

# SB 324

## Late

## Testimony

**Measure Title:** RELATING TO AN ART EDUCATION FACILITY.

**Report Title:** Honolulu Museum of Art; Honolulu Academy of Arts; Grant; Appropriation (\$)

**Description:** Appropriates moneys from the general fund to provide a grant for the Honolulu Museum of Art to fund an architecturally significant building project that will include studio classrooms, an art education knowledge center, and parking.

**Companion:**

**Package:** None

**Current Referral:** HEA, WAM

**Introducer(s):** TANIGUCHI

# Hearing on Thursday February 12, 2015

Photos provided by Amanda Lei Perron  
as additional material during her  
testimony.



























February 12, 2015

TO: Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee

FROM: Bea Hunt

REF: Testimony Presented to the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
February 12, 2015, 1:30 p.m., Conference Room 224

SB 324 – Relating to an Art Education Facility

I would like to testify on HB 324, which proposes Hawaii State support for construction of a building that would expand the Honolulu Museum Art School.

The Honolulu Museum Art School is the cornerstone of the art education in Honolulu, and is important to me for several reasons, as I am both a practicing artist and an art educator.

I have been a student of the art school for over ten years and had the opportunity to learn from many teaching artists. Over the past few years, it has been increasingly difficult to enroll due to the classes filling up almost instantaneously. Clearly there is a demand for more courses and the need for more teaching space. I have taught art classes incorporating many of the skills and techniques learned at the art school.

The new building will provide more classroom space and create a knowledge center with learning resources for art teacher training. The center would also include an art library accessible to all. The facility would allow for new courses in various art forms, including glasswork, woodwork, and other media not currently available.

I ask that you support Senate Bill 324 as it provides a much-needed facility that would greatly enhance the art community in Hawaii.

Thank you,

Bea Hunt

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2-7-15

To: Senate Committee on Higher Education & Arts

I am so excited about the possibility of the HMA art school expansion! I have been an active member and enjoyed the classes off and on since 1989.

I took a few years off when my sons were born, but they participated in the summer art programs for years from an early age and most importantly they now enjoy the HMA for ~~After Dark~~ After Dark and the Doris Duke theater. To be honest, if they had not been introduced to Linekona, they may not feel comfortable at HMA as young adults. We are ~~loving~~ loving the changes that Stephan has initiated and support all that HMA has to offer. I look forward to the HMA School of Art catalog when it comes out and love all the new classes that are offered. I am one of those that sits outside the office to make sure I get the class I want. I am presently a student in the new docent class with Betsy Robb and look forward to all I can do to make HMA a great place! Sara Wakayama.

Sigrid Tokuda

To

Committee chair Taniguchi  
Vice Inoue  
and member of committee

Art school is important to me  
because art really enriched my life

Last year in this building, many  
law makers generously opened their  
offices to the public. So that  
an ordinary person like could see  
some of rare collection of art works  
by famous artist and new artists

I was happy and impressed with  
the collections. It also showed me  
that you yourself enjoy art work.  
I'm sure that you, like me developed  
appreciation of art from early on  
your life.

Investing in a new art school  
annex to keep up with the de-  
mand for learning at all ages

This new building next to Linekona  
school, surely enrich many  
children to develop love of art  
- I call, finer things in life.  
They will appreciate the new  
building generation after generation



Testimony Presented to the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

February 12, 2015, 1:30 p.m., Conference Room 224

By Sue A. Francis

SB 324 – Relating to an Art Education Facility

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 324, which proposes state support for construction of a building that would expand Honolulu Museum of Art School. I support this measure.

As a docent at the Honolulu Museum of Art, I have worked with hundreds of children who come to tour the museum and then take art classes at the Art School. You need only see the look of wonder on many of their young faces to realize just how important this experience is. Even more satisfying is the light that goes on when they learn a new skill, a new way of expressing themselves. This is especially true for the children coming from outlying schools, many of whom have not had a museum experience and whose art education is limited by circumstances.

It is not only art these children are experiencing and learning. Through the wide variety of art activity and exploration, they use math concepts (such as one-point perspective, proportion, fractals), science processes (the optics of colors, make up of materials, thermodynamics), literary associations (how art interprets words and how words paint pictures in our minds). They gain cultural understanding by learning techniques unique to the many cultures that make up Hawaii and the world.

We already reach thousands of kids each year, but we need to reach so many more, to provide them with a quality experience that can enhance their education and their lives. We also need to provide more resources for teachers, so that they can prepare ahead for an art school experience and follow up in the classroom afterward to maximize the learning experience.

Now is the time to invest in a new Art School annex. Most classes today fill up within days or even minutes. Children need the opportunity to expand their knowledge and take concepts they have learned at school and in the museum and actually put them into action. More children need to have this experience, especially those who do not normally have access to this kind of learning, critical thinking and creativity.

The Honolulu Museum of Art was founded to bring the world to the children of Hawaii, many of whom do not have the opportunity to travel widely. The goals of the museum and the State are the same: to serve the people of Hawaii by providing the best possible education for our children. State investment in a new art school makes sense, not only because of the value it would provide to our community, but because it would be a state-owned building built on state land. Honolulu Museum of Art leases land under the current art school from the state of Hawai'i. The historic Linekona building is owned by the state and operated by the museum. A new building, if built on state land, would also belong to the state of Hawai'i – and would serve Hawaii's children for many years to come.

Please support Senate Bill 324. The school is an important part of my community, and state investment will help ensure its value and utility to Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.