



HAWAI'I
STATE FOUNDATION on
CULTURE and the ARTS

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**Testimony of KAREN EWALD, Executive Director
State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Wednesday April 16, 3:00 p.m.
CR 225 and Videoconference
G.M. 740**

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE JANET SATO
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2028.**

Chair Lee and members of the Committee, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) is in **SUPPORT** of the nomination of Janet Sato to serve as a commissioner for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

Ms. Sato served as an art teacher for Baldwin High School on Maui for many years. She has dedicated her life to the people of Hawaii, influencing thousands of students for the better. The SFCA welcomes Ms. Sato for another term as a commissioner.

Over the past year, Ms. Sato has faithfully served as a commissioner with the SFCA and we are grateful for her contributions in support of the SFCA and its mission to promote, preserve and perpetuate culture and the arts for the people of Hawai'i. She has been present and engaged and has represented her community with passion and intention.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Sato's nomination.

April 14, 2025

P.O. Box 1002
Haiku, HI 96708

To: Transportation and Culture and the Arts Committee members:

From: Susan Browne, Maui resident and commissioner on the board of the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and Arts since 2018

Re: In support of Janet Sato's appointment as a commissioner
on the State Foundation on Culture and Arts board

I am writing in support of Maui resident Janet Sato as a commissioner on the board of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA). I have known and worked with Ms. Sato for 28 years. As the education director at Maui Arts & Culture Center (MACC) from 1998-2016, I was privileged to work with Ms. Sato, an exemplary art teacher at Baldwin High School where she worked from 1988-2021 when she retired. I was also able to spend time in Ms. Sato's classroom in 2018 when I worked as the Maui Field Supervisor for candidates pursuing a master's degree in education from the University of Hawai'i. Since Ms. Sato took over Clyde Sakamoto's position as Commissioner from Maui in 2022, I have had the privilege of working with her on the SFCA Board. She is always in attendance at meetings and willing to do whatever is needed to support the arts and culture in Hawai'i.

Janet Sato has a rare gift of bringing out the very best in her students; whether they are gifted in visual arts or struggling to stay in school and complete assignments; she is kind, patient, and encouraging. I have witnessed these same traits as she works as a peer with colleagues, instructs other teachers, and supports the needs of the SFCA. Ms. Sato attended several week-long summer institutes for teachers sponsored by the MACC, where she extended her learning to include design thinking, writing poetry, and drama. Ms. Sato is a life-long learner who looks for opportunities to give back to her community.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts would be very lucky to have Janet Sato as a commissioner. Her skills in collaboration, communication, and problem solving will go a long way in helping us to move forward in the next four years.

I highly recommend the appointment of Janet Sato as a commissioner on the board of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Browne".

Susan Browne
Commissioner, SFCA
808-283-9285

Jodie Chock

Secondary Visual Arts Educator
Kalāheo High School
730 Iliaina St
Kailua, HI, 96734
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808.276.1786

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Janet Sato in testimony of her service for a second term on the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Board of Commissioners as the Maui Commissioner.

Janet Sato is a compassionate and well-informed representative who leads with the utmost professionalism and respect for all perspectives. She is deeply knowledgeable on the arts and the impact that the arts have in our Hawai'i schools. She has served the community of Maui as a secondary-level public school educator and built a program that was sought after by young minds who desired to expand their knowledge of art. Within the walls of her classroom, many students have discovered their own passions and career pathways in the arts through her earnest guidance, dedication to their learning, and care for their well-being.

Since retiring from the Hawai'i Department of Education, Janet Sato continues to remain an active part of the Hawai'i arts communities; attending events, exhibition openings, artist talks, and flying to neighbor islands to mentor a new generation of arts educators. Janet Sato believes in the perpetuation of arts in all of our communities and has tirelessly sought to discover innovative ways for the arts to thrive in our schools.

As a secondary-level visual arts educator in the Hawai'i public school system and as a former student of Janet Sato, I stand firmly in support of her service to the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jodie Chock', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jodie Chock
Kalāheo High School
Fine Arts, Department Head
Drawing and Painting, Advanced Placement Drawing

14 April 2025

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

Chair, Chris Lee Vice Chair, Lorraine Inouye

Committee Members Senator Brandon Elefante, Senator Dru Kanuha, Senator Samantha DeCorte

From: Lanakila Kelliher Makua, artist/business owner - Lanakila Creations

RE: Janet Sato, Maui - Seeking confirmation of appointment to SFCA Board of Commissioners

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

Janet Y. Sato has played an integral role in the foundation of many young student's lives. Her commitment to various forms of artistic expression helped us find our artistic voice. She always went above and beyond for all of her students - from taking a night job to purchase more high quality art supplies to leading apple turnover fundraisers to get her students to art shows, museums, and college campus visitations on Oahu. She developed the first Advanced Placement Student Art portfolio program in Hawaii's public school system and supported our desire to participate in regional, state, and national art competitions. In 1995-96 she invited me to serve on the art advisory committee with the SFCA 's Art in Public Places program where I was first introduced to the intriguing process of selecting commissioned artwork submitted for consideration by a wide variety of artists of Hawaii. This experience helped me first understand the "professional" side of art and continues to serve me well today.

Mrs. Sato's guidance made it possible for me to apply for numerous scholarships including the Sterling Scholar and the Hawaii Community Foundation scholarships. In 2001, I earned my BFA in painting from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. For the last 20 years I have been a professional artist on Maui, working in both public and private arenas. While executing several large scale murals for Whole Foods Maui, I reached out to the Hawaii Community Foundation for guidance in the establishment of an endowment fund to help support young students as I was once supported. The "Janet Y. Sato Na Lima Paheona Scholarship", translated as "of the artist's hands" is properly named as it reflects the Art Mom she was to so many of us I. Recently, our team at Lanakila Creations finished a 3- year gilding project, employing 13 local artists. All of this has been possible because of the foundation Mrs Janet Sato instilled in me as many other local artists.

I believe she is qualified to continue in her capacity as the Maui Commissioner for the SFCA. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Lanakila Kelliher Makua

GM-740

Submitted on: 4/15/2025 2:02:18 AM

Testimony for TCA on 4/16/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Marcil	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support Jan Sato's continued service as a commissioner on the board of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA).

I have known Jan Sato for many years, but even before I met her personally, I knew *of* her. You couldn't be part of the arts education community on Maui without knowing her name. She was revered and widely considered the gold standard for visual arts educators. Her students consistently produced work of exceptional quality and depth, and many went on to build successful careers as professional creatives across a wide range of fields.

As a teaching artist on the roster of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), I had the privilege of co-designing and co-facilitating two arts-integrated residencies with Jan for her students at Henry Perrine Baldwin High School where she taught for 42 years—one funded by the Maui Arts & Cultural Center Education Department under the leadership of Susana Browne (also a Board Commissioner), and the other through the Artists in the Schools (AITS) program.

From our very first conversation, it was clear that we shared a deep belief in the power of art—not only to develop technical skill, but to help young people connect with something essential within themselves, to find their visual voice, and to communicate clearly and powerfully in ways that transcend personal story and speak to our shared humanity. Our collaboration created a space where students could explore their identities, take creative risks, and reflect on the role of art in their lives and the world around them, as a means of self-expression, connection, and change.

It was a true privilege to work alongside someone so deeply skilled, generous of spirit, and beloved by her students and community.

Jan Sato brings that same thoughtfulness, integrity, skill, and passion to her work on the Commission. Her continued presence is a gift to Hawai'i's arts community, and I encourage you to support her reappointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of Jan Sato.

Sincerely, Beth Marcil