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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. 743**

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO  
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE RANDALL FRANCISCO  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029.**

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

Mr. Francisco has extensive knowledge of the arts and culture community in the state. Mr. Francisco is a resident of the Island of Kaua'i, and is a respected volunteer and organizer in the community. He has served the people of Hawaii in many capacities and the SFCA welcomes him as the Governors appointment as a commissioner.

Mr. Francisco has demonstrated accomplishment and expertise in the field of culture, the arts, history and the humanities and has extensive background in the needs of the communities in the field, from his experience at the Creative Industries Division and Kapiolani Community College as a Program Director to his work at UH Hilo as a coordinator in the College of Continuing Education and Community Service.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Francisco's nomination.

# OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NALANI BRUN, DIRECTOR



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

Testimony of Nalani Brun  
Director, Office of Economic Development  
Before the  
Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts  
Wednesday, April 16, 2025; 3:00pm  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference  
In consideration of  
**GM 743**

**Subject: Letter of Support for the Confirmation of Randall Francisco as Gubernatorial Nominee to the State Foundation of Culture and the Arts**

Honorable Chair Lee, and Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic support for the appointment of Mr. Randall Francisco as a Commissioner to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), representing the island of Kaua'i.

Mr. Francisco brings with him an exceptional blend of professional expertise, cultural advocacy, and community leadership. His extensive background in higher education and the arts spans more than four decades, encompassing positions at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Kapi'olani Community College, Leeward Community College, and as Film Commissioner with the County of Kaua'i. Throughout these roles, Randall has consistently advanced programs in performing arts, film, and fine arts, serving both credit and non-credit students, artists, and the broader community.

His service as a Grant Reviewer for the SFCA, and his leadership in organizations such as the Kaua'i Economic Development Board, Kaua'i Visitors Bureau, and the Kaua'i Philippine Cultural Center, demonstrate his deep commitment to cultural preservation, economic resilience, and inclusive community engagement. He is a steadfast advocate for both traditional and contemporary cultural expressions, and his work has directly impacted local artists, students, and cultural practitioners across the Hawaiian Islands.

Mr. Francisco is not only professionally accomplished, with degrees from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (BBA) and UH Mānoa (M.Ed), but he is also a valued and trusted community member whose insights, experience, and aloha will enrich the work of the SFCA. His appointment would ensure Kaua'i is represented by someone who embodies the spirit of cultural stewardship and understands the diverse needs of our island communities.

It is with great confidence that I urge you to support Randall Francisco's appointment to the SFCA. I believe he will be an outstanding representative for Kaua'i and a powerful voice for the continued growth and vitality of Hawai'i's arts and culture sector.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any further information.



Testimony of  
**Derek S.K. Kawakami**  
Mayor, County of Kaua'i

Before the  
**Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts**  
Wednesday, April 16, 2025; 3:00 p.m.

In consideration of  
**GM 743 Randall Francisco**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee for the**  
**State Foundation on Culture and the Arts**

Honorable Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter in support of Randall Francisco's nomination to serve on the Board of the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Having worked with Randall in various professional capacities throughout his career, I can attest to his exceptional qualifications and unwavering dedication to advancing arts and culture in Hawai'i.

Randall's extensive experience in cultural and educational leadership positions demonstrates his commitment to the cultural landscape of our islands. As Film Commissioner for the County of Kaua'i, he skillfully promoted our unique island heritage while fostering economic development through creative industries. His time as Dean at Leeward Community College and his work at Kapiolani Community College show his ability to develop and implement innovative programs that serve diverse communities.

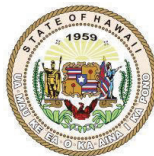
Randall's extensive community involvement—serving on boards for the Kaua'i Philippine Cultural Center, Kaua'i Economic Development Board, and Kaua'i Visitors Bureau—demonstrates his ability to connect cultural programming with economic development and community needs. His experience as a grant reviewer for the SFCA has already provided him with valuable insight into the Foundation's operations and mission.

His educational background in both business administration and education gives him a unique perspective that balances artistic vision with practical implementation—a crucial combination for effective arts administration and policy development.

The Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts would greatly benefit from Randall's wealth of experience, collaborative spirit, and deep commitment to preserving and promoting Hawai'i's rich cultural heritage. I respectfully urge you to **Advise and Consent** to his nomination before the full Senate.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present this testimony.

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor



**KEITH T. HAYASHI**  
Superintendent

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
**WAIMEA HIGH SCHOOL**  
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WAIMEA, HAWAII 96796  
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February 2, 2025

Aloha,

I am honored to write this letter of recommendation for Randy Francisco. As the principal of Waimea High School on Kauai, I have had the privilege of working with Randy for several years and have always been impressed with his extensive background in education, arts, economic development, and community service.

From his early roles as Coordinator at the University of Hawaii at Hilo and Program Director at Kapiolani Community College to serving as Dean at Leeward Community College, Randy has consistently worked to expand educational opportunities and foster creative industries for all students. His contributions to workforce development, non-credit fine arts programs, and film/media education have left a lasting impact on Hawaii's academic and cultural landscape.

Beyond education, Randy has played a vital role in Kauai's economic and creative sectors, serving as Film Commissioner and leading initiatives to support the local arts and business communities. His dedication is further reflected in his extensive community service, including leadership positions with the Kauai Economic Development Board, Kauai Visitors Bureau, and the Kauai Philippine Cultural Center. Randy is also a proud and supportive member of the Waimea Alumni and Friends Foundation or WAFF.

Randy is a highly respected professional whose expertise, passion, and commitment to education and the arts make him an invaluable asset to any organization. I strongly recommend him for appointment to the State Foundation on Culture & Arts.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Mahina Anguay, Waimea High School Principal

**Marynel Valenzuela**

*President/Owner*

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March 14, 2025

**Selection Committee**

State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

State of Hawaii

**Re: Recommendation Letter for Mr. Randy Francisco**

for the position of Commissioner of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am honored to enthusiastically recommend Mr. Randy Francisco for the position of Commissioner of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Having worked closely with him since 2010—when he served as President & CEO of the Kauai Chamber of Commerce and I led the Kauai-Filipino Chamber—I have witnessed firsthand his exceptional leadership, integrity, and unwavering dedication to both the business community and the broader public. He is a leader who leads by example, inspiring those around him to exceed their own expectations in service of a greater good.

Randy has an extraordinary gift for uniting people around meaningful causes. Our collaboration on numerous initiatives, including fundraising efforts for victims of natural disasters in the Philippines and Japan, demonstrated his ability to mobilize resources, foster collaboration, and drive impactful change. His commitment to cultural and community development extends far beyond his professional role; it is a reflection of his deep-seated passion for service.

As a board member of the Kauai Philippine Cultural Center (KPCC), Randy was instrumental in helping his fellow board members secure funding to build a vital cultural hub for the island. We organized and cultural events highlighting Filipino and American traditions. Even after his board term ended, he has continued to serve through volunteer efforts, exemplifying his steadfast dedication. Additionally, in his role as Kauai County's former film commissioner, he played a pivotal role in attracting high-caliber film productions, elevating the island's cultural and economic landscape.

Randy is member of many non-profit organization. As a visionary leader, constantly generating innovative ideas and relentlessly pursuing solutions to ensure that critical projects receive the funding and support they need to succeed. His ability to listen, learn, and engage thoughtfully with diverse perspectives makes him an exceptional candidate for this role.

I have no doubt that Randy will bring the same passion, creativity, and dedication to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts as he has to every endeavor he undertakes. I wholeheartedly support his nomination and am confident that his contributions will be invaluable.

Sincerely,



**Marynel Valenzuela**

*President/Owner*

Inkspot Printing Corp

Former President, Kauai-Filipino Chamber of Commerce

Executive Board Member Kauai Chamber of Commerce

Former Vice President of the Board, Kauai Hospice

Former Officer & Board Member, KPCC-Kauai Philippine Cultural Center