

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Wednesday, February 14, 2024
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HB 1939
RELATING TO THE ARTS.

Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports HB 1939 that appropriates funds to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) to establish a statewide arts program, providing greater access to the arts for children and communities in need, with a focus on those affected by the Maui wildfires.

The music, arts and culture of these islands are the heartbeat of Hawai'i. The arts can be beneficial in helping affected communities move toward recovery. This is of particular importance given the devastation experienced by our keiki and their families in the wildfires of 2023.

Existing outreach programs in Arts Education and related initiatives of the SFCA can bring arts-based healing and self-expressive activities for our youth through drawing, writing, music-making, and dance into their recovery work. With community health practitioner alliances in Maui County, this initiative for young survivors to safely process their experiences can be instrumental in their healing process.

DBEDT and its Creative Industries Division support HB1939 and would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with SFCA, where needed, to initiate this effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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 1939
RELATING TO THE ARTS

No. 1 Capitol District Building
250 South Hotel Street
Second Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Karen A. Ewald

Telephone
808.586.0300

Fax
808.586.0308

Website
sfca.hawaii.gov

Dear Chair Tam and members of the Committee,

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) respectfully **SUPPORTS** H.B. 1939 which appropriates funds to the SFCA to provide greater access to the arts for children and communities in need, with a focus on those affected by the Maui wildfires.

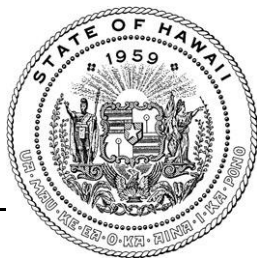
State Arts Agencies play an important role in traumatic recovery efforts for artists and art programs. Specifically, as an information provider, identifying funding sources, developing partnerships, and connecting people and resources. The long-term response to mental health is an area where culture and the arts can make a difference. It gives communities a purpose and a unifying rallying point. Culture provides a sense of well-being and helps people cope.

ARTS Healing

To date, the SFCA is supporting out-of-school arts engagement activities for those affected by the Maui fires: kupuna, veterans, those experiencing houselessness, rural communities, and other communities of people that may not always have access to arts education experiences. The SFCA has partnered with the Department of Health and Hawai'i Community Foundation to administer arts and healing programming.

The community expectation and demand for funding support through relief support outweighs the staff and funding resources of the SFCA. In order to develop a long-term recovery plan, the SFCA will require additional staff and funding resources to support the Maui culture and arts sector.

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



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Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports HB 1939 that appropriates funds to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) to establish a statewide arts program, providing greater access to the arts for children and communities in need, with a focus on those affected by the Maui wildfires.

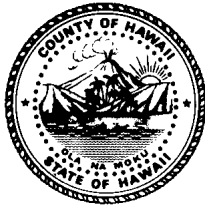
The music, arts and culture of these islands are the heartbeat of Hawai'i. The arts can be beneficial in helping affected communities move toward recovery. This is of particular importance given the devastation experienced by our keiki and their families in the wildfires of 2023.

Existing outreach programs in Arts Education and related initiatives of the SFCA can bring arts-based healing and self-expressive activities for our youth through drawing, writing, music-making, and dance into their recovery work. With community health practitioner alliances in Maui County, this initiative for young survivors to safely process their experiences can be instrumental in their healing process.

DBEDT and its Creative Industries Division support HB1939 and would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with SFCA, where needed, to initiate this effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jennifer Kagiwada
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: February 13, 2024

TO: House Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs

FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2

SUBJECT: HB 1939

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

I am writing to you in **support of HB 1939**. This bill will provide funding for The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to support arts and healing programs in Maui recovery efforts. The value of the impact of the arts, in the community, and on mental health cannot be overstated during a tragedy of this magnitude. This funding will benefit both the artists who participate and who have lost so much, and also the community as a whole as a means to processing their grief and finding healing during this sensitive time. This will be a living testament to the power of human perseverance and will help us capture the emotions and experience of residents after the immediate loss and during this time of healing, which will help future generations put the magnitude of this event into perspective as well.

Please pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB 1939**.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenn Kagiwada'.

Jenn Kagiwada

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 11:33:46 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Dupree	Lanai Arts & Culture Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha from Lana'i,

Our organization serves a small community directly affected by the fires in Lahaina.

After the fires, many on Lana'i lost friends and family, with several families returning to Lana'i as they had lost everything in the fire. With family and friends concerned about the missing, and some family members still in burn units, not just here in Hawaii, but a few were also sent to the mainland as their burns were also complicated by other health issues which arose from their injuries, emotions still run high as their concerns increased.

The Lana'i Arts & Culture Center (LAC) has been an entity for over 30 years, and our instructors are well versed in their skills. LAC has programs which are of value to our community as we strive to promote the visual arts, and address some of the trauma our community is experiencing.

Art plays a significant role in supporting individuals recovering from trauma. Trauma can leave individuals with emotional wounds, and art provides a way to communicate experiences when they are unable to verbally express them. By becoming active creators, people regain the freedom and joy of creative self-expression, bringing them into the now as they pour their emotions into art. (Kaimal, 2020)

While we are an Art Center, we are here to address whatever needs our community requires. Whether it be supplies, space or instruction, we are here to ensure that the needs of our community are met. We have a variety of art forms which include ceramics, textiles, glass, painting, and woodworking with knowledgeable instructors.

Art provides a safe space for survivors and their families to express, heal, and find solace through creativity. It also bridges the gap between words and emotions, allowing each person to navigate trauma in a way that suits everyone.

I am in full support of the arts and its ability to bring joy to those who participate, and the healing process it also creates.

Mahalo for your time,

Kimberly Dupree – Co-ED Lana'i Art Center

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

Testimony to the House Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs February 14th, 2024, 10:30; Videoconference HB1939 HD1 Relating to the Arts

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Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs.

We write in strong support of HB1939 which appropriates funds to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to provide greater access to the arts for children and communities in need. Mental Health America of Hawai'i (MHAH), an affiliate of the renowned national organization, is a highly regarded 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving the State of Hawai'i. For nearly 80 years, MHAH has been fulfilling its mission "to promote mental health & wellness through education, advocacy, service, and access to care" through its vision of 'mental wellness for all.' We endeavor to reduce the shame and stigma of mental illness and improve the overall care, treatment, and empowerment of those with or at risk for mental health challenges across all stages of life in Hawai'i.

PRO BONO LEGAL COUNSEL

Paul Alston

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Research has proven the significant impact on improving mental health, wellness, and resilience, and is often used as a type of therapy in clinical mental health interventions. Increasing access to the arts can play a critical role in the ongoing healing of youth in Hawaii. This is particularly critical considering the youth mental health crisis and the ongoing trauma resulting from the Maui fires. Youth are especially impacted by disasters of this scale with the most manifested conditions being trauma, depression, anxiety, and substance use, with further impact trickling down from those who take care of them. In addition to the impacts of the fire, youth were already, and continue to be, severely impacted by the pandemic, with the CDC noting that COVID-19 created traumatic stressors for youth mental wellbeing. *Evidence has demonstrated that there is a critical need for mental health and resilience education and suicide prevention programs for all youth, including art-based interventions.* Late last year, the SAMHSA released its *National Guidelines for Child and Youth Behavioral Health Crisis Care* to express the need to improve prevention efforts and crisis response for children and youth. Earlier that same year, the US Surgeon General declared a youth mental health crisis in the U.S. According to the Hawaii Department of Health's Injury Prevention and Control Sections EMS & Injury Prevention System Branch, death by suicide was the second leading cause of fatal injuries in Hawai'i between 2016 and 2020. During the same period, suicide was the 4th leading cause of fatal injury for those 0 – 15 years of age, and the 1st leading cause for those between the ages of 16 and 29.

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

Youth in Hawai'i are in critical need of services and we strongly urge you to pass this legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

Respectfully,



Bryan L. Talisayan
Executive Director

Bryan.Talisayan@mentalhealthhawaii.org

**TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII ARTS ALLIANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CULTURE, ARTS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
February 14, 2024, Conference Room 309 and video conference at 10:30 AM
HB1939 RELATING TO THE ARTS**

Aloha Chair Tam and members of the committee,

I am Beth-Ann Kozlovich, Executive Director of the Hawaii Arts Alliance. We are grateful for the opportunity to submit testimony in great **SUPPORT** of this bill.

The important link between self-expression through the arts and mental health has been well-documented. In September 2023, the World Health Organization announced it would build on its 2019 report with a new research series to further show the healing power of the arts.

<https://www.who.int/news/item/25-09-2023-ground-breaking-research-series-on-health-benefits-of-the-arts>

The 2019 report presented evidence of the function of the arts in promoting improved health and well-being. For all Hawaii's people, especially children and those who continue to feel the impact of the Maui wildfires and other traumas, mental health healing through the arts is vital.

The Hawaii Arts Alliance has had its own stories of the healing power of the arts. For example, last week, one of our dance teaching artists on Maui shared that on the first day of her residency at a Kihei Elementary School, a little girl was sobbing uncontrollably. A little boy came up to the dance teacher and whispered "She's a Lahaina girl." The dance teacher sprung into action and applied the techniques she knew to work with trauma, dimming the lights, and having all students slowly stretch and move to peaceful music. We hear from the dance teacher that the little Lahaina fire survivor is thriving in the school and is one of the teacher's best dancers.

Community health is based on the duality of good physical and mental health. Mental health healing through the arts can provide a much-needed bridge to a healthier future for those suffering from trauma, and by extension, to a healthier community for all when grounded in well-being through the arts.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:30:23 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maile Loo-Ching	Hula Preservation Society	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. We are in full support of this measure as we know first-hand the value of artistic endeavors, activities, and experiences for each and every one of us. Yet when our soul is in need of healing, tragedy has struck, and/or we are facing challenges we never thought we would, the arts are a way to process, express, heal, recover, gain strength, and find peace, among many other benefits. The more avenues the better for Maui recovery, especially for the young ones who have suffered more than any little one should. Mahalo for your vision of helping with healing and recovery - for our Maui children and ‘ohana especially - through the gifts of the arts.



February 13, 2024

To the House Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs:

I am writing this letter in strong support of House Bill 1939 (HB1939), which proposes to appropriate funds to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) to develop partnerships with arts organizations and establish a statewide arts program to provide greater access to the arts for children and communities in need. I have witnessed 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.

Here on Maui, we have closely felt the devastating impacts that the August 2023 wildfires have had on the community – impacts that have been most pronounced for those who suffered family loss or were directly displaced, but that have also had a ripple effect on the island as a whole. In the wake of this tragedy, we have also seen firsthand how important the arts can be as a source of healing and as a channel for emotional expression, whether through different initiatives that have taken place at Maui Arts & Cultural Center or efforts led by other non-profit and volunteer groups around the island.

We strive to offer our gallery exhibits and programs as safe spaces that are accessible to community, and since reopening in the aftermath of the wildfires, we've received a number of comments from visitors of all generations who have stated how these various art experiences have been restorative and helped them to process the circumstances. Given Maui Arts & Cultural Center's prior work with SFCA, I have great confidence that, should HB1939 pass, SFCA would be able to develop a meaningful initiative to provide art programs to children in need and disaster-impacted communities, with a focus on those on Maui who have been affected by the wildfires and with an eye for cultivating a foundation of essential support for future times of need.

I highly support the provisions listed in HB1939 and encourage you to recommend this significant piece of legislation for passage.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Yukio Clark
Director, Schaefer International Gallery

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Kahului, HI 96732

Phone: (808) 242-ARTS

FAX: (808) 242-4665

www.mauiarts.org

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 11:43:09 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Solomon Enos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A testimony in Support for HB1939.

To the Chairperson Representative Adrian K.Tam and Vice Chairperson Representative Rose Martinez in the House Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs.

Wednesday February 14th at 10:30am in Conference Room 309 at the Hawai'i State Capitol, 415 South Beretania st.

I am testifying in Support for House Bill 1939

My name is Solomon Robert Nui Enos, Artist in Residence at Capitol Modern, Hawai'i State Art Museum. In this role, which is purely voluntary, I help to instill a sense of wonder and passion for the arts to the many various schools and patrons who visit the museum.

The tragic events in Maui has effected all the people of Hawai'i, and the support and aloha that came as a response, brought out the very best from our communities in ways that has made us that much more appreciative of our deep tradition of aloha. The physical and monetary support to help rebuild and restore the Maui communities left devastated by these fires, are a crucial and obvious way to help bring life from out of the ashes. What cannot be seen and healed so easily, is the trauma and loss because of this calamity.

It is the healing of the spirit, the soul, a sense of renewal, and the foundation for hope, that the arts bring, and it is the vital component to making these communities whole again. Like the ama is to the kino, the outrigger is to the hull of the canoe, the transformative role that the arts have to play to address mental-health related issues cannot be emphasized enough.

Like the blueprint for the rebuilding of a hale, the vision for what can be again must also be factored into the healing process, and the opportunity to create visual anthems of resilience in Maui cannot come soon enough, coupled with the process of sharing this creative process with said communities.

Art is a splint that runs parallel to help realign a broken community, like a broken bone, or a stake to support a young koa tree after lava has taken its toll. Art is the power to transform and heal, and it is part of the larger strategy to bring our beloved Maui community back home.

Me ka ha'aha'a ame ke aloha nunui,

Solomon Robert Nui Enos

tolomona@gmail.com

1(808)-218-3731

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 9:58:42 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Rich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art needs to be considered as vital as medicine for the healing of our communities. It fosters inspiration, creativity, compassion, and hope.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:51:34 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
wendy hudson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill! Maui and especially Lahaina needs this. Our recovery is going to take a long time and Art helps to heal trauma! This is a no brainer and the amount of money spent will have a positive ripple effect in the community. YES to this bill!

Mahalo,

Wendy Hudson

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 11:57:26 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelly Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let's all agree there will never be enough art. Support local artists. Mahalo!

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 3:42:00 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deb Nehmad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The arts and culture of Maui has been devastated by the wildfires. This appropriation is sorely needed to help. heal and mend what has been destroyed. Without our cultural practices and the arts, there is no full recover.

Thank you for your consideration.

Deborah Nehmad

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 4:22:05 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha

I am in STRONG SUPPORT for [HB1939](#)

This bill would appropriate The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to support arts and much-needed healing programs in Maui's recovery efforts.

As a multi-generational Kama'aina of Hawai'i Island, a practitioner of mana healing for over 28 years, and an artist in performing and visual arts, I have held space and observed decades of positive impact around the vital role that culture and arts have on society, especially around healing trauma, addiction, and other mental-emotional challenges.

The healing effects from the arts have data on the neuro-scientific impact and hormonal changes when experiencing a sense of calm, inspiration, or positive emotion. Or through cultural relevance and spiritual initiations. Because of the Lahaina fires, many lives lost, lack of affordable housing, available work, long-standing water diversion and water rights issues, land use negligence, and historical trauma and disparities across Maui on our Native Hawaiian and kama'aina population, we need arts and culture more than ever.

I encourage our representatives to continue to write bills in this vain and support them till the end.

We must begin to recognize the vital role of artists and cultural practitioners as great value to society.

Mahalo

Maki Morinoue

Holualoa, Hawai'i Island

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 11:09:27 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This is a no-brainer. If you support the survival of the Hawaiian people, you support this bill.

There are no valid excuses for not supporting this bill.

Mahalo,

Richard

Hawai'i Cigar

I strongly support HB 1939 that would add funding for SFCA's Arts programs particularly for Healing. 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.”

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 1:24:40 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan C. Browne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1939 will bring much needed emotional and social support to those families and children who have been impacted by the fires of August 8, 2023 on Maui. As a citizen of Maui for over 40 years, I can testify to the enormous effect this disaster has had on our community. There are many years of research documenting the healing power of the arts, both visual and performing arts. When children and adults are able to sing, draw, or act about their pain and sorrow, healing takes places. Being with a community of peers in a supportive environment has tremendous power to resolve pain.

Thank you for hearing this important bill.

Susan Browne

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 2:36:58 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jacqueline stewart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1939. I support the funding for culture and the arts because it brings healing and love to the people, to our communities. It is an essential part of a thriving community and if we had more funding or were able to keep what we already have, there would be happier people. Many people are angry and suffering because they are not being protected and prioritized. They are being exploited. To take away funding from the arts is to take away funding from the people. And it's people over profit always. As human beings we are meant to all create art and share in our creations. Creativity is a human right. And all humans are capable of creating art. Let's continue to support this so we can heal from all of the injustices that are brought upon us.

Thank you.

Peace + Love.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 3:11:59 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celia Cheng	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill for The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to support arts and healing programs in Maui recovery efforts. Arts is one of the best way for a community to heal together. The expression of grief, pain, sorrow, and hope through art will no doubt be important in the Maui community recovery efforts. Please give the Maui community the chance to address their wounds and move forward through arts healing. The effects are sure to be long lasting and will introduce new vibrancy to the community.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 4:09:37 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

Please support this bill. We all know the healing effect art can have on the mind, body, and soul. There is nothing our community needs more than healing after the devastating losses in Maui last year. Please support their healing and the healing which art from this tragedy will continue to bring to future generations by supporting artists in need now.

Mahalo,

Shannon Matson

Hawai'i Island Resident

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 5:11:30 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Ha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1939 because many artists have come together to donate to Maui in their time of need when the fires happened in Lahaina. Art can bring hope in critical moments as it can be healing. The kids in Lahaina need an outlet and this bill would provide that support to them.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 5:25:24 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DIANE E NUSHIDA-TOKUNO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please appropriate funds for the victims of the Maui disaster to be used for their arts and healing programs. It is through art that much of emotional healing can be processed, especially for children.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 5:28:25 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janis Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1939

Rebecca Dunning
2780 Booth Road
Honolulu, HI 96813

February 12, 2024

Re HB 1939

Dear Legislators:

I am writing to express my strong support of HB 1939 which appropriates funding for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to support arts and healing programs in the Maui Recovery Efforts.

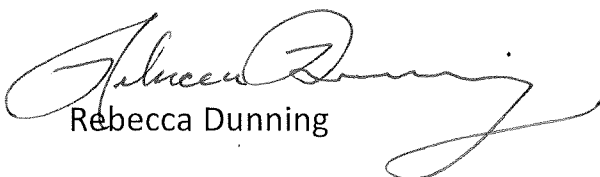
Events of the past few years have taken a toll the pandemic and climate related disasters have left an indelible mark on all of us, but children and young people are the most vulnerable. It is essential to prioritize young people's social and emotional well-being. To make sense of what has taken place in recent years, continue to heal and move toward healthy development, young people need to emotionally process these dark moments, and also move beyond them. Research shows, the arts are uniquely situated to fill that need.

Psychology Today's article "The Role of Community Arts in Trauma Recovery" describes many examples of how arts and cultural resources "may be a part of the solution, mobilized in the face of tragedy to help survivors heal. While traditional mental health care is critical, it is also clear that, in times of crisis, people often seek out the arts and creative practices."

The idea of utilizing the arts for addressing mental health, trauma recovery and community building is nothing new, but to address the staggering need of people and communities who are suffering, "health and social care providers in the U.S. are increasingly recognizing the value [of the arts and] linking their patients to local cultural resources."

Mahalo for considering HB 1939 and providing an important tool to assist the people of Maui recover from the impacts of the disastrous fires.

Aloha,


Rebecca Dunning

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 6:30:49 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Zimmel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For all of human history art has been a tool for healing. Yes the people there need housing, medical care and all basic physical needs taken care of first. In terms of long term healing and regrowth art will play an important part. In terms of investments that will pay out for years this seems like a very wise one.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:56:15 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodie Chock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a public high school arts educator, I am IN SUPPORT of **HB 1939**. Its impact affects the community more than many realize.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:13:05 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Elmore	Individual	Support	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 support of this bill.

I firmly believe that art has the power to heal and healing is still needed after the devastating events on Maui. Programs like this could also develop emerging artists as they hone their skills and find ways to make much needed additional income.

The Maui community is still hurting and this bill provides a great opportunity for a community that continues to heal and in need of opportunities like this.

Mahalo for your time in reading this testimony.

With aloha,

Gerard Elmore

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:40:52 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Nishikawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee members,

I trust this message finds you well. I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen deeply passionate about the transformative power of the arts and their impact on our communities, especially in times of adversity. I urge you to lend your support to Bill HP1939, a crucial initiative aimed at fostering greater access to the arts, particularly for children and communities affected by the devastating Maui wildfires.

In the aftermath of the tragic events that unfolded in Maui, the need for healing and rebuilding has never been more pronounced. The arts have proven time and again to be a source of solace, inspiration, and community resilience. By appropriating funds to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts through Bill HP1939, we have the unique opportunity to provide a lifeline to those most affected, offering them a means to rebuild not just physically, but also emotionally and spiritually.

Art has the remarkable ability to bridge divides, instill hope, and catalyze positive change. Investing in programs that bring the arts to children and communities in need is an investment in the future of Hawaii. By doing so, we empower the next generation with the tools to express themselves, develop critical thinking skills, and contribute meaningfully to society.

Furthermore, focusing on those specifically impacted by the Maui wildfires demonstrates a commitment to targeted, effective assistance where it is needed most. These communities have endured unimaginable hardships, and supporting their access to the arts can serve as a beacon of hope in their journey towards recovery.

I implore you to consider the profound impact that Bill HP1939 can have on the lives of those who need it most. By championing this initiative, you will be contributing to the cultural enrichment, education, and overall well-being of our fellow citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Your support for Bill HP1939 is not just a vote for the arts; it is a vote for the resilience and vibrancy of our communities.

Mahalo,

Lori Nishikawa

Baldwin High School graduate
Website Designer focused on the Maui Wildfire Disasters

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 11:22:29 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Iijima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1939.

The arts are a powerful tool for bringing people together and helping them to express trauma, that they would otherwise hold deep inside themselves. The arts can help people to feel safe and supported, and to have a way to release and heal emotions through imagery or words.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 11:27:31 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sally french	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of funding the SFCA to help continue programs that are listed to be cut in HB1807. As an artist residing on the island of Kauai, I want to express how important it is to be recognized by the State and these programs slated to be cut by HB 1807 are our lifeline to a connected statewide arts community. Without these organizations, we would not have visibility at the State level, nor would we have access to the equipment and tools artists need to practice our craft. Please help support a statewide arts community that is inclusive to the neighbor islands.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:33:29 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juvana Soliven	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in SUPPORT of HB1939 to appropriate funds to create greater access to arts to people and children affected by the Maui Wildfires. Throughout history, art has been a powerful force to bring community together, create spaces for solidarity and understanding, and to heal and communicate. Art made by communities also becomes a document of the time and spirit of a space and place and becomes a visual history.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 2:47:53 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Matsumoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this measure. Art is not just for viewing but often the process of creation and meaning is healing to the artist and the larger community. Continuing to provide funding will ensure that we maintain this standard for generations to come.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 4:39:10 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karla Krompegel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing to testify in support of HB1939. Funding for the arts in support of recovery efforts in Maui is very important. Arts and cultural programming will have significant possible impact as the state works to recover from the trauma of the Maui fires, and work towards rebuilding Lahaina in a way which prioritizes the voices of citizens and residents. The cultural loss due to the fires was significant, and SFCA is in a unique position to positively impact recovery and rebuilding as it relates to the arts, and this bill would provide support for those efforts.

Thank you,

Karla Krompegel

Jaslyn Loftin
1111 Hoolai St. #201 Honolulu, HI 96814 | 808-392-2188 | jaslynl@hawaii.edu

To: Hawaii State Capitol
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
February 13, 2024

Aloha Hawaii State Capitol,

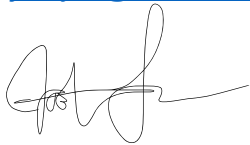
My name is Jaslyn Loftin, a professional singer/songwriter as well as a lecturer at Honolulu Community College with the Music & Entertainment Learning Experience Program. I would like to submit this testimony as my support for bills HB1807, HB1940 and HB1939.

As a teacher preparing students to enter a field in arts-related fields within music and entertainment, giving support for arts education and the State Foundation on Culture and The Arts grants will increase opportunities for students to learn event coordination, live sound, live performance, and music business such as marketing in a state-funded organization. This also grants those who work in the arts and arts education a sustainability for living, as in the current state of the world, artists and musicians have been taken a deep toll on their finances due to local business exploiting musicians for “exposure” for their professional time. Having state-funded initiatives ensure those who work in music and arts that they are being supported somewhere in Hawaii.

Also, I am involved in several non-profit organizations who host live theatre performances and Hawaii cultural events, such as the Hawaii Shakespeare Festival. These organizations are running with little to no budgeting, however, has been an integral part of keeping culture and community alive in the state. With a boost in grants, we will be able to share Hawaiian culture nationally, as a lot of scriptwriters, directors, and actors are being nationally and internationally recognized all over the globe, but with lack of support from its home-state.

When we see the fruits of change in our own island, we can continue to support our communities inter-island as well. The organizations I work with would love to help those on Maui specifically, but due to lack of funding, no movement can be made. At the state capitol, you can help change that within the arts community all over the islands.

Therefore, I ask that you please consider the passing of these three bills. If you would like any more information from me, please contact me at 808-392-2188, or email me at jaslynl@hawaii.edu. Mahalo for your time.



Jaslyn Loftin

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:32:05 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Endicott	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

For those that are supporters of bill ——— and believe we have enough art I ask for you to please reconsider this very drastic cut of funds. After all the funding of the SFCA is what:

1. Kept alive the downtown triangle of Downtown Art Center, Mark’s garage and Hawaii State Art Museum/Capitol Modern during the two years that CoVid shuttered many of our local businesses. This funding brought people to this area and kept this business district going. It is because of the arts and the art exhibitions which the SFCA supports that restaurants like Fete and Rangoon saw customers fill their 6’ separated tables and outdoor spaces. In addition, why Murphy’s and others opened a take out window and continued to keep their restaurants 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 take in a bit of creativity to maintain their mental health.

Our downtown Honolulu would not look the way it does 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 now seek out these art places when they come to Hawai’i.

2. Gave students at Hawai’i’s public schools a spark of creativity so they could see a new and different way of doing or being. As a two-time commissioned Art-in Public Places/Doe Artist, I has 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. A couple of the students also had failing grades or were outcasts. Because of the opportunity to participate in the project to make a permanent sculpture outside the library, 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, other students and even their parents when they came to

help. Another who could barely be heard when answering a question, spoke commandingly into the microphone at the dedication. These students became creatives and this experience led them into future success in life. Their artwork became permanently installed near the one I completed for the SFCA and both serve as a reminder of what is possible when creativity and the arts are supported. They are now grown and contributing to our community. A few even continue to bring their friends back to show them what they accomplished in elementary school. Hope and better way of being is what they are now sharing.

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 will go to buy food, gas, rent and art supplies at art, craft and hardware stores. The 50% or less the art center/organization gets goes to support employees, insurance, rent, web/social media folks and many more. The arts are 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 easy math that continues to benefit each island and our state.

4. Rather than taking away how about creating a pause bill for a 5-year period that will prevent our arts industry funding from being under attack so we can find creative solutions to our state's issues. Use the funds to pay artists for their creative solutions to collaborate with other groups. Don't like homeless people on our streets? Team up artists with social workers and police to get these trauma-ridden people to make art. Imagine what their sketchbooks would look like. How filling that I interrupted my letter writing to you to take a houseless student to school as his mother and he are living in my home. On my way home, I saw 5 police men standing 8 feet away from a houseless woman who had her shorts around her knees and had defecated all over her buttocks. Why did I see this? It was the most pathetic scene I have ever witnessed. The group had their backs turned away to give her whatever dignity they could though no one was helping her on with her pants. Perhaps this happened so I can write to you about it now and offer a suggestion such as the police need to be fitted with a sheet to give such traumatized people some dignity first. Then housing and all the other services it takes to unwind such traumatic situations. Fortunately the EMS arrived a short time later and then all were trying to help her. I drove by on my way back to offer a sheet I carry in my car to move and protect my art. I was going to park and shield her from people and children who were also driving by. Yes, art can help heal. It softens the edges and reminds us how to care. And it is even good for people who are not on the street. It is good for business. It is good for new ways of thinking, innovation and finding new ways of doing.

I found the courage to become an artist after visiting our museum. I quit my job and went back to study art and received my Masters in Sculpture from UH. I paid tuition, won awards and commissions and then created public art that brings people together. That is what this SFCA

funding that everyone wants to cut is good for. 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. Imagine if we could lessen homelessness as Finland has done, slowed water rising and prevent the impact of climate change. I invite you and whoever else wants tour our city with me and city and SFCA folks to see and experience the art around the capitol and our arts district to learn why we have what we have and what it does for us. And what we could achieve if we used our imagination. We could make Hawaii a leader again. Just as we did when the 1% was passed and the nation followed. Please oppose HB 1807 as I do.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:48:37 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB 1939 which appropriates funds to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to provide greater access to the arts for children and communities in need, with a focus on those affected by the Maui wildfires.

I would like to add a comment that I believe the "communities in need" should have clear parameters but not so many that it makes a community struggle to meet them. Many times our good intentions with a bill like this are thwarted by "administrative expenses" and so many criteria to apply that communities don't even try for the funds. Thank you for keeping that in mind.

Again, I SUPPORT this bill and look forward to seeing greater access to the arts for the communities.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:10:07 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Owen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill! Maui needs the healing power of art to help heal after the devastating fires last year. Supporting the art and artists of Maui will help in Maui's recovery. Art lifts the spirit in immeasurable ways, and everyone on Maui will benefit psychologically if art is woven into the recovery effort.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:17:50 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Sato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1939.

Please strongly consider supporting this appropriation bill introduced by Representative Adrian Tam in support of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and their ongoing efforts to support arts and healing programs in Maui's recovery efforts.

I am a lifelong Maui resident and a recently retired Maui educator of 42 years. The value of the impact of the arts on daily life in our community has long been evident in both big and small ways - each are critically essential to our well-being and overall mental health.

Representative Tam and his co-introducers of HB1939 stress the importance of the support needed now by our Maui community in their efforts to appropriate funds to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to provide greater access to the arts for children and communities in need, with a focus on those affected by the Maui wildfires.

I respectfully request the same consideration by you today. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Janet Sato

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:23:41 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elise von Dohlen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB1939 Relating to the Arts

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support of Bill HB1939 which proposes to appropriate funds to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to provide greater access to the arts for children and communities in need, with a focus on those affected by the Maui wildfires.

As a community we have seen how essential arts and culture are to the fabric of our community and support our individual and collective wellbeing especially in times of disaster. I have heard numerous stories about how arts and culture experiences provided a safe space for reflection and healing for those impacted by the Maui wildfires. Due to State Foundation on Culture and the Arts' advocacy and planning, survivors overwhelmed with numerous tasks and systems were able to access safe spaces at the hotels where teaching artists led arts and culture experiences that supported connection and the mental health of participants.

I urge the committee to support HB1939.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:31:44 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Sato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support HB1939 that will allow SFCA to support Maui with healing and recovery efforts. MAHALO

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:41:32 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Sato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support HB1939. Thank you for recognizing the need and supporting SFCA to support Maui's healing and recovery efforts after the devastating fire. Mahalo.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:42:34 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristina Swenson-Stewart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pass HB1939. It is critical that people in need are able to have the funding to have arts programs. Specifically those affected by the Maui wildfires-- having access to art is crucial to processing trauma and gives people an outlet for their emotions.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:42:49 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marie Eriel Hobro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha 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 SUPPORT** of HB1939, which supports art and healing programs in Maui recovery efforts.

People on West Maui are navigating unimaginable pain, loss, and grief. Residents are experiencing a dire [mental health crisis](#). I strongly believe that art is a healing process hat can help many during this time.

In my personal experience, art saved my life. It has been my medicine, source of joy, and guide through all the hardships I've experienced in my life. It has kept me alive during incredibly dark times in my life.

Knowing this, I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB1939.

Sincerely,

Marie Eriel Hobro

Wahiawā

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:07:14 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Mager	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I firmly support funding to arts programs! These programs benefit local and statewide communities by promoting culture, critical thinking, and social bonding. The arts can and have been used therapeutically for individuals and communities alike, and providing more funding for these programs will only serve to promote healing in the Maui communities. Please support funding for these kinds of artistic endeavors.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:23:00 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne ('Antu') Harvey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please SUPPORT HB1939. We need MORE support for art programs in our schools.

Art helps us process and interpret changes in our society and environment. Artists are important guides. We need to support our artists and art in the schools.

Expanding the art in our schools programs in Maui is very important to help our traumatized neighbors heal. Thank you. But, please don't do this by cutting and compromising funds that are needed in neighbor island schools!

Our local schools rely on and great appreciate the support from the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Please continue to support them and boost their funding.

Making art accessible is vital to a thriving community.

Aloha.

Antu Harvey

Hōlualoa, North Kona

2/13/24 Testimony

I strongly support HB1939!

HB1939: Appropriation bill for The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to support arts and healing programs in Maui recovery efforts.

Arts & Culture are healing our hearts and souls. Creativity and its disciplines are key factors to develop betterment of Humanity. It will help to have a safer neighborhood and a happy & healthy community.

Any Creativity, art-making as tools will support in healing naturally people who went through some kind of disturbance/trauma which affect mentally, emotionally and even physically.

This will help us to understand the importance of Arts & Culture in our lives as our educational resources and materials to be used as medicine with no harm or any side-effects.

I believe that this Bill will support creating a happy, healthy and safer community. I definitely trust that Maui community will need for their healing from the Lahaina Wild Fire.

I also trust that this treatment is the safest and most effective way to heal much quicker. We will be able to see their recoveries and happy faces in the near future.

I strongly support this BILL.

Mahalo,

Setsuko Morinoue

Holualoa, HI 96725

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 11:16:59 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isabela Ure	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in strong support of HB 1939

February 14, 2024

Room 309, 10:30am

Chair Adrian K. Tam, Vice Rose Martinez, and members of the Culture, Arts and International Affairs Committee,

I am testifying in strong support of HB 1939,

RELATING TO THE ARTS. Please pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Isabela Ure

House District 60

Senate District 30

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 11:30:04 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nancy young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Absolutely continue to fight for arts funding, both for the state in general and for my Lahaina Community. Losing all our landmark cultural historic buildings is such a blow, but knowing that they can be saved, that more than just the footprints remain gives us the positive prospect of rebuilding, and building better. We will need funding from the state and the knowledgeable guidance the SFCA can offer us.

The SFCA isn't just "enrichment", it is core. I know this as I am currently an "enrichment teacher" in a new pop up school that is operating since the fire. I keep working to prove I am more relevant than just a nice little sideline in the education of our students. ART MATTERS. I think we need a tee shirt with that on it. I am here to do anything I can to help support Ms Tam and the arts.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:03:13 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean-Joseph T.K. Choo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Representatives,

I wholeheartedly support this measure and look forward to hopefully playing an active role as an artist to kōkua in whatever small way I can. I do agree that, as this bill states, "...arts and culture play an important role in society." I also agree that, "In the wake of a disaster, people may look to the arts for solace, comfort, and connection. Art can help communities heal and may be a symbol of resilience during recovery." These truths are eternal, and apply to all humans, in and out of disastrous times. Please read these words for Lahaina, but read them for all times and peoples, as the arts are important ALL DA TIME, BRAH:

"According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, arts can be effective in disaster recovery by providing an opportunity for reflection; reducing the risk of conflict caused by stress and the feeling of overwhelming hopelessness; establishing new communities; reconnecting old communities; reducing feelings of isolation; strengthening citizens' connection to place; creating a shared sense of hope and optimism..."

That is the power of the arts! It is not just utilitarian, but reminds us, as our places of worship and other sorts of gathering, of what makes us human, what is important to us.

Mahalo plenny for your work, and time and consideration of this testimony.

Mālama pono,

Sean

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 1:42:12 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Art is soothing to the soul. Those bereft of art in their lives are poorer in spirit. Let's help victims of trauma benefit from art. Please support this bill. Mahalo

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 2:14:33 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mericia Palma Elmore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 5:37:39 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ewa Moscicka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. The Art Special Fund is a crucial lifeline for dozens of institution and individuals that make the Hawaii art scene vibrant and diverse.

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:13:22 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/14/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Lathrop	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a teaching artist and art therapist, I strongly support this thoughtful bill that will help mental health through the arts and especially to show support and share healing efforts for our ohana on Maui. History has shown that one of the main ways that humans heal and persevere through trauma is through the art's especially music and public works of art. This kind of support and true healing could greatly impact the next couple generations as the community in Maui heals from the trauma inflicted there.