creativity, innovation and exploration. The awareness and creativity promoted through art supports all disciplines. i.e. science, technology, education and math. Additionally the arts bring joy to our society; experiencing art is part of the human experience

.

PLEASE DO NOT MAKE THE MISTAKE OF DISCOUNTING THE ARTS.
Please oppose Bill 1807HB RELATING TO WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND.

Mahalo for seriously considering my request.

Leslie Hopf

Retired Educator for the Department of Defense Dependent Schools

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:42:32 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 18, 2024

Dear Honorable Chairman Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

My name is Monica Lee, and I was born in Hilo on Hawai‘i Island, grew up in Salt Lake and Moanalua on O‘ahu, and now live in Waikīkī. I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill HB1807 HD2 RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND.

By specifying that the Works of Art Special Fund's one per cent transfer requirement shall apply only to capital improvement appropriations for the original construction of state buildings, the bill would set a **dangerous precedent** for further exclusions from the Works of Art Special Fund in the future, and DEVASTATE the local arts ecosystem.

Are you aware that HB1807 HD2 would ERADICATE *vital arts programs, education, and spaces made possible by the Art in Public Places Program*? It would end support of:

- * professional development for educators and creatives
- * 13 art centers
- * 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs
- * 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs
- * 10,000+ students, our next generation, across every island
- * much-needed staffing and educational support

How can you say you are representing Hawai‘i, when these are the communities that will SUFFER DAMAGING CONSEQUENCES should the bill should continue to pass under defiant ears even after over 1,000+ testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season?

ARTS EDUCATION:

- * Artists serving 124 public and charter schools statewide
- * Professional Development for DOE Teachers
- * Hawai‘i State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- * Scholastic Art exhibition and ceremony
- * Young Artists of Hawai‘i exhibition and ceremony
- * Hawai‘i Arts Alliance support

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

- * Kahauiki Village
- * Institute for Human Services
- * RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
- * LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
- * Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center

*** SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS AFFECTED:

Hawai'i Island

- * Donkey Mill Arts Center
- * East Hawai'i Culture Center
- * Kahilu Theatre
- * Wailoa Center

O'ahu

- * Downtown Art Center
- * Arts and Letters
- * Fishcake
- * University of Hawai'i Galleries
- * Arts at Marks Garage

Maui

- * Hui No'eau
- * Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association
- * Maui Arts and Culture Center
- * Viewpoints Gallery

Kaua'i

- * Kauai Society of Artists

ORGANIZATIONS:

- * Honolulu Theatre for Youth
- * Pu'uhonua Society
- * Hawai'i Contemporary
- * Hawai'i Watercolor Society
- * Honolulu Printmakers
- * Hawai'i Handweavers Hui
- * Hula Preservation Society
- * NOTAE

ERADICATING public art support and programming, especially for our marginalized outer island communities, would impact folks who already lack cultural and artistic representation within our public spaces.

Moreover, studies have shown that **arts drive tourism and revenue to local businesses**. The nonprofit arts industry alone generates \$166.3 billion in economic activity annually—spending

by organizations and their audiences—which supports 4.6 million jobs and generates \$27.5 billion in government revenue. Arts attendees spend \$31+ per person, per event, beyond the cost of admission on items such as meals, parking, and lodging—vital income for local businesses. Arts travelers are ideal tourists, staying longer and spending more to seek out authentic cultural experiences.

Therefore, I urge you to oppose HB1807 HD2 RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND. By protecting the existing one percent transfer requirement, we can ensure that public art continues to enrich our communities, strengthen our economy, foster creativity, and contribute to the overall well-being of our state.

Thank you for your time, and please deeply consider this ramification.
Monica Lee
Waikīkī, Honolulu, Oahu, 96815

18 March 2022

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 219
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Senator Lee, Vice Chair Senator Inouye, and Honorable TCA
Members Senators Elefante, Keohokalole, and Awa:

I am writing to you in **very strong opposition** to **HB 1807 HD2 – Relating to the Works of Art Special Fund**. I'll try to be brief as I understand you are considering numerous bills referred from the House, and sincerely hope that you will kindly let this problematic bill to die in Committee.

I agree that the housing crisis is one of the biggest problems facing our state; however, we will sell our soul if we stop supporting the arts. This small amount of funds is a life-line for the arts and museum community here in the 808. Places like Capitol Modern (formerly HiSAM) and Art at Mark's Garage and the Honolulu Printmakers keep a vibrant art scene that allows local artists to create unique works that explore things like identity and local life and find modern expressions of art informed by the host culture. These art communities attract other creatives, and are incubators for ideas in fashion, cinema, IT, and other industries.

If these non-profits and agencies were not funded, they would likely die, and cause financial hardship for many – far beyond our artist's community. This would mean the end of a space that attracts the kind of slow tourist we want to attract. These spaces also keep local people and malihini alike on island as we so truly enjoy the free space fostered by events like Art After Dark and First Friday and the exhibits.

Without this funding art would mostly be created here only as kitsch for sale to tourists. As an analogy, imagine if our image of Paris was based on the cheap paintings that are sold like postcards of historic landmarks rather than the amazing artists who introduced modern art (from impressionism and

post-impressionism or surrealism to dadaism and beyond). Local artists also explore deep meanings of identity and citizenship in a state and world that is centering and challenging. As a two-decade long resident of Hawai'i, I can't overestimate the import of understanding local perspectives through the photographs of Karen Kosasa or Kapulani Landgraf and Mark Hamasaki or the sculptures of Satoru Abe or the pottery of Clayton Amemiya and Shugen Inouye or paintings of Solomon Enos.

As a proud Democrat, I would further suggest that this bill goes against many elements in our Party platform that mention helping support preservation of Native Hawaiian culture and arts. These art nonprofits also support jobs for artists, galleries, museums and curators that support a strong diverse economy. I know many of you want to bring and maintain the movie/TV industry on Island. These folks are attracted by fellow creatives, and also need professionals who can create props that help cinematographers paint alternative locales. IT people also thrive in an environment surrounded by other creatives, such as the artists who create special Art After Dark and First Friday events. I've even seen legislators equally proud of artwork on display in their offices during Art at the Capitol, and enjoyed hearing congress members and their staff sharing the meanings of the artworks in their office. That's the power of art.

Before I conclude, let me affirm that these views don't necessarily represent the view of my employer and that I'm neither an artist or art critic, but can't imagine life without art, especially the arts that HiSAM/Capitol Modern and Honolulu Printmakers and other nonprofits/agencies have shared with me. Please help the arts to survive and allow everyone to be surrounded by art that inspires and challenges all of us. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions at my personal email drew.wertheimer@gmail.com. Thank you again for considering my strong opposition to this bill.

Yours with Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew B. Wertheimer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew B. Wertheimer, MLS, Ph.D.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:43:36 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alex Underwood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello again!

My name is Alexandra Underwood, I was born and raised on Maui and graduated Baldwin High School in 2013. Today I currently work as a CMFG designer for consumer electronics & muralist, and would not be where I am both professionally and personally without state public art & art education funding. Through the amazing art education I received and programs we got to participate in, ie Scholastic arts competitions, artist in residency classes, participating in local juried gallery exhibitions, and creating public art for the school - I was able to see that art was a viable & fruitful career. Participating in these activities & working with local artists and organizations also highlighted the amazing talent we have here in Hawai'i, I felt inspired and proud of where I came from - just because you're not from the mainland doesn't mean we aren't talented and don't have things to say. Investing in our artists who are inventing in our kids leads us to a stronger community and stronger future. Some of my dearest relationships were made in my experiences in the Hawaii art scene, it would be a true disservice and insult to the people

of Hawaii to stop this investment in our communities. Please please do not move this bill forward.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:43:38 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherina Guerero	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The arts deserve more than less than a percentage of state funding. It's an absolute disgrace to think about another attempt at undermining the already minuscule funding to the arts.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:43:43 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It would be devastating for the art communiy and the community at large. We need culture and the arts. Strongly oppose this bill.

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2. Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

The next page lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

*SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island

Donkey Mill Arts Center

East Hawaii Culture Center

Kahilu Theatre

Wailoa Center

Maui Hui Noe'au

Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association

Maui Arts and Culture Center

Viewpoints Gallery

Kauai

Kauai Society of Artists

Oahu

Downtown Art Center
Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage
ORGANIZATIONS
Pu'uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary
Hawaii Watercolor Society
Honolulu Printmakers
Honolulu Theatre for Youth
Hawaii Handweavers Hui
Hula Preservation Society

NOTAE

Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
Professional Development for DOE Teachers
The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony
Hawaii Arts Alliance support

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

Kahauiki Village
Institute for Human Services
RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Mahalo for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.

Susan K.S. Hanes

Honolulu, Oahu, 96819

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:44:52 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Storm	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Malia Storm and I strongly urge you to oppose Bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact the income of some Big Island art communities I love and support.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Me ke aloha,

Malia Storm, Volcano Village

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:45:03 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

What is coming to this world in USA , Arts are our living history .Do not take the funding away, our society need arts for our children and citizens.

our Local artist need every opportunity to be able to make a living her in Hawaii.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:45:10 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill, as I want the 1% for art to apply to renovations as well as new construction. I am so proud of the support that Hawaii gives to artists and the arts, and I do not want to diminish this support in any way. Hawaii was the first state to implement 1% for art, and Hawaii must keep the current level of funding to keep the arts strong and vigorous in the state.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:45:47 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janis Fenton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the intent and purpose of HB1807 HD 1807 HD2.

The essence, the soul of Hawaii is expressed in its visual and performing arts, which continue to evolve. This bill denies current and future artists, arts organizations, programs, and students the opportunity to represent Hawaii as it evolves. It denies the public the opportunity to reflect and appreciate the continuum of our evolution. As it becomes necessary to "renovate" the state's physical plant, so is it also necessary to "update" the expression of Hawaii's essence and soul.

Any reduction in the original amount intended by the enabling legislation is a disservice to Hawaii's history and future.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:47:30 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Small	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to urge you to oppose Bill 1807. The Arts and Culture in Hawaii have already been diminished by previous federal and domestic cuts. We need more funding, not less. Please do not pass this bill.

Cordially,

Virginia Small, artist, farmer, citizen, Holualoa, Hawaii

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:49:04 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cedric Caires	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. As expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. It makes a person aware and that's what education's all about. So, whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. It's the same body."

We need art in our community, we need spaces to create/express our art, & we need resources to support art & the artists. Heart without art is just He (or She). Mahalo

~ Cedric Clinton Caires

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:50:37 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naomi Glass	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Naomi Glass. I am a strong supporter of the arts for its impact on youth, culture and humanity and I am testifying against HB1807.

HB1807 is a destructive bill that would drastically cut funding for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts' many arts programs and initiatives statewide. Elimination of "renovation" from the percent for art law would CUT the following initiatives:

***THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY**

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

***EDUCATION PROGRAMMING**

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Art Bento Museum Education Program
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade 7-12
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6
- Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support

I strongly urge you not to hear Bill 1807, and to please consider continued support for the arts and arts education in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:51:46 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cody Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Suspending/cuttting crucial support for art and arts organization in Hawai'i would be a detriment to the state. Art is evidence of a thriving culture. The works of art special fund is creating continuing archive of Art in Hawaii, something to be valued, studied, revered, and inspirational to future generations. Cutting funding supports to the institutions which acquire, educate, and support these artists/artworks would be detrimental. These insititutions give yound artists a place to learn, grow, and see a path forward into the future. Art class was the only class I found success in during my early education/high school, I have went on to earn a masters degree in art and now work in the University of Hawaii system as an art instructor. This was because I participated in an art workshop when I was young and saw an adult artist, I learned that they exist. This possibilyt provided me purpose in my education. By cutting off these supoort and access, there will be less artists in the futrue for you to hire when you want to design a mural or sculpture for a new library/hospital/board of water supply. The Hawaii state art museum is a free venue for all the people of hawaii and visitors alike to see the artistic contributions of the members of our society, why would you want that to end?

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:52:11 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Mager	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the passage of HB1807 HD2. Quite a number of arts programs and organizations in Hawaii would be adversely impacted by this legislature when we are greatly in need of protecting and preserving local arts culture. Art in public spaces is a human necessity, especially in places such as Hawaii where art preservation is one of the key methods of protecting Native Hawaiian culture.

Please strike down this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:52:18 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Sussman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members:

I am strongly opposed to HB 1807. I want to live in and support a state that believes in the value of art and culture for the community. Therefore, it is necessary to continue to give monetary support to the arts organizations, education, and community. I gladly give taxes to support this commitment. I am alarmed at the comment (to paraphrase), ‘the State Foundation has purchased enough art’. As if it would have been *enough* if art making would have stopped at any moment in the history of art. This is short-sighted. Or that there has been *enough* art taught in the public schools. Western Europe far surpasses the United States in government spending on culture and arts as well as public support of that spending. A visit to these countries clearly shows why. Let’s embrace the arts of Hawaii. I would even like to see an increase in the funding. Please vote against this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:53:50 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elaine Yamashita	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this because I understand that the unintended consequence of passing this is a severe cut to arts programs in schools and the community.

I was an early childhood educator for over 40 years and know the value of the arts for all people and all ages.

Mahalo.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:56:05 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arianna Santana Blasco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If passed, HB1807 would not only undermine the livelihoods of local artists but also deprive our community of the enriching cultural experiences and creative expression that these programs provide. Support native artists, support hawaii state art museum, it is our kuleana.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:57:36 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Kamikawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to HB1807 HD2 because I have seen firsthand what Art Education and the rewarding of children Artists can accomplish. One aspect that would be lost by this bill passing is the displaying of their creations in venues such as Viewpoints Gallery and Maui Arts and Cultural Center. My daughter's outlook, self-esteem and creative thinking was greatly enhanced by her art being showcased at MACC from an early age. It also spreads greater awareness, pleasure and encouragement among the many families that participate and attend these events. I'm a firm believer that a civilization and a culture survive and thrive only when they are allowed to dream and create freely, whether it be through music, dance or creative art. And taking away funding from the public display and programs for Art Education takes away from incentive to do one's best, or even try in the creative arts. The more we take away from opportunities such as these, the greater loss of satisfaction, pleasure and fun we will have in life.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amy Kamikawa

March 18, 2024

Senator Chris Lee
Chair, Committee on Transportation and the Arts
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii. 96813

Dear Senator Lee and Members of the Committee on Transportation and the Arts:

I am writing to oppose passage of HB 1807 HD2. I have read the bill and all the testimony provided, and it is unclear to me why this bill continues to be heard when there is almost unanimous opposition.

This opposition has not been remedied by the bill's amendments. Nor have previous committee chairs provided substantive explanations as to why this bill requires passage.

If you have not already done so, please read all the testimony and please listen to the people and institutions who oppose the bill's passage. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jay Hartwell
Honolulu, Hawaii

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:01:28 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Henry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against this act. It goes against freedom of speech and expression!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:02:57 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vicky Robbins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807 HD2.

I am a Teaching Artist on the Big Island. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives. This would directly impact my income and my programming for my Big Island schools and students.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

With Aloha,

Vicky Robbins

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:04:44 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Ahmer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

3/18/2024

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Sarah Ahmer. I am writing to oppose House Bill 1807. I believe that this bill would be detrimental to the community of Hawai'i. As an artist, arts educator and art museum employee, I have seen first hand how the arts uplift the local community and empower many individuals through self-expression and understanding. The arts foster community and cultural enrichment and funding should be preserved so that local arts institutions can continue doing this important community work.

Thank you,

Sarah Ahmer

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:05:07 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathryn Lau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill. Arts are an intregal part of local culture. The elimination of of these funds will negatively effect and /or eliminate many institutions and programs Hawaii residents our children and visitors deserve.

Included among these are those listed below:

*THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

*EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.

SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists

The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming

Art Bento Museum Education Program

Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade 7-12

Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6

Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:07:52 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Allen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is discouraging to many aspiring young artists and students who wish to pursue their passions.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:09:40 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Hearing on Tuesday, March 19 th 2024 3:00PM

Testimony in Opposition for HB1807 HD2

To the honorable Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and members of the committee,

As a community member who takes part in community art events and supports local artists, I am writing in opposition of bill HB1807 HD2 because I believe more thought is needed to ensure all arts programs have continued support when needed. While it is important to provide funds for the performing arts and other initiatives in schools, we need to make sure that the current state run arts programs are also maintained, such as the Hawaii State Art Museum, Capitol Modern.

Nicole Young

Honolulu resident

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:12:38 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily-Ann Oshiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Emily-Ann Oshiro. I am an art student at Junior at James B. Castle High School in the Windward District on the island of Oahu. I am submitting a testimony in opposition of HB #1807.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:13:30 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Meinke-Lau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1807 HD2.

Financial support is needed for the creation, education and expansion of art, not just for capital improvements (state building maintenance and renovation). "Sound financial management" is being proposed to come at the expense of our state's art program at a time when all of us can greatly benefit from art's healing and inspiring role in our society.

Please reject this bill.

Aloha,

Janet Meinke-Lau, Honolulu, Oahu, 96813

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:14:40 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Masami Teraoka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose the House Bill 1708. House Bill 1708 cannot defund our unique cultural programs in Hawaii. Among other things, visiting art museums and other art programs are a vital aspect of our community. As I see the art scene here in Hawaii, we are finally coming toward the beginning of the strong cultural center in the Pacific Rim. I have watched this develop in recent years. Right now, more than ever, its imparitive to support Hawaii's new artists and visions. Rather than withdrawing funds for the arts, I feel strongly Hawaii's art scene should be upscaled to an international level. The continuation of Hawaii's art collection is important not only to suport local and indigenou artists but to grant young artists opportunities and educational programs. Every penny is crucial to enable artists o create unique artwork in their daily life.

Should the Senate approve this bill, Hawaii's artistic and cultural community will suffer. The artists and art spaces in our community rely on SFCA funding in order to survive. House Bill 1807 is a wrong step for Hawaii. Defunding Hawaii's art programs would be devastating. We need to support funding art collections that inspire visitors on a global scale.

Defeat HB 1807 and save our culture and the arts.

Aloha, Masami Teraoka

Waimanalo

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:14:56 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Assad	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807. Art is critical to our culture and should be open to all to see and partake in!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:15:07 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Outram	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly oppose this bill. We should be doing more to support art and local artists of Hawai'i and not making it harder. Art is important. It's always been how Hawaiians and humans around the world communicate, share, and express. It's how we learn and receive information. It's a beautiful reason to gather and a way to build community. For so many people it's so important.

More support for art in Hawaii! Hot

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:15:46 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katie Green	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The programs and services offered by the organizations that would lose funding if this bill passes are essential to the overall wellbeing of the citizens of Hawaii. Art in public spaces, art that is free, programs that offer people of all ages access to art and art programs; all of these are vital parts of a whole, well-rounded society. Capitol Modern, for example, is one of the few places people of all ages can visit and experience art at no cost. Art should be in public spaces and easily accessible to all. Please do not pass this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:18:16 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nick Hunsinger	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:19:15 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
chris pascual	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1807, which seeks to repeal capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the Works of Art Special Fund. As a concerned citizen deeply committed to the cultural enrichment and aesthetic enhancement of our state, I firmly believe that this bill would be detrimental to our public spaces, artistic community, and overall quality of life.

The Works of Art Special Fund plays a vital role in beautifying our public buildings and spaces, fostering a sense of pride and identity among residents, and enriching the cultural landscape of our state. By repealing the allocation of funds from capital improvement projects, House Bill 1807 would severely diminish the resources available for commissioning and installing works of art in public facilities.

Public art serves as a reflection of our values, aspirations, and cultural heritage. It enhances the aesthetic appeal of our surroundings, promotes civic engagement, and contributes to a sense of community belonging. Moreover, public art projects provide opportunities for local artists to showcase their talent, gain exposure, and contribute to the cultural fabric of our state.

Repealing the appropriation of funds for the Works of Art Special Fund would not only deprive our communities of the beauty and inspiration that public art provides but also undermine the economic benefits associated with art and cultural tourism. Studies have shown that investments in public art yield significant returns by attracting visitors, stimulating economic activity, and enhancing property values.

Furthermore, public art plays a crucial role in promoting social cohesion, fostering dialogue, and celebrating diversity. By investing in art installations that reflect the diverse voices and experiences of our community, we create inclusive public spaces that encourage mutual respect, understanding, and appreciation.

According to a study by the Americans for the Arts, the nonprofit arts and culture industry generates a significant amount in economic activity in Hawaii annually. Cutting funding for the arts would not only jeopardize jobs but also diminish our state's appeal as a vibrant destination for tourists and businesses alike.

Moreover, the arts play a crucial role in education and community development. Arts education has been shown to improve academic performance, foster creativity, and promote social cohesion. By reducing funding for arts programs, we limit opportunities for our youth to explore their creativity and cultural heritage, depriving them of essential tools for personal and intellectual growth.

In light of these considerations, I urge you to oppose House Bill 1807 and uphold the allocation of funds for the Works of Art Special Fund. Instead of undermining our commitment to public art, let us work together to ensure that Hawaii remains a vibrant and culturally rich place for generations to come.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I trust that you will make the right decision for the benefit of our state and its residents.

Sincerely,

Chris Pascual

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:19:27 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seiya Yoshida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Seiya Yoshida and I am writing to anyone who has the power to stop Bill HB1807. If this bill is passed, it has a great impact on our local arts and culture community by reducing crucial financial support. As a director and cofounder of Dream Cultivators (dba Vivistop Honolulu), a Creative Accelerator and Innovation studio for kids that offers it's services for free and as a company that just turned to a non profit late last year, we will also be impacted by this.

I am confused as to why I am here asking to stop a bill from reducing support to arts and culture when we should be fighting for more support because of the importance it has in Hawaii. Being a melting pot of different cultures, we have a unique perspective and gift that provide opportunities to learn about different cultures, traditions, and perspectives, helping people develop empathy, tolerance, and appreciation for diversity. Exposure to various art forms and cultural experiences can broaden people's horizons and inspire them to become more open-minded and inclusive individuals. Hawaii needs to continue to pioneer and support the arts and culture communities.

One of the key reasons why arts and culture are important to local communities is their ability to bring people together and create a sense of belonging. It provides opportunities for community members to engage in artistic and cultural activities, local organizations and institutions to help build connections and relationships that transcend social, economic, and cultural divides.

Arts and culture are especially important for children as they play a crucial role in their cognitive, emotional, and social development. Studies have shown that involvement in arts education can improve cognitive abilities, academic achievement, and problem-solving skills in children, leading to overall better academic outcomes. Participating in arts and culture allows children to explore their imagination, develop their problem-solving skills, and build confidence in their abilities. Through activities such as illustrations, fashion, music, dance, and videography/photography, children learn to express themselves in unique and creative ways, fostering their emotional intelligence and self-awareness.

In conclusion, please do not pass Bill HB1807 that will reduce crucial financial support to many arts and culture organization and individual artists. These artists/creators and organizations that will be affected are essential components of a vibrant and thriving local community, benefiting people of all ages, but especially children. They promote social cohesion, economic development, and lifelong learning, while nurturing children's creativity, emotional intelligence, cultural awareness, and cognitive skills. By providing the keiki with opportunities to explore and

engage in artistic and cultural activities, we empower them to become well-rounded individuals who are capable of contributing positively to their communities and society as a whole.

Let's continue to support ARTS and CULTURE!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:19:50 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corina Magana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, for me this isn't just about the artist. I am a art loving citizen. It is important to have a place to express freely and humanly. Art is being human and as a human we need to freely allow these outlets to express ourselves especially with all these mass suicides happening in Hawai'i. People of Hawai'i are not machines with nothing to say. We appreciate what people have to share and we want to openly have places to go to When we need a safe place to get away and distract from our daily stressors. Think about our future, think about our Keiki, we owe them this, Hawai'i has changed so much and everyone is suffering. Please don't remove our freedom of expression, I strongly oppose bill HB1807 and I hope you will too. Mahalo for your time.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:20:46 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerald Isdale	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Committee Chair, vice chair and members. i, Gerald Isdale, am writing IN OPPOSITION to HB1807.

I am a computer engineer and It may seem odd that a so technical person is a strong supporter of arts, but i have found there are significant benefits culturally, socially and in work to collaborate with folk in Arts.

This bill will decimate the vibrant art community in Hawaii. The one shot pitance in section 4 is a sad attempt at compromise

sincerely,

Gerald Isdale, Haiku Maui

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:21:07 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Carlson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing to oppose HB 1807.

I am writing to you as a parent of three children and as a Nationally Board Certified Teacher who has worked in the HIDOE for over thirty years as a Language Arts teacher and a librarian. Art education, art community programs, art in public places and State Art Museum provide essential learning experiences for our keiki to help them develop their talents, preserve their culture, make sense of the world and express themselves. Creating art is about the process and the product--our children need the opportunity to watch and perform dance, drama, music; view and create art in multiple mediums. Very few public schools have music, art or drama teachers. For that reason, we rely on community support from organizations like Honolulu Theater for Youth, the family programs and exhibits at Capital Modern and the many other community organizations who this bill will target.

These community organizations deliver essential services to our community by connecting artists, and their art, with people of all ages. As a small example, my children and I visited the family art Saturdays at the Hawaii State Art Museum where I found many ideas, techniques and processes I could integrate into my after school family programs and weekly makerspace lessons. What I gained from HISAM in my weekly visits has been shared year after year with my students at Daniel K. Inouye Elementary School, their parents and with hundreds of fellow teachers through my conference presentations. The arts inspire. However, I know the ripple effect of my visits is not being tracked except through this testimony. And each time I put out the strips of colored paper out for the students to bend, fold and curl into three dimensional sculptures, I'm awed by something new and different that a little one tries.

The arts connect people and preserve culture. Art heals, improves academic performance, sparks creativity and innovation. Please do not eliminate funding for the arts. Please oppose HB1807.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michelle Carlson

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:21:36 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kainoa Philpotts	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my opposition to bill HB 1807, which proposes to repeal capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. This bill would cut 68% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely eliminating government support for many arts programs and initiatives statewide.

As a business owner who works with local artists, I am deeply concerned about the impact this bill would have on our long-term economic future in the artist and design space. The proposed cuts would severely jeopardize the livelihoods of Native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries, and organizations, and would result in the immediate end of all exhibitions and public programs at the Hawaii State Art Museum.

Furthermore, the bill would also eliminate crucial education programming, including the Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide, SFCA sponsored professional development for DOE teachers and teaching artists, the Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming, the Art Bento Museum Education Program, the Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students in grades 7-12, the Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students in grades K-6, and Hawai'i Arts Alliance support.

These programs provide invaluable opportunities for students to engage with the arts and foster their creativity, and their loss would be a tremendous blow to our community. The proposed cuts would also result in a loss of diversity in the local economy and a loss of security for the state of Hawaii.

In the long term, the economic loss to the local economy would be significant as this bill undercuts budding local artists and not only reduces an economic driver of our economy but also results in a loss of identity in art and public works. This would push down the community in the face of external cultural influences, tourism, and infrastructure.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed cuts and to continue to support the arts in Hawaii. The arts are an integral part of our culture and our economy, and it is essential that we continue to invest in them for the benefit of our community and future generations.

Sincerely,
Kainoa Philpotts

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:21:44 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wai'ala Ahn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please Oppose HB1807, Public Art must be protected

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:23:56 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jose Gonzalez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Senate Committee on Transportation, Culture and the Arts,

I strongly oppose HB1807 HD2 and urge you to vote NO or defer it. This bill will cause widespread harm to the arts community, native Hawaiian cultural practitioners and artists, and arts education. This bill, if passed, will also cause unacceptable harm to the local economy by reducing funding for a myriad of local organizations and initiatives via the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts' works of art special fund.

In 2016, when I was very early in my art practice, one of the first pieces of artwork I sold was to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. That moment was a huge boost for my confidence as an artist and helped solidify my need and desire to communicate through art. HB1807 HD2 will eradicate the state's ability to provide that opportunity for any more artists going forward.

The language of the amended bill indicates that alternate funding would be provided for arts programming in schools and performing arts initiatives but it is clear that there is insufficient funding available to replace what will be lost if HB1807 HD2 passes.

Furthermore the bill also claims that the state has enough artwork and thus does not need to acquire anymore. SFCA and its initiatives do so much more than just putting art in buildings with the works of art special fund. To suggest otherwise is wholly ludicrous. This rationale for cutting this funding from the works of art special fund is akin to saying "You've read enough books. You don't need to read any more", or "You've heard enough music. There's no need to ever listen to anything you haven't heard before", or more specifically, "There's enough creative work out there. There's no need to support people in creating anything new...marginalized and underprivileged communities included". Frankly, this bill is insulting and is not written for the greater good of the people of Hawai'i. Thank you.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:24:05 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Magalian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this bill. The various art organizations that this bill proposes to no longer support are vital to this community. Without these arts organizations, much of our local culture will be extinguished.

It is our responsibility to keep the arts vibrant in order to keep our community vibrant.

Failure to reject this bill will greatly diminish the health and welfare of Hawai'i.

Please do the right thing!!

Mahalo

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:24:51 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jhana Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am testifying in strong opposition to HB1807 and HB1807HD2. Please do NOT pass this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:25:23 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elise von Dohlen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1807 HD2 Relating to the Works of Art Special Fund

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill HB1807 HD2 which proposes to repeal capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the Works of Art special fund.

Hawaii was the first state in the country to adopt a percent-for-art law. The Works of Arts special fund supports essential arts and culture programs throughout the state. Repealing these appropriations as a source of funds for the Works of Art special fund will greatly reduce funding to SFCA and the network of organizations and artists it supports. Arts and culture programs continue to be underfunded, and the impact of this bill would greatly impact local arts organizations, local artists, and cultural practitioners; and decrease access to arts for youth. We have seen how essential arts and culture are to the fabric of our community and support our individual and collective well-being, especially in times of disaster.

There has been abundant testimony submitted from organizations, artists, and community advocates in opposition to this bill.

I urge the committee to vote against HB1807 HD2 and support increasing funding to ensure the promotion, perpetuation, and preservation of culture and arts in Hawaii.

To Whom it May Concern,

03/18/2024

Re: I OPPOSE HB 1807 bill

I'm writing in regards to this unfair, narrow minded, and linear thinking HB 1807 bill. Everyone, be it child or elderly, should have to opportunity to create art, to see and feel art. Creating contributes to thinking beyond the boundaries set by society. Especially these days when a vast majority of people indulge in being spoon feed information, moving thumbs to play games, and communicating through text, email, Facebook, etc. Inventiveness, ingenuity, vision, and even verbal communication has atrophied. Art makes you think, invent, reason beyond predictable.

Museums, Art Galleries, Theatres, Art Centers, Cultural Centers, Art Societies, and Art Outreach Programs will be affected. Your extreme and abysmal reason for this bill is again lineal reasoning (already possesses an adequate collection of artworks, rendering further acquisitions unnecessary).

During WW11, what did governments save and steal - ART!

ACT 298 has been very successful and needs to be saved.

Please expand on your lineal thinking and be creative, push the boundaries and color outside the lines, oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

Trudee

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:26:52 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Goodman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The State Legislature’s long support for art in public places through the 1% law for the construction of new buildings is truly a source of pride for all that are touched by that far-sighted initiative. So too was the expansion of the program through Act 389 which created a special fund by adding “renovations” to that statute. Beyond the purchase of artwork, that fund just as importantly supported art educational programs and events which benefited a broader audience beyond those near newly constructed or renovated buildings--from K-12 students to the general public.

Even more so than in 1989 when Act 389 was introduced, there will be very few if any new State funded buildings in the foreseeable future, so the removal of “renovations” to the current 1% statute would, in effect extinguish art educational programs and events on every island, such as the “Artists in the Schools” program, Scholastic Art Exhibition for students (grade 7-12), Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition (grade K-6), and exhibitions and programming at the Downtown Art Center and the Hawai‘i State Art Museum.

There is so much more that this proposal would hobble or terminate. For decades, art venues, programs, and events grew within the State and actively engaged their local communities and provided access to the unique educational and inspirational qualities of art and art making. Continuing to ensure that type of access and civic engagement with art recognizes that supporting the Arts in Hawai‘i is an ongoing process rather than a goal that has been met because "...the State currently possesses a surplus of artwork in storage..."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:26:58 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eve Teraoka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm strongly opposed to the house bill 1807. I am a 17 year old artist from Waimanalo and recently got accepted into the Scholastic Art and Writing show at Capitol Modern. Without funding for art, programs like that will be taken away. Me and many other young artists rely on art programs like this to get opportunities and meet people in the community who are similar to us. If house bill 1807 gets passed students who are interested in the arts won't have a place to connect with people or gain meaningful experiences.

Thank you,

Eve Teraoka

Waimanalo

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:27:19 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meleanna Meyer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE Strenuously HB 1807;

Life long artist and arts Educator, I oppose bill 1807 HB RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND which seeks to cut essential funding for the arts!

As a local-girl who was raised to create and explore all that the arts had to offer, I was hoping to ask you folks for an increase in funding for the arts, not to take what little funding is left available for us!!

Having been an ATS Teaching artist for decades, and Bento and recipient of numerous awards and purchases by the Art Selection and Acquisition Committee — all avenues for this funding in the Arts here in Hawai‘i are of continuous and profound importance. Together the Arts in business also provide a solid foundation of stability and support for our creative workforce members and the larger community.

All Arts Orgs. depend heavily on these funds and know that it is our right and duty to focus our energies in bringing this cause before you all, yet again.

As the SFCA has provided funds to support many programs vital to our community, how could there be any doubt about it’s need in our communities more broadly today!!!

Seriously,

Arts Funding is so intrinsically critical to Hawaii’s infrastructure of our Spirits!!! Our creative work goes hand in hand with other funding programs that build on each other to create a diverse ecosystem of art, community and economic vitality that is essential to the overall health of our community.

Without the arts and creativity addressed, acted upon to support in all areas — we as a society are doomed.

I strongly pray that you folks make the right decisions regarding your continued and unwavering support to continue funding of the arts at all levels, for always.

O au iho nō,

Meleanna Aluli Meyer, Artist, Educator and Advocate for all forms of Creativity

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:28:22 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Croze	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill because we need to continue to support art in public places, schools, teachers, museums and artists because it is an expression of our culture and our history. It is therapeutic and it is something we desperately need to continue for our children to learn to be creative and to connect with STEM.

If this bill passes much will be lost in supporting creativity programs to enrich individuals lives in our islands.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:29:11 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brent Magstadt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts, Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

The next page lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island

- Donkey Mill Arts Center
- East Hawaii Culture Center
- Kahilu Theatre
- Wailoa Center

Maui

- Hui Noe'au
- Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association Maui Arts and Culture Center Viewpoints Gallery

Kauai

- Kauai Society of Artists

Oahu

- Downtown Art Center
- Arts and Letters
- Fishcake
- University of Hawaii Galleries
- Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS

- Pu'uhonua Society
- Hawaii Contemporary Hawaii Watercolor Society Honolulu Printmakers Honolulu Theatre for Youth Hawaii Handweavers Hui Hula Preservation Society NOTAE
- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- Professional Development for DOE Teachers
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming Scholastic Art - Exhibition and Ceremony Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony
- Hawaii Arts Alliance support

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

- Kahauiki Village
- Institute for Human Services
- RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
- LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
- Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

TO BE CLEAR - I AM OPPOSED TO HB1807 HD2.

Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.

Brent Magstadt

Keaau, Big Island 96749

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:29:56 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Rohrer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1807 would cut funding for programs that support contemporary and future art exhibitions and community programs. It would hurt many livelihoods and take away revenue from artists who make our community so vibrant and interesting. It will also take away funding for exhibitions at Capitol Modern which offers a space to enjoy art that is made entirely by local artists for free. Being a free museum, it is one of the only art museums that people of all economic backgrounds can experience.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:32:48 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Pestana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill could effectively change lives for the worst.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:33:00 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noe Tanigawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou, thank you so much for considering these thoughts.

Whereas Maui’s recovery from trauma caused by the wildfires is a primary concern for the state, deploying cultural and community programs is crucial to charting the way forward. SFCA’s programs are already reaching deep into communities and are key to reconstruction.

Whereas Hawai’i is undergoing a demographic shift that is accelerating income disparities and threatens our economic future, the strength of Hawai’i’s creative sector is key to economic growth in desirable industries. Digital media, design, film, AI, all growing majors in the UH system, are encouraged by SFCA programs. SFCA’s youth programs are indispensable.

Whereas in the last three years Capitol Modern has emerged as the primary venue for arts activity in Honolulu, support for its work of curating and presenting shows, events and creative activities of all kinds should be increased. Visitors to the islands have few alternatives that speak so vibrantly and authentically about Hawai’i’s cultural life.

Art is a record of its time, it’s how we see ourselves and tell future generations about who we are. HB 1807 would cause a rupture in our cultural lives now, with ramifications into the future.

Whereas, House Finance Committee Chair Kyle Yamashita says meeting current funding obligations is not “even close to touching on any reserves,” HB1807’s proposal to limit the works of art special fund to a percentage from original construction only, is conceivably unnecessary.

For these reasons, among others, I ask that HB1807 not move forward as written.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Noe

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:33:02 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tessa Skees	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:35:08 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Goto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stongly oppose HB1807 HD2. ANY degree of reduction in funding to the arts is too much.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:35:18 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** HB1807, as it will be extremely detrimental to livelihood of the arts in our society.

The Hawaii State Art Museum and its public educational programs, like Art Bento, Artists in the Schools educational program, and SFCA sponsored professional development for teachers, are necessary—and exemplary—for furthering our society through the arts. We cannot let these budget cuts come to pass.

Not only should lawmakers be supporting the arts, but they should be encouraging growth and positive development for these programs, so that the arts community doesn't have to reinvent the wheel; rather, build on the success and legacies that already are living and thriving!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:36:25 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1807 HD2 due to it's reduction in revenue for the Art in Public Places Program and elimination of support for numerous arts organizations and individuals across Hawai'i.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:36:26 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paula Nokes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote NO on HB1807 HD2. Taking away funding for state art museums and programs would be a serious disservice to the citizens of Hawaii.

The SFCA programs, organization, and buildings have provided support to the children of Hawaii as well as to the Kupuna. There once was a woman who put a Gauguin painting in the back of her car taking it around to local schools. She wanted to introduce great art to local children. She (Anna Rice Cooke) was also the founder of our world class museum, the Honolulu Museum of Art. Let us continue in this historic tradition of respecting the well being of children and Kupuna through art . Somewhere in Hawaii, possibly on Maui, a young school age child will go on to become a leader, all because of the experience of publicly funded art programs.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:36:45 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelina Ribet	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need the arts in our culture as a way to bring light to the beauty of this world. To reflect and admire all that is around us and the talents of our people. Art can also preserve stories and culture and this way of expression is priceless. We need to support our artist by allowing them to showcase their art in various galleries and programs so more exposure is brought to their talent. Art is a business for so many and a way of being able to afford to stay on this expensive island. Please don't take that away from its people.

Angelina Ribet

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:37:30 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Franco Salmoiraghi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am very opposed to HB 1807.

As a working artist who has benefited from support from the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, and as someone who has been on a number of committees to make recommendations for purchases of works of art, the SFCA has been an integral part of the arts community.

Some of the exhibitions I have been involved with had a great deal of historical significance. Without the SFCA, the community would not have had the opportunity to learn about important historical events that have affected our state.

We have historical precedence, as the Hawaiian Monarchy was careful to preserve cultural artifacts made by artisans of the past. An art collection needs to maintain continuity, adding new works of art continually. The SFCA continues in that tradition as the Art in Public Places Collection gives the opportunity for future generations to see and understand works of art through the ages.

Thank you for listening.

Aloha,

Franco Salmoiraghi

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:37:44 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gaye Humphrey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Gaye Humphrey. I serve as program manager with the Hawaii Arts Alliance, and I'm writing in opposition to HB 1807.

The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings are a significant source of funding that the State Foundation receives. Cuts to these funds would directly and dramatically impact the work we do to bring teaching artists into K-12 schools across the islands. Through the Art Bento and Artists-in-the-Schools programs, we reach hundreds of students every year, who otherwise may not have access to high-quality arts education. Please do not reduce SFCA funding. The arts are vital to our communities. They uplift, heal, inspire, and connect us to our shared humanity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:38:47 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chandra Fulton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Chandra Fulton oppose Bill HB1807 HD2. I am not in support of taking away funding for Art in Public places that would have a huge impact on Hawaii artists.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:38:50 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fae Yamaguchi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Too Whom It May Concern,

I was born and raised in Hawai‘i. I have been a teacher and a practicing artist in Hawaii for the past 40 years. Most recently I have taught through the Artists in the Schools and Art Bento program. These programs alone, touch thousands of children on Oahu and the outer islands. The children are so enthusiastic and eager to learn about and create art. They are starved to use their creative imagination. Creative imagination is not just about having fun and making things, as it is about using the part of the brain you can only access through making art. IT is about teaching children to see things differently. to know understand how many different ways there are to see something. It is about thinking and porblem solving beyond the given boundaries. IT is about being able to look at something and problem solve by looking up and down, around, through, near, far, inside, outside and so many other ways. Art Education is not about teaching children to become an artist. It is about teaching children to think like artists.

The same goes for galleries and art organizations. Art gives adults the ability to see in different ways and to think out of the box and problem solve. It is this ability that will solve the problems of the world.

Art is what gives people humanity. A society cannot flourish without the arts.

Please do not pass this bill. It is a huge backwards step with serious repercussions for humanity.

Sincerely,

Fae Yamaguchi

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:41:29 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Schwengel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1807. This bill's intention to eliminate funding for statewide arts programs is woefully shortsighted. Art departments and art teachers are sadly lacking or absent in Hawai'i schools, making SFCA outreach initiatives more important than ever. Arts education helps students develop creative capacity, critical thinking skills, and problem solving abilities -- qualities valued across all disciplines, readying students as they become adults and enter the workforce. To remain competitive in the world, we must continue to fund the statewide organizations which foster creativity and production by Hawai'i visual artists, performers, and cultural practitioners.

As a volunteer with each of the Honolulu Biennial and Hawai'i Triennial events, I've interacted with visitors from around the globe who have traveled here in appreciation of our unique perspectives and creative offerings. Don't squelch the ways the arts and cultural engagement drive our local economies and buoy human spirits. This bill's negative impacts would set back our population and position in the world. Instead, continue to invest in our future by supporting the arts education and well-being of our residents and next generation.

Sincerely,

Michelle Schwengel

O'ahu resident / parent / artist / informal educator

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:41:30 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mina Ellison	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

My name is Mina Ellison and I strongly urge you to oppose Bill 1807.

As the curator at the Donkey Mill Art Center, I experience the power of the arts to uplift people of all ages through this exploratory process. The Donkey Mill Art Center has been a partner with the Artists in the Schools program for many years has provided meaningful arts and cultural experiences for thousands of young people. Without these programs, youth simply do not receive arts education. These opportunities are essential for the health and well-being of our people and communities.

The Art-in-Public-Places program, also threatened, is essential to support the artists and arts organizations who are able to tell stories that help us understand who we are and where we want to be. The work of so countless institutions who work so hard to uplift the voices of our people through the arts relies on support from these funds.

Support of the arts is, again, essential to the economic health and well-being of all people who call Hawai'i home, and to our visitors as well.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Me ke aloha,

Mina Ellison, Ke'ei, Kona Hema, Hawai'i

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:42:38 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annie Reynolds	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to HB 1807 in that it would negatively impact our local arts institutions, organizations, programs, and individuals. This bill would result in significant cuts to already limited resources dedicated to the arts. Concern has been voiced that this bill would force Capitol Modern to discontinue all exhibition projects and public programs, and would cut essential support both Native Hawaiian and local artists, as well as local galleries and organizations across the state. The capital improvement appropriations are essential in supporting the Arts in Public Places fund that supports Native Hawaiian and local artists, and local institutions and organizations.

The funding is essential in supporting our keiki and their access to the arts, and the arts for the next generation are so important for developing a means of both self expression and processing our place in the the local community, and the world. The arts are intrinsically inspirational. I recently visited the Capitol Modern's current exhibition featuring the 2024 Hawai'i Regional Scholastic Art Awards and was struck and moved by the talent of the keiki in our community. I imagine the deep impact on those young artists to see that their own works elevated, celebrated, on display at *their* Hawai'i State Art Museum. I think of how important that moment is for each of those selected, participating artists, and how that experience will be a life changing one for them, providing them with support, confidence, and recognition at such a young age. How incredibly impactful this must be for each keiki's experience, one young adult at a time. And how this enables them to know they have a voice and a perspective to share broadly. The arts enable us to articulate our thoughts, feelings, experiences. This is just one exhibition program that would be discontinued if the Arts in Public Places fund were to be cut, but it would be a significant loss for our community. The arts enable connections, engagement, cultural understanding, self expression, inspiration, that reaches beyond the scope of arts for arts sake; and an artistic and creative community is an engaged community.

The Art in Public Places funding enables so many local organizations to do their impactful work in their communities across the state, reaching diverse community members, from keiki to kūpuna. I strongly oppose the proposed bill because I want to be part of a community that has a thriving arts community where our young artists and our professional artists alike have resources and programs available to support and build their artistic endeavors and uplift their voices.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:44:18 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miki Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully OPPOSE this bill and the effort to reduce funding to Hawaii's organizations and youth -- both of which benefit all of us or years come.

Hawaii is a melting pot and thru the arts our diverse community communicate, grow, share and learn.

Look around your offices at the Capitol. It's filled with local works. Amazing. A gift beyond measure.

Please carefully consider how reduced funding to the arts and art education will negatively affect all of us.

Thank you for your hard work and consideration.

Miki Lee

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:45:27 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carmela Resuma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Members of the Committee,

I write in strong opposition to HB1807. Art should be accessible to all and art in public places does just that. The funding cuts included in this bill would drastically impact local artists here in Hawai'i -- they are the breath and the soul of our community. Illustrating, speaking, performing and evoking stories and truths that bring us joy, make us think, and connect us to place.

I understand that we're living in dire times, and it is all too easy to make cuts to programs like these. However, I would argue that in the extremely challenging climate we're all living through, the arts are what brings life and purpose and voice to the shared struggles we're all facing. Arts and collective creation allow us to have hope when the future is bleak. Please don't take this away. You have the power to keep the hope alive.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Carmela Resuma, Honolulu

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:46:24 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenna Manglallan-Yang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

As an educator that believes in the preservation of Hawai'i's art communities, this funding is crucial to the vitality of Hawai'i. Public funding of the Arts allow us to represent a diversified community that brings commerce, community enagement and cultural preservation to the forefront. I urge those in support to deeply resconsider.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:46:42 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Horen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support pay cuts to current art museums. Art is more than just pretty paintings or sculptures, art is a form of expression, how some communicate deep feelings, it bridges the gap between then and now. To lose this means to lose how far we have come as a society and where we come from.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:47:10 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blythe Yoshikane	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and the members of the Committee,

My name is Blythe Yoshikane, and I am a 23-year-old Kanaka artist. **I am writing to you in opposition to HB 1807.** This bill will severely harm the sustainability of several beloved art centers, classroom programs, and the Arts in Public Places program. The 1% in appropriations does more than decorate the state buildings' empty walls; it creates opportunities for countless artists across creative mediums.

When I was 17 years old in 2018, HiSAM (now Capitol Modern) hosted the National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, where I and many other local kids received our first accolades as young, professional artists. The most memorable part was when our art was displayed alongside beautifully maintained permanent and temporary exhibits at HiSAM. This was the launching pad for my career~ the encouragement that I received from this moment was immeasurable. *I felt valued!!* I felt like I belonged to a community that *valued* my skills. I was sure that in Hawai'i, there was enough space for artists and their art.

Mr. Yamashita, respectfully, there is never enough art! Hawai'i and its people benefit from public art and public art programs. I cannot speak on how to allocate large budgets or how to fix state-wide financial backlogs...but as a young professional in the arts, I plead to the committee to not close this door on us.

Mahalo for taking the time to read this,

Blythe Yoshikane

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:48:37 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reilly DeLuca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I heavily oppose HB1807 HD2 on the grounds that if this bill were passed it would have catastrophic effects on the local art scene in Hawaii. As a musician in the local scene and a frequent admirer of other artists within this scene I know just how powerful the art local artists produce can be. It connects the people who call this island home to each other on a level I have seldom seen art do and such a connection is immensely necessary to have. I personally know artists who will have projects they've worked on for years that will have their hard squandered should this bill pass. Who are you to deprive the world of these works? Who are you say what art is and isn't of value to the people of Hawaii? There is simply no good reason to incite the catastrophe that would come about should this bill be passed. There is simply no excuse that can justify the removal of the windows into our own collective culture that are provided by every work showcased by the establishments that would be effected by this bill. To pass this bill would erase such a massive part of what makes our local art scene so powerful.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:49:52 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Betsy Baker Morrigan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear legislators,

I oppose this bill. I am in favor of maximum support for the arts both in all arts programs and in all state facilities like museums, etc. and this bill seems unnecessarily restrictive. Do not pass this bill.

Thank you,

Betsy Morrigan

Captain Cook, Hawaii

Member of SKEA

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:50:33 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Denzer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I whole heartedly oppose this and any bill that takes arts education further from our students.

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. ***Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime.*** We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to ***create economic diversity.***

*Consequently, this bill would **ERADICATE** the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect.*

ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. ***It is simply the soul expression of humanity.***

THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

WILL END IMMEDIATELY

The next page lists the ripple effect this bill has if it should continue to pass under defiant ears and after over 500 testimonies OPPOSING this bill since the beginning of the legislative season.

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Galleries and Orgs Affected:

Hawaii Island
Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center
Maui
Hui Noe'au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association
Maui Arts and Culture Center
Viewpoints Gallery
Kauai
Kauai Society of Artists
Oahu
Downtown Art Center
Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary
Hawaii Watercolor Society
Honolulu Printmakers
Honolulu Theatre for Youth
Hawaii Handweavers Hui
Hula Preservation Society
NOTAE

Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.

Professional Development for DOE Teachers

**The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony**

Hawaii Arts Alliance support

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

Kahauiki Village
Institute for Human Services
RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.



Reina Aisha Ure
Honolulu, Oahu, 96818

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:51:14 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MaryAnne Long	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have read all of the other testimonies and cannot add anything but to say a lot more understanding of what the State Foundation of Culture and the Arts is, does, or should do must be done so that a bill like this one never appears again.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:51:33 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miyabi Goedert	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a regular patron of many of the of art institutes that are under threat of this bill's passing, I stand strongly opposed to HB1807. It makes no sense that the already limited funding that arts programs have access to would be reallocated in this way. Keeping taxpayer funded dollars in the arts programs that taxpayers use and enjoy is critical, especially here in Hawaii where art culture is inherently tied to the preservation of cultural practices and craft.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:52:06 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Maaria Saastamoinen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill and urge you to join me. Institutions like HISAM and especially Native Hawaiian galleries, arts places, and artists are crucial to the future of Hawai'i. We need these artists to be supported in continuing to envision futures for Hawai'i that do not necessitate desecrating its land and waters or forsaking its peoples for corporate and foreign interests. We especially need art to be supported in public and to be accessible to our children and youth, so our future generations can build better futures for Hawai'i. I urge you to oppose this bill as a resident and as a ceramic artist.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:53:17 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Severns	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e kākou,

Please stop this bill. Despite language to the contrary, this bill will effectively gut funding for art in public places and would remove support for existing and future artists and performers in the state. The assertion that the SFCA "already possesses an adequate collection of artworks, rendering further acquisitions unnecessary" reveals a horrifying misunderstanding of the important role of art in our evolving, living culture. The statement that the bill appropriates funds for "performing arts initiatives and expands art programming in the schools" is empty, at best. I strongly oppose this proposal and urge you to do the same.

Mahalo.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:53:55 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
geri maeshiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, as a 4th generation member of this state's citizenry, I am ashamed to learn that this longtime budget earmark would be considered something we can collectively think to consider touching for capitol improvements. auwe.

yes, we are blessed beyond measure... Beauty, spirit and the appreciation for grace, form, craft, creativity, resourcefulness, tenacity for vision, are inherent in our cultural fabric, but it is not enough. We need to funding to continue nurturing this capacity in any way shape or form. To support, and further more, celebrate the characteristics of groups and individuals who work to bloom our own collective expressive nature, moreover to maintain within our children and future generations the preciousness of our very special and particular point of view we inherit in this world. Understandably, some might not think this fund precious, as we do not always hear, see or feel from our creative sprouts/roots the most vivid or clear expressions of that which we hold here, but we must keep putting into the pot, and maintain investment for those who do rise/ bloom to meet and express ourselves in these moments. We must protect the space and means entirely as the mundaneness of necessity always seeks to take hold to cloud clear ringing, ripe visions. It is the regular tension held by each artistic view within us. We cannot let such spaces of potential be siphoned off. Please maintain the capacity, ideally we would be able to invest more into it. But please do not diminish this.

Aloha for hearing this simple plea from a practical, frugal, but appreciative, long rooted resident.

Sincerely yours,

geri maeshiro

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:56:08 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Marcil	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 1807

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Culture, and the Arts,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1807, which threatens to undermine the invaluable contributions of arts education and cultural preservation initiatives in Hawaii. As a dedicated advocate for arts-integrated programs and a teaching artist deeply invested in the well-being and enrichment of Hawaii's youth, I urge you to consider the profound impact of this bill on our communities.

Arts education is not a luxury; it is a necessity. Through arts-integrated programs, students gain critical thinking and skills, cultivate the ability to find creative problem-solving solutions to important issues, appreciate the value of protecting what we love, whether it be native species or the sustainability of our islands and planet, and develop empathy and resilience. As a longtime teaching artist funded by Artists in the School grants, I repeatedly witness the transformative power of the arts in providing empowerment and healing for students who need support. I witnessed this most recently in the aftermath of the Maui fires last August. There are no words to express the pivotal role the arts continue to play in their emotional recovery.

Furthermore, arts education fosters a deeper connection to cultural heritage and community identity. Initiatives supported by the Art in Public Places program, such as the Hawaii State Art Museum and educational programming for public schools, serve as invaluable resources for preserving and celebrating our rich cultural heritage. These programs not only enhance the educational experience of students but also contribute to the vitality and vibrancy of our communities.

House Bill 1807 poses a significant threat to the sustainability of arts education and cultural preservation initiatives in Hawaii.

I implore you to consider the long-term repercussions of this bill and the profound loss it would represent for our communities. I urge you to reject House Bill 1807 and instead support policies that prioritize the preservation and advancement of arts education and cultural enrichment in Hawaii.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,
Beth Marcil
Teaching Visual Artist

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:56:16 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camille Monson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong opposition to HB1807 and HB1807HD2. Please do NOT pass this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:57:25 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolann Biederman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB1807. I write as a resident who is deeply nurtured and inspired by the creativity of the local artists and nonprofit arts and culture organizations in our state. I oppose SB 2764 to limit the resources currently available to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) to fund its programs.

The richness and diversity of the arts in Hawai‘i – music, dance, visual arts, Hawaiian culture, media, crafts – impressed and inspired me from the day I arrived 36 years ago and I have supported the arts ever since. I've worked as a consultant to the nonprofit sector for the past 20 years in the areas of executive transition, grant writing, special events, and project management. Several of my clients are arts organizations which would be directly affected by the bill.

The bill will hobble and compromise resources for individual artists, cultural practitioners, educators and arts and culture nonprofit organizations that depend on grants from the SFCA for critical funding. In turn, their artistic output, funded by the SFCA, may result in limited engagement with people of all ages and educational results for beneficiaries in communities on every island. The SFCA must be able to continue to make meaningful grants and support those who make creative dreams into realities. I ask you to oppose HB 1807 and maintain the funding resources for the SFCA in its current form. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely, Carolann Biederman, 44-391 Nilu St. #4, Kaneohe, HI 96744

cabc.consulting@gmail.com

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:57:45 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harold Calventas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Harold Calventas

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Testimony of Harold Calventas

Against HB 1807 HD2

Relating to the Works of Art Special Fund

Senator Case and Representative Yamashita, my name is Harold Calventas and I oppose HB 1807 HD2. I currently live in the Manoa neighborhood of Honolulu, Oahu, Hawai'i. I want to thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

I oppose HB 1807 due to the nature of this bill severely impacting the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, Capitol Modern, and their fellow public art organizations and contemporaries across the state of Hawai'i. As I am an active member with Capitol Modern and its fellow organizations, I can attest that a 68% reduction in revenue for the Art in Public Spaces Program will negatively affect the necessary functions of Capitol Modern as an operating public art space. Not only will partners and contributors of Capitol Modern be forced to face the dire financial ramifications of this bill. Native Hawaiian artists will be unable to afford any opportunity to present their art at these facilities in a transparent and democratic manner, that includes a native Hawaiian artist,

such as myself among a thriving community of fine art photographers. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I want to once again voice my opposition to HB1807 HD2.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:58:32 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Galioto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

I am a model for several venues and private groups. A fine art male model. I have been working in Hawaii for 35 years. I know from working with teachers and artists, students and the many places that use and display the art. I believe in the full funding of art in Hawaii. I would hope that it would be increased. There are many important reasons for art in a society. Our society needs the work of artists and their subjects, that includes me. I work at Punahou high school, the University of Hawaii on the Kapiolani campus, Windward Community College, the Downtown Arts Center, private homes where groups of artists meet to practice their skills, the Honolulu Museum of Art. I am also an artist, I employ model and take classes at Kapiolani Community College. I have taken numerous art classes at UH Manoa. I am also a senior citizen and partake of the program that allow people over 60 years old to take classes. I am a plant and soil scientist with another degree in geography from UH Manoa.

I have been inspired by the art I have seen in public places. One piece in particular I am using as an inspiration for my current oil painting at KCC

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:59:11 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Shiiba	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting written testimony opposing HB1807 D2. If this bill passed, it would result in a massive reduction in revenue for the Art in Public Places Program, eliminating support for MANY arts organizations and individual artists across ALL Hawai'i islands.

Mahalo nui,

Jennifer Shiiba

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my concerns.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

For many, culture and the arts are rooted in emotional and intellectual connection. HB1807 HD2 will have negative consequences for the future and for our society if we cut back on public services. Public art gives communities a stronger sense of place, identity and belonging. This bill will eradicate government public art support for many art education programs and initiatives statewide.

Art is simply the soul expression of humanity and that deserves to be recognized. If you value the positive impact that culture and the arts bring, I urge you to think deeply and the long-term negative consequences.

Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.

Shirley Lam

Honolulu, `Oahu 96817

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:59:29 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Bowers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write to the Hawai'i State Legislature today due to my opposition towards HB 1807. As an artist, born and raised in Maui, I have been so grateful for the funding provided to beautify public spaces. I have been a part of various art grants and have successfully established various murals around the island. I can say, first hand, that creating these art pieces does more than one may realize. It is a necessary element to make people feel connected, safe, and happy. It has the ability to educate and tell a story of our culture and history. If you take this away from us, you are not caring for the well-being of your people. If you don't keep Art in public spaces, you will see a decline in interest and safety. Creating stale environments for people to exist and work in, is not how life should be lived.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:59:33 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Dunlop Relf	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee;

My name is Hannah Dunlop Relf and while I am an employee of the Hawaii State Senate, I am testifying in OPPOSITION to HB1807 HD2 in my personal capacity as a resident of Hawaii and a passionate supporter of both the performing and fine arts.

There are ways to address the issues raised in the measure and to increase the efficacy, efficiency, and transparency of the fund and its programs. Myopic and short-sighted slash-and-burn methods never work and have unintended consequences. Arts funding is of greater importance in Hawaii because art and culture are at the root of Native and Immigrant cultural preservation and practices, and a vital part, if not the main appeal to tourists from around the globe. While performing arts are important in these practices too, the record that is left for future generations through fine art, which include the recording through paint or photography of performing arts is of vital importance.

As a former dance and theater professional I believe that the performing arts are woefully undervalued and unsupported. That support cannot come at the expense of fine art. Inherently this is counterintuitive and illogical: Dance and theater rely heavily on fine artists and their skills for their performances, to strip one to benefit the other hurts both. This highlights the extremely negative impact on the artists and skills necessary for a successful film industry.

Given the apparent goal of the measure – reduction in government expenses lets look at the economic impact the arts have. One of my senior projects for my undergraduate degree was a statistical analysis comparing government arts funding and economic and health impacts, as well as long term rates or social cohesion and democracy between developed nations.¹ The most Arts and Prosperity report² from Americans for the Arts, the largest statistical study on the impact of the Arts on the United States also provides invaluable and evidence based insight. Both of these sources show a direct correlation between increased art funding, specifically government, and increased economic output, health both physical and mental outcomes, and Social cohesion and democratic strength.

To cut Peters funding and rob him to pay Paul all while forgetting that Peter and Paul are in business together in our own community seems honestly incredibly short sighted. This is laid bare when we consider that the arts generated \$27.5 billion in revenue to local, state, and federal governments, a yield far beyond the collective \$5 billion in funding. Arts investment has some of

the highest return on investment of any area of government funding. When combined with the social and personal benefits on the individual and society, one is only left asking why we are not here discussing increasing funding overall?

Specifically HB1802 highlights the amount of art in storage as a key issue. This measure does nothing to address this but in reality will most likely make the issue worse. The issue is not how much art we have in storage but the draconian process and restrictions on displaying it, HB1807 would ensure more art is hidden from the public because these drastic cuts would make staffing and managing that much harder. 31 organizations have stated that they would be significantly impacted if not have to cease services immediately, one can only imagine the broad impact on communities and existing programs this measure would have. Beyond the viewing of the art currently in the collection, these cuts would have long-term effects on the success of local artists individually and their ability to remain in the state. Again this measure takes a counterintuitive and illogical approach to achieving its proposed goals.

It appears that the financial stresses on the state placed by the Maui Wildfires is a catalyst for this measure. Arts both fine and performing will play a vital role in helping the community and economy recover. Again highlighting the shortsighted and counter-intuitive nature of this HB1802.

This action is myopic and ignores the reality of the situation and the proven beneficial impact of arts and its funding, to prioritize a false idea of short-term gain. Transferring something off of the one balance sheet, while appealing, will just cause problems for other departments and organizations, individual artists, students, and the state economy. This is just the definition of shooting oneself in the foot. I urge the members to vote no on HB1807.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and thank you for your consideration.

With respect,

Hannah Dunlop Relf

1 [Soft Power, Global Perceptions, & the Arts](#) - Hannah Dunlop Relf

2 [Arts and Prosperity 5](#) – Americans for the Arts

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:00:37 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Newbold	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha esteemed House Representatives,

I am Rachel Newbold, a Teaching Artist deeply invested in arts education in our community. I write to express my strong opposition to HB1807, which would negatively impact our work with teachers, artists, and students.

The arts play a crucial role in promoting social and emotional well-being, especially during these challenging times. HB1807 would hinder our ability to support educators and engage students through creative programs, which are vital for holistic development.

I urge you to reconsider HB1807 and recognize the importance of arts education in nurturing our communities. Feel free to contact me at rflorer7@gmail.com or 8087279877 for further discussion.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Rachel Newbold

From: Richard Mills

3/18/2024

Dear honorable members:

HB 1807 will literally scuttle the arts special funds bill started in 1970 by Alfred Preis. This was a visionary, ground breaking piece of legislature that led the nation to follow Hawai'i's lead. For the past 50 or more years culture and the arts has grown and sustained our state . It has enriched our society and engaged our citizens, educating, and inspiring them. It has humanized our lives during difficult times.

So why would you and your committees engineer and attempt to pass such a terrible bill that would eliminate all of these program below? I am completely against passing this bill.

HB 1807 Will:

CUT the following initiatives:

*THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY

*SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

*EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Art Bento Museum Education Program
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade 7-12
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6
- Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support

The elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would eliminate support for the following:

Hawaii Island

Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center

-

Maui

Hui Noe’au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association
Maui Arts and Culture Center
Viewpoints Gallery

-

Kauai

Kauai Society of Artists

-

Oahu

Downtown Art Center
Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries
Arts at Marks Garage

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu’uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary
Hawaii Watercolor Society
Honolulu Printmakers
Honolulu Theatre for Youth
Hawaii Handweavers Hui

Hula Preservation Society
NOTAE

Outreach programs:

Kahauiki Village

Institute for Human Services

RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment

LGBTQ Legacy Foundation

Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:01:32 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Fukuda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:04:07 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Haynes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a young artist, born raised and living in O'ahu, I am against HB1807 HD2 which endangers funding for many art galleries and arts organizations across the islands. The arts are already low on funding, despite how essential they are. Research has shown how a thriving arts and cultural ecosystem positively impacts tourism, is vital to youth development, and necessary for mental health and wellbeing. Galleries and arts organizations are also key sites for education, innovation, and community building. The art scene across Hawai'i is unique and a pillar of the culture here. I always love seeing and experiencing new works by local artists, who understand what it means to live in such a wonderful place, rich with local and Native culture and history. These artists share what it means to live here, while being active agents in shaping the culture in real time. Without visual works, performances, and music, our cultural ecosystem falters in countless ways. The arts need funding because art grounds us, inspires us, and makes economic and social sense too.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:04:49 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:08:20 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyong Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kyong Won Lee and I strongly urge you to oppose bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact Honolulu Printmakers and Donkey Mill Art Center, two organizations that I belong to and strongly support.

Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration.

Kyong Won Lee

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:12:11 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Cutlip	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Michael Cutlip. I am a working artist living in Holualoa on the Big Island. I am speaking from a position of someone whose family and livelihood are completely imersed into the arts. The thought of the government support being stripped away from our communtiy is simply devastating. Directly, my wife works as an artist in the classroom, for the Donkey Mill Art Center. With the pass of this bill, not only will she potentially lose her job, but ALL the kids that she works with will no longer have the necessary exposure to art that is so vital for their young minds and soul. For some reason art is always the one that is taken away...in most cultures the arts are supported and celebrated..not taken away. This is such a poor reflection on the governing powers of Hawaii, who think this is a postive move.

This bill will also greatly effect the museums and art in public places programs. When I moved to Hawaii 10 years ago, I was so impressed by this program of collecting art by the state. Why take this away? What message does this send to the thousands of folks who love and support the arts here in Hawaii....it basically says, you are not important or relevant anymore.

A world without art is a sad world to be in. I believe it is the job of our governing bodies to set a good example and support all facets of our community. If this bill passes, it will be a major loss and disappointment for the people of Hawaii. We will lose a piece of ourselves that can only be found through the arts. Please, please do not let this happen!

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:12:31 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maikai Tubbs	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Maika‘i Tubbs and I am a Kānaka Maoli artist who has benefitted from the arts funding provided by the state. It is already so difficult for artists to make a living selling our artwork. We rely on funding to the State Foundation of Culture and the Arts to purchase work for the Art in Public Places program and to promote our work via gallery shows at HiSAM which can also lead to sales. I oppose HB1807 as it will decrease funding for creative people like myself who depend on it for their livelihood. Please do not support this bill.

Mahalo,

Maika‘i Tubbs

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:19:17 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Killeen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to HB1807 as it relates to Arts and Art in Public Places. We were the first in the nation to recognize the phenomenal effect of this on Art and Culture in the state of Hawaii. Please do not take this away!

Sincerely,

Susan Killeen

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:21:54 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anela Oh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it May concern,

I am wrting in opposition of HB1807, which aaims to effectively cut 70% of funding to the Art in Public Places Program.

This action is destructive to the heart of community work, the arts being integral to the protection of Hawaiian culture. To take away any funding to arts organizations no matter small logistical matters deeply impacts individuals, such as myself, working in the arts. One of the difficulties to being far from the mainland is the lack of funding resources in the arts and museum access. Both of which this bill would make significantly worse, potentially causing the closure of state museums.

To cut this funding is to say we do not value art, artists, or protection of culture and access to the arts for children. If it is not accesible who is it for?

Mahalo,

Anela Oh

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:32:58 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B Miyano-Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong opposition to HB1807 and HB1807HD2.

Many beautiful and important buildings that are in need of renovation (vs tear down and only build new) deserve to have artwork from the 1% for the arts.

Please do NOT pass this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:34:30 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diliaur Tellei	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it would result in defunding programs such as Art in Public Places as well as many of the art centers that make our local community so vibrant. I urge the committee not to pass this measure.



HB 1807

Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2024, 3PM

Testimony AGAINST HB 1807

I Kalene Sakamoto, am submitting this written testimony AGAINST HB 1807. I would highly recommend not allowing this measure to move forward. This measure is highly detrimental to so many important and beneficial programs across our communities and our state.

Elimination of “renovation” from the percent for art law would CUT the following initiatives:

*THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATE.

*SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE ELIMINATED.

*EDUCATION PROGRAMMING INITIATIVE WOULD BE CUT:

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Art Bento Museum Education Program
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade 7-12
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6
- Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support

How in good conscience can we allow for the above to occur. The arts are so important to complete a child’s education and to enhance the growth of a well-balanced child. The arts is not just a benefit for children in the arts, but also adults as well. Too many adult programs will be diminished if we allow this Bill 1807 to become law.

I help to promote a local boy group called Crossing Rain. Helping with their Public Relations and helping to produce their Music Videos, we’ve experienced the benefits of the Capitol Modern first-hand. We’ve filmed two of Crossing Rain’s music videos at the Capitol Modern. It provided our director an extraordinary set, like no other for the Music Videos. We also hosted a Music Video Release Party at the Capitol Modern. More recent Crossing Rain performed at the “FIRST FRIDAY” on March 1st at the Capitol Modern. With three groups performing: Made It Order, Jeff Yoko & Friends and Crossing Rain, we had nearly 900 in attendance to enjoy the music, the food vendors and also the galleries and sculpture garden. We definitely need to keep programs like this in existence.

Please Senators, I highly encourage you to vote against Bill 1807. Let’s keep our ARTS thriving!!

Sincerely,
Kalene Sakamoto
PR/Producer
Crossing Rain
PONO Entertainment
808-228-1199 mobile



HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:44:31 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Haskin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Please do not cut funding for ART. It is so important to our culture and fostering beautiful spaces.

Thank you,

Jessica Haskin

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:53:52 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jay jaskot	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

The value of arts funding is found in the values of art. One such value, found in arts of all sorts is observation. Participating in music, as musician or as audience, strengthens attentive listening. The learning of attentive listening is not only applied only to music; but is applied throughout every day life. What a valuable asset to humanity, to be able to listen attentively to others. To create visual art, or to enjoy it as observer, inspires observation; open observation of the world around us promotes empathy. Learning arts of any sort has so much value simply for the learning. Not every person will respond to learning math, or how to throw a perfect spiral; some people will respond to learning art. There needs be a positive experience with learning for students of all ages to be open to learning; learning how to learn is so important.

Art in its myriad forms has so much to offer; first to individuals; but those individuals make up community; a community populated by attentive listeners, experiencing the world with empathy, and being open to learning, is a healthy community.

Mahalo for your consideration,

jay jaskot

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 4:05:14 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Twigg-Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The passage of HB1807 would be devastating for the emotional, intellectual and creative spirit of Hawaii. Education and art go hand in hand and we have done a wonderful job of that up to now and since the 1% law has been in effect. Please don't vote to stop the progress of education in Hawaii by voting for this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 4:05:43 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Delgadillo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, as it jeopardizes funding art in our community, thereby jeopardizing our unique and special Native Hawaiian and immigrant culture.

Mahalo,

Sarah Delgadillo

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 4:24:37 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alejandra Hahn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 4:41:40 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rhiannon McCullough	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i.

Culture is the heart of a people and a place. When we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. The arts help to promote and teach personal identity, as well as enrich the lives of citizens across the islands.

This bill would eradicate the Art in Public Places Program. This would end support for Professional Development for all doe teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids. This would be a generation without the enrichment and connection to their roots that the people of Hawai'i deserve.

Public art can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural

blessings, real estate, design, architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It can help invest people in their communities and enfranchise the disenfranchised.

Thank you for your time,

Rhiannon McCullough

Honolulu, O'ahu, 96822

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 4:54:14 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miya Dias	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art is essential to the islands...to our kids. To the uniting of our friends and family. Please do not divert funds. We crave this culture. Thank you Miya

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 4:57:38 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meredith Yasui	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts, Thank you for this opportunity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2. Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i. Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2. Introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments continue to harm the future of Hawai'i. Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society on EVERY ISLAND when we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring through a sense of knowing the self in practice, spirituality, and pride for the place and mental and emotional well-being. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that improves many industries. Without it, you, as political leaders, can paint a future that invites more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation now more than ever before to create economic diversity.

Consequently, this bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect. ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces. Culture and arts heal the people and the land while providing a sense of understanding and purpose and stimulating circular economic pathways. It can give us a deep sense of pride and a sense of place. Culture & Arts have always stimulated economic growth across a variety of industries like cultural programming, cultural blessings, real estate, design,

architecture, fashion, performance arts, food, and tourism. It is simply the soul expression of humanity.

**THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS
WILL END IMMEDIATELY**

Thank you for your time and please deeply consider this ramification here.

Meredith Yasui

Holualoa, HI 96725

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 5:01:25 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Summer begnaud	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 5:02:53 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia M Godfrey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. Thank you for hearing this testimony.

Although it may seem a sensible move to restrict the one percent of total building funding to new builds and not renovations, this bill restricts the total available for art in our state. New builds are rarer than renovations. The amount we devote to the cause of beauty and creativity will drop. Surely we intend to continue to support our new artists as well as conserve the art already purchased. In fact, why not have an auction every year to sell superfluous artworks ! Win-win!

Please do not pass this seemingly sensible idea which turns its back on our support for art, something Hawaii is proud of.

Mahalo.

Patricia Godfrey

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 5:02:56 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not support this bill which cuts important funding for the arts in our communities!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 5:09:12 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hermione Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please don't pass this bill! It will close down our State Art Museum and so many cultural programs!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 5:09:47 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madison Masek	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Public arts MUST be protected! We'll have an incredibly boring society if we limit artistic opportunities, especially for those with lower socioeconomic statuses. This is a vital program that keeps people off the streets and engaged in illegal activities. Fund the arts!!

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 5:13:09 PM
Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebekah Fu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to oppose this bill since it seems that if this bill passes, monies from the Works of Arts special fund can only be used to pay salaries and for capital improvements rather than acquiring and curating new art work, in support of artists.

As a physician, parent of 2 teenagers and a patron of the arts, i feel society and cultures are enriched by free expression and promotion of art work, artists and the study of art styles, in addition to preserving and restoring precious works of art.

Funneling the funds only to pay salaries and upkeep buildings and to support school art programs would be meaningless if we don't also support the artists that create this art and can teach it. Acquiring and displaying unique and thought/ emotion evoking artwork is essential in sparking imagination, self reflection, conversation and healing first in individuals, then in communities

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 5:22:22 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordyn Chuck	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Continued government support for art institutions throughout the state is imperative to supporting the growth and development of Hawaii's culture. To imply that the state has no more need for further art improvements or renovations means that the state insists on stagnating the growing culture which would be detrimental to all future generations.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 5:23:14 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Flannery	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

Please vote no to HB1807. It would be devastating to the already struggling arts community, many native Hawaiian artists, and the very heartbeat of the city. Art in public spaces is what makes a city a city. We are so blessed to have weather that allows us to enjoy outdoor public spaces as a community, why would we not want to have art be a part of that? And almost every time art is shown/performed in a public space other local businesses are also brought along like food trucks, etc. People from all intersections of life enjoy art in public spaces. It does not exclude or discriminate. Please don't take this crucial element of Honolulu away.

- Melanie R. Flannery

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 5:27:06 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra McGee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as it would effect my community, my career in the arts In Hawai'i, my 'ohana, and the youth of tomorrow! Please do not allow this to pass.

Thank you !

Debra McGee

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 5:29:58 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Hiromoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As cliché as it sounds, art really does bring the community together. As a shy creative person, I have had so many great opportunities to meet other talented creators and art enthusiasts because of art. Artists and creatives say this so often because it is true, art is a way to express ourselves. It helps our voices be heard and it can leave a bright impact on anyone who stumbles across our work. Hawaii has a lot of talented creatives and artists. It is important to build a community for these creatives to thrive so the whole world can hear us and truly see us as the Aloha State.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 5:36:08 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brianna Hong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Brianna Hong and I live in Honolulu. I strongly OPPOSE HB1807. Art and education are one and the same. We need to protect art in all forms for our generation and future generations. Thanks for your consideration.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 5:44:02 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Claudia Parker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose cutting funding for the SFCA Art in Public Places Program. I am so proud to have the Capitol Modern museum which I've recently discovered with my family. What a wonderful place to connect with art and family and friends. Art is not optional or fluff, it's an important connection between people, culture, history. I urge you not to cut this necessary funding and I urge you to oppose this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 5:58:59 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tonia Sumida Moy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. As we approach the anniversary of one of the creators of SFCA, Alfred Preis, it is disheartening to see the legislature considering a bill to lessen the meager 1% for art special fund. As expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body." ART = EDUCATION; EDUCATION = A STRONGER COMMUNITY

Thank you!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 6:02:29 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiqing Su	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kaiqing Su, a PhD student studying at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am in strong opposition against this bill. Art and performance public education are ESSENTIAL to the well-being of people in Hawai'i. Their mental and physical impacts can not be overstated, nor can those be measured in economic terms. Art is also a critical venue where local people and Kanaka Maoli can express themselves and tell stories of Hawai'i instead of having the narrative controlled by a few elites in the tourism industry. Any cuts would be unacceptable and unimaginable.

As an artist, curator, arts administrator, teacher, and arts enthusiast I strongly oppose Bill HB1807 HD2.

Hawai'i was the first state to have a 1% law for the arts in the United States and this is something that everyone here in Hawai'i should be proud of. To see this bill destroy this legacy and essential support is sad, wrong, and unforgivable. & to say that it will be replaced by general funds is a lie, and those Legislators saying this should be ashamed. & to say that it is not important and necessary to support new art and artists is to not be present and alive. Art is not stagnant, but an important reflection of a time and a place and the culture and the people. The Art in Public Places Collection is evolving and growing and changing, reflecting, critiquing, and amazing – art does not stop. But this bill should be stopped.

I strongly oppose Bill HB1807 HD2

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 6:06:39 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MONA XIA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because we do not need more construction on state buildings, but we do need support for arts programs and initiatives statewide. We want to support the continued proliferation of Hawai'i-based art and culture.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 6:08:46 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Britt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have worked in the arts in Hawaii for the last 40 years. I cannot begin to explain how important the arts are to our culture. Please do not cut funds for the arts, it is the soul of Hawaii. We despartly need to expose our citizens to creative thinking and uplift their spirits in this crazy world.

Mahalo, Sharon Britt

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 6:20:08 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla G	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Kayla Gomez, I am testifying against HB1807 HD2.

I grew up on O'ahu, and graduated from UH Manoa with a Studio Art degree. I've been employed by the Honolulu Museum of Art School, where I helped assist in teaching kids art. I've been accepted by the arts communities and been given art opportunities in Honolulu that I am thankful for existing. These communities, galleries, opportunities, and programs not only have benefitted me but are ESSENTIAL to keep the culture and arts alive in Hawai'i. These are needed for Native Hawaiians. They are needed for all locals. For the world, to understand what people of Hawai'i have to say and show.

Do not take these spaces and programs from the people.

Again, I am Kayla Gomez testifying in opposition on HB1807 HD2.

My contact information is: kayla.giovanna@yahoo.com

LATE

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and all the members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

Thank you for taking the time to hear me.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1807 HD2.

Kyle Yamashita (Maui), HB1807 HD2's amendments are still very threatening to the arts.

We now can see how austerity politics and policies toward the art have affected communities and entire countries. A lack of self and a lack of provenance is detrimental to all. Culture, traditions, spirituality and art help entire community and their children cope with the stress and offer a non quantifying but very real sense of well being. Most therapists use the art to bring their patients back to a joyful and balanced life. Culture and arts stimulate circular economic impact that benefit many industries but particularly the tourism industry as it provide visitor with a sense of place and authenticity. Culture teaches where you are from and what the elders wanted to pass on, artists translate, innovate, actualize those concepts. Hawaiian culture was passed on through dance, music, weaving, painting, tapa making, petroglyphs....

Without that the island is just a rock surrounded by water, its history and particulars ways is what makes it appealing and attracting. Having traveled the world I can easily tell you that there are no places like Hawaii because of its people and its culture.

When we moved here my children were not having the easiest time to fit in. We turn to the art community and within weeks they were learning about the Hawaiian manners, traditions, history and ways that not only facilitated their insertion into a new world. During COVID this was the same community who kept my family busy and feeling helpful rather than helpless by fabricating and distributing masks and face shields to all the helpers in our community.

When the world is recognizing that art needs to be an integrate part of teaching as it fosters creativity the vital part of innovation. We cannot gut it financially but should double the efforts as the world needs critical and original thinkers to find original solutions to current and future issues.

My son was awarded scholarships and his application memorable to university because he had a sense of self, community and a vivid imagination. He is now studying AI and is looking how to use this emerging technology to help communities around the world by sifting informations that would help with medical solutions, and laugh at the people who think that it will take artists places as he knows that computers cannot replace the creative process that makes human the complex and always changing being we are.

World without a sense of self and purpose is a world of chaos, crimes, dysfunctions and instabilities. Hawaii, Japan, Italy, France tiny places in the world that have a huge impact on the world due to their culture and creativity. Their innovations as revered, copied and admired throughout the world. Without culture, without art you take away innovation and sense of self. 4 places with a true identity that attract people from all over the world to the point that now tourism is a huge economical factor.

This bill is seriously scary me and my family reminding me of the work of Hitler's and Mao Zedong. They both took art and suppressed culture and condemned their population and community to a life of making devoid of creating. Both countries have since realize that to truly be world leaders they needed to reinvest in their own culture

and artists community and now participating in the economy not just as fabricator but as innovator as well.

Albert Einstein said it best “Imagination is more important than knowledge” and Jules Verne said “Anything one man can imagine, other men can make real”. Let’s insure we keep imagination going as this is what propels the world forward and separated us from the animals, that and our opposable thumbs.

I remember Guy Para a tourism expert who was sent to the most beautiful places in the world to help them understand why none wanted to visit, or if they did they never came back. He had the same answers, places are people, if they do not have a sense of self, culture, art they are boring, unrelatable and that lack of identity made them unfit for tourism.

This bill would ERADICATE the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. This bill would impact over 10,000 kids, our next generation, ON EVERY ISLAND. It would also take away much-needed staff fees, creating a catastrophic domino effect. ERADICATES public art support, especially for our marginalized outer island communities that grossly lack culture and art representation within our public community spaces.

As the world turn from STEM to STEAM reintroducing art in technology, as university are looking not just at score but also at passions in culture and the arts in selecting there applicants. This bill will not only gut our current system it would also insured that non of the future leaders of our community are properly educated and get to attend the best of colleges and Universities. Please do not take away what is already a skeletal budget to one of the most important factor to our beautiful islands, its culture, sense of history and cultural background.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 6:32:36 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Asher Morgado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Asher Morgado, I am seventeen years old and i'm writing because I'm against this bill. I'm part of the newest boy group, Crossing Rain and we had the privilege of filming two of our recent music videos there and participated in March First Friday event. This is an amazing place that showcases not only music local artists, but so many creative artists from Hawaii. Will you please reconsider and allow the funds to keep Capital Modern still in working operarions so others can visit and experience such an amazing and unique museum.

Thank you for your consideration, Asher Morgado.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 6:37:39 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose [HB1807](#) which greatly reduces/eradicates the Art in Public Places Program. It also significantly and negatively impacts ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs, 124 public and charter schools on all major islands.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 6:57:54 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
micah kawaguchi- ailetcher	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

aloha.

i am writing to express my concern over hb1807 hd2 and the devastating blow it is poised to strike upon our local arts community.

i am from lahaina and i am currently an art teacher lahainaluna high school. i can say more about the importance of a healthy arts ecosystem, but i will first focus on highlighting the direct impact arts organizations have had for myself and the community i teach in in this last year.

a month after the fire, we were finally able to see our students and offer them a safe space for learning... but at a temporary location at a new school that didn't even have enough furniture on site for us, let alone any supplies for our classes.

it was a local arts organization that stepped up to provide us with art supplies (mahalo hui no'eau). in a matter of days they mobilized their network of connections and gathered boxes of art supplies to support our fine arts classes.

while at this temporary location, we often had to "make do" with what we had. so when we had to have classes out on the lawn due to space... having drawing boards and charcoals to take students outside for plein air drawing was a blessing. it meant that we weren't just surviving and making do with what we had, for that hour, we were making art. that does a lot for someone's self confidence and emotional well being.

during this time, we also had counsellors and mental health workers on site. we still do and they are a blessing. but it takes courage to visit them... and having a routine practice of art as a venue for expression is a key peice to the complicated puzzle that is our well being.

this example is just one thing that one arts organization did for us recently. i am not counting the other acts of directly donated supplies that routinely supplement our class budgets, academic support, field trips, art classes, visiting art and artist programs from across hawaii, the murals and galleries students get to visit in person and the online art resources that myself and my students have used EVERY school year. all coming from arts organizations that will be directly affected by this budget cut.

it is crucial that we have a healthy and diverse ecosystem of local arts organizations in hawaii. these organizations are already involved in our community and have a variety of avenues to disperse the good that art does. we already have the pipeline and process set up to take funds and turn it into happy and healthy keiki and adults.

being a public school teacher, i appreciate the thought behind the hd2 revision to appropriate funds for performing arts and other initiatives in our schools. we should support the performance arts in schools. however, this does not "cover" the greater loss of what this bill will effectively do to a multitude of arts organizations already working in our communities.

these arts organizations across hawaii provide the substance of the content i teach. they allow us to teach about art that is here, relevant and identifiable... and not just "art from the mainland". i am here to testify that hb1807 hd2 will in effect be a budget cut to the arts in our schools.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:05:48 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Omo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to the bill in its current form. Please re-inset the language relating to "renovation" on page 3, lines 8-10. This will ensure continued support for programs related to the arts in our schools and in the community.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:06:27 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Evonuk	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Sarah Evonuk and I strongly oppose HB 1807. As a graduate with a fine arts degree, I highly value the contributions of art to our community. Access to art is vital for the advancement of our society. The money allocated to the arts program should be increased, not decreased. While I understand money is tight and politics play a role in the motivation for this house bill, art benefits everyone and the 1% allotment needs to be left alone.
Mahalo

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:12:13 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristin wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:23:35 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Hee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1807 because of its devastating consequences on arts and culture practitioners and organizations accross the state and because of the harms it will inflict on Native Hawaiian communities. Please do not pass this bill.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:48:25 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kay Matsushige	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kay and I strongly urge you to vote against bill 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, and that would directly impact the immersive gallery experience and performance that my special education classroom participated in. Our students from Lanakila Elementary participated in the hands-on experience put together by the crew at the Hawai'i State Art Museum. It was a wonderful experience seeing the smiles on our children's faces and the freedom to explore and touch the environment and materials. Please allow this to continue for our special needs students who may have limited experiences due to their disability. I thank you for this consideration and allowing me to share my thoughts.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:49:04 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lanakila Makua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a professional artist born and raised on Maui I strongly oppose HB807! I was introduced to HSFCFA while attending Baldwin High School as one of the students on the advisory committee in 1995-96. Joe Na Kila's sculpture represented the past, present, and future. Art must continue to evolve and express the changing tides and moon phases. The knowledge gained from this valuable experience has been the foundation of my professional career. Associated with the CIM Consruction Industry of Maui, Hawai'i Community Foundation, and all of the local Art exhibitions on Maui that this will negatively impact! Please Kyle Yamashita think about the future, feel the present, and reflect on the past!

Mahalo,

Lanakila Makua

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:59:16 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luz of July buensuceso	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill. Art should be accesible to public!

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:44:16 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Matsumoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a born and raised resident of Maui County, public high school graduate and an individual working to make a career in art and design, I am writing to **strongly oppose** HB1807.

Repealing this landmark legislation is deeply disheartening to the groundwork and history our local advocates worked to put into place for all of Hawaii to enjoy today. The Art in Public Spaces programs and display of local art in public buildings has given our state a sense of ownership and community for decades. As students, it was a learning opportunity to view and study local artists right from our hometowns. Art touches people, communities and provides comfort for many. Art is expressed in many forms provides healing but also pride. I hope that you see the value, but also the support the art community has in Hawaii. Please consider all of Hawaii when thinking about this vote and what kind of Hawaii you hope to leave behind for generations to come.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:52:30 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Ing	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To my understanding, this bill would take away funding from the DOE teachers' ability to provide educational opportunities for the community. For that reason alone, I respectfully oppose this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:01:30 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Quinn Goo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 1807. As expressed by Masaru " Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. It makes a person aware, and that's what education's all about. So whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. It's the same body."

Hawaii is an incredibly unique place. We need to have our art on display to preserve and perpetuate the beauty of our culture. Art and museums are integral to supporting Native Hawaiian and local artists.

I am a student at the University of Hawai'i and I love our art gallery. I have been numerous times and stood there in awe of what people have created. Artists deserve a space to exist, to learn, to share, and to live with monetary compensation.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:01:59 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Yoshida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Cheryl Yoshida and I strongly urge you not to hear or not to pass bill HB 1807. The capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the State Foundation receives, that would directly impact my school's Dance program funded through the Artist in the Schools (AITS) Grant that we apply for in collaboration with our resident artist.

If HB1807 passes as written, we are looking at an almost 70% cut in funding for our AITS Grant which will deprive our students of quality arts integrated education. Public schools have already endured decades of continuous funding cuts that have consequently erased arts education including art, music, and dance instruction, especially for elementary students. If not for the AITS Grant, funded by this appropriation, our students would not get any arts instruction outside of the typical arts and crafts projects. AITS benefits students as well as teachers with Professional Development embedded in the grant.

Please do not pass HG1807 in consideration of our students who in these challenging times are in need of social emotional learning tools through art expression. Please consider investing in Hawai'i's children.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Mahalo,

Cheryl Yoshida

First Grade Teacher

Kamali'i Elementary, Kihei, Maui

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:33:47 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa L Montoya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Lisa Montoya and I strongly urge you NOT to hear HB 1807. This Bill would greatly decrease funding our school receives for our Artists in the Schools grant. This program invites an artist to come to our school each year to lead our Drama workshop "Finding Bravery Through the Ensemble." This program goes hand in hand with the middle school concepts of reaching the whole child. I am a language arts teacher, and I believe it's important for my students to be able to read and write at grade level, but I also believe it important to educate the whole child, and this includes teaching them to speak up, be brave, know when to lead and when to follow, and how to support the ensemble. Our Drama workshop, funded by the Artists in the School grant, teaches all of these important skills. Please do not remove funding for this important program for our middle school students.

Mahalo,

Lisa Montoya

Language Arts Teacher,

Moanalua Middle School

The Senate

The Thirty-Second Legislature Regular Session of 2024

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Senator Chris Lee, Chair

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Brandon J.C. Elfante; Dru Mamo Kanuha; Brenton Awa

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

3:00 PM

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

LATE

HB1807 HD2 (HSCR927-24)

RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND

Specifies that the works of art special fund's one per cent transfer requirement shall apply only to capital improvement appropriations for the original constructions of state buildings.

TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Lee and Committee Members:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit my testimony on HB1807 HD_2. I respectfully submit my opposition to HB1807 HD2 which amends the Works of Art Special Fund one per cent assessment to exclude

The House Finance committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting the exclusion of the construction of site work from the Works of Art Special Fund's one percent transfer requirement and instead applying the requirement to capital improvement appropriations for the original construction of state buildings.

Capital improvements appropriations for original construction of state buildings are minimal. Why delete the exclusion of the construction of site work (repairs/renovations) from the one percent transfer requirement?

Take away of funding, takes away opportunities for our island community's native Hawaiian Arts-Based Programs as well as impacting

over 10,000 children statewide. The impact will outsize the next generation of depriving our children and their teachers of songs, music, arts, creativity, and the wholesomeness of culture.

Please inoculate your kuleana by taking care of today for tomorrow.

Please do not pass this Bill to WAM.

Mahalo,

Stacy Helm Crivello

POB 1097, Kaunakakai, HI 96748

Stacy.c63@gmail.com

808658-0346

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:47:52 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Shimada	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposition of HB1807

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:56:17 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ekekela Napoleon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ekekela Napoleon and I am a Hawaiian, a musician, and a student studying music education at The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I plead and ask that House Bill 1807 would not be enacted. This bill would eliminate support for many art and culture enriching programs that benefit our keiki in a myriad of ways. As a Native Hawaiian artist myself, I understand the impact that art has on culture and people. More importantly, I have seen and experienced how art improves the lives of keiki all across the islands of Hawai'i. Art programs in the islands provide places for our keiki to learn of their culture and the cultures around them, they allow them to develop social emotional skills, and they allow them to understand themselves along with the world around them through creativity and expression.

So often do we as people of the State of Hawai'i talk about preserving and teaching culture, but if we let this bill through then our talk will not be heard by anybody and the state's cultural integrity will be damaged. The reduction of funding for arts and culture programs will eliminate events that uphold and share the aloha that our state thrives on. It is crucial, especially in this age, that the future generations of Hawai'i learn about their culture. This is because without a place to learn, there can be no understanding, and without understanding comes confusion that leads to conflict and pain in our beautiful islands.

Education in the arts gives our keiki the optimal environment for learning social emotional skills—something that the nation is in much need of. Suicide rates among youth 12-17 years old have increased by over 47.7 percent across the years 2011-2021. Our keiki are having an increase in mental health issues, and no renovated building could ever fix that. Yes, there are many other environments that allow keiki to learn social emotional skills, but art is the best environment because it beckons students not only to look outward, but inward. Over the years we have seen consistently that children across the nation are acting out in violent ways due to mental health issues, but this can be combatted through the teaching and understanding of social emotional skills. Art gives our keiki a chance to win the fight over their own minds, and without it they could lose.

In many ways, art saved my life. As a young man, I had constant suicidal thoughts. However, it was through the God given art of music that I was able to continue on. Through music I have learned so much. Music has allowed me to take a glimpse into the

lives of people from all kinds of backgrounds, cultures, and opinions. Music gave me a place to express myself. It was through my high school music program that I made my best friends, and learned some of my most crucial life lessons. I am so grateful that House Bill 1807 did not exist at that time, because if it had, I do not know where I would be. Art provides so much for the keiki of Hawai'i and it would be a shame— and a mistake—to let our programs disappear and die.

So again I ask, please do not let House Bill 1807 be heard. For the future of Hawai'i, and for the keiki, please do the right thing and allow art and culture programs to continue nurturing the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you so much for considering my perspective and my plea.

Aloha,

Ekekela Napoleon

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:02:45 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Hill	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807 which will cut funding for arts and culture in Hawaii. As an educator I have seen how these programs can motivate young people and change lives. The arts are a major part of our culture and community. The arts also create a positive economic impact, especially since so many people travel here to experience all that our islands have to offer - including our culture and arts! Aloha

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:15:15 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Kitamura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807 HD2 pertaining to funding cuts for the arts. Arts are a vehicle to education. If you're cutting art, you cut education and deminish the culture that we have.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:38:49 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Bareiszis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

All my life I have been apart of the art community in Hawaii. I have seen the wonderous things art on public places has done to inspire and make people dream of doing something creative. The fact that we even live in a timeline that challenges the usage of art in public places frankly robs others of the experience of art and how it can impact and help them understand and express themselves. The capitol modern not only brings people together but it also teaches future generations of people about the rich culture of Hawaii and why people should care about learning about Hawaiian culture to begin with. The capitol modern also provides kanaka artists with opportunities to help further their art careers to impact and reach a bigger audience something that can be difficult to achieve individually. Public art is not just art it's community and it is empowerment. Don't rob the experience for others. Please don't ruin local artists opportunity's. The state should be uplifting their local brothers and sisters not bringing them down. For this reason this bill should not pass. Thank you.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:39:24 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Ann Cala	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. As expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. It makes a person aware. And that's what education's all about. So whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. Its the same body."

Many of the galleries and organizations that will be affected influenced a major part of my young adult and early adulthood and continue to impact me now. They served as places for me to connect, be inspired, learn, grow, and ultimately feel rooted to my home, Hawaii. "Third places" in sociology are spaces outside of the home and work/school that serve solely as a place to find community in and these galleries and organizations are exactly that. I would be personally devastated if these were to lose funding and ever go away or even cease many of the wonderful, rich, diverse programs, events and activities they offer. A lot of which are free and open to the public! If we truly care about nurturing the future generations and creatives of Hawaii, we should NOT pass HB1807. Please please please continue to support, fund and uplift our art communities.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:43:09 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel 'ihilani Berman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Rachel 'ihilani Berman. I am a resident of Maui, where I was born and raised and grew up immersed in the arts. I fell in love with dance at a young age and went on to study and perform professionally in New York City. I returned to Maui in 2019 and have been nourished by numerous public arts programs and with these events and projects been given the hope and inspiration that I may continue to participate in art works in Hawai'i. Aside from my personal aspirations, which in the matters of art and art making cannot be separated from the whole, public art programs are a crucial, vital and irreplaceable necessity for the health and vitality of community life and I strongly oppose the amendments of this bill that would decrease and eliminate funding for important cultural programs and arts activities. Mahalo.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:44:47 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
brenda Rodriguez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will create such a horryfying affect on all art and art realted things. It will not only impact native Hawaiian artist, but local artist, all gallery exhibits and anything art related will cease to exist. So many people come to this island to experience the art and culture of these islands. To pass this bill is to end a vital experience of Oahu not just to visitors but to the people. You will be killing a huge source of peoples livelyhood, their souls, way of life and more. If the pandemic taught the world anything is that art and creativity is ESSENTIAL. Without it the world would be sucha boring place and everyone on lockdown would have absolutely nothing to do. Art creates, life, experiences, memories, moments. Art is a lifestyle, this would have such a significant downfall and if you are about the people on these islands you would NOT PASS THIS BILL

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:05:36 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cirialyn Valeriano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:13:57 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Gordon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In addition to having found my sense of community with others who attend and appreciate first Fridays at the Capitol Modern, I echo these remarks below:

Dear Chair and members of the Committee, I respectfully OPPOSE HB1807 which repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. While existing state buildings may have access to art, renovation funds are necessary to address the aging condition of works of art in state buildings. Renovation funds support the escalating costs associated with conservation, repair, and maintenance. As with State buildings, works of art require maintenance and repair.

Per HRS 103-8.5, the art in public places program does more than furnish art in state buildings. Removing renovations would adversely effect the art in public places program. Designating 1% appropriations from both construction and renovation provides a consistent funding base to carry out the intent of HRS 103-8.5 Works of Art special fund. Together, 1% appropriations from construction and renovation enable statewide programs which include acquisition and distribution of works of art, conservation of an aging exterior public art collection, interpretation of the collection, the Hawaii State Art Museum, applicable portions of the Artists in the Schools program, and recognition of student artwork.

Quoted from: Testimony of KAREN EWALD, Executive Director State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to the HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024 Conference Room 309 at 10:30AM

HOUSE BILL 1807
RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND

Mahalo,

Emily Gordon

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:14:26 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Linares`	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a passionate advocate for the arts and a professional within the Hawai'i art market, I am deeply troubled by the potential ramifications of bill HD2. While its aim to address arts funding seems well-intentioned, the current form poses a significant threat to the very essence of our vibrant cultural landscape.

HD2, by restricting the Works of Art Special Fund solely to new construction, effectively shuts the door on enriching existing state buildings with public art. This isn't just about aesthetics. Imagine walking through a sterile state library devoid of artistic expression. Does that truly reflect the rich tapestry of Hawai'i's creative spirit? Public art fosters a sense of place, sparking conversations, and igniting a sense of community pride for residents and visitors alike.

Furthermore, HD2 threatens the livelihoods of local and native artists. Public art projects in existing buildings provide invaluable opportunities for these talented individuals to showcase their work. By restricting these opportunities, HD2 hinders the growth of our artistic community and stifles the careers of deserving artists.

The economic impact of HD2 shouldn't be overlooked either. Tourists are drawn to Hawai'i not just for its natural beauty, but also for its cultural richness. Vibrant public art is a cornerstone of that cultural richness. By limiting opportunities for public art, HD2 could ultimately harm the very tourism industry it may intend to support.

Let's not paint ourselves into a corner. Instead of HD2, we need solutions that foster a thriving arts ecosystem. We need clear and stable funding for the Works of Art Special Fund, allowing for public art projects in both new and existing state buildings. Imagine the possibilities! Existing libraries transformed into inspiring spaces, government offices imbued with artistic energy – all while showcasing the talent of our local and native artists.

HD2, in its current form, represents a missed opportunity. Let's work together to champion a future where art thrives in every corner of Hawai'i, enriching our lives, invigorating our communities, and attracting visitors from across the globe. Let's oppose HD2 and advocate for a truly comprehensive approach that celebrates our artistic soul.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:21:58 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaden Vargas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please consider our future and how this passing will change it for the worse. Those with the ability to use art as a medium to express conceptions that are hard to talk in other communicative forms are very important and with the lack in funding for these individuals/organizations will later cease in operating with the use of art.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:33:57 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill on merit of loss of funding for crucial arts organizations, artists and art activities across the state. If anything, funding should be INCREASED for the arts, not diminished. The cultural loss that would come from the defunding resulting from this bill would be devastating for our communities across the islands, impacting sustainability and soundness of our institutions, individual community members both staff and creatives, and our communities collective spirit, vision and shared imagination. In times of trouble and strife, the work of visionary artists and organizations becomes more important than ever. Mahalo for opposing this bill and in doing so, supporting our capacity to vision together through by maintaining the arts, artists and organizations that make it possible. Aloha

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:48:03 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cee Tine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an art teacher of 30 years, as well as a teaching artist in the Honolulu community. Hundreds of my students have benefited over the years by participating with guest artists at school, after school, during the weekends and summers through funding from this program. We have painted murals, built sculptures, entered and participated in statewide art contests that have led many students to national awards.

I am strongly against taking money from this special fund and placing it elsewhere. With the problems we have encountered post pandemic, it is even more imperative that we use art as a tool for healing, peace and tolerance with our impressionable youth. Especially impacted would be our newcomers and Pacific Islander population.

I work at a public school in Kalihi that serves 5 surrounding federal housing projects. Our students stand to lose that most. Art promotes literacy, history, math, storytelling, and problem solving. Our students may not excel in reading and writing, but they can make art that communicates their experience of the world.

i beg you to reconsider the far reaching effects of NO ART PROGRAMS for our youth, the future leaders of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

A concerned teacher and artist

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 12:00:07 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Ha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807 because this would mean divesting from all art in Hawaii. As an artist, it's crucial we fund the arts. What would Hawaii be without it's art? It would be superficial to strip it's people and it's art. Art is a form of communication and a way to get together. Removing public art spaces and it's funding would remove communities.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 12:51:25 AM
Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evelyn Aczon Hao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because its result devastates the decades of commitment and work put into building our state's commitment to keeping the arts alive in Hawaii.

Art (visual, musical, dance, poetry, motion visuals, etc.) is vital to all. Our children in public schools are especially benefitted by art programs provided by Hawaii's artists who deliver educational programs that teach, stimulate thinking, build creativity, and develop interpersonal skills through the various art media.

As a retired teacher and school principal, I know the importance of Art in Public Places program not only to students but also to teachers who incorporate the arts into their specific subjects.

Please keep our art communities vital and growing. They are integral to the vitality and growth of the larger Community of Hawaii. Defeat this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 1:05:12 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Kapon Nakamura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Jordan Kapon Nakamura and I'm a kama'aina worker and I oppose HB1807 which would result in a 68% reduction in revenue for the Art in Public Places program which has been essential for local art spaces, programs, and initiatives vital to the support and acquisition of local art and local artists, and a large amount of support that would cease as a result of this bill affect Native Hawaiian serving local art programing. While arts programming in schools is important, it should not come at the sudden and essential expense of needed local art programming relying on the current already-meager funding available. Please support the culture and arts, so crucial to the wellbeing and mental and cultural health of the lahui. Mahalo.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 1:15:33 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daysin Detol-Ishimura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Daysin Detol-Ishimura, I'm an up and coming 23 year old R&B recording artist born and raised in Hawaii, my recording career has done a lot not only for myself, but also the people around me. I was able to see people bring themselves back from hard times by focusing on their artistic craft and skills, and being able to apply that skill/skills into the beautiful art community we have here on the islands. With this bill being passed, not only will bigger organizations risk being shutdown, but also the independent up and coming artist we'll be massively effected, with this bill being passed we won't be able to perform or express ourselves freely and be able to connect and network to ultimately build a bigger and better community. I really hope the state can take this letter into consideration.

Sincerely

-Daysin Detol-Ishimura

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 4:46:01 AM
Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manuel Gagarin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do not pass this bill. It contains misleading and deceptive verbiage that will destroy Hawaii's art programs.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 6:22:02 AM
Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melody Torres	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha honorable Chairs of the board,

I am writing to express my opposition to hb1807. Critically needed funding for the arts is being threatened with the passing of this bill. Art brings life and expression to the community and is already scarce in our lives. Its the first thing to be cut in public schools and the e need for it at some point in life is great.

please strongly reconsider the passing of this bill. I believe that the communities of Hawaii want these programs and galleries that support local artists. They're a lifeline for conveying to the world the lens we art through here in Hawaii.

thank you for your consideration

Melody Torres

Wings Hawai'i- a small business built upon the arts

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 6:29:58 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Louie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do not eliminate funding for state building renovations including Capital Modern. This museum is a beloved treasure for our community and many families enjoy the programming and art that is housed here.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 6:52:51 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melia Velez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill stifles the voices of local artists and strips them of both the profit and exposure under the guise of beautification. As both a member of the community and a strong supporter of local businesses, I fully oppose the passing of this bill.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 6:55:36 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kellie Dinwiddie Kala	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chir, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

i am writing to let you know that, although I am submitting late, I strongly oppose this bill. Passage of this bill would lead to a 66% reduction in revenue for the Art in Public Places program, which will lead to Capitol Modern ceasing all exhibitions immediately, decreasing public access to art. Further, support for Native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries, and organizations would end. **I urge you to defer this bill.**

That it has even made it this far in the legislative process is incredibly disappointing.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 6:59:34 AM
Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sera Hong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 7:02:42 AM
Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1807. as expressed by Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi at the inception of the SFCA, "art and education is the same. it makes a person aware. and that's what education's all about. so whether you verbalize, or see, or hear, it's the same thing. it's the same body."

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 7:13:04 AM
Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacquelyn Perreira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Art Bill

Jacquelyn Perreira

Regarding HB1807 HD2

The works of art special fund

3/19/2024

My name is Jacquelyn Perreira and I am a concerned local artist and mother who resides in the Honolulu area, specifically Makiki. I spend a lot of time in the Waialae and Kakaako areas.

I am testifying in opposition of HB1807 HD2 wherein it states that there is a “surplus” of art in the Honolulu Museum of Art and it threatens to immediately shut down our various other valuable art programs. Please do not pass this bill.

As someone who grew up in Mililani, I was in art during all four years of high school as well as Newswriting, where I worked on the school paper and yearbook. These two interests were absolutely integral to my development as an artist today— having my art class and art teacher there to give me the space to create— this really helped me develop my sensibilities and skills as an independent artist.

One of the most inspiring things to me is public art. In my adult life, I've become extremely interested in the power of public art, like murals on buildings or the street, as a tool for so many good things in the community. It is part of the arts program Research has shown that state-funded murals are capable of increasing pedestrian safety by forcing drivers and pedestrians alike to slow down, and pay attention. My major goal in 2024 is to focus on these projects full-time, to become a major project developer in this sector. I feel like it is such worthy work, and will add so much to the community. And I cannot do that if HB1807 is passed. Please, do not pass this bill. Please, allow us to use art to improve the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 7:35:30 AM
Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arisa Barcinas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 7:37:41 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lyle Roe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testifying in *very* strong opposition.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 7:42:37 AM
Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Prentice	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Sir or Madam,

Aloha - Thank you for considering the impact of HB1807 on my income and profession. The Arts in Public Places program is a primary, sustaining source of my profession and income. As a Teaching Artist and Education Expert, I visit schools to support their Social Emotional Recovery and increase their multicultural sensitivity using interactive art activities. Along the way, faculty and parents and the children are motivated to become future patrons and commerce contributors due to the arts literacy they gain from access to the Arts in Public Places program. Without this program, without the 1% for art law using renovations funds (a huge source of pride and bragging rights for Hawaii), a large population of voters will be rendered unemployed; and the community will return to segregated mindsets without access to the bridge-building of this vital education.

Thank you for voting "NO" on this hurtful proposal that would eliminate jobs and narrow equal access to employment and impact for our community.

Sincerely,

JOY PRENTICE

National Teaching Artist

Master of Education, S.T.E.A.M.

Groove For Good

Groove ~ Grow ~ Give Back

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 7:54:36 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
katlyn vogl	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art is a way for kids to express their creativity, create spaces of comfort, and really understand how the world around them works. arts are so essential to our humanity, it is much more than something pretty to look at. art can be a form of release which is si essential in these trying times. more money should be allocated for art not less. removing art funding harms the keiki and crushes people's souls.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 8:03:51 AM
Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie M Matsunaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

[SAG-AFTRA](#) represents over 1400 actors, recording artists, and media professionals in our state. We are the professional performers working in front of the camera and behind the microphone.

We support education and access to the arts; we support the State Foundation for Culture and the Arts and its decades-long history as a national leader in community-based arts funding; and we support keeping the funding for this important organization intact. [HB1807](#) HD 2 repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund.

While this measure seems innocuous on the surface, it would cut nearly 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, eliminating government support for many arts programs and initiatives statewide. The appropriation proposed in this measure would not make up for the drastic cut in funding. Here is a list of organizations and activities that will be affected:

***THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM - ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS WILL END IMMEDIATELY**

***SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

***EDUCATION PROGRAMMING**

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- SFCA Sponsored Professional Development for DOE Teachers and Teaching artists
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Art Bento Museum Education Program
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony for students grades 7-12

- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony for students grade K-6
- Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education support

Please do not pass this bill.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 8:16:18 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aren Blake	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Aren Blake.

I am an artist living on Kauai.

I have recently created a painting purchased by the state foundation that speaks to the victims of the Maui disaster,

I am writing to plead my case to not eliminate the artists voice and take away our funding.

the capitol improvements appropriations for renovations of state buildings is a large amount of funding that the state receives, that would directly impact my life as an artist should it no longer be available to the local individual artists of Hawai'i.

Kauai Society of Artists is the one place that artists can join together locally without having to go to Oahu to show their art and express themselves, adding to the color and culture of our unique islands. As a Kauaian, have little options here for expression in the Arts. The Hawaiian culture and supporting arts needs your support.

Mahalo for listening.

Aren Blake

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 8:23:33 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Gifford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this measure. It is obvious what is being attempted here...

Our state and community deeply appreciates art as a valuable part of our culture. Please do not cut funding to the works of art special fund.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 8:57:00 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gordon Wood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The 1% of construction costs that we, the people of Hawaii, contribute to ensuring a vibrant arts community, arts education, and acquisition and maintenance of significant works of arts by local artists is a small price to pay for a legacy that will sustain our community for generations to come. HB1807 is mean spirited and does not take account of the significant value arts bring to our lives each and every day. Please kill this bill, and the wrong-headed thinking behind it.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 9:02:32 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mandee Jove	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Art is a crucial standpoint for a lot of visitors and locals to Hawaii. The art museums and displays of public art are loved by many and cutting the funding to these places will hurt the Hawai'i Art Community and all that they've worked hard for.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 9:21:05 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Frohlich	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha- I'm writing to **oppose** HB1807.

As a resident deeply invested in the cultural vibrancy and public life of our beautiful state, I must express my strong opposition to House Bill 1807, which seeks to repeal the requirement for capital improvement program appropriations for the renovation of state buildings to contribute to the works of art special fund.

Art is not merely ornamental; it is the lifeblood of our communities, feeding the human spirit and enriching our collective experience. The preamble of the bill rightly acknowledges the proud legacy of Hawaii as the first state in the nation to adopt a percent-for-art law, a testament to our commitment to enhancing public access to the arts and beautifying our state buildings.

Repealing the requirement for renovations to contribute to the works of art special fund would undermine the principles that underpin this legacy. By removing this funding mechanism, we risk devaluing the presence of art in public spaces and diminishing opportunities for local artists. Public art installations are not mere adornments; they are expressions of our values, histories, and aspirations as a people.

The assertion that the State possesses a surplus of artwork in storage for future use does not justify this repeal. I urge you to consider the far-reaching consequences of this bill and to uphold our longstanding commitment to supporting the arts in Hawaii. Let us continue to invest in the cultural enrichment of our communities and ensure that art remains an integral part of our public life.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Danielle Frohlich

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 9:26:02 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn M Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1807 HD2

Sincerely,

Lynn Young

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 9:29:52 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Holder	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art education is a cornerstone of a healthy democratic society where our children are nurtured to express their beautiful individuality through constructive outlets.

there has got to be a better way to balance the State Budget without cutting important educational programs in the schools & museums!

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 9:31:09 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mililani Takeda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and to whom it may concern,

I am vehemently begging whomsoever reads this to NOT CUT public art funding as this bill proposes. Unfortunately I don't understand all of what is being proposed, but public art funding is NECESSARY for supporting education, expression, health, and community. Art-making is one of those primal human characteristics that all people have a right to learn; by supporting art-making and art education in schools, museums, and special programs, generation after generation will have the means to access this knowledge which is a human birthright. This bill is not a bill that has its eyes on the good of posterity; and especially in the current affairs and state of our world right now, compassion and care and consideration of posterity must come to the fore. Budget cuts can happen elsewhere. Well-funded art programs represent one of the beacons of expression, freedom, creativity, and community that we must all strive to uphold. The chipping away of public art programs is symptomatic of devaluing culture, devaluing history, devaluing what makes humans human.

Thank you for reading. I hope these words do not fall on deaf or ignorant or unkind ears. Aloha.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 9:40:08 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reina Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1807, which proposes to cut funds for public art and local artists and organizations. As a member of the arts community, an hawaii based artist and a concerned citizen, I firmly believe that such cuts would have detrimental effects on our cultural & economical landscape and community well-being.

Public art plays a crucial role in enriching our cities and neighborhoods. It fosters cultural vibrancy, promotes civic engagement, and enhances the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. By cutting funds for public art, we risk losing valuable opportunities to beautify our surroundings, celebrate our heritage, and inspire creativity.

Furthermore, reducing support for local artists and arts organizations would have far-reaching consequences. These individuals and groups contribute immensely to our cultural identity, economic vitality, and social cohesion. They provide employment opportunities, drive tourism, and offer educational programs that benefit people of all ages and backgrounds.

At a time when our communities are facing numerous challenges, including economic uncertainty and social disparities, investing in the arts is more important than ever. Art has the power to unite us, spark dialogue, and foster empathy—a critical need in today's divisive world. Cutting funds for public art and local artists would only serve to exacerbate existing inequalities and diminish the cultural fabric of our society.

I urge you to reconsider HB1807 and its proposed cuts to public art funding and support for local artists and organizations. Instead, I encourage policymakers to explore alternative solutions that prioritize the arts as a vital component of our collective well-being and prosperity.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue. I hope you will take action to preserve and strengthen support for public art and the arts community in our region.

Sincerely,
Reina Young

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 9:45:50 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Sucec	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear law makers,

I have been an artist for over 30 years. The importance of art and how it saves and enriches lives cannot be understated. Please, please, please do not cut one cent! All funds are desperately needed to preserve what the state has now. We need more funding not less! Take one very small example of the practical side of art, after the Lahaina fires many fundraisers were held, televised and shared throughout the globe. What did they share to motivate people? ART! Hula, song, music, visual art auctions, performance of all sorts, etc. Art is the fabric of life. We cannot live fully without it. I urge you to please oppose HB 1807 or any bill that requires the loss of even one dollar of arts funding. Mahalo, Nicki

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 9:49:16 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayleen Barino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Protect public art now and for the generations to come! People over profit, always. I strongly oppose HB1807

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 9:49:26 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Orfe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My understanding of this bill is that it aims to divvy the one percent for art away from acquisitions and into... school programs?

Maybe i am not understanding correctly.

Over the past decade alone, the state has witnessed arts programs disappearing and shutting down. There should be funding for arts programs in the schools - arts (visual and performing) are important for individual development and teach crucial skills other subjects may only assume exist. There should be arts programs for the public. Recently Capitol Modern has been doing great things - showcasing local artists of different genres in ways that are accessible and lively. None of the arts fund should be cut or reappropriated. The current program also sustains some long-lived, community-active arts organizations that are rather vital to independent artists.

I do not feel the proposed modificiation (House Bill 1807) would be beneficial, period.

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 10:04:22 AM
Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Jevin Capacia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose hb1807

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 10:09:23 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serina Dunham	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I work at Honolulu Theatre for Youth (HTY), an organization that brings theatre/art/entertainment/comfort to thousands of keiki in our State each year. HTY is going into the 70th season this coming July, and has always relied a great deal funding from the State Foundation of Culture and the Arts. The grants have helped us deliver theatre not only at our home base in Honolulu, but also to the more remote locations of our neighbor islands. Our new partnership with Capitol Modern also heavily relies on grants by SFCA that opened new doors to creating shows to audiences on the autistic spectrum. Funding in the arts are essential to the well being of our keiki, and entire ohana in our community. Please don't cut the funds that allow us do these important work!

also, a message from Mr Rogers on these entertainment platforms for the keiki ring true here too:

<https://youtu.be/fKy7ljRr0AA?si=Gj-Fhq0pFgFIgKfn>

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 10:09:27 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicky James Munoz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Opposition to HB1807 - Proposed Cuts to Arts Funding

Dear Esteemed Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my profound and unwavering opposition to House Bill 1807, an ill-conceived measure that seeks to enact detrimental cuts to the funding allocated to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) special fund. As a dedicated member of the arts community and a concerned resident of our beloved Hawai'i, I implore you to recognize the critical importance of sustaining robust support for the arts and to reject this regressive legislation.

At the outset, I must underscore the indispensable role that the arts play in our society, serving as a cornerstone of cultural expression, community cohesion, and individual well-being. Through a rich tapestry of visual arts, music, dance, literature, theater, and other creative disciplines, the arts serve as a powerful vehicle for communication, reflection, and exploration of the human experience. They provide a platform for diverse voices and perspectives to be heard, fostering empathy, understanding, and dialogue across communities and generations.

The impact of the arts extends far beyond mere entertainment; they are an integral component of our collective identity and heritage, weaving together the fabric of our cultural landscape. The preservation and promotion of our cultural heritage through artistic expression are essential for maintaining a sense of continuity and belonging, particularly in a rapidly changing world. Moreover, the arts have a profound and transformative effect on individuals, nurturing creativity, critical thinking, and social-emotional development, particularly among our youth.

Furthermore, it is crucial to recognize the significant economic contributions of the arts sector to our state's economy. Arts and cultural activities generate substantial revenue, create jobs, and stimulate tourism, thereby bolstering local businesses and revitalizing communities across the islands. By investing in the arts, we not only enhance the quality of life for all residents but also cultivate an environment conducive to sustainable economic growth and prosperity.

House Bill 1807 represents a misguided and shortsighted attempt to curtail support for the arts, which would have far-reaching and detrimental consequences for our state. By slashing funding to the SFCA special fund, this legislation threatens to undermine vital programs, initiatives, and services that support artists, educators, and cultural organizations statewide. Such draconian

measures would stifle creativity, limit access to arts education, and deprive our communities of the countless benefits that the arts afford.

Furthermore, the proposed cuts send a troubling message about the value and importance of the arts in our society, suggesting that they are expendable luxuries rather than essential components of our cultural and economic vitality. This is a disservice not only to our artists and cultural practitioners but also to the broader community, which relies on the arts to enrich our lives, stimulate our minds, and nourish our souls.

In light of these considerations, I urge you to reject House Bill 1807 and to instead champion measures that recognize the intrinsic value of the arts and invest in their continued growth and flourishing in our state. We must reaffirm our commitment to supporting the arts as a fundamental pillar of our cultural heritage, economic prosperity, and social well-being. Let us work together to ensure that Hawai'i remains a beacon of creativity, diversity, and cultural enrichment for generations to come.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter and for your dedication to serving the interests of the people of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Nicky James "Melon" Munoz

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 10:10:32 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
HENRY IAN CUSICK	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this as i believe it would cut nearly 70% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, eliminating government support for many arts programs and initiatives statewide. The appropriation proposed in this measure would not make up for the drastic cut in funding.

Mahalo

HI Cusick

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 10:13:49 AM
Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emilia Kini	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 10:31:38 AM
Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Giulia Moriondo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whomever this concerns,

My name is Giulia Marengo di Moriondo. I am a resident of Honolulu.

I am writing this testimony to express my opposition to the proposed HB1807.

As a resident of the state, I so enjoy the art events and shows which are made possible by the special fund. If taken away, not only will you be effecting the livelihood of many artists - a lot of whom are Kanaka Maoli, but as well you are impacting the patrons of these events and businesses.

These spaces for art, and shows, allow not just a space for our talented local artists to display their work, but it is a community. It brings people together, and to take that away would be wrong.

I urge you to not allow this to pass, and keep the funds for those who need it - our own. The local artists of Honolulu and all over Hawai'i.

Thank you ,

Giulia Marengo di Moriondo

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 10:32:07 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Pro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill which would remove important art funding from organizations in Hawai'i. I am a Kona artist and am aware of how funding for the arts impacts the positive mental health of both children and adults in our communities. Additionally, as a state know for its culture and arts, these funds are essential to preserving the rich and diverse culture of this place.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 10:40:17 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Henderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I, Daniel Croix Henderson, oppose HB1807 HD2. Funding for the arts is essential for the prosperity, health, and well being of our community.

The arts bring our community together, activate aloha ‘āina responsibilities, and nourish our hope for a future of balance and collective prosperity.

It is not in the interest of our community to diminish funding for the arts in Hawai‘i. Please vote NO for HB1807 HD2.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 10:46:31 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eun Ho Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"What do you do with the mad that you feel
When you feel so mad you could bite?
When the whole wide world seems oh so wrong
And nothing you do seems very right.
What do you do?
Do you punch a bag?
Do you pound some clay or some dough?
Do you round up some friends for a game of tag
And see how fast you go?
It's great to be able to stop
When you've planned something that's wrong.
And be able to do something else instead
And think this song:
I can stop when I want to
Can stop when I wish
Can stop stop stop anytime
And what a good feeling to feel like this
And know that the feeling is really mine.
Know that there's something deep inside
That helps us become what we can
For a girl can be someday a lady
And a boy can be someday a man."

May 1, 1969: Fred Rogers testifies before the Senate subcommittee on Communications. <https://youtu.be/fKy7ljRr0AA?si=Gj-Fhq0pFgFIgKfn>

I oppose this bill due to its impact of reducing funding that serves various arts and culture organizations and practitioners in Hawai'i. I believe the impacted organizations contribute immensely to the development and perpetuation of essential intangible forces critical to forming and cultivating a thriving society and civilization for all. Moving towards a health-full community requires meaningful care, of which mindful financial appropriation is essential.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your thoughtful reconsideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

Eun Ho Lee

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 10:59:10 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kellie Miyazu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support bill 1807. As a member of the arts community i feel that the impacts of this bill will be devastating.

The SFCA does so much wonderful work, cutting their ability to support local artists, arts education, and arts non-profits throughout the state would be a huge disservice to the community.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 11:10:24 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faryn Achi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art is important, art is essential, and any form of art is a form of power. It has impact, it can affect change, it can not only move us, it makes us move.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 11:16:47 AM
Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jack rabanal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I do not stand for the HB1807 HD2 bill, because as a Dancer, Educator, and Performer working with the youth the support and funding for the arts is crucial. The oppertunities that benefit the youth with growth in their communities can only lead us in the right direction for the future.

Mahalo,

Jack

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 11:45:13 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ace Sinclair	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Ace Sinclair and I am a young professional born and raised in Honolulu. I am testifying on the importance of continued and deepened investment into arts and culture. I believe this is a key pillar of our society, and that reducing funding to foundations which comprise this cornerstone is a deep mistake.

A thriving arts and music culture is not only key to making our home as vibrant and expressive as it can be, it is also a support structure to the local economy. From professionals employed by museums to the businesses supplying raw materials to artists, the dollars we invest in arts and culture come back into our own community. As someone who has remained involved in the arts from a young age, I have witnessed firsthand the economic benefits of creative investment. So often we speak of diversifying our economy beyond tourism. Through investments into arts and culture, we can provide a boon to both locals and tourists alike. I urge you not to ignore the very real economic benefits at stake here.

Live concerts—like ones provided by HoMA and Capitol Modern—is beneficial to mental health and community health. Engaging with live music has demonstrated significant cognitive, physical, and emotional benefits in several studies. Engaging with art and in the creative process provides similar cognitive benefits. In fact, participation in the arts has been linked to increased civic engagement and greater social tolerance. It brings people together, often literally: arts events and arts spaces provide so-called third places, community gathering points which exist beyond work and home. Third places are essential to community creation, sustainability, and resilience. In the wake of our recent tragedies, the people of Hawai'i both require and deserve those social benefits.

I have watched the much-feared brain drain settle in upon my beloved home state for each of my thirty years of life. When I and my childhood friends went off to college, nearly every one of us planned to move back. 13 years later, I am one of very few who's been able to return. It's not just the salaries and the cost of living that drive people to the mainland—it's what you get for it. Decreasing the availability of arts in public spaces will exacerbate this, not alleviate it. We

should be seeking to provide more cultural outing opportunities, not less. We should make this a place people want to live not simply due to family ties or history, but because of its unique and lively culture. Luckily for us, we already have a unique and lively culture—we just need to keep funding it, keep showing it, bolstering it.

Arts in public spaces, accessible art, art for the people, make our state more livable and lovable. They propel our communities economically and bring people together—something we desperately need now more than ever. We owe it to ourselves, so that we live in the best possible state that we can. We owe it to our kupuna, so that they can yield the social and cognitive benefits of arts engagement, and sustain their quality of life in their later years. Finally, we owe it to our keiki, so that they have the opportunity to engage with their creative hearts and minds, and may grow into the cultural leaders of the future that we know they can be.

Mahalo for your time and consideration on these matters.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 11:58:35 AM
Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael G. Hadfield	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose [House Bill 1807](#), because it would produce a barrier to the state's excellent support of the arts in Hawaii. The 1% law in our state was the first in the nation and has now been copied by many other states to support the arts. The reasons provided for the bill are definitely wrong, e.g., that the state "has enough art."

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 12:00:34 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chandra M	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an art educator, I have experienced and see the great value and importance of the arts to humanity, the youth and our communities in Hawai'i.

Please, Support, the arts and local artists of Hawaii in maintaining funds available for the future.

LATE

RE: Testimony of Kayla Oshiro
Strong Opposition to HB1807: Relating to the Works of Art Special Fund
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
March 19, 2024

Aloha members of the committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the bill that would significantly reduce revenue for the Art in Public Places Program in Hawai‘i. As a young citizen who deeply understands the transformative power of art in healing and wellness, I believe that any cuts to this program would have devastating consequences for countless arts organizations and individual artists across all the islands.

Art is not just a form of self-expression; it is a fundamental aspect of our humanity. It fosters creativity, imagination, and emotional well-being. For many individuals, particularly those facing adversity or struggling with mental health challenges, art serves as a lifeline—a means to process emotions, find solace, and connect with others. The Art in Public Places Program plays a vital role in supporting these artistic endeavors, providing crucial funding and resources that enable artists to thrive and contribute positively to our communities.

Furthermore, art has the power to celebrate diversity and promote understanding among people from different backgrounds. In a state as diverse as Hawai‘i, where cultural richness is celebrated and valued, the arts serve as a unifying force that brings people together, fosters dialogue, and strengthens our sense of belonging.

The proposed bill jeopardizes not only the financial stability of numerous arts organizations but also the well-being of our communities. I urge you to reject this bill and instead support initiatives that promote and preserve the arts in our state.

Please recognize the profound impact that art has on our lives, embrace the importance of creativity and self-expression, and uphold our commitment to nurturing a vibrant and inclusive arts community for the betterment of all Hawai‘i residents.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Kayla Oshiro

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 12:50:03 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Nomura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & members of the Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

I am an artist and art conservator and would like to express that I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** HB1807 HD2.

Passing this bill would **ERADICATE** the Art in Public Places Program. It would also end support for Professional Development for ALL DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs.

Art is not just something that people create to have something pretty to look at. Art is also a practice, culture, history, representation, a way of expression that cannot and shouldn't be taken away like colonialism has done in the past. Hawaii has already experienced their culture and identity attempted to be taken away, this bill will be no different. Not only will this bill prevent new projects from being funded but will also remove older art collections and artifacts from needing the conservation and preservation they need for history to not be forgotten. This bill would impact not only our children, but also future generations and eventually the economy. This 1% funding that this bill is trying to take away has helped educate, nurture, and grow communities which help create a safe and loving environment that also bring forth a better economic growth. I sincerely thank you for your consideration to oppose bill HB1807.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 12:55:02 PM
Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tai Stangeland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of the arts program here on island and pushing for citizens and artists to continue having avenues/creative spaces where they can express their work.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 1:06:11 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamey Muraoka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose bill - the arts are important to the wellbeing of locals who have been utilizing this as their lifeline to survive in a tourist driven state.

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 1:11:03 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Sato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's very disappointing that our elected officials would slash this bill that serves the people of Hawaii. I strongly OPPOSE this bill

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 1:25:20 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Kent	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Lee and Members of the Committee,

Please do your part to stop this problematic bill. Perpetuating our cultural heritage and history through the arts should be a central tenant and marker of a healthy and well functioning civic society.

HB1807 HD2 is extremely short-sighted and will only contribute towards more cultural divisiveness and ignorance over time.

The arts and cultural festival funding should be things we all protect and strengthen over time, not tear down just to score cheap short-sighted political points.

Thank you for doing what's right and ending this shameful measure.

-Daniel Kent

LATE

HB-1807-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 1:51:16 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/19/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
WOOSUNG LEE	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ridiculous bill. Shame on you Senator Yamashita.

This bill will kill local artists, galleries and the vibe of contemporary Hawaiian arts.

We should support local arts and the artists so that they can breathe and make their voices to perpetuate Aloha and Hawaiian arts regardless profits and the existing fund is the minimum required.

I strongly oppose to this bill.

Regards,

Woosung Lee