

# GM 765

## Testimony –

**Measure Title:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, Gubernatorial Nominee, NOELLE KAHANU, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

**Report Title:** State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

**Description:**

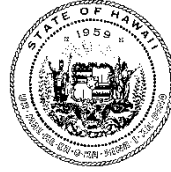
**Companion:**

**Package:**

**Current Referral:** HEA

**Introducer(s):**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK  
Comptroller

AUDREY HIDANO  
Deputy Comptroller

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES**

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
OF  
DOUGLAS MURDOCK, COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON  
HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS  
ON  
APRIL 16, 2015

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 765

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STATE  
FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
NOELLE KAHANU

Chair Taniguchi and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on G.M. 765. The Department of Accounting and General Services supports the confirmation of Ms. Noelle Kahanu to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA).

Ms. Kahanu has a law degree and was with the Bishop Museum for approximately 15 years. Currently, she is with the University of Hawaii, American Studies Department, supporting the graduate degree programs including the Museum Studies Certificate Program and the Historic Preservation Program. She was also a consultant with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and was counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C. Her varied experience and legal background will provide her with the necessary skills to be a valuable and contributing member of the SFCA.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this matter.



**HAWAII**

STATE FOUNDATION on  
CULTURE and the ARTS

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

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Eva R. Washburn-Repollo  
Jane Clement

Executive Director  
Jonathan Johnson

Telephone  
808.586.0300

Fax  
808.586.0308

Website  
[www.hawaii.gov/sfca](http://www.hawaii.gov/sfca)

TESTIMONY OF  
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS  
APRIL 16, 2015

GM 765

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STATE  
FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
**NOELLE KAHANU**

Chair Taniguchi and members of the Committee, I am Jonathan Johnson,  
executive director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, and I am  
pleased to testify in support of the nomination of Noelle Kahanu to our  
Commission.

We are pleased with the nomination of Ms. Kahanu, who has experience  
working with Hawaii's diverse cultural institutions, including the Bishop Museum,  
Hawaii Council for the Humanities, Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Maoli Arts  
Month. Ms. Kahanu demonstrates exemplary leadership qualities as well as  
technical expertise in exhibition design. She also has an impressive track record as  
a developer of cultural policy, writer and researcher, fundraiser and community  
organizer. Ms. Kahanu is currently employed with the University of Hawai'i at  
Manoa American Studies Department in the College of Arts and Sciences.

We are confident in Ms. Kahanu's ability to make a positive contribution in  
support of the SFCA and its mission to promote, perpetuate, preserve and  
encourage culture and the arts for the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Kahanu's  
nomination.



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3599 Wai'alaie Avenue, Room 25 • Honolulu, HI 96816 • phone 808.732.5402

April 13, 2015

Support for Noelle Maile Kaluhea Yayoi Kahanu to join board of Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (GM765)

Aloha,

I strongly support the nomination of Noelle Kahanu for the Board of the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (HSFCA). I have known and worked closely in my capacity as the executive director of the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities (HCH), a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Please note that NEH is a sister agency of the HSFCA, which is a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEA). The two cultural endowments were created by the same 1965 act of Congress in 1965. Before becoming director of HCH, I knew Noelle in my earlier capacities as HCH program officer and Hawai'i State History Day coordinator.

I first worked with Noelle when she was director of community affairs at the Bishop Museum. Noelle served as the project director and humanities consultant for a number of public educational projects and exhibits that received HCH grant support, notably two exhibits called "HI Fashion: The Legacy of Alfred Shaheen" and "Unification, Responsibility and the Ku Images," but several other public education and preservation and access HCH grants over the years, one of these later became the basis for a documentary film called "Under a Jarvis Moon," Noelle consistently served to assure the cultural, historical, artistic and spiritual content and accuracy of these projects. Indeed HCH often designated them as models of strong public humanities programs. On instance of which I am particularly proud to have been involved was a partnership between Bishop Museum and HCH to create and print an educational booklet in association with the restoration of Hawaiian Hall called *Restoring Bishop Museum's Hawaiian Hall, Ho'i Hou Ka Wena I Kaiwi'ula*, printed in 2009, which was an opportunity to highlight and draw attention to the humanities and cultural significance and complexity of this public treasure.

Noelle is a dedicated advocate and authority on preserving and communicating Native Hawaiian knowledge and values. She currently serves on the HCH board of directors and has been recognized as one of its leaders. This year Noelle is HCH secretary-treasurer and a member of the HCH executive committee and HCH proposal review committee. She performs these roles with great grace, wisdom and sensitivity. I should note that HCH is seeking closer partnership relationships with several and diverse public humanities groups, including HSFCA, so Noelle serving on both boards is no conflict and potentially a boon for both of us.

Noelle Kahanu is a dedicated and respected leader of wonderful vision, richly deserving to be so recognized. I urge your positive consideration of her becoming a HSFCA board member.

Sincerely,  
Robert G. Buss  
Executive Director



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3599 Wai'ālae Avenue, Room 25 • Honolulu, HI 96816 • phone 808.732.5402

FROM: Stacy Hoshino, Director of Grants and Special Projects

SUBMITTED ON: April 14, 2015

Testimony in Support of GM765 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, Gubernatorial Nominee, NOELLE KAHANU, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

SUBMITTED TO: Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts,  
meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. Conference Room 224, Hawai'i State Capitol

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Aloha Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support GM765 - consideration and confirmation to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), Gubernatorial Nominee, NOELLE KAHANU, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

In my capacity as Director of Grants and Special Projects at Hawai'i Council for the Humanities (HCH), I currently work with Ms. Kahanu, who is a member of the Proposal Review Committee, and an HCH Board Director. The Proposal Review Committee, which I manage, consists of HCH board directors, who review and evaluate grants proposals, and makes recommendations for funding twice a year. In these meetings, Ms. Kahanu is thoughtful in her deliberations, brings a strong sense of professionalism, and works to find a consensus especially when funding decisions are down to the wire. She brings her collective acumen as an administrator, project manager, curator, artist, and one who has a deep understanding of the wide community and the many traditional cultural practices of Hawai'i.

In the past, I have worked with Ms. Kahanu, who was also an HCH Grants recipient. In 2012, HCH awarded the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum a grant for their exhibition *HI Fashion: The Legacy of Alfred Shaheen*, at that time, Ms. Kahanu was the project director at the Bishop Museum. She administered the HCH Grant successfully, and the exhibition has been one of the museum's critical successes.

Since 2008, I have been an SFCA Visual Arts Consultant, and have participated in several Acquisition Award Selection Committees. As an SFCA Visual Arts Consultant, I also strongly endorse Ms. Kahanu because she will bring her expertise that she has gained from her years at Bishop Museum, and the work she did there as a curator, project manager and director of community affairs. Additionally, she is an artist and has worked very closely with contemporary artists and master artists of the traditional arts—statewide and throughout the Pacific and Oceania. In her current capacity as Assistant Specialist, Public Humanities and Native Hawaiian Programs, at UH Mānoa, she is bringing all her professional experience to bear in order to work with students and faculty, and to provide public outreach for her department.

In advance, thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Hoshino

# HEATHER HAUNANI GIUGNI

PO BOX 37969 HONOLULU HI 96837

## In Support of **GM765 NOELLE KAHANU**

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair  
Conference Room 224  
Hawai'i State Capitol

April 14, 2015

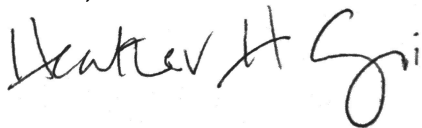
Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Members:

I am writing to express my support of **NOELLE KAHANU** for consideration and confirmation to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, a Gubernatorial Nominee whose term would expire in June 2018.

I have known Ms. Kahanu as a tireless advocate for the arts here in Hawai'i with a particular emphasis on indigenous art. I am proud to have this opportunity to express my enthusiastic support for a woman who has a proven record of commitment to this community.

She will undoubtedly be a terrific addition to SFCA.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather H. Giugni". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather H. Giugni



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  
MĀNOA

Hawai'iunuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge  
Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies

April 14, 2015

The Honorable Governor Ige  
Boards and Commissions  
Executive Chambers  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Noelle M.K.Y. Kahanu for SFCA Board of Commissioners Vacancy

Dear Governor Ige:

I am writing in support of Noelle Kahanu's application to fill the SFCA Board of Commissioners vacancy for the Island of O'ahu. The SFCA is an important voice in the culture and arts community within Hawaii but recent turmoil has left many questioning its efficacy and its sensitivity to the Hawaiian community. I believe Noelle has the background and qualities that would bring a sense of cultural integrity and community connectivity to the SFCA board.

I have worked with Noelle in various capacities for over a decade while she was at the Bishop Museum. Under her project leadership, I have participated in community consultation meetings with Bishop Museum, Peabody Essex Museum, and recently the British Museum in London and we have collaborated on no less than six exhibitions, including the renovation of Hawaiian Hall.

I believe Noelle has the capacity to negotiate difficult circumstances while at the same time advocating effectively, not only for Hawaiian representation but for overall community engagement. I strongly recommend that you favorably consider her application.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Ivy H. Andrade'.

Ivy Haliimaile Andrade  
Professor  
Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies  
University of Hawai'i - Manoa  
2645 Dole Street, Room 108  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
Office: 973-0989  
Fax: 973-0988



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Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies

2645 Dole Street, Kamakakūokalani Building, Rm 209A Honolulu, Hawaiʻi 96822  
Telephone: (808) 973-0989 Fax: (808) 973-0988  
Email: [chsuhm@hawaii.edu](mailto:chsuhm@hawaii.edu)

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

April 14, 2015

To: Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

From: Kapulani Landgraf, Kapi'olani Community College, Instructor, Hawaiian Art and Photography; Native Hawaiian Artist

**Testimony in Support of GM 765: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, Gubernatorial Nominee, NOELLE KAHANU, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.**

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Aloha mai ē Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Lorraine Inouye and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support the consideration and confirmation of Noelle Kahanu as a Commissioner for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

Noelle has been a staunch supporter of Native Hawaiian artists and has played a significant role at Bishop Museum and the larger Hawai'i community in bringing our artwork to the forefront. As project manager she curated over a dozen exhibitions and is the coordinator of the annual MAMo Native Hawaiian Art Market and MAMo Masters Shows.

The most momentous undertaking that Noelle carried out was the restoration and renovation of Hawaiian Hall at Bishop Museum. She developed the content, art acquisitions, audio/visual development and community consultation. When the Hawaiian Hall reopened in 2009, there were new voices included in the hall, finally Native Hawaiians were telling their stories. From 2010-2013, she worked on the art acquisition, audio/visual development and community consultation for renovation of Pacific Hall at Bishop Museum.

Noelle was also the project leader of "E Kū Ana Ka Paia: Unification, Responsibility and the Kū Images." She coordinated this momentous project with the British Museum, the Peabody Essex and Bishop Museum to bring together the three largest Kū images. It was the first time in 150 years that these Kū stood alongside side of one another. Noelle worked with the community in consulting proper cultural protocol and developed a lecture series as part of this historic event.

During the Spring of 2014, I attended and participated in the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Board meetings stemming from the debacle that led to the resignation of the former SFCA director and the misuse of art in the SFCA collection. It is imperative that a Native Hawaiian who is a cultural practitioner as well as someone who has a strong background in Hawaiian Art and Hawai'i Art is appointed to the SFCA Board, so what happened this past year does not happen again. Noelle Kahanu is that person. She not only has her law degree, but she has strong connections to Native Hawaiian artists, cultural practitioners and the community at large.

Noelle is currently a Member of the Hawai'i State Bar, Co-Chair of Maoli Arts Month, Board Member of the Hawai'i Academy of Performing Arts/ARTS at Marks Garage, Board Member of Hawai'i Council for the Humanities and Member of Pā Ku'i A Lua.

I highly recommend Noelle Kahanu unequivocally as a Commissioner for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

Me ka pono,

Kapulani Landgraf

Lisa Linn Kanae  
2547 Peter Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816

April 14, 2015

Testimony for GM765

Consideration and Confirmation to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, Gubernatorial Nominee, NOELLE KAHANU for a term to expire June 30, 2018.

Aloha Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts,  
My name is Lisa Linn Kanae, and I am an Associate Professor of literature and English composition at Kapi'olani Community College. I am also a practicing writer of fiction and poetry and have served as an editor for independent literary presses such as Bamboo Ridge Press and 'Oiwi: A Native Hawaiian Journal. As a committed practitioner and advocate for culture and the arts in Hawai'i, I would like to express my enthusiastic support for Noelle Kahanu's Gubernatorial Nomination for a seat on the SFCA Commission.

As her resume demonstrates, Ms. Kahanu's work reveals a person who possesses that brilliant combination of both artist and arts administrator, and she will also bring a much valued indigenous perspective to the commission. But my testimony also comes from a personal place. I grew up with Noelle Kahanu. I know that she comes from family rooted in Hawaiian values, education, and arts advocacy. We were so fortunate to have immediate, extended, and hānai family who taught us to love all forms of art and compelled us to mālama our own artistic gifts. I am confident Noelle will continue this legacy as an SFCA Commissioner.

Me ke ha'a ha'a,  
Lisa Linn Kanae

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Kanae". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" being more prominent and the last name "Kanae" following in a similar style.

April 13, 2015

It gives me great pleasure to endorse the nomination of Noelle Kahanu to the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. I have known Noelle for several years, initially through her work at the Bishop Museum and more recently as a Specialist in the Department of American Studies, at UH Mānoa. She is extremely well qualified, with significant experience in culture and the arts and also as a graduate of the Richardson School of Law (J.D. 1992). Noelle has worked in many aspects of culture and humanities. These include three years as Director of Community Affairs at the Bishop Museum and as Project manager for numerous grants. She has continued this work through her position at UH and has done a remarkable amount of work in her role as Assistant Specialist, Public Humanities and Native Hawaiian Programs.

AS Chair of the Hawaii State Historic Places Review Board, I believe I have insights into the qualities necessary for service on state boards. I think that Noelle possess these attributes in spades and will be an excellent member of the board.

William R. Chapman  
Professor, Department of American Studies  
Director, Graduate Certificate Program in Historic Preservation