



**HAWAI'I**

STATE FOUNDATION on  
CULTURE and the ARTS

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## TESTIMONY OF THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

April 5, 2023 Conference Room 211 & Videoconference at 10:00AM

H.B. 478 H.D.1, S.D.1

### RELATING TO THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committee, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), is pleased to offer testimony in **SUPPORT** of H.B.478 H.D.1., S.D.1 which specifies the qualifications for members of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts appropriates funds for the Artist Fellowship Program.

It is important for State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to have criteria for commission appointments, ensuring the individuals have demonstrated accomplishments or expertise in the fields of culture, the arts, history, and the humanities. The SFCA prioritizes Hawaii's underserved, both geographic and economic, and has made gains over the past few years in the priorities education and support for Native Hawaiians. Qualified board appointments are critical to ensure the organization continues in a strong direction.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, established in Chapter 9, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), includes responsibility for recognizing individual artists for artistic excellence through an individual artist fellowships program. As a community, it is important that we recognize and celebrate how the artistic endeavors of individuals contribute to Hawaii's rich cultural landscape and economic health of the State. Public recognition through programs such as the Individual Artist Fellowship are a reminder of the need to seek out creative solutions to our society's most complex issues.

#### **Background on SFCA Fellowships:**

From 1995 to 2008, SFCA provided fellowships in the areas of visual and performing arts. These fellowships provided for recognition and financial support for individual artists, celebrating Hawaii's creativity. In 2010, the Individual Artist Fellowship Coordinator position was abolished and the general fund budget of SFCA was reduced, eliminating the budget to recognize individual artists of Hawai'i. In 2019 the State Legislature appropriated general funds to SFCA for artist fellowships and SFCA recognized twelve teaching artists for artistic excellence and excellence in their teaching artistry.

SFCA was the recipient of American Rescue Plan Act funds through the National Endowment for the Arts in Fiscal Year 2022. A portion of the recovery funds was awarded to individual artists and cultural practitioners statewide. Awarded grantees carried out community impact projects in FY2022.

In 2022, the State Legislature appropriated \$200,000 in Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Relief Funds to the SFCA for artist fellowships. In response, the SFCA developed a call for cultural fellowships but put the project on hold when Governor Ige vetoed the funding. Consistent appropriation of general funds from the legislature such as H.B. 478 proposes in support of the creative arts community will benefit the State's overall economy. When we invest in our cultural economy, we invest in the economic stability of Hawai'i.

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

**HB-478-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 11:30:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

We believe supporting artists to create will make a difference to the growth of the artist and make a positive impact to our community.

**HB-478-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 11:45:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill however challenge the state foundation to ensure that each island is proportionally funded.

**HB-478-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 1:28:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,  
I support this bill.  
Mahalo nui,  
Cards Pintor

**HB-478-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 2:13:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laurie Rich	Testifying for East Hawaii Cultural Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support!