



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

Governor
Josh Green, M.D.

Comptroller
Keith A. Regan

Chairperson
Konrad Ng

Commissioners
Susan Browne
Nalani Brun
Sean Connelly
Randall Fujiki
Jill Kuramoto
Michael Marshall
Ronald Michioka
Janet Sato

Ex-Officio
ChrisLee
Jeanne Kapela

Executive Director
Karen A. Ewald

Telephone
808.586.0300

Fax
808.586.0308

Website
sfca.hawaii.gov

**Testimony of KAREN EWALD, Executive Director
State Foundation on Culture and the Arts
Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Tuesday , February 11, 2025 Conference Room 224 at 3:01PM
SENATE BILL 1011
RELATING TO CULTURE AND ARTS**

Chair Lee and members of the Committee, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), is pleased to offer **COMMENTS** on S.B.1011 which **establishes the Hawaii leadership award program** to honor individuals who have made considerable and outstanding contributions to Hawaii and serve as inspirations to others.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts has a long history of recognizing outstanding individuals in Hawaii with awards. From 1970 to 2019, the SFCA issued 118 awards in the categories of State of Hawai'i Order of Distinction for Cultural Leadership, Governor's Award for Distinguished Achievement in Culture, Arts and Humanities, Hawai'i Award for Literature, Individual Artist Fellowships and the Hawaiian Architectural Award. Many of the awards included funding.

In 2009, State funding to the SFCA to support the staff coordinator position and the awards was abolished. In 2019, one-time special legislative funds were appropriated for the Individual Artist Fellowship awards. The 2019 funding enabled recognition of some of Hawaii's most accomplished and experienced teaching artists who were also known for their artistry.

In 2022, the State Legislature appropriated \$200,000 in Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Relief Funds to the SFCA for artist fellowships. In response, the SFCA developed a call for cultural fellowships, but put the project on hold when the bill was vetoed.

The SFCA makes the following recommendations in support of SB1011:

- Establish a position within the foundation to coordinate the Hawaii Leadership Awards Program.
- Follow the SFCA process identified in Chapter 9 HRS for creating selection panels based on area of expertise.
- Appropriate funding to award the recipients

Consistent support from the legislature including an appropriation of general funds and a designated position are necessary for a program such as S.B. 1011 proposes in support of the recognizing leadership in our community. When we celebrate Hawaii's achievements, we invest in the economic stability of Hawai'i.

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



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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND ARTS

Tuesday, February 11, 2025
3:01 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
415 South Beretania Street

LATE

In consideration of
SB1011
RELATING TO CULTURE AND ARTS

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SB1011, which would establish the Hawai'i Leadership Awards Program to honor individuals who have made considerable and outstanding contributions to Hawai'i, establishes an awards committee and provides parameters for qualifications for the awards.

The department agrees that this program is an opportunity to recognize outstanding citizens whose contributions are important to our sense of place in the islands across a broad area of expertise. For those who have often gone above and beyond in their service to others and our state, this honor will serve as an inspiration to our greater island community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

SB-1011

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:03:50 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Germaine Meyers	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Strong Support of SB1011.

- This bill is an amazing opportunity to highlight and give attention to the great works being done in our communities by great individuals.
- As the Aloha state, we must continue to create ways to express aloha to individuals that have contributed in great ways to our State.
- This bill honors the Spirit of Aloha.
- It gives thanks to the individuals that have made great efforts to contribute significantly to the peoples of Hawaii.

LATE

SB-1011

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:47:49 AM
Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james elam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support our supporting this magnificent ensemble being supported! The arts can continue to thrive and feed our hearts, minds and communities with this incredible opportunity. orchestral landscapes have been challenging areas in which to navigate, especially financially, and this opportunity to fund this unique and brilliant part of Hawaii is so very inspiring and exciting.
mahalo nui loa :-)

aloha

LATE

SB-1011

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:16:56 PM
Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalia Lukey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB1011

My name is Natalia Lukey and I believe that the Hawaii Leadership Awards Program is a great inspiring program as it brings to light amazing, talented individuals in twelve distinct categories including business and labor, science, literature, public service, art and others. This program provides us with positive and constructive role-models motivating us to become more engaging in our community and to be our best always.

Thank you,

Natalia