



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 1940
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION
TO THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS

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

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Executive Director
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. 1940 which appropriates funds out of the works of art special fund to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts for the integration of works of art projects into several major capital improvement projects. H.B. 1940 is a request to increase the appropriation ceiling (recurring base) of the Works of Art Special Fund from \$5,500,000 to \$9,000,000 annually - a \$4,000,000 increase.

The growing cost of State construction has resulted in increased revenue to the works of art special fund. Despite the fund balance growth, the SFCA is unable to address the rising demands of contributing State Departments for culture and arts programs and services because the budget ceiling remains static.

Increasing operational demands on the Works of Art Special Fund include a fund assessment by Budget and Finance, repair and maintenance of the collection, vertical infrastructure projects such as (Washington Place, State Capitol, Civic Centers, NASED, etc., interpretation of the collection, including the operations and educational programming of the Hawai'i State Art Museum, transporting works of art to neighbor islands, and personnel costs. With a higher budget ceiling, we could meet the statewide demand.

The current ceiling set in 2019 limits the SFCA's ability to fulfill the obligation to carry out the intent of HRS 103-8.5. An increase in the SFCA's budget ceiling would not increase the R&M or CIP budgets of contributing departments but would be drawn from the available fund balance.

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

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 11:10:49 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard	Hawai'i Cigar	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Richard

Hawai'i Cigar

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:44:21 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/Representatives,

I am writing to you today with a deeply personal testimony in support of Bill 1940, an appropriation that seeks to integrate works of art into major capital improvement projects. My journey, shaped significantly by the transformative influence of an art teacher, underscores the profound impact art can have on an individual and, by extension, an entire community.

As a young student, I was fortunate to have an art teacher who not only imparted creative skills but instilled in me a belief in the power of art to bring about positive change. Through their guidance, I discovered that creativity goes beyond the canvas; it is a force capable of shaping the world around us and fostering a sense of community.

Fast forward to the present, and I find myself heading the major Maui County wildfire disaster relief sites. My skills in creative problem-solving and design, cultivated under the guidance of my inspirational art teacher, have become invaluable in addressing the complex challenges presented by this devastating disaster.

In the aftermath of the Maui wildfires, creativity has been a beacon of hope for our community. It is not just about rebuilding structures; it is about rebuilding lives and spirits. The ability to integrate works of art into the capital improvement projects associated with disaster relief is a testament to the resilience of our community and the transformative power of creativity.

Bill 1940, by allocating funds to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts for the integration of works of art into major projects, aligns perfectly with the lessons I learned from my art teacher. It recognizes the importance of infusing creativity into the very fabric of our public spaces, providing a source of inspiration and healing for those who have endured the impact of natural disasters.

I urge you to support this bill, not just for its practical implications on infrastructure but for the profound and lasting impact it can have on the well-being of our community. Let us embrace the power of creativity to not only rebuild but to uplift and inspire.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lori Nishikawa

Founder and Head Design Strategist for Quovadis Design

Currently working on the Maui Wildfire Disaster to assist County, State and local grassroots organizations

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:20:42 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 support of this effort to expand funding for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts through a special fund that will enable integration of works of art into upcoming public projects. Mahalo for this measure and for recognizing the value of art in public places.

**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
HB1940 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND 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 mission of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) is to promote, perpetuate, and preserve culture and the arts in Hawaii.

Additional funding for the SFCA could not be more critically needed than it is now to meet the needs of Hawaii's people, especially children statewide who receive and need to continue to receive arts education, and of the many people whose traumas could be mitigated by healing through the arts - all the arts- visual, performance, dance, theater, music and spoken word to name a few.

The SFCA's purpose is also to further the arts and humanities in support of the growth of future artists, many of whom are now children or are yet unborn. Arts education is crucial to reflect all of Hawaii and let current and future generations see themselves mirrored in the ongoing state-collected art around them, the art they create, and the conduit opened by the arts and art education to their humanity and the humanity of others.

The Duties section of the Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 9 (see below) details activities focusing on statewide arts preservation, perpetuation, education, accessibility, and sharing Hawaii's culture, its arts and humanities. This clearly demonstrates the importance the State places on cultural expression for the sake of Hawaii's people and their ongoing story.

Given the shared trauma of the last several years, and most recently of the Maui wildfires, now is the time to increase arts education and arts access in support of a rich and varied arts community grounded in the well-being of its people.

§9-3 Duties. The foundation shall:

- (1) Assist in coordinating the plans, programs, and activities of individuals, associations, corporations, and agencies concerned with the preservation and

furtherance of culture and the arts and history and the humanities;

(2) Establish written standards and criteria by which grant contracts shall be evaluated;

(3) Appraise the availability, adequacy, and accessibility of culture and the arts and history and the humanities to all persons throughout the State and devise programs whereby culture and the arts and history and the humanities can be brought to those who would otherwise not have the opportunity to participate;

(4) Stimulate, guide, and promote culture and the arts and history and the humanities throughout the State;

(5) Devise and recommend legislative and administrative action for the preservation and furtherance of culture and the arts and history and the humanities;

(6) Study the availability of private and governmental grants for the promotion and furtherance of culture and the arts and history and the humanities;

(7) Through its executive director:

(A) Administer funds allocated by grant, gift, or bequest to the foundation; accept, hold, disburse, and allocate funds that may become available from other governmental and private sources; provided that all those funds shall be disbursed or allocated in compliance with any specific designation stated by the donor and in the absence of any designation, the funds shall be disbursed or allocated for the promotion and furtherance of culture and the arts and history and the humanities; and

(B) Accept, hold, disburse, and allocate public funds that are made available to the foundation by the legislature for disbursement or allocation, pursuant to the standards and procedures established in

part II, for the promotion and furtherance of culture and the arts and history and the humanities;

(8) Submit an annual report with recommendations to the governor and legislature, prior to February 1, of each year. Annual reports shall include the total number and amount of gifts and other grants and income received, payroll disbursements, contracts entered into, and progress and accomplishments made during the year, including the efforts of the Hawaii arts education partners and its progress in implementing the Hawaii arts education strategic plan and the accomplishments of the art in public places and relocatable works of art programs and the state art museum;

(9) Convene the Hawaii arts education partners, which is composed of the department of education, the colleges of education and arts and humanities of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, and the Hawaii Alliance for Art Education, to fully implement the terms of the Hawaii arts education strategic plan;

(10) Display student art works in public buildings, sponsor student art displays, promote arts education, and in other ways encourage the development of creative talent among the young people of Hawaii;

(11) In cooperation with qualified organizations, conduct research, studies, and investigations in the fields of ethnohistory and the humanities:

(A) Make, publish, and distribute works documenting the contributions of individual ethnic groups in their relationship to one another and to the whole population of Hawaii;

(B) Place ethnohistorical and cultural materials developed by the foundation or received by the foundation as gifts and

donations in public archives, libraries, and other suitable institutions accessible to the public; and

(C) Maintain a register of the location of such materials;

(12) Cooperate with and assist the department of land and natural resources and other state agencies in developing and implementing programs relating to historic preservation, research, restoration, and presentation, as well as museum activities;

(13) Establish an individual artist fellowship program to encourage artists to remain and work in Hawaii and to reaffirm the importance of Hawaii's artists and their cultural and economic contributions to the State by:

(A) Recognizing and honoring Hawaii's exceptionally talented visual and performing artists for their outstanding work in and commitment to the arts; and

(B) Enabling these artists to further their artistic goals;

(14) In consultation with the comptroller and affected agencies and departments, administer the art in public places and relocatable works of art programs established pursuant to section 103-8.5; and

(15) Administer the operations of the state art museum established pursuant to section 9-22. [L 1965, c 269, §3; am L 1977, c 112, §1; am L 1980, c 293, §3; am L 1992, c 181, §4; am L 1993, c 133, §2; am L 1999, c 80, §4; am L 2001, c 306, §2; am L 2004, c 125, §4]



February 13, 2024

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

I am writing this letter in strong support of House Bill 1940 (HB1940), which proposes to appropriate funds out of the Works of Art Special Fund to enable the incorporation of works of art projects into the major capital improvement projects that have been planned or are being planned, to be expended by 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 has worked with SFCA on numerous occasions to coordinate Art Acquisition Selection Committee visits that nominate works of art for accession into the Art in Public Places (APP) Collection. This collection plays a vital role in integrating the arts into public spaces throughout the state, providing visibility and recognition for Hawai'i's dynamic artist community and ensuring that these works remain accessible into the future.

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 signaling the importance of the arts as a necessary element to humanize public space. The proposed appropriation of funds in the sum of \$4,000,000 would significantly increase culture and arts funding statewide through SFCA's various initiatives and programs.

This includes ensuring the longevity of the Art in Public Places Program, which represents an evolving collection that is meant to grow alongside contemporary developments in the art scene. In addition to the APP Collection, the proposed increase in funding from the Works of Art Special Fund would enhance numerous vital initiatives that enable the implementation of arts educational programs throughout the state and provide funding to non-profit organizations. These include but are not limited to 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.

I highly support the provisions listed in HB1940 and encourage you to recommend this significant piece of legislation for passage.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Yukio Clark
Director, Schaefer International Gallery

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STATE OF HAWAII



KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION

355 NORTH KING STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

DATE: Thursday, February 14, 2024

TIME: 10:30 AM

PLACE: VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE, Conference Room 309, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1940 making an appropriation to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. This bill appropriates funds out of the works of art special fund to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts for the integration of works of art projects into several major capital improvement projects.

We strongly support HB1940. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo,

Amy Hammond
Executive Director
King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 11:41:51 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 HB1940

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 HB1940

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.

Arguably, the role that art plays in our society has never been more important. Faced with existential threats like climate change, global conflict, and threats to our democracy, the critical role of art as a way to visualize new solutions, and to articulate those ideas to the world in such a way that we draw the big picture that gets everyone on the same page, may very well tip the scales away from the dystopia we are on the cusp of.

Public art, are portals into new possibilities, and the potential to support new ways of bringing art to our communities, as well as cultivating new artists, creatives, thinkers and dreamers, cannot be quantified, for these opportunities are priceless. With the potential to support the arts in new ways, such as temporary and sustained mural projects, Augmented Reality sculptures, community art installations and so on, offer us new ways to take Public Art into new realms of accessibility and engagement.

Hawai'i has the potential to be a powerhouse for creativity in the Pacific, bringing us closer to the levels of support for public art in Aotearoa, New Zealand, along with the documented affirmative positive impact it has on local and visitor communities alike. Like the unique flora and fauna found no where else on Earth, the message we have to share with the world, is a unique vision of hope and aloha, and the better we are at illustrating this idea, the more we give to our children and the beloved Pae 'Āina, archipelago, we call home.

Me ka ha'aha'a ame ka hō'ihī,

Solomon Robert Nui Enos

tolomona@gmail.com

1(808)-218-3731

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 8:53:12 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Douglas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1940.

It is my understanding that the funds collected were never meant to be used for the funding for incorporating art into public works. This is an accounting Pandora's box ripe for financial abuse and fraud by the State and general contractors. The funds required for installation or modifications to install should come from the projects not the SFCA. Ask yourselves who benefits. This should be a red flag.

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 9:57:26 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 matters! This funding is crucial to providing arts & culture to our communities.

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:10:43 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support culture and the arts!

- U'ilani Naipo

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:49:37 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:

This is a GREAT idea! We need MORE funding for hte Arts! Art is SO important for the community and especially for Maui and Lahaina to heal after the fires. The State FOundation is a wonderful organization that has traditionally always support Artists and it needs to continue to do so!

Mahalo,

Wendy Hudson

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 11:56:17 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:

As an artist I fully support this bill.

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 3:39:46 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 of Bill [HB1940](#).

This means, MUCH needed additional funding for the Art in Public Places program that will increase culture and arts funding statewide for the programs to really do better outreach on outer islands that are under served with majority of the funding being allocated to Oahu.

Culture and the Arts is the ONLY industry that has a positive societal impact touching multiple industries that enhance and uplift life in many ways: in education, community, prison systems, cultural preservation/relevance, mental/emotional well-being, trauma, increasing revenue, small businesses, circular economy, tourism, real estate, health, cultural landscape, culinary arts, performing arts, visual arts, decor, fashion, design, innovation, early childhood development, kupuna health programs, special needs activities, art in our healthcare buildings and system, art at the capitol and more. Arts and culture allow individuals to reflect and live more deeply and thoughtfully. The current traveling Vietnam memorial is a perfect example of how an artist designed a space for people to reflect on the most difficult memories and feelings.

This increase in funding would *finally* value the role of culture and arts in our society and nourish outer island initiatives that are significantly left out and underfunded and threatened to be available for us.

Thank you, please pass this bill!

Mahalo
Maki Morinoue
Holualoa, HI

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 3:40:01 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:

I support this bill in case HB1807 is not rejected as it replaces the monies that will be lost by the enactment of 1807 that will severely impact our keiki, and our arts and culture communities.

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 5:09:05 PM

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

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

Comments:

I Support

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:09:55 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I strongly support HB 1940, which will appropriate funds out of the works of art special fund to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts for the integration of works of art projects into several major capital improvement projects.

I respectfully ask for your support for this measure.

Mahalo

Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy

Kalaoa, Kona Hawaii Island

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 11:25:51 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C. Kai Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, CAI
Comittee Members,**

**HB1940 Provides much needed funding for
the State Foundation for Culture and the
Arts in Public Places program, and will
increase culture and arts funding statewide.
This is what our communities need now,
Please pass this bill!**

Mahalo,

Kai Lucas

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 8:49:22 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Rozendo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Hannah and I providing testimony in support of HB 1940, to continue funding local art in Hawai'i. It is crucial that local artists are celebrated and compensated with their creativity shared in and around architecture that is meant to do the same.

Respectfully,

Hannah

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 10:06:58 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom. I live in Mō'ili'ili. I'm writing in STONG SUPPORT of HB1940.

Art heals and there needs to be funding to support the arts! In supporting HB1940 it puts out the message to say no to cultural prostitution!

me ke aloha 'āina,
Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili, O'ahu

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 11:46:02 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Y O Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1940

My name is Steven Rosenthal, I am a visual and performing artist who has been active in Hawai'i for over 40 years. I have represented Hawai'i and the United States internationally in Asia and Europe and have done projects as a Hawai'i artist on the mainland. In the past I was the president of the non profit Alliance for Culture and Arts which supported performing arts in the parks of the city and county of Honolulu. That said, I have not been involved in any programs of the SFCA for over 20 years and have nothing pending. I have never received support from the "Works of Art Special Fund".

I am writing in opposition to HB1807 and HB1940 which I see as working hand in hand . Since the early 1990's, there have been numerous efforts to divert funds from the Works of Art Special Fund away from the creation of art and towards such things as arts administration and brick and mortar projects as is the case here.

It seems to me that these proposals today are seeking once again to divert money from the creation of art and tacitly using the Special Fund for renovations of state buildings, this will add an invisible 1% to their construction budget. Which, the way these two bills are designed, apparently is upwards of \$4,000,000.

The State, in the form of these initiatives wants to have their cake and eat it too. Exempting themselves from contributing to the Special Fund in HB1807 (for renovations) and then using extant revenue from the Special Fund to cover the costs for "the integration of works of art projects into several major capital improvement projects." They want the benefits of the art but they don't want to pay for it. HB 1807 claims that it will simply rely on art already owned within the Art in Public Places program and it will have "no adverse effects on the program, yet it's companion HB1940 will "appropriate OUT \$4,000,000 (four million) dollars from the Works of Art Special Fund". The Art in Public Places program is a companion of the Special Fund and relies on the Special

Fund for acquisitions. So it will indeed have an adverse effect in terms of future acquisitions.

Even though HB1940 is titled "Making an Appropriation TO the SFCA", it actually "Appropriates funds OUT of the Works of Art Special Fund". Please reread this paragraph and the bill and note the contradiction. This is textbook sleight-of-hand. It's not Appropriation, it is Expropriation. \$4,000,000 for years 2024 and 2025 alone. If this works, we can expect such expropriations stretching into the future.

Artists are all too often treated as supplicants rather than the experts they are, they are the practitioners, they are the cultural specialists who are dedicated to painting the picture of life in Hawai'i. Patronage is a vitally important aspect of the Arts ecosystem, for the main, artists do not draw a salary, their future is uncertain; it's through patronage that a community can establish and provide continuity for an ongoing dialogue about who we are and who we want to be. Artists, not curators or administrators, are the mediators, the map makers, the story tellers. Hawai'i is a small society, comparatively we are not wealthy and the support afforded by the Special Fund is rare in Hawai'i, it should be protected and applied in the way that it was meant to be and that is to provide for the ongoing representation of our culture through visual art as we continually move into the future.

In 2003, I had the great opportunity to be a Visiting Composer in Residence to the state of Minnesota for 3 months. Minnesota, compared to ours, is a state rich in resources with a robust economy and home to over 100 corporate headquarters of multinational companies. And it has a long history of civic support for the arts. Honestly, it was a revelation to me to see the effects of this support for the creative community that came from the state, municipalities, corporate and private foundations. Some of these

foundations alone have larger budgets than the SFCA. Because of this, there is a sense of security among the creative culture there; I met many mid career artists that always had the expectation that they would be able to get by, raise their families and practice their profession. The most talented young people, rather than leaving to seek opportunities, as happens all too often here in Hawai'i, stay and contribute to the community. Hawai'i has a long way to go in nurturing this vital sector of our society and we are the worse for it.

This is why the Special Fund should be protected, we have few other self sustaining resources like this and this fund only supports one sector of the arts. In other words we are lacking, let's not get further behind.

While the Special Fund is not there to support artists, it is also not there just to beautify public buildings, it there to inspire, inform, and affirm our culture; and art comes from a single source– artists. The same way we pay for construction companies to build buildings we need to pay artists to represent our identities as a society which is fluid and ever changing.

I offer this as testimony as to why we Should Not "repeal capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the Works of Art Special Fund". And why we Should Not "appropriate funds out of the Works of Art Special Fund" to make up the difference. It undermines support for what is already an underserved community that provides much needed cultural nourishment for the community and will both starve and drain both the Special Fund and Art in Public Places program of resources in the future.

My name is Laura Ruby and I am provisionally in support HB1940. It would appear that this bill is proposed to preserve the works of art special fund should HB1807 go into effect.

I'm not sure if a fixed amount for the next fiscal year will work. I believe that the amount appropriated should reflect the number of capital projects and renovations of state buildings.

There is an incorrect statement in this bill stating "that furnished works of art... is not necessary for renovations of state buildings since those buildings already have access to works of art." How many of Hawaii state buildings created before the 1989 and before the 1965 adjustments to the law, and needing renovations, would be left out of this equation, and how many of these buildings are there in the state inventory? This bill would limit the possibilities of the SFCA acquiring permanent artworks and the many cultural activities and educational programs associated with older buildings. The effect would be to drastically reduce the potential visual character of older buildings and reduce all non-permanent art and cultural works such as theatre, music, literary events, and dance.

I also feel that amounts for each capital projects should be made available for commissioning works of dance, music, theater, literature, and other arts. For example, has the state ever commissioned compositions for dance and theater? Also, the Hawaii Award for Literature should be restored and past year deficiencies made up in this fiscal year and beyond.

This bill attempts to shift some of state monies away from the arts and culture. Please keep the 1 percent of all capital improvements (and renovations) within the state's works of art special fund as is.

I have known the two of the three founders of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and knew them very well--Alfred Preis Reuel Denny (and just an introduction to Pundy Yokouchi). They were all very committed to doing the best for culture and the arts. When I was a reviewer for grants for the SFCA, one of the criterion was "arts and culture for underserved locations."

#

At the founding of the State Foundation it was firmly stated that the neighbor islands were to be benefitted. This is so important, because culture and the arts not only provide for the creative endeavors, but also for the audience, and for the future of the keiki, who might want to go into various fields of filmmaking, music, dance, the visual arts, theater, and literature--all of the various arts so important to the "Hawaii sense of place."

Over the decades I have been a part of many SFCA awards ceremonies including the Hawaii Literary Arts Council Award for Literature (among the awardees were Mary Pukui and Samuel Elbert, W.S. Merwin, Maxine Hong Kingston, Reuel Denney, Marjorie Sinclair, and Leon Edel), and the SFCA Individual Artist Fellowships (of which I was a recipient). These should be continued again honoring the best in the arts and culture realm.

Removing the SFCA to the DBEDT will make the SFCA into a business model. The Foundation is not a business model. The SFCA is for the well-being of our whole Hawai'i community. It's about Hawai'i quality of life, so please accept this bill with reservations mentioned above..

Furthermore, I've known every single Executive Director of the SFCA (with the exception of the most current one), and each one of them has been trying to do his/her absolute very best to keep the Foundation to its original mission. Alfred Price, the first Executive Director obviously had a great affinity for architecture as he designed the Arizona Memorial and many other buildings in town, but he was also very much committed to all of the arts.

There is small section of the bill stating that the Governor would appoint the Executive Director, but that is a normal thing that the Governor goes for all boards, for all commissions, and should be for all Executive Director positions. So, a person submits his/her application, it is reviewed by state employees overseeing the position criteria. The SFCA Commission then reviews the applicants and selects, in priority order, the best person suited for the job, and then the Governor makes the hire. I believe it should be a local search.

I thank you very much for this testimony please take it to heart, but this is something for the well-being, and the health of the Hawaii community. It is not a business model, and this bill should be accepted with reservations improving the above suggestions. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Laura Ruby
1 808 366-0847

I strongly support HB 1940 that would add funding for SFCA's Arts in Public Places. 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-1940

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 1:17:04 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:

HB1940 will increase funding for the Art in Public Places program of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, which will in turn increase funding for culture and the arts statewide. Hawaii is at an important point where we need to provide arts education to all of our children or they will not be able to be creative and innovative and compete with peers worldwide. This funding will help train more teaching artists who can work in the schools. We must also support our cultural organizations.

Thank you for hearing this important bill.

Susan Browne

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 2:32:35 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 HB1940. I support the funding for culture and the arts because it brings healing and love to the community. It is an essential part of a thriving community and if we had more funding or were able to keep what we already have we there would be happier people. People over profit. 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.

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 3:06:46 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 to increase culture and arts funding statewide for the programs listed to be cut in HB1807. The arts and support for local artists and organizations is one way for Hawaiian culture and community to stand out, by presenting our arts and native traditions. We must show the world who we are--our history, culture, and evolution--through the arts!

Rebecca Dunning
2780 Booth Road
Honolulu, HI 96813

February 12, 2024

Re HB 1940

Dear Legislators:

I am writing to express my strong support of HB1940 which appropriates funding for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and restores funding cuts for the Art in Public Places program which are proposed in HB 1807.

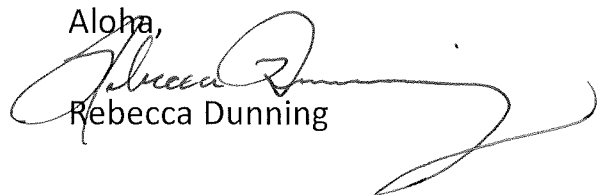
I have been involved with various arts organizations in Hawaii for over 45 years and am currently the Managing Director for Honolulu Theatre for Youth. I see every day the positive impact the arts have on students in Hawaii and see the positive progress we have made using the arts to improve student learning.

Student learning has yet to recover from the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic. Participating in creative arts education programs has been seen to be one of the most effective ways to reengage students, teach empathy and build stronger communities.

An increase in funding to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts will keep imagination and creativity alive in Hawaii and ensure a brighter future for our Keiki.

Mahalo for considering this important measure.

Aloha,


Rebecca Dunning

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 4:06:07 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,

Yes please to more arts and culture funding!

Mahalo,

Shannon Matson

Hawai'i Island Resident

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 5:11:42 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 HB1940 because it additionally funds the Art in Public Places program which will in turn promote more accessible and high quality art education and projects in Hawai'i. The support for artists is crucial to making our islands cultured.

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 5:13:47 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Eric Johnson

1121 Wilder Ave., 200B

Honolulu, HI 96822

February 12, 2024

Re HB 1940

Dear Legislators:

I am writing to express my strong SUPPORT of HB1940 which appropriates funding for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and restores funding cuts for the Art in Public Places program which are proposed in HB 1807.

As the current Artistic Director for Honolulu Theatre for Youth I am proud that Hawaii lead the Nation in creating a program like this and continues to support arts and culture in our community. I see every day the positive impact the arts have on students in Hawaii and see the positive progress we have made using the arts to improve student learning.

Student learning has yet to recover from the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic. Participating in creative arts education programs has been seen to be one of the most effective ways to reengage students, teach empathy and build stronger communities.

An increase in funding to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts will keep imagination and creativity alive in Hawaii and ensure a brighter future for our Keiki.

Mahalo for considering this important measure.

Aloha,

Eric Johnson

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 5:27:40 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 HB1940

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 5:28:02 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:

I am in support of the appropriation of funds to the SFCA so it may continue its mission to promote diverse, equitable and high quality arts education to Hawaii.

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 6:21:53 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolann Biederman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB1940. It appears to be additional funding for the Art in Public Places program that will increase culture and arts funding statewide for the programs listed to be cut in HB1807. HB1807 negatively impacts ability of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) to share resources with artists statewide.

Thank you Representative Tam for coming up with an antidote if HB 1807 is actually passed. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely, Carolann Biederman, 44-391 Nilu St. #4, Kaneohe, HI 96744

cabc.consulting@gmail.com

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 6:26:20 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:

In terms of helping the whole community supporting the arts in all its forms is one of the best uses of our tax dollars. The groups that will receive more funding through this bill would make use of it that will pay out for years to come. Support the people that are supporting local culture and arts.

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:45:32 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Public arts are a community treasure; please support this bill to strengthen our arts community and the invaluable services it provides.

With aloha,

David Ball

Waiālae-Kahala

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:55:01 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 1940**, as it will provide needed funding to perpetuate culture and the arts for our future generations.

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:17:25 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.

There are a number of bills floating around to hurt or weaken the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. It really saddens me as we need cultivate and nurture Hawai'i artists.

This bill is a good bill. Let's double down on funding the arts. 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.

Let's inspire more creators, dreamers and artists all across the state.

Mahalo for your time in reading this testimony.

Gerard Elmore

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:18:35 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurel Nakanishi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 12, 2024

Re: Testimony in support of HB1940

As a professional writer and teaching artist for the past fifteen years, I strongly support bill HB1940. As a teaching artist, I see the impact of the Artist in the Schools Program (which the Arts in Public Places fund helps to support) every day. It helps to bring otherwise non-existent art education into K - 12 classrooms and invites true collaboration amongst artists, teachers, cultural experts and malama 'aina educators. The Professional Development opportunities through these programs invites teachers to incorporate the arts into all subject areas which helps connect students to learning.

I sincerely thank you for your consideration to support HB1940.

Best regards,
Laurel Nakanishi

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 11:18:12 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin L	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In this age of automation and the arrival of Artificial Intelligence, creativity and imagination are the only skills that cannot be mechanized. Public art is one of the few accessible ways people are exposed to and inspired to think beyond the surface, to understand things on a deeper level. Adding funding for public art helps with the development of innovative thinking in our society and assists people to adapt to a near future of job replacement.

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:41:24 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 writing in SUPPORT of HB1940

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 2:43:20 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:

Strongly support this measure to continue funding for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 4:34:35 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 as a constituent to express my support for HB1940. The SFCA is an important cultural institution and more appropriations would increase its efficacy and reach. SFCA has tangible benefits for all Hawaiian citizens through its support for art and artists across the state.

Thank you,

Karla Krompegel

2/13/24 Testimony

I strongly support HB1940!

HB1940: Appropriation bill for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

I believe that Arts & Culture to flourish in the community brings better, vital and exciting lifestyles. It will be our engine for our better ECONOMY and its development with inspiration and innovation to motivate our creativity, curiosity and possibilities.

To have the Art in Public Places Program to be secured, we will be able to live closer to fine arts around every day which will promote a fulfilled and healthy lifestyle for the islanders and elevate possibilities and chance to have better future.

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.

This will help us to understand the importance of Arts & Culture in our lives as our educational resources and materials to be reachable.

Additional funding for the Arts in Public Places Programs will support not only enriching our livelihood, but also many small businesses along with healthy and strong middle class which will support vitalizes our local ECONOMY.

Mahalo,

Setsuko Morinoue

Holualoa, HI 96725

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,

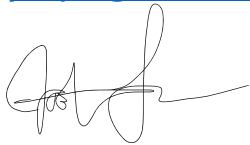
My name is Jaslyn Loftin, a professional singer/songwriter as well as a lecturer at Honolulu Community College with the Music & Entertainment Learning Experience Program. I would like to submit this testimony as my support for bills HB1807, HB1940 and HB1939.

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-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:31:00 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-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:37:56 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 1940 which appropriates funds out of the works of art special fund to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts for the integration of works of art projects into several major capital improvement projects because it seems to be a path to improving the capital by using what is already available. A win/win?

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:06:13 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!. Hawaii must increase its support of Art in Public Places, as this is part of what makes our state so exemplary.

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:08:20 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bon Moore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an artist and a person who appreciates Art and Culture. I strongly support this bill.

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:28:22 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 photographer teacher from Wahiawā.

I am submitting this written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB1940, which would provide additional funding for the Art in Public Places program that will increase culture and arts funding statewide for the programs listed to be cut in HB1807.

Art changed my life. As a high school photography teacher, 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. Hawai‘i is home to so many brilliant artists who want to elevate local voices and stories through art, but so many are forced to leave due to the lack of economic opportunities. We should push to create a stronger economy for the arts in Hawai‘i instead of weakening it. By allowing this bill to go through, Hawai‘i could work towards this goal.

Please save the arts so that it can continue to save lives in Hawai‘i.

Sincerely,

Marie Eriel Hobro

Wahiawā

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:36:52 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 HB1940 to increase support for the Arts in Public Places program that will increase culture and the arts

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:41:35 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Forrest Leonard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm writing to express support for HB1940. The art in public spaces program has continually had a positive impact on the arts here in Hawaii. The ongoing support of the states purchase and display of artwork has long supported the vibrant art scene that exists here in Hawaii. The benefit of this program is two-fold; First, it beautifies our public buildings, making them both pleasant and culturally invigorating. Second, it is a direct line of support for the various artists and arts organizations here in Hawaii. These artists and organizations are essential, enriching the lives of Hawaii residents by supporting Hawaii's unique and vibrant art scene. By increasing the funding available to this program, we directly invest in the enrichment of our local culture.

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:43:49 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 HB1940, appropriating funds to the arts is crucial in bringing meaningful improvements to capital improvement projects.

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:45:21 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 HB1940 that wil increase support for the Arts in Public Places Program that will increase Culture and the Arts funding. Appreciate your efforts in recognizing the need.

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:02:08 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 HB1940.

Please strongly consider supporting this appropriation bill introduced by Representative Adrian Tam in support of an appropriation bill for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

This additional funding for the Art in Public Places program will increase culture and arts funding statewide for the programs listed to be cut in HB1807 being introduced by Representative Kyle Yamashita, potentially minimizing the damaging ripple effects in our communities statewide.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Janet Sato

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-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:02:33 AM

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

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

Comments:

I do not support appropriating funds from arts programs to other areas! Arts programs receive little enough funding as it is. These programs benefit local and statewide communities by promoting culture, critical thinking, and social bonding. Please do not cut funding for these kinds of artistic endeavors.

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:17:24 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 HB1940. We need MORE public art.

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

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:19:05 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Moan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wish to support continued and increased funding of the SFCA. As a teaching artist, I rely on several programs funded and administered through the SFCA including Donkey Mill, Fishcake, and the Artists in the Schools program. As well as earning my living through these organizations' programs and offerings, I am heavily involved in the lauhala weaving projects supported by the Puuhonua Society. This has been an avenue for me to learn about cultural traditions and craft as well as connect to a community that has sustained me through the pandemic era and beyond. Please continue funding these crucial entities at their current levels or more!

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:29:22 AM

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

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Chairman and Members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature House Committee,

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 a concerned Honolulu resident, art enthusiast, culture advocate, and am writing to submit my **support of House Bill 1940**, which would appropriate funds out of the Works of Art Special Fund to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts for the integration of works of art projects into several major capital improvement projects.

It is widely recognized the impact that art can have:

- Just 45 minutes of creative activity, or even looking at art, boosts our brain function and immune system and has a positive effect on mental health. (Journal of the American Art Therapy Association)
- Music positively affects a child’s ability to focus, and helps the aging brain to remember. (National Institute of Health)
- Children from low-income families who participate in the arts are more likely to earn a degree. (Arts Council of England/Evidence Review)

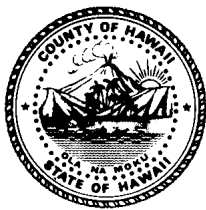
Arts organizations drive significant economic activity, create jobs, attract talent and develop human potential. As such, the State Foundation for Culture and the Arts has never been more important to our State and to our community. Its programs, which promote, perpetuate, and preserve culture and the arts in Hawai‘i, ensure that the arts remain a vital part of our lives and our community. The Foundation keeps art relevant and, most importantly, public. This is increasingly important as other sources of funding for the arts, including private donations, continue to shrink.

Although we recognize the current financial position of the State, we believe that these difficult times only reinforce the importance of the Foundation and its role within Hawai‘i’s community. The maintenance of appropriations for SFCA is critical to sustaining our cultural ecosystem. I hope that you will vote to SUPPORT House Bill 1940 relating to the Works of Art Special Fund; State Foundation on Culture and the Arts; Appropriation; Capital Improvement Appropriations.

Mahalo nui loa for reading this testimony.

With gratitude,
Monica Lee

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 1940

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

I am writing to you in **support of HB 1940**. This bill will provide additional funding for the Art in Public Places program that supports many local artists across our State. We all receive many benefits by enjoying art in our public spaces. The East Hawai‘i Cultural Center and the Wailoa Center are two incredible locations we are lucky to have in my district that receive funding from this program and in turn provide wonderful opportunities for public engagement and experience of art that serve all ages and backgrounds.

Please pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB 1940**.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenn Kagiwada'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jenn Kagiwada

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:32:00 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Kaaumoana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1940.

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 11:11:23 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 support of HB 1940

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 1940,

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND 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-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 11:26:26 AM

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:

Aloha Honorable Representatives and CAI Committee members,

I strongly support this measure, and applaud the continued funding and expansion of funding for art and artists here in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Peace,

Sean

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:51:55 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Chimera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear legislators,

HB1940 provides additional funding for the SFCA that will increase culture and arts funding statewide. As a Hawai'i-born practicing visual artist who has been directly supported via SFCA, I support this.

Melissa Chimera,

Honokaa, HI

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 1:10:27 PM

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

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

Comments:

To Whom This May Concern,

As we all know, it is crucial to know where we have come from to know where our trajectory is aimed. Art has served as a means to document, record and remember; And it is almost solely through the preservation of art that we have any means to recollect the triumphs as well as the mistakes humanity has encountered throughout history. The cave paintings in Lascaux, France are some of the earliest depictions of daily life that we have to understand life from the Upper Paleolithic era 12,000 - 50,000 years ago. The reliefs carved into the walls of the great Pyramids of Egypt are the only means by which we are able to recollect what occurred 6,000 years ago. Greek and Roman mythology may not have survived had it not been for the massive sculptures of their deities as well as the architectural marvels which were their places of worship.

As we know, the history of Hawaii was an oral one. One that survives so long as the Hawaiian people do. However, in order to assure the perpetuation of the ture story of the Hawaiian people as well as these modern times, we need art. We need not only the art, but also museums, public spaces and the people and organizations whom are committed to keeping those historical articulations safe. SFCA is a shining example of just that. Those spaces and people are the historical education and assurance this generation and those to come will have to know their trajectory.

Sincerely,

Nalani Sato

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 1:38:42 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:

Funding for arts is civilized. Please support this bill. Mahalo

HB-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 2:17:52 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-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 2:17:52 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-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 5:42:46 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-1940

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:08:25 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:

This bill would be beneficial by supporting culture and arts through the Arts in Public Places especially ones that are trying to be currently cut by other bills. Arts and culture are the literal backbone of healthy cultures and considering the current climate of our society and the world, our communities deserve and desperately need continued financial support to stay in balance.