

SCR-131

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 1:50:33 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/25/2025 3:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gregory Dunn	Testifying for Hawaii Theatre Center	Support	In Person

Comments:

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

I'm writing today in strong support of both SCR 131 / SR 110, an act urging the state to acquire the Hawaii Theatre to promote local culture and arts, preserve its historic and cultural significance and facilitate its continued public use.

For many years I've been a supporter of the non-profit historic Hawaii Theatre and have had the privilage of performing here before becoming the current President & CEO. We have have worked dilligently under my tenure to ensure the expansion of programs the Hawaii Theatre Center has been able to create for local audiences. However, we have been challenged this year with a massive 4,500% increase in our property insurance premiums over the prior year's premium. This massive financial burden makes nearly impossible for the Theatre to continue to provide an affordable venue for local arts and cultural organizations to present their programming. In FY 2023-24, we paid around \$2.00 per \$1,000 of property insurance coverage. In FY2024-25, we were forced to pay \$90.00 per \$1,000 of property coverage, and our base policy was limited to only \$5 million dollars, significantly short of the \$45 million dollars of coverate we were previsouly able to secure.

Faced with limited options and the inability to fund the purchase of insurance to fully cover the building, I feel it is truly in the best interest of the public, and in the best interests of the community for the State to acquire the theatre to allow the facility to be covered under the state's insurance program.

I support a process that would allow the State to acquire the Historic Hawaii Theatre and allow the non-profit Hawaii Theatre Center the ability to expand programming to support local arts an culture through a combination of expanded partnerships, closer collaboration with the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and the cash savings from avoidance of

massive property insurance premiums. Our non-profit currently supports the community with over 60% of our programming related to supporting use of the facility by non-profit users. The venue is sustainable in the long term, but having the state acquire the historic building for preservation purposes will ensure the local landmark can better withstand the uncertain insurance marketplace pressures that could adversely affect the future of the facility as a community resource.

For these and many other reasons I support SCR 131 / SR 110 and urge you to pass this resolution.

Mahalo!

Gregory D. Dunn

President & CEO

Hawaii Theatre Center

SCR-131

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 7:42:17 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/25/2025 3:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Theatre is a jewel. I support the intent of these resolutions.

SCR-131

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 10:10:48 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/25/2025 3:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Meehan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SR110.

For years, I have been attending concerts by the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra at the Hawaii Theatre. The venue provides an excellent place to hear and enjoy classical music. I feel the State of Hawaii owning the property will only enhance the attendees listening pleasure with planned renovations and upgrades to the facility.

I urge your support of SR110. Thank you.

Ted Meehan

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Submitted on: 3/24/2025 1:48:23 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/25/2025 3:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L. Richard Fried, Jr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the Hawaii Theatre; this iconic theatre deserves support of the State as set forth in the resolution. Expenses, such as liability/casualty insurance make it very difficult for the theatre to be self supporting. This resolution will begin the discussion of the State's acquisition of the Theatre and a lease back to the non-profit. Rick Fried