



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 441, S.D. 1, RELATING TO THE HAWAII SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE & ARTS

**DATE:** Friday, March 14, 2025

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 309

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Randall S. Nishiyama, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Kapela and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments regarding this bill.

This bill designates the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra (HSO) as the "State of Hawaii Symphony Orchestra" and exempts it from the qualifying standards and conditions contained in chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to allow it to regularly receive state funds without filing a grant application as required by chapter 42F in exchange for services to the State, including free admission to public school faculty, staff, and students who attend shows through Department of Education programs.

1. A Preamble Should Be Added to the Bill to Promote the Public's Understanding of the Legislature's Intent

We note that the Legislature in Act 382, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 1987, established the Honolulu Symphony Endowment Fund to provide financial support to the Honolulu Symphony. The legislative history of Act 382 stated that the "Honolulu Symphony is a major cultural resource of Hawaii and is deserving of the support provided in this bill." Senate Standing Committee Report No. 802 (1987).

In Act 258, SLH 1988, the name of the Honolulu Symphony Endowment Fund was changed to the State of Hawaii Endowment Fund. Subsequently, in Act 175, SLH 1995, the Legislature, in section 1 of the Act, noted that the purpose of the Act "is to clarify the legislative intent that the income and capital gains of the State of Hawaii

endowment fund are to be used for the production of music by an Oahu-based symphony orchestra." We understand that such moneys have been transferred to the HSO "for the production of music by an Oahu-based symphony orchestra."

Also, we note that the legislative history of Act 175 states that "the legislative intent to establish the endowment was to support a live symphonic orchestra for the residents in Hawaii." Conference Committee Report No. 103 (1995). Consequently, we believe that the HSO serves a public purpose.

Further, article VII, section 4, of the Hawaii Constitution, provides that "[n]o grant of public money or property shall be made except pursuant to standards provided by law." The HSO is a domestic nonprofit corporation. The attempt to statutorily exempt a nonprofit from the chapter 42F, HRS, standards that are constitutionally required is subject to challenge. However, for the HSO, section 40-88, HRS, indicates that there is a "Honolulu Symphony Trust" and the State of Hawaii Endowment Fund with funding through the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts: "There shall be established as a separate fund of the Honolulu symphony trust created by the trust agreement dated December 5, 1986, a fund to be known as the State of Hawaii endowment fund. The income and capital gains from the \$2,000,000 contributed by the State of Hawaii shall be transferred on a quarterly basis to the state foundation on culture and the arts, performing and visual arts events private contribution account to be used for the production of music by an Oahu-based symphony orchestra as determined by the state foundation on culture and the arts." Since the State Foundation of Culture and the Arts is already transferring the income and capital gains from the State of Hawaii Endowment Fund to the HSO, we suggest that the Legislature consider appropriating additional funding to the State of Hawaii Endowment Fund whose income and capital gains could then be used for the HSO.

To effectuate this suggestion, we suggest the following section be added to the bill:

"SECTION . There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ or so much thereof as may be

necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026, for deposit into the State of Hawaii Endowment Fund.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of accounting and general services for the purposes of this Act."

To facilitate the public's understanding of what the Legislature is trying to accomplish regarding providing public funding for the HSO, we recommend that a findings and purpose section be included in the bill outlining the history of the HSO, the support that the HSO has received from the State of Hawaii Endowment Fund, and the public benefits that have accrued from its existence.

2. Chapter 42F, HRS, Exemptions for Nonprofits Other than the HSO are Constitutionally Problematic

We note that granting chapter 42F exemptions to nonprofits other than the HSO is likely to violate article VII, section 4, of the Hawaii Constitution. This is because such nonprofits do not share the same State-established heritage as the HSO. The HSO's unique historical connection to the State gives it a special status that other organizations cannot claim, making exemptions for those other entities constitutionally problematic.

We respectfully ask the Committee to consider our comments.



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250 South Hotel Street  
Second Floor  
Honolulu, HI 96813

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**Testimony of KAREN EWALD, Executive Director  
State Foundation on Culture and the Arts  
Before the  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE & ARTS  
FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025 Conference Room 309 at 10:00AM  
SENATE BILL 441 SD1  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Chair Kapela and members of the Committee,

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), is pleased to offer **COMMENTS** on S.B.441 SD1 which Designates the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra as the State of Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra. Requires annual reports to the Legislature. Appropriation.

The performing arts in Hawaii are a vital part of our community and currently receive SFCA support through General Fund appropriations from the legislature and Federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. Performing Arts, including cultural presentations, represent 43% of total Biennium Grants awards and 72% of total Artists in the Schools projects. Music and music education are an important part of the cultural landscape. Hawaii, in the center of the Pacific Ocean is blessed with a variety of musical traditions. The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra represents the finest in the orchestral tradition in Hawaii, serving the public and schools statewide.

The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra regularly receives state funds in the form of grants from the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, Grants in Aid from the Hawaii legislature and quarterly dividends from State funds in the Hawaii Symphony Endowment fund.

The Hawaii Legislature initially gave \$2 million decades ago to establish the Honolulu Symphony Foundation Endowment. Then in 2006, the Hawaii State Legislature passed HB3235 HD1 SD1 CD1 Act 097 appropriating \$4,000,000 to the State of Hawaii Endowment fund to support the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra, now known as the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra. The intent of the grant was to provide regular State support and requires the fund to be matched with private funds. The fund requires a match and provides annual dividends to support the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra. Understanding the status and performance of the fund is an important step when considering establishing additional State support. Should the legislature appropriate funds, the SFCA recommends the funds go to the endowment.

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



The  
Store  
With  
*Aloha*

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March 5, 2025

Chair Jeanne Kapela  
Vice Chair Sam Satoru Kong  
House Committee on Culture and Arts  
Friday, March 14, 2025  
House Conference Room 309

**Re: SB 441 SD1 Relating to the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra**

Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the committee. My name is John Mark Mageo, Employee Relations and Government Affairs Manager of ABC Stores. ABC Stores employs over 2,200 residents across Hawaii, Las Vegas, Guam, and Saipan.

I am writing on behalf of ABC Stores to express our strong support for SB 441 SD1, a bill that designates the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra as the State of Hawaii Symphony Orchestra; requires annual reports to the Legislature; and Appropriates funds.

The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra is not just a cultural treasure; it is a vital institution that enriches the lives of residents and visitors alike. Through its diverse programming, educational outreach, and community engagement, the HSO fosters a deep appreciation for the arts and provides opportunities for people of all ages to experience the transformative power of music.

SB 441 SD1 is crucial for ensuring the continued success and sustainability of the HSO. The funding provided by this bill will enable the orchestra to maintain its high standards of artistic excellence, expand its educational initiatives, and reach even more members of our community. Sharing live symphonic music that has been linked in numerous studies to vastly improved academic performance, better outcomes for young people, and increased social cohesion.

We urge you to pass SB 441 SD1 and ensure that the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra can continue to thrive and inspire future generations. Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to supporting the arts in Hawaii.

Mahalo,  
John Mark Mageo  
Employee Relations and Government Affairs Manager  
(808) 597-3312  
jmageo@abcstores.com

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 11:23:50 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Autumn Woods	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Satoru Kong, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB441, which would designate the Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra (HSO) as the official state symphony and provide essential funding for its operations. As both a longtime patron and a new member of the HSO staff, I have experienced firsthand the profound impact this organization has on our community.

My family’s connection to the HSO began in 2020 when we streamed performances during the pandemic. Even from home, the orchestra’s artistry was undeniable. This inspired us to become subscribers in 2021, and live concerts quickly became a cherished experience. For my daughter, these moments were transformative. Meeting professional musicians, witnessing their artistry, and even conducting the HSO at a Waikīkī Shell concert shaped her musical journey. She later interned with the orchestra, volunteered after high school, and is now pursuing music in college - a testament to the inspiration she found through the HSO.

The HSO’s impact extends far beyond the concert hall. Its musicians serve as educators, mentors, and cultural ambassadors, fostering a lifelong appreciation for music in our schools and communities. The Symphony is a cornerstone of Hawai‘i’s arts landscape, uniting people through music and ensuring that the arts remain a vibrant part of our state’s identity.

I believe the success of the HSO is vital to Hawai‘i—not only for its artistic contributions but for the enrichment of all who call these islands home. I urge you to **support SB441** and invest in the future of the Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra, ensuring that it can continue to inspire, educate, and connect our community for generations to come.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Autumn Woods**

Associate Director of Advancement

Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 1:11:58 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Committee Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of **SB441, SD1**, designating the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra as the State of Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra and appropriating funds to support it. The symphony provides so much more than traditional concerts of classical music, as important as those are. They offer all types of diverse concerts that appeal to different types of music lovers. They also collaborate with numerous other community groups and do significant outreach to the community, including free community concerts and school presentations. The symphony musicians are also the key music educators of young musicians in Hawaii. As a core cultural organization in Hawaii, the symphony deserves stable, ongoing funding.

Mahalo.

Marcia Kemble  
Makiki

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 1:18:50 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marianne Whiting	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support designating the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra as the State Orchestra. They have diligently worked to make their music accessible to broader audiences.

For example, their free Symphony in the Park series brings communities together while offering invaluable music introduction to families who may not otherwise be introduced to this type of music. Young people in the audience are invited to come on stage as 'maestro', opening doors for further music appreciation. The joy created by these special community events is palpable.

Research continually demonstrates the positive impact music has on academic performance. Note the Orchestra's expanded educational and experiential opportunities via the Hawai'i Youth Orchestra supplementing school's arts programs.

For brevity, I'm only citing a few examples of the Orchestra's impact on our island. Suffice to say they have demonstrated repeatedly their value and contribution to Hawai'i's quality of life. As a Hawai'i citizen, I would be proud of our legislature for a designated state orchestra, much the same as I am proud of the designation of the Royal Hawai'i Band as our state band.

The gift of music - what a wonderful joy to give to the people of our state. Please vote in favor of this bill.



Randy Perreira  
President

# HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

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The Thirty-Third Legislature  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Culture & Arts

Testimony by  
Hawaii State AFL-CIO

March 14, 2025

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB441 SD1 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the committee:

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO is a state federation of 76 affiliate labor organizations representing over 69,000 union members across Hawaii in industries including healthcare, construction, hospitality, entertainment, transportation, and government. The Hawaii State AFL-CIO serves its affiliates by advocating for the rights of working families, promoting fair wages, safe working conditions, and policies that strengthen Hawaii's workforce.

We are in support of SB441 SD1 because it recognizes the cultural and economic contributions of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra and provides essential funding for its operations. The symphony plays a vital role in arts education, community engagement, and workforce opportunities for musicians, stagehands, and other professionals in the performing arts.

A strong symphony benefits the economy by creating stable jobs in the arts and attracting visitors who contribute to Hawaii's tourism industry. Public investment in the orchestra supports working families in the arts sector and helps sustain a vital cultural institution that has served Hawaii for generations.

We respectfully urge the committee to pass this measure, which would strengthen Hawaii's arts community and support the workers who bring music and culture to our state.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
President

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:06:41 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Renee Setter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support for SB 441 which would officially designate the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra the State Orchestra of Hawaii. The Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra is a cultural and economic asset and strengthens our communities through music. With funding from SB441, HSO could reach more people in every county—making the arts accessible to all throughout the islands.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:12:19 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karen Turner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill.

HSO is a treasure. The performances are magnificent.

Hawaii will be proud to showcase HSO as its state orchestra.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:15:34 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joanne Amberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

Please support our symphony. We need it more than ever!

Mahalo!

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:17:50 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jodi Javonillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra in becoming the state orchestra of Hawaii. Music history and culture is critically important to Hawaii, and the HSO does such a wonderful job of delivering. Mahalo!

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:19:42 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Wo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an individual who firmly believes in the power of music and the arts.

I am proud of our world-class orchestra, which adds so much to the cultural richness of our community.

I strongly support SB441, which would give the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra the well-deserved designation as the state orchestra of Hawaii and funding support.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:19:50 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laura Gerwitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support the designation of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra as the State Orchestra of Hawaii. Local musicians are supported, as well as some local composers.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:21:40 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Niel Thomas	Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra Society	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have served several terms since 2015 on the Board of the Kamuela Philharmonic, and am the current Board's Acting Secretary. We are the classical music orchestra on the Big Island, and delighted to support this legislation. SB 441 will recognize HSO as the state orchestra of Hawaii. The legislative package will provide funding to support the work of HSO. This is especially important this year, given the tightening of funding for arts organizations nationally.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:22:53 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ghissou Rosala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I attend HOT events on regular basis with family and friends when possible and find it very important to include all generations in music enjoyment and education. The benefits are beyond measures and specifically the diverse programs for various interests are a good match for local audiences.

This is also a crucial support for school band programs to encourage their students as a great future work/progress perspective.

The cultural impact is undeniable.

There is no better message we can send out to our communities than keeping such programs in place for everyone's benefit.

Your positive position and action will be much appreciated.

Mahalo Nui,

Ghissou Rosala

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:23:26 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
April Ching	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and Mahalo to the Committee,

The Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra is invaluable to the state of Hawai'i. As a mother of two, I have benefited greatly from the cultural enrichment the HSO has provided to my life and those of my children. My children have both played violin from a young age, and access to a symphony orchestra of the caliber of the HSO has given them inspiration and education, as well as knowledge about the value of the arts to our human lives. The HSO already serves the community by providing free and inexpensive concerts to the public, as well as many performance tickets that are cheaper than movie theatre tickets. At a time when arts programs are being cut in our schools for lack of funding, the HSO has given us access to music. Especially in these times, we should enshrine the HSO as a valuable state institution and ensure continued investment for the continuation of the joy it brings to us all. Aloha. April Ching

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:24:06 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deborah Agles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The symphony is an asset and a treasure. It should receive state acknowledgement and support. They do much for the community, to include education and outreach. With state support they could do so much more!

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:26:52 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carolyn Hyman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra is an essential part of the arts community and plays a central role supporting other organizations, schools, and students statewide. Without this support, you leave the HSO vulnerable to collapse and all of the other institutions and individuals reliant on HSO will collapse in turn. They should be recognized as a state arts organization and receive reliable funding that allows them to plan and steward classical music and education appropriately in Hawaii.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:29:29 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Roger Epstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Honolulu Symphony is a wonderful asset for our city and state. It has struggled for funding off and on, and SB441, is an opportunity to make sure our Ohana has this cultural gem forever. Please pass this bill out of your committee and give us assurance that the symphony will be here for the benefit of many generations of your grandchildren.

mahalo for considering my opinion.

with aloha, Roger Epstein

## Testimony on SB441 RE: The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra

I was a musician in the Honolulu/Hawai'i Symphony for 45 years, from 1971 to 2016. In that time I witnessed and participated in many momentous events, both good and bad. Each one left an indelible impression – indeed, changed my life.

One such event was the Symphony's trip to Kaua'i in 1992 in the aftermath of Hurricane 'Iniki. Coconut palms had no fronds; power lines were down, roofs of buildings had blown off, but hundreds of people came to the park to hear the orchestra. They were hugging, singing, and crying when the sounds of "Hawai'i Pono'i" and "Hawai'i Aloha" reached their ears. It was a great moment of healing for the entire island.

Another event was the last public performance by Rosemary Clooney on a HSO Pops Concert. I wrote about it, along with other factors that prove the Hawai'i Symphony's worth, in this excerpt from my book:

From *The Arts from the Bottom Up*, pg. 395-397  
Marsha Schweitzer

### **To the Editor: On "Does Honolulu Need the Symphony?"**

*Midweek*

Every five years or so somebody dredges up that tired old question again, "Does Honolulu need the symphony?" I thought everybody had already heard the question and already knew the obvious answer. At first I said to myself, why bother to answer this lame question yet again? But then, maybe the columnist who asked the question this time, and perhaps a few others, have been asleep and haven't gotten the word. So here it is.

The columnist asks "whether donors' and taxpayers' monies would be better spent on other social enterprises," and "might we be better off if that symphony donor money went straight into music programs in our schools?" These are meaningless questions, because there are no other social enterprises that address the community need that the symphony does or that could fill the niche of the symphony.

And while school music programs can certainly use money, we are talking apples and oranges here. The objectives of the symphony and of school music programs are not the same, not even close. The symphony exists to present concerts; it serves the entire community, not just school students, and although it does present educational programs, it is not an educational institution, it is an arts institution. By the same token, although school music groups occasionally present public performances as part of the educational process, they exist to serve the students, not the public; schools are not arts institutions, they are educational institutions.

Let me illustrate the value of arts institutions with the Honolulu Symphony's Grammy-nominated CD of its concert with the late Rosemary Clooney. The CD was an archive of a Honolulu Symphony Pops concert, part of the regular pops series that takes place every few weeks on the Blaisdell Center stage, part of the symphony's ongoing public service mission. It was a magical concert, which ended with a dying Clooney saying, "Thank you for one of the best nights of my life."

There were many forces that made that performance happen at such a magically high artistic level, but it all began with the existence of a resident professional orchestra with the artistic depth and organizational sophistication to bring all those forces together. Simply stated, Honolulu needs an orchestra so that nights like that are possible, so that our citizens can have the opportunity to experience art of the same life-changing quality and power as in every other major city in the world. And it is not enough to listen to CDs or import touring orchestras from elsewhere. We need a resident orchestral institution that is responsive and answerable to the community that owns it.

For that reason, government funding is not just necessary, it is desirable, because it is important that the orchestra be owned by all the people, not just by the moneyed elite, so that all of us can claim a piece of the symphony and share common responsibility for it. If the costs of the symphony are shared broadly over our entire population in the form of donations, ticket purchases, and taxpayer subsidies, each person's burden of keeping the symphony healthy and flourishing is light. Cities that understand this principle have orchestras that have survived much worse trouble than the Honolulu Symphony has ever seen, and have thrived even in the face of occasional deficits.

A CD is not a substitute for live music. Ask any restaurateur if his clientele responds the same way to Musak as to a live band. A recording of a musician's work is like a videotape of a dancer, or a photograph of a painting. It is a categorically different experience from a live concert and cannot replace the real thing. And there is another thing that cannot be replaced: The Honolulu Symphony has created over its 100-year history hundreds of original works and arrangements of Hawaiian music that would not now exist if the Honolulu Symphony did not exist. We have a library of arrangements by legendary Hawaii musicians like former Royal Hawaiian Bandmaster Lloyd Krause and local Filipino composer Angel Peña, as well as orchestral arrangements to accompany virtually all of our great Hawaiian musicians, from Don Ho to the Farden family to the Brothers Cazimero and Keali'i Reichel.

The arts are businesses, with all the same positive economic and societal impacts as other businesses. We need the symphony (and the Royal Hawaiian Band, and the Hawaii Opera Theater, and the Honolulu Academy of Arts, and Diamond Head Theater, and all the other arts) for the same reasons that we need banks, airlines, stores, restaurants, hospitals, schools, and all other enterprises that make our lives happier, healthier, and more satisfying.

Advocacy for the arts is one of the few social issues that enjoys true bi-partisan support. A belief in the value of the arts and a history of generosity in their support is shared across the sociopolitical spectrum. The arts help everyone and hurt no one. So what's the problem?

Marsha Schweitzer  
905 Spencer St 404  
Honolulu HI 96822  
808-531-6617

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:34:30 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sellerow Ner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB441.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:34:33 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dayna Sumiyoshi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra is an important organization for the State of Hawaii. With the State being so isolated from the rest of the U.S. needs the power of music, it's history, and it's teaching. Hawaii deserves a state orchestra. As a supporter, I am so pleased to benefit from the cultural and emotional joy from this special group of musicians. Thank you.

Dayna

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:34:41 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terance Bigalke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong support of making the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra (HSO) the official orchestra of the state of Hawaii, and providing state funding to help maintain and enhance the future of this precious institution. As a season ticket holder to orchestra concerts for most years over the past decade, I can attest to the amazing growth in quality over that time, making it truly a premier orchestra and one in which the state can take great pride. Please do what you can to help insure the long-term future of the HSO.

Sincerely,

Terance Bigalke

403 Mamaki Street

Honolulu

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:40:47 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lorna Holmes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill supporting the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra. It is such a precious cultural resource and well deserving of public support, without which it is difficult to sustain here. Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:40:54 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Peter Hayashida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There are no great cities without a great symphony orchestra. Please vote yes on SB441 SD1 and ensure that generations of people in Hawai'i continue to have the robust cultural asset they deserve.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:45:16 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gary James	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of designating the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra as the State of Hawaii Symphony Orchestra.

Gary James

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:47:06 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lorna Takehara Strand	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i can be proud of the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra. I attended two performances at the Blaisdell Concert Hall this week in its Beethoven series. Both performances received standing ovations, and everyone felt lucky to have witnessed such stellar work by such an outstanding orchestra.

Funding by the State of Hawai'i will not only ensure the continuation of the orchestra but also provide the gift of experiencing live music performed by expert musicians for generations to come.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:47:22 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Seth Colby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra is one of the leading cultural institutions of the state. It enriches our community with moving performances throughout the year. There performance are continually getting better under the leadership of Dane Lam. I support this bill wholeheartedly.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:48:10 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James Schoocraft	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our symphony orchestra has become one of the finest orchestras in the entire nation under the artistic direction of Dane Lam. It deserves to have the designation as "The Hawaii State Orchestra". The orchestra is something that every Hawaii citizen can be proud of. Please pass SB441 to help keep it thriving.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:49:37 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
JANE CARLILE	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is time for Hawai'i to step up and support the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra by making it the official symphony of the state, provide funding for it, and be able to include that fact in the list of supports for the cultural and educational needs of Hawai'i residents, adult and youth. The HSO provides a vital form of music recreation for listeners and vital support for the youth who want to be and can be the musicians of the future.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:52:12 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Glenn Wasserman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support!

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:54:34 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joseph A Walker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I am a long time music lover and advocate, serving on the boards of numerous music organizations. How wonderful that Hawai'i has such an amazing resource as the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra. We recently traveled from our home in Maui to a performance and were blown away by the quality and the opportunity to experience this in Hawai'i. HSO is a truly world class orchestra. There is so much potential for this to elevate Hawai'i, Hawaiian music and pacific rim music. HSO is also very fortunate to have uniquely qualified leadership to expand this vision. Thank you for evaluating this Bill.

Joe and Nancy Walker

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:55:36 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rebecca Schmidt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra (formerly the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra) has been a huge part of my life since 1981. At the age of 5 years old, my father took me to nearly every concert the HSO performed, whether at the Blaisdell for classical concerts, Kailua Beach Park for community concerts, Waikiki Shell for pops concerts featuring artists like Doc Severinson, or even The Honolulu Zoo featuring local young artists. Having studied classical piano since the age of 6, the HSO provided MANY opportunities for me to hear fine music and grow musically.

The HSO has always encouraged the younger generations to learn about the symphony orchestra and the impact music can have in their lives. I experienced this first hand when I auditioned for the HSO's Youth Talent Pool in the 1980s. I was able to perform with the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra as a 6th grader playing a Bach piano concerto and as an 8th grader playing a Mozart piano concerto. Those moments tremendously impacted my life and shaped my future. I am now a public school beginning band and orchestra teacher to 5th graders as they begin their musical instrument endeavors!

The HSO has always had phenomenal musicians and trust me, I've heard many orchestras across the country and even internationally. The music they've shared with their audiences over the past 40+ years have touched hearts, brought healing, inspiration, and even bridged generational and cultural gaps.

The power of music via the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra must continue for future generations. I cannot properly express the support and hope I have for this organization and their future. Music matters!

Mahalo,

Rebecca Uejio Schmidt



**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:57:35 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica A. Hui Moore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear representatives, please consider my family's emphatic support for the designation of HSO as the state orchestra of Hawai'i. We think that will honor HSO's continued work with not only the funding but the recognition it deserves for how it enriches the fabric of our culture along so many many threads.

I was born and raised on O'ahu, the daughter of immigrants who themselves were the children of refugees. My time in the Honolulu Youth Symphony and my exposure to what was then the Honolulu Symphony gave me not only an incredible musical education and creative outlet but also a community that I remain connected with today. My mentors and teachers now play for HSO, teach chamber music at my kid's school, etc. In fact, the rebirth of a symphony culture in Honolulu through HSO, and its ministry into the community through events like Peter and the Wolf keiki concerts and Symphony in the Park were hugely influential in my family's decision to move back home from San Francisco, where I had been living since college.

Furthermore, HSO serves as the center of mass for an entire constellation of cultural starlight. I was able to take our six year old and husband to hear Darel Stark play Vivaldi's Four Seasons in Makiki this month. I heard Iggy Jang play at UH Orvis in the autumn. I watched Shawn Conley gig downtown one evening in February. All of these precious artistic moments breath life into our community and are made possible by the fact that HSO exists. There is a saying in olelo Hawai'i — ulana i ka piko, when weaving begin at the center. By designating HSO as the state orchestra, you can weave a web of support for the arts and cultural engagement from the very heart of the musical community.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:58:38 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emma Votapek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB 441, which would designate the Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra as the State of Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra. I joined the HSO in 2004, and some of my favorite experiences have been during outreach efforts that really underscored that we were serving the whole state of Hawai‘i: making weekly trips to Nānākuli to work with elementary school students, and then welcoming them to Blaisdell Concert Hall to make music with us; playing for a packed house in a Hilo community concert led by Aaron Mahi; playing school shows on neighbor islands for students who had never seen a violin up close.

The HSO has strong artistic and executive leadership in place who are committed to expanding our reach in the community through free concerts, collaborations with other arts organizations, and concert series that showcase local talent, but my colleagues and I would like to do even more. Now called the Hawai‘i Symphony, we have both the desire and the kuleana to live up to that name, to demonstrate that we are Hawai‘i’s orchestra. SB 441 would help make that possible, and so I ask for your support of this bill.



COLLEGE of ARTS, LANGUAGES & LETTERS  
DEPARTMENT of MUSIC

March 12, 2025

RE: Senate Bill 441

Honorable Legislators,

I write in strong support of SB441, designating the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra as our state orchestra.

The HSO has long been an essential part of the rich tapestry of musical arts found in Hawai'i. Its activities include not only live performances, but also an array of educational and community service events that provide chances for everyone to experience the power of live orchestral music, an inspiring and uplifting experience that simply cannot be replicated any other way.

The HSO strives to be the orchestra for the entire state, presenting music that represents the cultural fabric of our islands. Its performances encompass a wide variety of styles ranging from classical to pops to Hawaiian, touching on the many communities that make up our state.

In addition, the HSO attracts first-rate musicians to live here, who in turn serve as teachers, mentors and musical role models for our keiki and our community. Many also serve as faculty at the University of Hawai'i-Mānoa Department of Music, educating students who will go on to become future leaders of our state. The positive impacts of the orchestra thus ripple outward in many ways beyond simply playing concerts.

The funding proposed in SB441 will provide support and fiscal stability needed to ensure the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra continues to thrive and make our state a better place. I offer my most enthusiastic backing, and ask you to please support this bill with your vote

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dr. Reid Womack".

Dr. Donald Reid Womack  
Chair, Department of Music  
Composer and Professor of Composition and Theory  
Faculty Member, Center for Japanese Studies  
Faculty Member, Center for Korean Studies

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 5:05:41 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carol Stams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB441 SD1 and HSO

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 5:05:57 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noreen Mulliken	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representative Jeanné Kapela,

My husband and I strongly recommend the passage of SB 441 in support of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra - our HSO! The orchestra in the past few years has risen like a phoenix from the ashes of its past and deserves the recognition and applause that it has received by the broad Hawaiian community. It has not just presented classical music to entirely new listeners but also broght Hawaiian music to an appreciative audience in its HAPA series. Hawaii deserves a world class orchestra - we are a musical culture and out HSO represents the best of Hawaii's nature. It will flourish and continue to grow with State support and funding bettering the entire State.

Please consider this decision and understand how important it is to our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen and David Mulliken

2969 KALAKAUA AVE

HONOLULU, HI 96815

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 5:06:07 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
santosh krinsky	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have watched the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra develop over the last 5 or 6 years into a highly professional 'world-class' orchestra that not only provides strong cultural support for our citizens, but provides a draw for tourists and works with youth groups and the community to enhance the joy and well-being of our citizenry. They are a true credit to Hawaii and deserve our support. Many young people, as well as our kupuna gain a benefit from having an orchestra of this caliber in our community. We also saw the ability of this orchestra to draw world class musicians such as yo yo ma to the island which further enhances our community.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 5:06:20 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shadia Habbal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I moved to Honolulu in January 2000. Prior to that I lived in Cambridge/Boston, where I attended concerts by the Boston Symphony. I am also a world traveler and have had the privilege to witness performances by some of the most renowned orchestras in Europe, such as the Berlin Philharmony. I can attest that of all the venues I have had the good fortune of attending, the Hawaii Symphony stands among those giants. For HSO to have performed all nine Beethoven symphonies at a superb level of musicianship, with an incredibly energetic and artistic director, is testament to its remarkable stature among the top symphony orchestras in the world.

We are so fortunate to be living in a state with such an outstanding orchestra, providing first rate performances to our community. My colleagues from Europe, whom I have invited to attend the symphony whenever they were in town, have always commented on the outstanding quality of our concerts. Our conductor and musicians deserve any standing ovation we can give them as they are truly remarkable.

More remarkable and impressive is that they are so closely linked to the community being music teachers as well. I, for one, have benefitted from being an adult student with two of them. This is not something that can be readily found in other cities. This tight connectivity to the community is a treasure we must preserve.

I very strongly support Bill **SB441 SD1**.

Respectfully submitted,

Shadia R Habbal, PhD

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 5:06:39 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thiago Franchi Rossi Cossi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Thiago Cossi, I'm a composer, conductor and mixing engineer who is currently pursuing my PhD in music composition at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, as well as I'm lecturing for the School of Cinematic Arts at UH where I teach Audio Post Production.

SB441 would give HSO the designation as the state orchestra of Hawai'i and would come with direct funding of the orchestra from the state. I am in absolute full support of SB441, as the state of Hawai'i deserves to have an orchestra that can be comparable to other major orchestras of historical renown in the US. Only with proper funding a symphony orchestra can thrive instead of simply "existing".

By showing the people, that the state of Hawai'i cares about the arts, it gives a huge incentive to aspiring professionals, from keiki to kupuna, including those from poor communities where music could be the means of escaping cycles of violence and addiction. This incentive is the hope that one can actually make a living well in Hawai'i by investing their time and talent to become a professional musician.

By having an orchestra of renown in the state, more music students would be interested in coming to Hawai'i to study, instead of the opposite where people tend to think that going to the mainland or abroad is the best step for their future careers.

As a musician myself I hope that our work and craft can receive the importance and honor it deserves. Help us pave the way for Hawai'i to be known for its art in all areas classical, jazz, Hawaiian music, etc.

That can only happen with proper funding from the state. We need to start somewhere.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Iesū Pū,

Thiago

Gail Switzer  
46-355 Holopu Place  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

March 12, 2025

Re: SB441

I am writing to support making the HI Symphony the HI State Orchestra and assuring annual State funding.

An important reason that my husband and I retired to HI and chose to live on Oahu is because of the cultural offerings on the island. The symphony is one of the cultural offerings that we partake in and find it excellent. The quality of the orchestra is very high, and we find it comparable to the San Francisco symphony that we were used to.

It is very important that the symphony receive reliable funding to maintain its reputation as a quality orchestra and a use of my tax money that I strongly support.

Thank you,  
Gail Switzer

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 5:18:56 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Colleen Whitty	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It sounds as if the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra is the only orchestra in the State. Please be aware of the many orchestras throughout Hawaii that also rely on funding through Grants.

I am a resident of Hawaii Island. I currently play with the Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of Kona on Hawaii Island and the Maui Pops Orchestra on Maui. Please consider funding for these and others.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 5:31:39 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laurie Tom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on this bill in support of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra. They have worked hard and have come a long way to their current success. I have witnessed the enthusiastic community support. I have enjoyed their performances. They are world class. They have tremendous leadership. They are such an asset to our community. They deserve the State's support, and the people of Hawaii deserve to have HSO thrive. And we need greater support of all the Arts in Hawaii, starting in the schools.

Aloha,

Laurie Tom, M.D.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 5:36:20 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jerilynn Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB441 that will recognize Honolulu Symphony Orchestra as State Orchestra of Hawai'i.

Honolulu Symphony Orchestra has been an impressive and important cultural asset of Hawai'i.

Recognizing HSO as the State's Orchestra is appropriate and deserving.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 5:43:35 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mariann Tesaro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 5:44:15 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diana Van De Car	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was so happy to see that this bill is pending! Please pass it! The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra is an incredible treasure in our state. Every performance by this symphony I have ever attended has been spectacular and it just seems to get better and better. I was at the performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony this past Sunday and it was an experience I will always treasure.

It can be hard to measure the value of something so impermanent as a musical performance, but the joy it can bring to the community at large is undeniable. My own love of classical music began in grade school when I attended a performance by the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra for school children at the Honolulu Civic Auditorium. All of us there LOVED it. We lost the Honolulu Symphony. Please make sure the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra remains a permanent fixture in Hawaii. And if you pass this bill, you will make it easier for those of us who live on the neighbor islands to attend and continue to enjoy the experience of a world class orchestra. I've always heard that art is important for its own sake because it strengthens communities. I believe that. Please pass this bill and keep this beauty for us.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 5:45:17 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alyson Easton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

Let's pass SB441...!!

We need to be a proper state with a properly funded state symphony orchestra. A symphony orchestra is a big part of any culture, a growing culture, a maturing culture, and a broad culture.

Honolulu symphony orchestra has supported this value of a diverse culture by performing fanfares from the Eastern Islands, Polynesia, and other Pacific island nations.

Further, Honolulu symphony orchestra has supported this value of a diverse culture by performing two symphonies from O'ahu island composers.

Finally, Honolulu symphony orchestra has included in their performances musicians from a variety of pacific based backgrounds.

SB441 therefore, and it's funding for a Hawaii state symphony orchestra, must be passed.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Alyson Easton M.S.W.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 5:47:48 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Heidi Rian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this measure. The Hawaii Symphony is a significant cultural treasure and educational resource for Hawaii, especially important in these times. Along with presenting excellent and well-received programs, its members teach the next generation of musicians (and have for generations -- I am a grateful former student of a symphony member). It also provides support and encouragement to Hawaii's youth through its work with the Hawaii Youth Symphony Orchestra (of which I am an alumna). Our relatively small, and isolated, community needs excellent live music. We can't drive across state lines to catch a great concert or bring children to lessons with professional musicians, as many on the continent are able to do. State support and funding will make it possible for the symphony to thrive even if private donations and ticket sales are not sufficient at some point to support it reliably at necessary levels.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 6:00:10 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Donna Makishima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Continued support of the arts is crucial to our quality of life in Hawaii. I have been fortunate to enjoy decades of music by the Honolulu Symphony and Hawaii Symphony Orchestra. I support the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra becoming the Hawaii State Symphony Orchestra.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 6:03:41 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joanna Habermann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important measure to ensure that Honolulu has a thriving arts community and the symphony musicians can achieve long-awaited job security. The musicians of the HSO provide much more for our community than the wonderful music they provide at Symohony concerts. They collaborate throughout our community with many other arts organizations, they teach students, and they elevate many aspects of our cultural fabric. Without the financial stability of this organization the ripple effect is huge and the level of Hawaii's status as an artistic community is greatly diminished. Thank you.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 6:09:18 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Perrone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My husband and I had the sincere pleasure of attending HSO's final Beethoven symphony number 9- aptly titled "Ode to Joy".... we met and engaged with so many delightful patrons young and old sharing this sentiment together and embracing the true spirit of Aloha.

As Nietzsche said ... "a life without music would be a mistake" and another mistake as well for the state of Hawaii not to wholeheartedly support the HSO with all of its Aloha!!

Especially now.

Mahalo in advance,

with much joy 🌸

Lisa Perrone

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 6:15:53 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lawrence Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my support for the Hawai'i Symphony to be declared as the State orchestra of Hawai'i. HSO provides the community with a broad selection of performances comprising classical music, popular music and local artists. HSO brings so much artistic and cultural excellence to Hawai'i and the entire state has benefitted greatly by their presence and outreach to the community. The high caliber of their performances inspires us all and enriches our lives in many ways. Such a valuable ensemble should be recognized at the State level.

Respectfully submitted,

L.Shaw

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 6:24:25 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barney Brennan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please join me in supporting SB441!

The Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra is an incredible source of education, inspiration, and joy for our community. I have had the pleasure of interacting with the organization as a parent, volunteer, and donor and have been extremely impressed with the goals and motivations of the organization.

My daughter was involved in the Hawai'i Youth Symphony and had the opportunity to interact with the very skilled and welcoming staff and musicians of the HSO. She was so moved by her experience that she created an internship with the team as a high school senior project and has stayed connected, returning to volunteer over summer and college breaks. She has been supported and encouraged to grow her passion for music and has had the benefit of taking lessons from HSO musicians. She has met and had meaningful interactions with visiting international artists here to perform with the HSO. Truly amazing opportunities that would have never existed without the HSO. She is now a music focused college student playing in chamber, wind, and baroque ensembles.

As a volunteer, I have been able to witness first-hand the motivations and passion of this organization and their commitment to our community. They refer to the the HSO as "your Hawai'i Symphony", and they are stewards that respect the responsibility of providing world class art and entertainment for the community. We are so fortunate to have a team that has the vision to be a Pacific force for the advancement of symphonic music and incorporating the authentic voices of our island nations in their Hapa Series of collaborations. They are cultural leaders and positive representatives that deserve the honor of being the State Orchestra of Hawai'i.

My family is proud to support the HSO as we can afford, and work to share the joy of the performance experience with our friends and co-workers. Seeing what the HSO is able to achieve with current resources just makes me so excited to think of the possiblites with the support of the Hawai'i Legislature.

Please join me in supporting SB 441 and the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra...truly deserving of becoming YOUR State Orchestra of Hawai'i!!



**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 6:31:56 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wendy Asato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators:

I urge you to support this bill so that we may continue to support the symphony in Hawaii. If the state is not able to control the funding and it is taken over by the federal government, we will lose the symphony in the current political climate. Some might say that the symphony is a luxury and we need to tighten our belts to improve our national debt. However, the symphony and its concerts provide employment for Hawaii residents which will support the local economy. It will also provide cultural enrichment, musical education and positive energetic support to the people of Hawai'i.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 6:33:56 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Soong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB441 to designate the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra as the Hawai'i State Orchestra to ensure that generations of keiki & kupuna enjoy the gift of music.

Mahalo,

Susan Soong

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 6:35:15 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Naomi Lithgow Foidl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support the designation of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra (HSO) as the State Orchestra of Hawaii. We have already lost one symphony orchestra and to lose another would be a huge loss for the islands. The HSO provides a valuable cultural asset to the people of Hawaii by bringing in music from all over the world, but also supporting and producing programs that are the music of the Hawaiian people. Thank you for your consideration.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 6:35:50 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amy Luersen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 6:54:29 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carolann Biederman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I am a dedicated music lover and arts donor, and I am submitting this testimony today supporting the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra (HSO).

Soon after I arrived in Honolulu in 1988 from Boston, Mass., I located the arts groups that would provide the cultural excellence that I was used to accessing on the East Coast, and was happy to learn that our local symphony orchestra was first-rate. Just last Sunday, at the newly re-opened Blaisdell Concert Hall, the HSO's magnificent Beethoven Festival finale concert delighted a huge cheering audience of all ages. It was my joy to be among them!

We Hawaii residents are able to enjoy symphonic works and pops music with renowned soloists and compelling conductors and performs a series of youth education concerts because of the HSO. In addition to its own multiple concert series, the Symphony provides the incredible live musical accompaniment for the Opera, Ballet Hawai'i, and visiting performers. Imagine what these performances would be like with pre-recorded music or only a solo musician.

The influence and enrichment that the orchestra to our residents and visitors are apparent in many segments of cultural life. The organization deserves to be maintained as a cultural resource through state funding. Ticket sales and donations alone do not provide 100% support any major cultural group - whether here in Hawai'i or in New York City. As a professional grants writer, I know how challenging it is to secure annual operating funds for the arts, especially for an organization with our Symphony's scope, engagement and impact within the community.

You have the power to help insure the fiscal stability of the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra. For more than 100 years, the HSO has been a leader in mingling Eastern and Western music on concert stages around the state, and its musicians are essential to bring music education to our keiki.

The HSO deserves our financial support and I hope you will hear my voice and move this bill forward. Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Mahalo and aloha, Carolann Biederman, 44-391 Nilu St. #4, Kaneohe, HI 96744

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 7:02:39 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aleksandr Bykov	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 7:08:58 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lucille Frances	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Regarding SB441, SD1

To senate and house of representatives of Hawaii.

Please vote in favor of this bill.

As a music teacher I have witnessed in myself and in children, the highly important influence of music.

I have seen the sadness in childrens' eyes who do not have musical outlets, children who do not sing or play an instrument.

The orchestra is providing exquisite talent and passion in music and its existence provides the uplifting of spirits of thousands of people, and will be passed on to inspire children!

We, people, need this desperately!

Hawaii needs this!

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 7:11:25 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicole Ikeda Cossi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Nicole Ikeda Cossi, a Master's of Music student in a voice performance at UH Mānoa. Hawaii Symphony Orchestra partners with other critical organizations like Hawaii Youth Symphony and Hawaii Opera Theatre. Opera singers and young instrument players require a healthy and well-supported state orchestra to foster their music. State funding for HSO is imperative for the future of the organizations which rely heavily on HSO's consistently excellent playing.

Hawaii needs a healthy, sustained, and state-funded orchestra to increase its visibility in the music realm.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 7:35:39 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gregory C. Wrenn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB441 designating the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra as the State Orchestra of Hawai'i. I am a professional violinist, holding a Master of Music degree from the Yale University School of Music. I have had the privilege of performing with symphony orchestras in the United States and Europe, but my greatest honor was being a member of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, my hometown orchestra, for 21 years. Having retired from the orchestra prior to the Coronavirus pandemic, I am now an avid supporter of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra and other arts organizations. As an expert in the field of music, I can say unequivocally that the high artistic level of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra rivals the top orchestras in this country and abroad. The State of Hawaii deserves recognition among the rest of the country, and world, of having its very own designated orchestra of such high calibre. In addition to the intangible benefits that music and the arts bring to improving the quality of our lives and community, music and the arts are also strong economic drivers. Having a State designated orchestra will have a positive quantifiable effect on our economy, at a time when we need it the most. Mahalo for your consideration.

Gregory C. Wrenn

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 7:39:48 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wentao Huang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HSO is very importance to the cultural, emotional, physical, and financial prosperity of the state of Hawai'i. My three children all enjoy playing music, and I love to see them growing with music. Thank you!

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 7:43:27 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Estella Berg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Classical music has enriched my life and my soul in a way that nothing else has. Hearing and seeing a live symphony sparked a passion in me which took me all the way to The Juilliard School. Although I no longer play music, my studies and experiences are invaluable to any career. The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra is vital to providing similar opportunities to Hawaii's citizens. Please support this bill to further their goals and their reach.

Thank you,

Estella Berg

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 7:49:09 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Fatima Elizabeth Santana Rivera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a female combat disabled veteran that has the honor to live my retirement years in this beautiful State of Hawaii. To know the culture of the people of Hawaii makes me a better person every day. To be surrounded by Hawaii's nature heals my body. To connect with music heals my soul and helps with the brokenness of not being able to come close to people as I struggle with severe PTSD. The joy I felt listening to a live concert cannot be written in words because music is meant to be heard and appreciated. The three Maestros also taught me about classical forgotten Hawaiian musicians. Please let the Hawaii Symphony continue it's labor of culture as well as transend the healing power it provides to this quiet retired and disabled kupuna.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 7:52:02 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
William Manley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong support for this bill. The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra under the inspired leadership of Maestro Dane Lam has become an even more brightly sparkling jewel for all of Hawaii. It has also rightly captured the attention of music lovers far beyond our shores.

This season's spectacular performance of all nine Beethoven symphonies is the pinnacle of this gifted team's achievement. And to feel the deep love from the packed houses for each performance was to live in shining moments of true Aloha.

I respectfully urge the committee to approve this measure to recognize and support this great expression of the value our State places on culture, the arts, and community

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 7:52:06 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Richard E. Duggan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My wife and I have been supporters of HSO for 30 years. The orchestra is world class, it's members are local musicians of the highest caliber. The organization has made great strides over the years in developing its audience through free performances, educational outreach and great financial guidance and help from the private sector.

They deserve the support of our state: I implore you to give assistance to this vital artistic group that gives so much to our community and brings great pride to our state.

Mahalo,

Richard E. Duggan

Kaneohe

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 7:57:21 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elina Hamilton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra is one of the great art organizations in the State of Hawaii and serves the community at large as a valuable source of live music. Its preservation is vital for the people of Hawaii and the long-standing cultural value it provides for all ages. I strongly endorse state funding to be allocated to HSO so that it's future is secure.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 7:59:13 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Holly Pippin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I write in strong support of SB441, which would designate the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra as the state orchestra and allocate funding to solidify the HSO as a cultural and artistic treasure across the state and beyond.

I am a PhD student in Music Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a member of the O'ahu Choral Society (OCS). In my time with OCS, I have had the opportunity to perform two impactful collaborative concerts with the HSO - Carmina Burana in 2022 and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony this past weekend. These experiences have given me so much more than the simple satisfaction of performing a high-quality, well-prepared concert. I have gained a deep appreciation for the amount of time, resources, individual and group preparation, communication, and pure passion that goes into creating a performance of such magnitude.

These experiences must be continually ensured through consistent and reliable funding.

The collaborative efforts of the HSO and OCS organizations have shown me that music and the arts are deeply valued in the state of Hawai'i. Collaboration between arts organizations is vital to the preservation of culture and the mental, social, and emotional well-being of the artists themselves, in addition to the communities they serve. The HSO provides critical educational outreach, community and social vitality, and rich cultural capital to residents and visitors in the state of Hawai'i.

These experiences must be continually ensured through consistent and reliable funding.

As a music educator, I have witnessed first-hand the impact professional symphony orchestras have in the lives of students, families, and communities for learning about much more than music. Witnessing a first-time symphony goer's wonder and joy is something I sincerely treasure as an educator and musician, but it is mild in comparison to the imprint such an experience leaves on that individual. Seeing a live professional orchestra and realizing the power of musicians committed to something greater than themselves is unmatched and life-changing!

These experiences must be continually ensured through consistent and reliable funding.

I ask that you use your vote to support the continuation and preservation of impactful, culturally rich artistic endeavors for the people of Hawai‘i, in recognition of the countless benefits provided by the Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra. These experiences, for performers, audiences, and communities alike, must be continually ensured through consistent and reliable funding.

Mahalo nui loa for your time, consideration, and support of SB441.

Holly L. Pippin

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 8:00:53 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sara Collins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice-Chair Kong and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of SB 441, SD 1. I have subscribed to the symphony's Masterworks series for some years now and have come to appreciate how lucky we are to have such an excellent orchestra in our state. In addition to the extensive repertoire of music performed, the HSO has undertaken a program of commissioning new works from Pacific composers which are featured regularly. The HSO also does a lot of outreach in our communities, providing free concerts and school presentations. Many of the musicians in the HSO are teachers and mentors to young musicians in our state. We have a treasure in the HSO and should do what we can to support it.

The HSO is very worthy of support from the state and I respectfully urge you to pass SB 441, SD 1.

Mahalo for your time and for considering my comments.

best,

Sara Collins

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 8:07:13 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David L. Raffle, PhD	Raffle Brain Institute	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a neuropsychologist and Director of Raffle Brain Institute in Ewa Beach, Hawai'i, I have seen the beneficial effects of music, especially classical music, on patients with anxiety, depression, and other mental health conditions, in both adults and children (see Li, Occup Ther Int, 2022. Aalbers et al., Cochrane Database Syst Rev, 2017; De Witt et al, Health Psychol Rev, 2022). It is very important that the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra (HSO) be supported by the State of Hawai'i so that the people of this state will have access to what can be, for many, a life-saving intervention. I strongly support the passage of SB441 so that the HSO receive the state funding it needs to continue to provide a vital service to our people - David L. Raffle, PhD, HSPP, Clinical Neuropsychologist, Director, Raffle Brain Institute

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 8:08:53 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gregory L Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the designation of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra (HSO) as the state orchestra of Hawai'i. I regularly attend the symphony and value the positive impact that HSO makes on everyone from Keiki to Kapuna. Music is a common language that everyone speaks it enriches our lives as we communicate with all walks of life.

Mahalo,

Greg

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 8:08:57 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
GWEN YOUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Hawaii, I strongly support Bill SB441,. I thus urge the Culture and Arts Committee, chaired by Representative Jeanné Kapela to continue the passage through the Hawai'i State Legislature. I attend the HSO at many venues offered in O'ahu and gain growth of culture and experience in every performance.

The HSO is a treasure to our state and benefits residents and visitors with the gift of acclaimed music from broad and diverse cultures and styles. What better way to bring us together and stimulate future growth of the arts to our keiki and opportunities for all of us to enjoy.

Please pass SB441 to give HSO the designation as the state orchestra of Hawai'i and thus support direct funding support from our the state.

Mahalo Nui,

Gwen Young

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 8:18:55 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bill Ellis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra is an important part of the Hawaii community, bringing the joy of music and appreciation for the arts to the current and future generations of Hawaii. Please continue to support this important institution, and go see a concert!



Michael Scott Asato Cuthbert  
Chief Musical Officer and Principal Software Engineer  
[www.artusimusic.com](http://www.artusimusic.com)

Culture and Arts Committee  
Rep. Jeanné Kapela, Chair  
Re: SB441

12 March 2025

Honorable Chairwoman and Members of the Committee,

I write as a musician, educator, entrepreneur, and most especially as a resident of Hawai'i to strongly urge support **SB441** and make the HSO in practice what it already is in our hearts: the official State Orchestra of Hawai'i.

The Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra is continually looking for ways to involve the entire community, through free outreach concerts, connecting with local youth symphonies, sharing their performances for free on radio and on social media. The activities of this group are incredible! By comparison, from 2014–2018, I was a member of the Boston Symphony Orchestra's Media and Technology board committee, and I can say that the HSO is making just as strong a positive impact on our community as the BSO was in there's...all without hundreds of millions in the bank. The HSO is also in a leading position showcasing important Hawaiian and local composers both the community and to the world.

The impact HSO is making will grow even more if SB441 is passed. I urge everyone to support this important bill.

Mahalo nui,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Michael Scott Asato Cuthbert".

Michael Scott Asato Cuthbert  
[michael.asato.cuthbert@gmail.com](mailto:michael.asato.cuthbert@gmail.com)

(testimony submitted as a private citizen, not on behalf of my company)

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 8:30:25 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marshall Ingraham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support passage of SB441 relating to the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra. Honolulu has been sadly lacking in such musical performances and education ever since the Honolulu Symphony folded years ago. As a community as rich as we are in various cultures, cultural practices, and music, we need to add back the classical music and artistry of individual musicians on our island. Please pass SB441!!

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 8:33:06 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jan Bigalke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra is a state treasure and, as such, should be recognized as the official orchestra of the State of Hawai'i. I am in favor of providing state support for it.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 8:38:01 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Monk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As season subscribers for many years, my wife Amy and I value the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra as a precious jewel of this state's performing arts scene. In addition to the high-quality performances across multiple musical genres, the HSO's members serve as the base for music education and training to enrich the lives of our keiki and plant the seeds of future performers. The official recognition and support embodied in this bill are proper acknowledgment of the key role HSO plays in our state's cultural life. We urge its passage.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 8:41:31 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julieta Nagamine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother of a 6 year old, I was grateful to have attended the free Beethoven concert with my daughter in February. Grateful to exposed her to this kind of discipline that otherwise we wouldn't be able to prioritize buying tickets for. It was personally healing to hear such beautiful music and be reminded that God actually created these kind of beauty for all of us to enjoy.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 8:48:09 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Charles E Cox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, as a long time chorus member and a frequent symphony performance attendee, support SB441!

I believe SB441 will benefit all of us who love music. I hope this bill passes and our society will thrive from the success of a strong hawaii symphony!

sincerely,

Charles E Cox

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 8:53:09 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christopher Tortora	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB 441 regarding the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra. Honolulu is unique in possessing a symphony orchestra of the caliber of the HSO in a community with a limited population and catchment area. In order to preserve this precious resource, the state should join in the financial support of this local treasure. Not only does the symphony inspire and uplift the people of Hawai'i's, but it also provides us a rich resource of talented musicians who can teach our keiki (and adults) to play music, appreciate music, and understand the context and interactions of traditional Hawaiian music and western classical music.

Please support and pass this bill.

thank you.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 9:14:50 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marcia M. Nagao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 441, designating the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra as the State of Hawaii Symphony Orchestra. Founded in 1900, the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra (formerly known as the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra), is one of the oldest orchestras in the U.S. west of the Rocky Mountains. The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra is a vital part of our community, bringing people together through performances at the Hawaii Theatre and Neil S. Blaisdell Concert Hall, as well as through educational outreach programs. Symphonic music is a universal language, transcending barriers of age, race, and background, connecting us on an emotional level. Symphonic music has the ability to enrich and enhance our lives, and inspire future generations of artists. The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra is a cultural treasure, worth investing in and protecting. Please support this institution to ensure symphonic music continues to be available for future generations.

Thank you,

Marcia M. Nagao

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 9:17:19 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
JEFFREY LIM, M.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 9:25:12 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diane Matsuura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill for the following reasons:

We do not currently have a State Symphony Orchestra

Our HSO plays at the highest standard of musical excellence with varied repertoire inspiring all ages. HSO has a vision to reach many in the community by offering free concerts raising the level of musical awareness to a large audience. Everyone I know who attends HSO concerts are thrilled with the beauty and quality of the music.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 9:25:49 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrea Snyder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The music of the Hawai`i Symphony Orchestra brings joy and meaning to the audiences that the HSO reaches out to, from subscribers to first time attendees at concert halls, the Waikiki Shell, parks and schools. I'm in favor of making the HSO the State of Hawai`i's official orchestra to reach even more people, to encourage music making by the professional orchestra, and students. I just attended a Side by Side concert with the HSO and the HYS, the Hawai`i Youth Symphony that featured music by a living composer, Michael Thomas Fournai, and Shostakovich. The HSO has an impact beyond the concert stages, as its musicians are teachers of our keiki, and enriches the music education for us all.

Thank you, Andrea Snyder

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 9:35:21 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Albert Lono Lyman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In the mid 1950s I was about eight years old living in Hilo. I had my first encounter with the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra at a concert for school children. I had never seen the array of instruments or heard an orchestral presentation.

My experience as an 8 year old opened a window to a lifetime of enjoying of The Honolulu Symphony Orchestra. The requested State funding for the Honolulu Symphony. Orchestra will bring the same joy to school children today. Please approve this request.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 9:36:03 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ignace Jang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This testimony is in support of SB441.

I am employed by the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra (HSO). I joined the organization in 1997, and I truly believe its leadership, board members, volunteers, staff and musicians to be genuine cultural ambassadors of the State. I was fortunate, with HSO, to fulfill our mission on Oahu, Maui, Hawai'i and Kauai over time. To cherish our islands and all they encompass, the musical voice of HSO is essential. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Iggy Jang

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 9:46:49 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sara Ricer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying in regards to SB441 SD.1, A Bill for an Act Relating to the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra.

As an instrumental musician who calls Hawaii my home, I oppose this bill as currently written.

Although the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra does make musical contributions to the Honolulu community as stated, there exist multiple additional symphony orchestras within the islands who also provide classical and contemporary orchestral music and educational experiences to our local communities, and who host local and global performers in concerts and events.

These orchestras include (but may not be limited to) the Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra Society in Waimea, Big Island; the Chamber Orchestra of Kona in Kona, Big Island; the Maui Pops Orchestra in Kahului, Maui; the Orchid Isle Orchestra in Kea'au, Big Island; and the South Hawaii Symphony Orchestra in Ka'u.

I have experienced the joy felt by musicians and communities on neighbor islands when these groups and their guests perform.

I am unsure which, if any, public input was taken into account when choosing an orchestra to designate as the official State of Hawaii Symphony Orchestra; if our state legislature is to designate such an entity, I would be curious to see a public proposal process open to all communities and organizations interested in taking part in this decision. I believe it would be a good opportunity to potentially provide state consideration, recognition, and funding for classical music organizations throughout all islands of Hawaii.

I appreciate the committee's time and consideration of this matter.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 10:01:09 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Martha Nakajima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra is the equal of any professional orchestra on the US West Coast or Japan which is an extraordinary achievement in light of the geographical challenge this represents. In addition to presenting in concert the full repertory of Western classical and contemporary art music, the HSO is forging a Hawaiian and Asia-Pacific identity, especially in the past couple of seasons under the direction of its new Chinese-Australian Maestro, Dane Lam, Our orchestra promises to be a worthy ambassador of Hawaii to this entire region and deserves to be designated officially the orchestra of the state of Hawaii. I strongly support SB441.

Sincerely, Martha Nakajima, Honolulu

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 10:03:07 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara J. Service	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support the Hawaii Symphony. Music is an important and necessary part of our lives!

Barbara J. Service MSW

Child Welfare Supervisor (ret.)



## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB441 SD1, RELATING TO THE HAWAII SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE & ARTS

March 14, 2025

Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Culture & Arts Committee:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** SB441 SD1, RELATING TO THE HAWAII SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. Pursuant to the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, the Party supports public funding going towards the arts, artists, arts education and cultural organizations and initiatives. The Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra is a gift to our communities and schools.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports designating the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra as the State of Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra. This designation will allow the state to further support the Symphony and its musicians, giving it the assistance it needs, including with funding to continue its work of educating and entertaining the people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in Support of SB441 SD1, RELATING TO THE HAWAII SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at [legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org](mailto:legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org).



12 March 2025

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Senate Committee,

I am writing to express my wholehearted and enthusiastically strong endorsement of Senate Bill 441 (SB441) and its critical support for the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra (HSO). As a faculty member at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) Music Department, I have seen firsthand how vital the HSO is to the cultural, educational, and artistic development of our community, particularly in supporting the next generation of musicians and artists. SB441 will help ensure that the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra continues to be a major resource for our students, local musicians, and the broader public across Hawaii.

The HSO offers a remarkable array of performances that bring world-class music to our state, enriching the cultural landscape of Hawai'i. The *Masterworks Series* is a highlight, consistently featuring renowned guest artists from around the globe. These performances offer local audiences the rare opportunity to experience top-tier classical music, performed at the highest level. As a prior guest soloist of this series, the caliber of these concerts enhances Hawaii's reputation as a destination for the arts and offers an invaluable cultural experience for our residents.

Another outstanding initiative is *Symphony in the Park*, a free performance that brings orchestral music to the public in an accessible and enjoyable outdoor setting. These concerts foster a deep sense of community, making orchestral music available to everyone, regardless of their background or financial means. The outreach of the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra extends far beyond its main stage, engaging people from all walks of life.

The *Hawai'i Youth Symphony Side-by-Side* program provides an invaluable mentorship opportunity for aspiring young musicians. By performing alongside professional musicians from the HSO, these students receive hands-on training, learning directly from experienced artists. This program plays a vital role in the development of Hawaii's next generation of musicians, fostering skills that will carry them into their professional careers.

The HSO's public school outreach programs are another key component of their educational mission. Symphony musicians work in small groups with individual students, providing personalized instruction that helps cultivate their musical talents. This one-on-one attention and the ability to interact with professional musicians is invaluable to our keiki, inspiring them to continue their musical studies and helping them develop their skills to their fullest potential.

The support of Resident Artistic Director Maestro Dane Lam is crucial to the success of the orchestra. His leadership has taken the HSO to new heights, inspiring both the musicians and the community with his vision, artistry, and commitment to musical excellence. Maestro Lam's leadership ensures that the HSO continues to showcase Hawaii's musical talent and provide a platform for the voices of local artists.

Equally important is the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra's commitment to resident musicians, as well as the dedicated staff and administration that support the orchestra's diverse programs. The HSO provides professional opportunities for local musicians, giving them a platform to perform at the highest level while helping to cultivate a thriving music community in Hawai'i.

The Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra's outreach extends to the neighbor islands, with performances, educational programs, and free live streaming of concerts. This outreach ensures that the incredible music of the HSO is accessible to **all** of Hawaii's residents, not just O'ahu, regardless of geographic location. The orchestra's collaboration with local organizations such as the **Hawai'i Opera Theatre** and **Ballet Hawai'i** further strengthens Hawaii's cultural scene and brings even more high-quality performances to our state.

Most recently, the HSO has partnered with yet another local organization, the **O'ahu Choral Society** (OCS) in a performance of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*. This monumental piece, known for its powerful choral finale and stirring themes of unity and brotherhood, is an extraordinary example of the transformative power of music. The synergy between the HSO and OCS created an unforgettable performance that resonated deeply with a full capacity audience.

The HSO has long been a cultural cornerstone in our community, consistently delivering world-class performances that elevate the arts in Hawai'i. Their ability to bring together exceptional musicians, collaborate with renowned ensembles like OCS, and bring life to the masterpieces of the classical repertoire is nothing short of remarkable. Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*, with its grandeur and complexity, presents a unique challenge that requires technical brilliance, artistic depth, and an unwavering commitment to excellence — qualities that the HSO embodies.

Moreover, the HSO's collaborations with legendary local artists such as Jake Shimabukuro and Robert Cazimero enrich the musical experience of our community, blending diverse musical traditions and providing opportunities for local international stars to shine on the same stage.

From an academic perspective, the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra plays a significant role in supporting the students in the University of Hawai'i' at Mānoa's Music Department. The orchestra frequently performs compositions by my colleagues in the department, offering the opportunity to hear their works performed by world-class musicians. UHM also hosts guest masterclasses and seminars led by visiting performers and composers, providing invaluable experience to our students as they prepare for professional careers in music. These experiences are crucial in shaping the next generation of musicians, composers, and music educators in Hawai'i.

In conclusion, I strongly support SB441, as it will provide vital resources to the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra and ensure that it can continue to serve as an educational and cultural cornerstone for our community. The orchestra's work with local musicians, students, and schools, as well as its outreach to the neighbor islands and partnerships with other arts organizations, is essential to the continued growth

of the arts in Hawai'i. Supporting SB441 is an investment in the future of Hawai'i's music community and will benefit not only our students but the broader public as well – from keiki to kupuna.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill. I am confident that SB441 will have a lasting positive impact on Hawaii's culture and the arts, and I politely encourage your strong consideration of SB441 and your support.

With deep respect and aloha,

Thomas Yee, DMA

Professor of Music (piano)

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 10:27:30 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the passage of SB 441, SD 1 which would designate the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra (HSO) as the official state symphony and provide essential funding for its operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 441, SD 1.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 10:30:51 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brittany Huntington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The sheer joy, power, perspective, community, and talent HSO brings to hawaii is remarkable. They are hands down the most diverse, engaging, varied (regarding types of performances) and approachable of symphonies I have every experienced. From music scores to movies, concerts in the park, full symphonies, or entertaining evenings with local musicians at Waikiki shell---this group of talented musicians and directors lead with heart and create a better hawaii. I am in full support of this bill and HSO.

Our country and our communities need to support arts at the state level all the more in this current national political climate

Respectfully,

Brittany

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 10:32:05 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
N. Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this as any major city needs a symphony. The arts are incredibly critical for the community, especially in this age of AI. Support of the arts is important more than ever.

Mahalo

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 10:38:32 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michelle K.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I strongly SUPPORT passing this bill because recognizing the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra will show that we prioritize the arts in the state and increase interest in classical music and more. The HSO is a joy and gem in our community that we must value and share with current and future generations. Everyone who has a chance to witness HSO perform is like experiencing magic in real life. Hawaii needs HSO more than ever especially during these uncertain times, and let's give them our full support now. Thank you for your time and kind consideration.

Mahalo,  
Michelle

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 10:40:40 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
F Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, Members of the Culture and Arts Committee,

I write in strong support of SB441 SD1. I have attended public schools from elementary through an undergraduate degree from UH-Manoa (McKinley grad). I was fortunate to attend Kauluwela Elementary, where we began every morning with patriotic song fest in the auditorium.

This was my first and long lasting exposure to music as a source of beauty and community. SB441 will help to guarantee that the youth of Hawaii will have a source of great music, including, Western classical, popular music, Hawaiian music, and new music--especially from indigenous peoples. The orchestra, under the leader of Maestro Dane, has programmed diverse genres and has made a concerted effort to reach out to the community.

The current administration in D.C. has introduced a world where the bottom line of certain brands is the only factor that counts, regardless of factual realities and harm to the people and our democracy. We have to combat this dystopian cynicism with great music, which, by the way, has been established as an important component of a strong education.

Thank you for your consideration and your continuing public service!

Aloha, Frances Wong

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 10:59:57 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ted Meehan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB441.

As a long time supporter of the arts and in particular orchestral music, I can think of no greater importance in the world of classical music than what the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra brings to the state of Hawaii. HSO is a world class orchestra, bringing symphonic music to children, schools, teaching organizations and concert goes alike throughout the year.

I urge you to support SB441.

Thank you,

Ted Meehan

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 11:04:58 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Littman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Symphony is an important cultural part of the State of Hawaii. Not only does it bring music and cultural events to the State, but it attracts musicians to Hawaii who form the basis of the musical life of Hawaii. Without the Hawaii Symphony music education and music in Hawaii would be severely diminished. Symphony orchestras in Europe and most of the world are supported by public funds-these orchestras bring tourism, culture and prestige to where they are based. To designate the Hawaii Symphony as state orchestra and support it will increase the cultural profile of Hawaii, be good for tourism and benefit the state in myriad ways.



**HAWAI'I  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA**

**DANE LAM | MUSIC AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawai'i  
Regular Session of 2025  
House Committee on Culture and Arts  
Testimony by Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra  
March 14, 2025

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**Music & Artistic  
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*Dane Lam*

**Conductor  
Emeritus**

*JoAnn Falletta*

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB441 – RELATING TO THE HAWAI'I  
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Committee,**

As Music and Artistic Director and President and CEO, respectively, of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, we request your support of **SB441**, which would designate the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra as the State of Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra. This designation is not just symbolic—it would provide essential funding to ensure **equal access to world-class symphonic music for all residents, regardless of where they live.**

Music is not only entertainment; it helps mental health, physical health, brain development, and socialization. It teaches concentration, perseverance, listening, and working together. Music brings people together and uplifts our communities, and HSO is a community service provider.

Right now, **many communities—particularly on the neighbor islands and in areas outside of cities—have little to no access to live symphonic music.** Music education opportunities are also unevenly distributed, despite clear evidence linking exposure to the arts with improved academic and social outcomes.

SB441 would allow the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra to:

- ✔ **Expand free public concerts statewide**
- ✔ **Enhance music education for thousands of Hawai'i's keiki**
- ✔ **Support local musicians and cultural collaborations**
- ✔ **Commission new works that reflect Hawai'i's unique heritage**

We are proud of all we offer at HSO, such as:

- More than 50 diverse concerts annually
- Free park and outdoor community concerts
- Free education concerts including Symphony of the Hawaiian Birds and Symphony of the Hawai'i Forests
- Our Na Hoku Opio - Young Stars competition that showcases the talented young Hawai'i students
- Side-by-side projects with Hawai'i Youth Symphony



HAWAI'I  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA

DANE LAM | MUSIC AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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*Lucy Xie*

#### President & CEO

*Amy Iwano*

#### Music & Artistic Director

*Dane Lam*

#### Conductor Emeritus

*JoAnn Falletta*

- A Masterworks Series that brings the world's best music and greatest artists to Hawai'i
- Our HapaSymphony Series that combines the talents of Hawai'i's most revered musicians including Robert Cazimero, Jake Shimabukuro and Raitea Helm with the power of a symphony orchestra in full flight
- Commissioning new works by living composers from around our Pacific Region, embracing our geography as a Pacific Orchestra
- Uniting the state's most important arts organizations under one umbrella in our groundbreaking Beethoven Festival
- The musicians are our greatest asset: We employ some of the United States' finest musicians to play in the HSO. They don't only play in the orchestra, though; they also play the vital role of educating our children
- Sharing live symphonic music that has been linked in numerous studies with vastly improved academic performance, better outcomes for young people, and increased social cohesion

A **designated State Orchestra** would be a **cultural and economic asset**, supporting local jobs, driving tourism, and strengthening our communities through music. With funding from SB441, HSO could **reach more people on every island**—making the arts accessible to all.

We urge you to **pass SB441** and help make symphonic music a lasting and meaningful part of life for all Hawai'i residents.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Dane Lam  
Music and Artistic Director

Amy Iwano  
President and CEO

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 11:11:38 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Annabel Chotzen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Annabel Chotzen. The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra is a phenomenal gift to the community, uplifting the spirits of people from all walks of life. For more than thirty years, I have seen our wonderful symphony and its musicians struggle to survive. Having funding from the legislature would give stability to the orchestra, allow people to attend free concerts, pay musicians and the conductor a fair salary, and continue to enliven and enrich Hawaii.

Having attended the incredible Beethoven 9th last Sunday with my husband, I can say that the joyful roar of applause and standing ovation, indicated this was the best experience for many people during these challenging times. I believe that an indicator of a healthy community is one rich in the arts. Hawaii is a magnificent place. Let's continue to make it extraordinary for our community and visitors from all over the world by supporting in a significant, meaningful way, the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra.

I urge you to vote yes on SB 441 SD1.

Mahalo nui loa,

Annabel Chotzen

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 11:31:46 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James Moffitt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I write in strong support for SB441 which would officially designate the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra the State Orchestra of Hawai'i.

This bill would allocate funding to allow the HSO to continue to provide and expand on providing over 50 diverse concerts annually, free Park and Community concerts, free Education concerts, including sending musicians into classrooms to work one on one with students, side by side. An addition, this bill would make possible the production of concerts with the Hawai'i Youth Symphony Orchestra students, Masterrworks concerts, where the HSO presents the world's greatest artists and the Hapa Series where the HSO works with Hawai'i's most revered musicians. The HSO is the State's largest employer of professional, union musicians, who are some of the finest musicians in the Country.

Thank you,

James Moffitt, President, Musicians' Association of Hawai'i

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 11:50:31 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marsha Nager	HSO	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

<p>The HSO is such an important part of our community. This symphony reflects the unique personality of Hawai'i. Dane Lam and the symphony members have brought our community together in so many ways. Recently I was overcome with joy when they presented Beethoven's 9th Symphony. The response from the audience was overwhelming. We need moments like this to unite our community in a positive way. Also with funding they could perform on the other islands which deserve their amazing talent. They also have programs that inspire our youth. Please help fund their amazing programs.</p>

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 12:26:12 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anna Lenhart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Anna Lenhart. In 2018, I moved to Hawai'i after winning the symphony's principal horn audition. I brought with me 15 years of training from world renowned musical institutions.

Like most incoming musicians, I expected Hawaii to be a short-term job for me, a small steppingstone on the path to a larger, well-funded orchestra.

But Hawai'i deserves better than being a rotating door for upcoming musicians. I fell in love with these islands and the people who inhabit them.

By designating the HSO as the State of Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra, you are enabling highly trained musicians to stay.

To stay for the quiet keiki who find their voice through music.

To stay for the kapuna who sing along to our Christmas carols at their retirement centers.

To stay for the woman who whispered an awestruck "wow" into the silence after we finished a Beethoven symphony.

To stay and build community.

With our current resources, we can't provide our soul-healing music to everyone who wants it.

SB441 will enable us musicians to not only stay in Hawai'i but to expand our influence to neighbor islands and underserved communities.

Thank you for helping us help your constituents.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 12:28:53 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Larry Nager	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Every great symphony orchestra must exemplify the centuries-old traditions of classical music with virtuosity and passion. But the truly great ones uniquely exemplify the place in which it lives. In that, the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Dane Lam is a truly great symphony orchestra. Hawai'i's musical traditions have reshaped the music of the world with innovations such as the steel guitar and the ukulele. The Hawai'i Symphony reflects that with such guest artists as the Paganini of the uke, Jake Shimabukuro But Maestro Lamb also reflects the classical traditions of Hawai'i and the Pacific Rim nations, regularly featuring Asian Composers and soloists as well as the uniquely multi-cultural makeup of the orchestra itself. Perhaps the best example of the former was the HSO's recent sold-out performance of Hawaiian-born Chinese-American composer Dai Keong Lee's Pulitzer-nominated Symphony No. 2.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 3:28:06 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Representative Kapela, Vice Chair Representative Kong and Members of the Committee on Culture and Arts.

Please vote for SB 441 SD 1, which I strongly support. I have donated to the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra for several years. The Orchestra is made up of dedicated, wonderful musicians who perpetuate classical music and also perform contemporary pieces. With support from the Legislature, the Orchestra might be able to perform in more communities.

I attended the final concert in the Beethoven Festival recently where a piece by a local composer and Beethoven's 9th Symphony were performed, the latter with the Oahu Choral Society. It was a magnificent performance that received a standing ovation. The performance was transporting, uplifting, enriching.

Please support the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra so that they can continue to transport, uplift and enrich our lives.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 3:40:11 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruth Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I attended all concerts of the HSO performances of Beethoven's nine symphonies (as well as other HSO concerts). Maestro Dane Lam is an engaged and dedicated leader who is shaping the HSO into a premier symphony focused on the Pacific Rim. The HSO sponsors composers and the arts that extend beyond performances and enrich our island state and the region.

I strongly support SB441.

Ruth Chang

999 Wilder Ave. #1004 | Honolulu, HI 96822

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 5:32:16 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gregory M. Sato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of this bill. A thriving professional symphony is vital to the success of our community. Young professionals are attracted to a community that have an exciting cultural scene. The HSO under its current leadership is at the vanguard of newly awakened music industry that both entertains as well as support important commercial endeavors.

Thank you for your support of the Arts.

--Greg Sato--

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 6:44:46 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kenneth Fehling	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Symphony, like the Royal Hawaiian Band, provide important live professional music for our citizens to enjoy. In addition these musical groups provide future opportunities for our youth to learn and to play different instruments with and then be able to perform those instruments as a profession. There are no other opportunities in Hawaii that provide that. We must support these unique opportunities for our citizens and our youth.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 6:47:51 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a wonderful bill. It provides residents and visitors statewide with untold opportunities to appreciate music in many forms as they attend live concerts, some of them free of charge. Guest artists come from around the world, as well as Hawaii nei. In addition, the Symphony commissions new works by living composers from the Pacific. Please move this bill forward.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 6:52:12 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yvonne Chan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB441 – Designation of HSO as the State Orchestra of Hawai’i

Dear Chair Kapela and Members of the Culture and Arts Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 441, which designates the Hawai’i Symphony Orchestra (HSO) as the official state orchestra of Hawai’i and provides essential funding to support its operations. This bill is not only a significant step for the future of HSO but also for the broader cultural, educational, and artistic landscape of Hawai’i.

The Hawai’i Symphony Orchestra plays an indispensable role in enriching the cultural fabric of our state. Its powerful performances, such as the recent Beethoven Festival, demonstrate the impact the orchestra has on our community. These performances are not only a source of joy and inspiration for those who attend but also contribute to the vitality of the arts across Hawai’i, providing a platform for both local and international artists.

Importantly, the HSO is vital to music education in our schools. Through its outreach programs and partnerships with schools across the state, the orchestra introduces students to the transformative power of music. It is through these initiatives that we nurture the next generation of musicians, educators, and arts enthusiasts, ensuring that music education continues to thrive in Hawai’i. The symphony’s influence extends beyond performance—it helps foster a love for music in our youth and contributes to their personal growth and academic success.

Moreover, the arts, and symphonic music in particular, are integral to the economic and emotional prosperity of our state. Research shows that access to the arts not only boosts mental health and community well-being but also drives tourism and supports local businesses. By ensuring stable funding for the HSO, we are investing in Hawai’i’s future, creating opportunities for artists, educators, and businesses alike.

I urge the committee to pass SB441, as it will secure the future of the Hawai’i Symphony Orchestra and strengthen its vital role in Hawai’i’s cultural and educational systems. This bill is a meaningful step toward preserving and enhancing the arts for generations to come.

Mahalo for your consideration and support of this important legislation.

Yvonne Chan



**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 7:11:34 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Edward K. Conklin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB441. For many years, the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra and its predecessor, the Honolulu Symphony, have been an important contributor to Hawai'i's culture. Costs have continued to rise, however, and state support is needed at this point to maintain this institution. The HSO has recently expanded its reach, engaging in semi-classical performances and bringing good music to audiences that otherwise might not hear them. This benefits everyone, and should be strongly encouraged.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 7:13:10 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joyce Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The HSO is a cultural gem for the state of Hawaii and its performances serve as a gathering place for all lovers of the arts and music. The musicians that comprise HSO are much needed educators for our future music-makers and ambassadors for arts in our community. Please pass this bill and recognize HSO as our official state orchestra!

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 7:16:35 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie D Hoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a long time choral singer in Honolulu and long time Honolulu and Hawaii symphony orchestra season ticket holder I support this bill wholeheartedly. I just participated in the Beethoven 9 symphony last Sunday as a member of the Oahu choral society. Josh hanerman is a fabulous director and prepared us well for this performance. Dane Lam is the leader of all musicians and has lead the orchestra to new heights for our community. The 4 minute standing ovation was a true blessing for all performers at the end of the concert. I hope you were all present to be experience it.

please support this bill and support the Hawaii symphony to become our state symphony for all citizens and all the young people in the community.

aloha Stephanie Hoe

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 7:43:14 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark A Heberle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support passage of Bill SB 441 designating the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra as the official orchestra of the state, eligible for state funding. Under Maestro Dane Lam the orchestra has reached a peak of excellence unprecedented in my 44 years of attending HSO performances in Blaisdell & Hawaii Theatre. The orchestra's performance of Mahler's massive 5th Symphony at the Shell this summer, the first concert I attended was revelation, the clearest, most finely articulated performance of a Mahler Symphony I've ever heard. I bought season tickets for this year for myself & my wife for the first time in decades & both of us were rewarded with an equally superb performance of Mahler's 4th in the Hawaii Theatre this fall. The HSO's entire cycle of all 9 Beethoven symphonies, completed splendidly in Blaisdell last Sunday with the 9th Symphony (Choral ) and full chorus and soloists was equally stunning & like the 3d., 5th, 6th, , 7th, closed four other double Symphony concerts with prolonged standing ovations. All were conducted dynamically and lucidity by Dane Lam WITHOUT A SCORE, the sign of the highest genius and devotion to music in a conductor.

But this Hawaii Symphony Orchestra has been equally monumental in its outreach to the community and its introduction of modern Symphony music connected to the Pacific and Asia, including the premiere of several 20th century works DURING the Beethoven concerts. Local prize-winning high school soloists played their pieces superbly in the first half of the Mahler 5th concert & Maestro Lam (who also conducts orchestras in his native Australia and in China) & the orchestra he leads take as their highest calling involvement within the community to foster and spread the love of classical music in our islands, including such initiatives as having a local resident composer and conductor working within the orchestra this season as well as a free "teaching" performance of Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony (#6) conducted by him.

We will certainly buy season tickets again next year & I've been so moved by the prodigious quality of our own Hawaii Symphony Orchestra that I will be making the largest contribution of my life to any organization (and my first to the HSO!)

I hope the legislature will pass SB 441 to a knowledge this treasure of our state & I would certainly support our own taxes being used to partially fund it.

Mark Heberle



**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 7:50:18 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark James	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 441 as a long time supporter of the Hawaii Sumphony Orchestra and before that the Honolulu Symphony. Mark James 3025 Wailani Rd Hon HI 96813

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 8:14:58 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sara Lin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

in **STRONG** support. Music and the Arts are valuable resources for both Hawaii's youth and the community at large. These musicians are not \*just\* Hawaii Symphony members, they are also amazing music instructors, school teachers, community volunteers and otherwise positively engaged and active within their community. Please consider supporting this measure. Mahalo, Sara Lin

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 8:24:18 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jan Kamano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A professor once said, "Times change. People don't." I feel blessed whenever I attend HSO concerts because being in those moments reminds me what we people need to uplift our spirits. Maestro Lam, the musicians, and the audience all participate to keep the good vibes going in Hawaii. Yeah, we need the HSO. Grateful for them.

Aloha,

My name is Sharon Twigg-Smith and I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 441 (SB441), which seeks to advance the arts in Hawaii through increased funding and support for local cultural programs. As a passionate advocate for the arts, I firmly believe that the arts are an integral part of our identity and have a transformative effect on both individuals and communities. This bill is an important step in ensuring that the arts continue to thrive across our state.

### **The Arts Strengthen Hawaii's Economy**

The arts are not only a reflection of our rich cultural heritage, but they also serve as a powerful economic engine. According to national and state studies, the creative industries contribute significantly to job creation, tourism, and community development. By supporting the arts, SB441 will help ensure that Hawaii's arts and culture sector remains vibrant and can continue to employ thousands of individuals in fields such as visual arts, performance arts, music, and film production.

### **Fostering Education and Personal Growth**

The arts have been proven to foster creativity, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence. Through initiatives supported by SB441, our schools and community programs can offer students the opportunity to engage in art education, which has been shown to improve academic performance and enhance personal growth. Encouraging young people to explore the arts will create a future generation that values creative expression and cultural appreciation.

### **Cultural Preservation and Community Engagement**

Hawaii is home to a rich and diverse cultural heritage, and the arts provide a meaningful way for people of all backgrounds to come together and celebrate our unique traditions. This bill will ensure that native Hawaiian arts, as well as other cultural expressions, continue to be preserved, honored, and shared with future generations. The arts play a crucial role in fostering intercultural dialogue and strengthening the bonds within our communities.

### **The Importance of State Support for the Arts**

While the arts are an essential part of Hawaii's social and economic fabric, many programs rely on state funding to sustain and grow their initiatives. SB441 provides a vital opportunity to increase investment in local arts organizations, ensure equitable access to arts programs, and create new opportunities for artists to thrive. This investment will not only enhance our cultural offerings but also contribute to the overall quality of life for all residents of Hawaii.

### **Conclusion**

I strongly urge you to support SB441 as it will be a meaningful investment in the future of Hawaii's arts, culture, and community. The arts are an essential part of who we are as a people,

and with the legislature's support, we can ensure that they continue to enrich and inspire for generations to come.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Sharon Twigg-Smith  
888 Kapiolani Blvd. #4402  
Honolulu, HI 96813

[sharona.twiggsmith@gmail.com](mailto:sharona.twiggsmith@gmail.com)

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 8:49:37 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sydney Branch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a music student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, I value the performing arts on this island, especially the orchestra. As a violist, I have played in orchestras throughout my life, and become inspired every time I see the HSO perform. They market to a variety of people by not solely playing the classics, but showing silent films and movies in which they provide the live soundtrack. We saw the Grinch last year, and I am looking forward to next year's Christmas pick. I absolutely love that this orchestra plays in a range of venues, from large concert stages, such as the Blaisdell, to my favourite, Symphony in the park, where all my friends come with chairs or a picnic blanket, and we enjoy the beautiful weather with great music! One of the more memorable days was when the orchestra played "Peter and the Wolf" at the zoo. My friend was able to bring his children, who thoroughly enjoyed the story and learned about the roles that instruments play. We then got to spend a nice day at the zoo, further discussing the music! Because of that concert, his children attend more concerts by the HSO.

During my schooling, we learned about Beethoven during The Beethoven Festival. We would analyze his music and hold discussions. To hear (and see) a professional orchestra perform the music we learned in class was exciting. I brought a friend who had just arrived on the island, and he had such a great time that he looked for more dates to attend the next concert. We went to three more performances after that, and will continue to attend the symphony in the future.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 8:53:24 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paul Weissman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel it is critical at this time to recognize HSOs importance to the cultural, emotional, physical and financial prosperity of the state of Hawai'i by designating HSO as our state symphony and giving it the financial support befitting that status.

Mahalo,

Paul Weissman

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 8:54:45 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Symphony Orchestra is important to the cultural, emotional, physical, and financial prosperity of the state of Hawaii.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 9:13:25 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Randy Wong	Hawaii Youth Symphony	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I'm writing in SUPPORT this bill for the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra. The HSO is a very important community resource; one that inspires and encourages people of all walks and ages to join together through the unity of music.

Just last night, the HSO collaborated with Hawai'i Youth Symphony (of which I am President & CEO—and an alum), giving 120 elementary, middle, and high school musicians the extraordinary opportunity to learn and perform side-by-side. It was a chance for our keiki to join the major leagues, build intergenerational relationships, and be mentored; all in the service of great art!

HSO's positive impacts are palpable throughout the community and we ALL are better for them. Many of our youth DO find their ways into professional careers in the arts—as performers, composers, administrators, educators, marketers, financial managers, and more—but of those who seek other paths, equitable access to HSO at all stages of their lives is equally meaningful.

Thank you for your consideration and for building a future for live music in Hawai'i.



# IATSE LOCAL 665

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OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS TERRITORIES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO, CLC

Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawai'i  
Regular Session of 2025  
House Committee on Culture and the Arts  
Testimony by IATSE 665  
March 14th, 2025

## **SB441 SD1 - RELATING TO THE HAWAII SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the House committee,

My name is Tuia'ana Scanlan, IATSE International Trustee and President of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **IATSE 665 strongly supports SB441 SD1**, relating to the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra.

The Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra is an essential piece of the tapestry of arts in Hawai'i. Founded in 1900, The symphony hosts shows and programs featuring musicians and performing artists from around the world, in addition to promoting local talent within Hawaii. Designating the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra as the "State of Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra" will enable HSO to regularly obtain state funds to help cover its general operating costs. Our organizations have been working together for decades. We have supported them with the seasoned technical professionals necessary for their performances for many years and we are happy to support them in this initiative as well.

**IATSE 665 strongly supports SB441 SD1. We urge your committee to do the same.** Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tuia'ana Scanlan'.

Tuia'ana Scanlan  
IATSE International Trustee  
President, IATSE 665  
(he/him/his)

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 9:23:42 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kendrick Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Committee Members:

I write in my personal capacity to express support for SB 411 to designate the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra as the State of Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra.

Over the past few years, I've attended a number of Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra ("HSO") concerts at Hawai'i Theatre and always been impressed by the high-quality performances of our local musicians. I share multi-generational familial ties to the Fort Street Mall and Chinatown business district and currently serve as a Trustee of the United Chinese Society of Hawai'i. HSO's presence at Hawai'i Theatre brings our community together and in turn supports many of our small businesses (e.g., restaurants and retailers) in Fort Street Mall and Chinatown. As a result, HSO is an economic driver that aligns with the current vision to revitalize business and community opportunities in the urban Honolulu District. As a result, State investment in the HSO will yield broader economic benefits for many of our small businesses.

I kindly urge that the committee advance SB 441 to the next committee.

Best,  
Kendrick S. Chang

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 9:44:28 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anne L.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB441 which seeks to establish HSO as the State of Hawaii Symphony Orchestra.

I am a parent of two young children who are very active in the music community here. My husband and I feel very fortunate to be able to raise our kids here in Hawaii and surround them with encouraging and inspiring teachers, coaches and role models, many of whom are HSO members. We also enjoy attending the HSO concerts as a family and hope we will be able to continue doing so for many years to come.

As someone who first learned how to play the violin at a beginning orchestra class at a Hawaii public school, I also commend the bill's goal of providing more access and outreach to students and communities all over the State by establishing a state symphony. Whatever their burdens may be, music can help lighten people's hearts. Our government's support for a State of Hawaii Symphony Orchestra should be considered an integral and crucial part of helping to improve the overall quality of life for all Hawaii residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anne L.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 9:49:23 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carol White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have an amazing symphony orchestra (I have season tickets), here in the middle of the ocean, that continues to struggle financially. In previous years, they could travel to the neighbor islands for concerts and visits to schools but the issue is \$. Years ago, they travelled to several Pacific islands for performances, spreading our aloha to our Polynesian neighbors.

The Hawaii Symphony stands alone in our state - not only providing symphonic concerts but featuring the Hapa series of pops and Hawaiian stars as well as the special movies (Star Wars; The Grinch That Stole Christmas) where the orchestra plays the music live instead of using the soundtrack. The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra is not just for senior citizens like me, but for everyone. I delight in seeing young adults at the concerts (looks like it is a great date night for many of them!) Let's support our only symphony orchestra!

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 9:58:42 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sitarani Crevier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Chair Kapela, Chair Kong and the House Committee on Culture & Arts,

Thank you for hearing SB441 SD1 and considering granting the Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra designation as the State Symphony of Hawai‘i. Since childhood, music has had a profound impact on my life—self esteem, connection to creativity, exposure to culture and history—and to this day, music remains an increasingly valuable part of my life and experience. I'm not a professional nor even amateur musician, though I studied music from the ages of six to 18; but my early exposure to classical music seeded a love that continues today and enriches my life, especially thanks to the year-long programs of Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra. We are fortunate to have an orchestra of such extraordinary caliber here in Hawai‘i. Beside the moving performances they offer us at Blaisdell Concert Hall, Hawai‘i Theatre Center and the Waikīkī Shell, HSO is inspiring our next generation, whether they wish to become musicians themselves or simply benefit from the ways a musical education challenges and expands their own capabilities. This acknowledgement as our State Symphony helps ensure that HSO can continue to educate, inspire, employ and entertain Hawai‘i residents of all ages as well as visitors who wish to experience a taste of Pacific culture through music. Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra is the only orchestra to offer such significant support to musicians and works of our region of the world, and I thank you for considering this recognition for their profound impact on our community.

With aloha,

Sitarani Crevier

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 10:00:02 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lori Watkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I fully support SB441 and urge the committee to move this legislation forward. I have experienced first hand the invaluable service the HSO provides to Keiki in the community. When the music program was lost at my children’s elementary school, it was the educational outreach performances provided by HSO that inspired them to pursue musical interests that have been a major benefit to their personal well-being. As a transient, military family, having access to HSO performances has been a comforting source of familiarity through the universal language of music while also providing us with a connection to the uniqueness of the Hawaiian community. So many people from the community benefit from this organization.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 10:00:34 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gene Corpuz	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

In support of SB441 SDI

I support bill SB411 SDI supporting the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra. This orchestra contributes to the culture in Hawai'i I sing with the Oahu Choral Society and we had a successful concert performing Beethoven's 9th Symphony. I hope you vote yes on this bill.

Eugenio Corpuz

Honolulu, HI 96822

March 13, 2025

The Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawai‘i  
Hawai‘i State House of Representatives

Culture & Arts

Honorable Jeanne Kapela, *Chair*

Honorable Sam Satoru Kong, *Vice Chair*

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Culture & Arts

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB441 SD1**

Dear Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the committee,

I am writing in support of SB441 SD1. The importance of this bill cannot be overscored. The work that the Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra (HSO) and its musicians perform annually reaches far beyond the concert hall. HSO musicians hold prominent positions as music educators and administrators within our public and private schools, and serve as arts leaders of various non-profit performing arts organizations within our state. SB441 SD1 will have a massive ripple effect that will be felt throughout the state.

HSO musicians breath life into **Ballet Hawaii’s** annual Nutcracker holiday concerts, **Hawaii Opera Theatre’s** grand opera productions, and **Chamber Music Hawai‘i’s** subscription concerts on O‘ahu and Education and Community Engagement Program that sends chamber ensembles annually to the islands of Hawai‘i, Kaua‘i, Lāna‘i, Maui, and Moloka‘i. HSO musicians also teach our keiki through the various programs operated by the **Hawaii Youth Symphony**.

Without the Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra, we would not have the world-class professional musicians in our state that educate the next generation of classically trained musicians.

Please support the preservation of the great work that the HSO performs annually and the massive lifeline it provides to our many other performing arts organizations.

Mahalo nui loa,

Christopher Cabrera

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 10:19:34 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Leigh Baker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB441 SD1 to establish the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra as the state orchestra of Hawai'i. The arts are vital part of a robust, healthy community, and having a state orchestra of this caliber is a point of pride for all of Hawaii. I look forward to being able to call HSO our state orchestra, and to increasing the number of state residents (especially our keiki) to the delights of live orchestral music.

# BALLET HAWAII

March 13, 2025

Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 441, which proposes direct funding for the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra from the State of Hawaii. As an avid fan of the arts and the Executive Director of Ballet Hawaii, I deeply understand the immense value that organizations such as the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra bring to our community and the state at large.

The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra is an essential cultural institution that enriches our local arts scene and enhances the quality of life in Hawaii. As a nonprofit arts organization, it plays a pivotal role in connecting the community to world-class performances, offering educational programs, and providing a platform for local musicians to showcase their talents. This investment in the arts not only supports creativity but also contributes significantly to the state's economic vitality, tourism, and overall cultural heritage.

The arts community, including Ballet Hawaii, thrives on collaboration and mutual support. Direct funding for the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra would allow them to continue their invaluable work and ensure the future of artistic excellence in Hawaii. It would also benefit other organizations, like ours, as we share a common mission to enrich the lives of all who call Hawaii home.

I urge you to support SB441 and provide the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra with the direct funding they deserve. Our community stands to gain immeasurably from this investment, and it will ensure that the arts continue to thrive in our state for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Richard Vida



Executive Director

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 10:29:35 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelsey Ann Y Kimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As the only professional orchestra in the state, the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra is a cornerstone of the performing arts, attracting and employing many local musicians. Many of these musicians not only perform in the HSO. Many are teachers and serve as the foundation for music education. The HSO is essential to inspiring the next generation of musicians. Without the HSO, the quality of school music programs would decline as students would not have the adequate support to thrive in their arts programs.

I support SB 441 because the passing of the bill would be the next step towards grow the reach of the HSO - school visits, expanded partnerships, and innovative programming. The HSO is the paragon of musical excellence in our islands, and its presence fosters the growth of the arts

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 11:03:46 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Fay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill SB441, which would officially recognize the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra (HSO) as the state orchestra of Hawai'i and provide direct state funding for its continued work and impact on our community. As a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, majoring in Human Development and Family Studies with a minor in Music (vocal), I have seen firsthand how the HSO plays a vital role in the cultural, educational, and economic life of Hawai'i.

The Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra is more than just a music group—it represents the heart of Hawai'i's artistic community. It preserves and shares our state's rich cultural heritage while also introducing audiences to the beauty and depth of classical music. Recently, the HSO's Beethoven concert series had a huge impact on my music education. Learning about Beethoven's works in class and then hearing them performed live by such talented musicians helped me better understand the music and appreciate the emotional depth behind it. It connected what I've learned in school with real-life experience, making the music come alive in a way that studying alone couldn't.

The HSO's influence goes beyond just music—it brings people together and creates a sense of unity. Music has a way of healing and uplifting, especially during difficult times. The orchestra's concerts provide a space for the community to gather, reflect, and celebrate together. Economically, the HSO also contributes to the state by attracting concertgoers, supporting local businesses, and creating jobs in the arts and hospitality industries. State funding would help the orchestra continue offering high-quality performances, community outreach, and music education programs, which benefit both residents and visitors alike.

Giving the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra the official designation as the state orchestra is a meaningful way to honor its artistic excellence and cultural importance. I strongly encourage the committee to pass SB441 and support the HSO's future so that generations to come can continue to experience the power and beauty of live music.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
Fay Pabo



**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 11:17:47 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Flora Ling	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i has a long had wonderful symphonic music. I remember going when I was in elementary school. We must support the musicians and music that links all humanity to great art and culture.

We must not ever lose our best musicians.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 12:40:52 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Herb Conley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Music is an important part of every great community. And a symphony orchestra is the highest musical art form possible. Hawaii and Honolulu currently have a world class symphony that can enthrall audiences both local and transient. But more importantly they can nurture a musical spirit in our young people that can spark their imaginations and creativity and help ensure that musical heritage continues. Our government should play an active and major role to make that possible. I totally support SB 441 and hope you see the same benefits of this bill. Thank you for your support.

Herb Conley

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 12:49:48 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy E Conley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Symphony should receive strong support from the State of Hawaii. Cultural institutions are the backbone of all communities. I am in support of SB 441. The state should also show its support of this institution by passing SB 441.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 1:15:14 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Norm Foster	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it may concern,

I strongly support SB441 and have sent in testimony twice before.

I have played clarinet in this fine professional orchestra since 1985. Back then we had a season of 30 - 40 weeks and toured the neighbor islands every year. We played for the ballet and the opera and presented numerous educational programs in addition to classical, pops, free concerts and shows at the Waikiki Shell. The state support at the time was in the neighborhood of one million per season.

With new Music Director Dane Lam, we are reaching an artistic level which I believe surpasses that of the past.

We also are serving many segments of the community and are continuing to embrace the beautiful culture of Hawaii through traditional music, local artists and collaborations with other performance groups. Our season length is less than half what it was before which limits our ability to serve the community.

Designating the HSO as the State Orchestra of Hawaii is long overdue and has been earned. Please help this organization to move forward financially as well as artistically so it can return to a truly healthy organization. I hope this bill will soon pass accompanied by a significant monetary amount.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Norm Foster

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 2:21:49 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bobbisue Backers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write to support funding of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra (HSO). I recently attended several concerts by the HSO which were well attended and very enjoyable. HSO is a very talented orchestra and an asset to our state. I am impressed by their community outreach and collaboration with upcoming keiki musicians. HSO Director Dane Lam said something during one of the concerts I attended which I still remember-that a state cannot be great unless it has a great library system, a great art museum and a great symphony orchestra. Please keep Hawaii a great state by funding the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra. Mahalo.

**ROBERT C. and JEAN L. JOHNSON**

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(808) 386-0672  
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March 13, 2025

The Honorable Jeanne Kapela, Chair  
House Committee on Culture and the Arts

Aloha Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members:

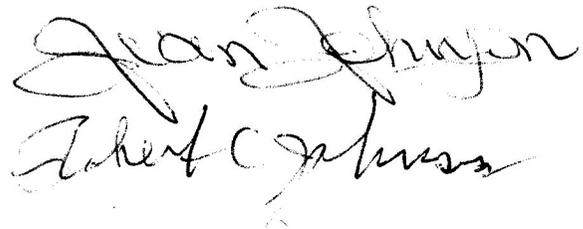
We are submitting this written testimony to voice our strong support for **SB 441 Relating to the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra**. In years past, our state came close to losing this cultural heritage of classical music. Fortunately, with the support of the musical community and valuable community leadership, the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra has emerged stronger, more vibrant, and fiscally sound than ever.

You have received much testimony describing the Symphony's activities and educational contributions statewide and throughout the Pacific. The testimony demonstrates the great appreciation and enjoyment of the Symphony among our children, adults, and elders. Hawai'i is fortunate that Dane Lam accepted the position of Music and Artistic Director. He contributes a passionate performance to each concert. Moreover, words cannot begin to fully describe what the Symphony adds to Hawai'i's culture, but as part of the audience last Sunday evening, we experienced the long-standing and thunderous ovation from a packed house at the Blaisdell Concert Hall following Dane's conducting Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

For decades, we have attended every concert, made annual monetary contributions, and have designated the Symphony as a beneficiary in our Trusts. Not only does the Symphony add much to the quality of our lives, it is another fabulous benefit of living in Paradise!

**We ask for your support for SB 441 to officially designate the Symphony as the Hawaii State Symphony Orchestra and to provide fiscal support for this state treasure!**

Sincerely,



The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is 'Jean Johnson' and the bottom signature is 'Robert C. Johnson'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 4:07:40 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joan Bennet	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair Sam Satoru Kong, and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of SB441, a measure that would designate the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra as the official State Orchestra of Hawai'i and secure critical funding for its future.

As a longtime supporter of the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra, I have seen firsthand the profound impact it has on our community. HSO is a pillar of Hawai'i's cultural and artistic landscape, bringing world-class music to residents across our islands. Through its free public concerts, education initiatives, and collaborations with local artists, the orchestra ensures that all people, regardless of background or location, have access to the transformative power of symphonic music.

The passing of SB441 would allow the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra to expand its impact in the community. Funding would support programs like Nā Hōkū 'Ōpio – Young Stars, which provides young musicians in Hawai'i with invaluable performance opportunities alongside professional artists. Additionally, HSO's work with the Hawai'i Youth Symphony fosters mentorship and hands-on learning, nurturing the next generation of musicians in our state.

Beyond education, HSO plays a vital role in Hawai'i's cultural and economic landscape. The orchestra employs some of the finest musicians in the country, many of whom dedicate their time to teaching and mentoring students. The annual Beethoven Festival brings together major arts organizations from across the state, showcasing Hawai'i as a hub for world-class musical performances.

I truly believe that if this measure passes, it will enable Honolulu to take the next step toward becoming a world-class city—with a fully recognized, officially designated world-class orchestra. Without dedicated state support, HSO's ability to serve our community will be significantly limited. SB441 is an opportunity to ensure that the orchestra continues to thrive and reach audiences across all islands. I urge you to support this measure and invest in the future of symphonic music in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Joan Bennet



**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 4:59:50 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Fujimura Joan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

Please please fund this arts bill. Arts are often the last item supported, but they are the first item that helps us and especially children to survive difficult times, to become happy, fulfilled individuals, to help us build community, and more. The arts help to feed our brains, to become good, smart, kind humans, of which we are so sorely in need during this era of angry, money-grubbing bullies.

Please fund the arts.

Thank you, Joan Fujimura

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 5:04:34 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anita Trubitt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committttee Chair and Committee Members,

I am a long time supporter of our Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, both in my attendance and financial contributions. It is amazing that such a spendid group of musicians are here to enrich our lives here in the middle of the Pacific Ocean! I respectfully urge your support of this bill.

Aloha,

Anita Trubitt

Kailua, Hawaii

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 11:04:55 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Vicky Cayetano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 441 SD1

Dear Chair Kapālama, Vice Chair Kong and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB441 SD1. Please support the preservation of the great work that the HSO performs through its musicians and Music Director Dane Lam and the staff of HSO.

Thank you very much. Vicky Cayetano

**SB-441-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 2:27:05 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/14/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
ginny tiu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you so much for your kind consideration to support SB 441. Symphonic music plays such an important role in the fabric of a society. I know from personal experience, what a positive impact it has in a person's life and in the life of a community.

Aloha and mahalo nui loa,

Ginny Tiu