



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119**

TESTIMONY
OF
RUSS K. SAITO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
TOURISM, CULTURE & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
ON
February 7, 2009

H.B. 963

RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND

Chair Manahan and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 963.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) has concerns about this bill, which amends Sections 6E-35, 6E-40, and 103-8.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to allow the State of Hawaii Museum of Monarchy History (Friends of 'Iolani Palace) and the Bernice P. Bishop Museum to receive funds from the Works of Art Special Fund.

The Works of Art Special Fund currently supports the Art in Public Places Program and Hawaii State Art Museum. The Works of Art Special Fund is used to acquire predominantly contemporary art and to support living local artists. The collections of 'Iolani Palace and the Bishop Museum differ dramatically from the State Art Collection. Although DAGS supports the intent of the legislation to provide

additional funding for these older collections, these monies should come from a different source more focused on acquiring historic, archival pieces of art.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



BISHOP MUSEUM

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February 6, 2009

**TO: Representative Joey Manahan, Chair
Representative James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair
Committee on Tourism, Culture, and International Affairs**

**FR: Bishop Museum
Timothy Johns, President & CEO**

**RE: Committee on Tourism, Culture, & International Affairs Hearing
Saturday, February 7, 2009
Support of HB 963 Relating to Works of Art Special Fund**

Bishop Museum strongly supports HB 963, which allows expenditures from the special art fund to be used for Bishop Museum and 'Iolani Palace for the acquisition, care, and display of art and artifacts, as well as for the repair and maintenance of historical buildings.

Founded in 1889, Bishop Museum's mission is "to study, preserve and tell the stories of the cultures and natural history of Hawai'i and the Pacific." As the State Museum of Natural and Cultural History, we have a responsibility to be stewards of the priceless treasures of the host culture. Bishop Museum's founding collection includes the family heirlooms held by Princess Pauahi, Princess Ruth, and Queen Emma. Today, our cultural collection includes objects from Hawai'i and the Pacific. Our library and archives house Hawaiian Kingdom documents, Hawaiian language newspapers, among other valuable historical information, and an art collection of paintings and etchings of Hawai'i.

In this rapidly changing world, it is more important than ever that we remember what makes Hawai'i so special and unique. Bishop Museum's collections impart knowledge of the Native Hawaiian people – their culture, their values, and their history. Cultural practitioners, teachers, students, and families visit Bishop Museum because we are a resource to learn about Hawaiian history and culture. Bishop Museum is visited by over 63,600 students and we have 56,000 members who regularly attend Bishop Museum events and participate in our programs.

Bishop Museum also offers tourists an opportunity to learn what makes Hawai'i uniquely special from any other state in the union and from any other place in the world. It is one of the greatest attractions for the state's Asian visitors and a top attraction for mainland tourists. Over 300,000 visitors come to Bishop Museum annually.

We believe the measure should clarify the usage of costs related to “historical buildings” and would like to work with staff on agreeable language. As you know many of our artifacts need proper climate controlled storage, which is located in buildings that were built in recent decades.

The State has already recognized the historical significance and important role of ‘Iolani Palace and Bishop Museum as caretakers for Hawai‘i’s heritage. Passage of this bill will allow our institutions to further our work – to care for our collections and historical buildings – and that in turn allows us to continue as Hawaiian ambassadors to the community and the world.

We respectfully ask for your support of HB 963.



Legislative Testimony
HB 963 RELATING TO WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUNDS
House Committee on Tourism, Culture and International
Affairs

February 7, 2009
Room: 312

9:00 a.m.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB 963, which would allow expenditures from the Works of Art Special Fund for acquisition of works of art for the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum and 'Iolani Palace.

OHA recognizes that both the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum and 'Iolani Palace are home to a wide range of artwork and cultural items which not only provide for those items' protection and preservation, but are critical components in educational efforts to share the rich traditions, stories and culture of Hawai'i with kama'āina and visitors alike. Artwork and cultural items are emphatic reminders that Hawai'i's rich history is not merely being conjured up from faint memories of long ago. Instead, they provide an important link between the past and the present. We now have a responsibility to ensure that future generations have the same special opportunity to admire, appreciate and, perhaps most importantly, learn from them.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to PASS HB 963. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

STATE TESTIMONY



IOLANI PALACE

PH (808) 522-0822 FAX (808) 532-1051

TESTIMONY OF KIPPEN DE ALBA CHU

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, CULTURE & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Representative Joey Manahan, Chair

Representative James Tokioka, Vice Chair

Saturday, February 7, 2009

9:00 am

HB 963

Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka, and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 963.

In the spirit of collaboration and cooperation, both The Friends of Iolani Palace and Bishop Museum have come together to seek some kind of dedicated funding from the State. This measure before you is one such proposal.

We acknowledge the policy considerations that this Committee must weigh in evaluating the merits of H.B. 963, and the longstanding support that the Works of Art Special Fund has had in the local culture and arts community. However, the main issue with special funds whenever they are created is that the Legislature relinquishes a certain amount of its constitutional mandate to appropriate public funds. Therefore, the Legislature's prerogative in amending the scope and use of special funds reflects a proper use of this authority.

Both The Friends Iolani Palace and Bishop Museum have statutory designations within the Hawaii Revised Statutes as official "State of Hawaii" museums. We are the only two private non-profit museums in the State to enjoy this status, enabling us to receive direct appropriations from the Legislature.

In these times of economic hardship, we need to think creatively in trying to fund some of our State's most important cultural treasures.

Thank you again for allowing us to testify in full support of this measure.

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