

THE
STATE
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ON
CULTURE
AND
THE ARTS



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TESTIMONY
OF
STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND CULTURE

April 24, 2008

SCR 225 SD1

Chair Yamane and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on SCR 225 SD1.

If funding priorities would allow, HiSAM would continue to develop beyond the founding vision for the museum. Additional requirements include space for ongoing workshops, docent training, and completion of the Visitor's Center. Storage areas for the café and gift shop would also be secured and staffing needed for more programming and facilities management would be added.

The museum itself is limited to two galleries that feature rotating exhibitions of modest size and scope in keeping with available space. Ideally, HiSAM would house displays of stellar works of art primarily by local artists that would serve to symbolize the State Collection's public image, identity and importance. These displays would in turn be complimented by exhibits designed to feature themes, master artists, cultural works, and displays pertinent to community development.

This was the intent of the Warnecke Plan, also referred to as the “Hawaii State Capitol Civic Center Master Plan,” approved by Governor Burns and Mayor Blaisdell. The plan envisioned the Capitol District as a cultural center for residents and visitors, as well as the seat of State government. Extending the breadth of the museum’s programming, as well as its physical presence beside the State Capitol, will further enhance the Capitol District as a cultural tourism destination for visitors and a historical and educational center for residents, particularly Hawaii’s youth. This objective is prioritized in our agency’s current strategic plan and will continue to be prominent in our next strategic plan that takes effect in July 2008.

We agree with the intent of SB 2583 SD1 HD1 in that an assessment of and plan for the growth of the museum is in order. Due to the State’s economic condition, however, there is concern as to whether the work of a task force can be conducted without an appropriation and the SFCA does not have available funds in its budget to finance an entity established for this purpose. Therefore, the SFCA supports this resolution that simply recommends allocating space to the museum and the SFCA as other agencies vacate the No. 1 Capitol District Building.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.