

STATE OF HAWAII



KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION

355 NORTH KING STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2024

TIME: 11:30 AM

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, Conference Room 308, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1807 HD1 which **Amends the Works of Art Special Fund 1% assessment to exclude the construction of site work necessary for capital improvement project.** The bill states that the SFCA has enough works of art and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection.

This bill ammendment would reduce a percentage of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely affecting or eliminating government support for many arts organization, programs and individual artists statewide.

Reducing funding for the percent for art law would cut monetary support for Native Hawaiian and Local Artists, Galleries and Organizations therefore, we strongly oppose this bill.

Mahalo for the oppportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo,

Amy Hammond
Executive Director
King Kamehameha Celebration Commission



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Honolulu, HI 96813

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**Testimony of KAREN EWALD, Executive Director
State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024 Conference Room 308 at 11:30AM
HOUSE BILL 1807HD1
RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND**

Dear Chair Yamashita and members of the Committee,

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) respectfully **OPPOSES** H.B. 1807HD1 which amends the works of art special fund's one per cent transfer requirement to exclude the construction of site work.

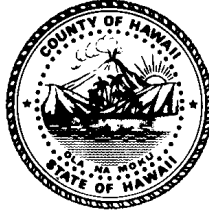
Per HRS 103-8.5, the Art in Public Places Program does more than furnish art in state buildings. Designating 1% appropriations from both construction and renovation provides a consistent funding base to carry out the intent of HRS 103-8.5 Works of Art special fund. Together, 1% appropriations from construction and renovation enable SFCA to carry out the statewide program which includes acquisition and distribution of works of art, conservation of an aging exterior public art collection, interpretation of the collection, the Hawaii State Art Museum, applicable portions of the Artists in the Schools program, and recognition of student artwork.

As the State tackles more and more infrastructure projects (Washington Place, State Capitol, Civic Centers, NASED, airports and schools etc.), the potential to embody the Hawaii sense of place through SFCA's involvement is essential. With rising costs of inflation and escalating construction costs in Hawai'i, construction and renovation funds are essential to accommodate the needs of large projects where art is a significant part of the architectural design.

The [SFCA's art in public places program collection](#) has 6,482 relocatable and 434 permanently installed works of art. Over 77% of the state's artwork is on display in 676 display sites statewide. The remaining 23% not on view is either available for rotation, on hold for conservation or being processed in our distribution center. The SFCA believes maintaining an inventory of available art is essential for placing artwork effectively in state facilities.

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

Dr. Holeka Goro Inaba
Council Member, District 8, N. Kona



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 22, 2024

Committee on Finance
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Re: Opposition to HB1807 HD1
Hearing: Monday, Feb. 23, 2024, 11:30 a.m.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to express opposition to HB1807, HD1 relating to the Works of Art Special Fund.

The amendments in HB1807 is detrimental to outer-island educational programming which will have negative consequences for the future of our society. Cutting back on public services to balance the budget does not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring to all islands.

Taking away funding will cut equitable opportunities for the community. Many of the Art in Public Places Program support would end, and this bill would end support for Professional Development for Department of Education teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. It impacts over 10,000 children that represent the next generation.

I urge you to not pass this bill.

Sincerely,

DR. HOLEKA GORO INABA, Council Member
District 8, North Kona

**TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII ARTS ALLIANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
February 23, 2024, Conference Room 308 video conference at 11:30 AM
HB1807 HD1
RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ARTS SPECIAL FUND**

Aloha Chair Yamashita and members of the committee,

I am Beth-Ann Kozlovich, Executive Director of the Hawaii Arts Alliance. We are grateful for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong **OPPOSITION** to this bill.

The overarching purpose of this fund is to chronicle Hawaii's history, its present, and future through the arts- all of the arts. This also means supporting arts education to grow our current and future artists now children or as yet unborn. The fund's purpose is far more than even the important function of collecting Hawaii art that can be seen in state buildings but to support all forms of the arts that can mirror and record the ongoing changes in thought, approach to issues and actions that reflect those changes through time. The Arts encompass performance, music, dance, spoken word, and visual to name only a few while creating conduits for our children to see and understand themselves and others as expressed uniquely through the arts and the impact of the many cultures which call Hawaii home.

The majority of the funding that comes from the Works of Art Special Fund to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, largely comes through renovations and construction of state buildings. This funding supplies the financial means to continue vital programs including the statewide Artists in the Schools Program that teach our children the value of the arts. This program and other important arts programs across the state, island-to-island, will either cease or be dramatically reduced and our children will be the recipients of this shortsightedness.

The arts tell the story of Hawaii, Native Hawaiians, and all the peoples who immigrated to Hawaii adding their artistic expression to the richness of Hawaii's culture. The arts will continue to tell Hawaii's evolving story if we provide arts education.

Undercutting the Works of Art Special Fund by removing "renovation" or "construction" from the law is counter to everything the bill states in its opening paragraph:

The legislature finds that art feeds the human spirit and offers priceless value; inspiring, educating, and challenging individuals to think differently, while making the world a more beautiful and interesting place. The legislature further finds that Hawaii was the first state in the nation to adopt a percent-for-art law, which designated one percent of construction costs of new buildings for the acquisition of works of art. The purpose of the law was to beautify state buildings and increase public access to the arts. The legislature expanded on this effort by enacting Act 389, Session Laws of Hawaii 1989, which created the works of art special fund. The legislature finds that this program has been a success, with

works of art enhancing the physical environment of state buildings and providing educational visual arts opportunities to the public through the art in public places program.

What has failed to be mentioned as part of that success is that the Works of Art Special Fund is more than money to collect works of Hawaii art or to maintain a static, rotating collection of art for public buildings. This fund is feeding the human spirit of our children. It gives them crucial access to the arts and arts education that reflect a changing Hawaii. It allows current and future generations to see themselves in the ongoing state- collected art around them, the art they create, and the conduit opened by the arts and arts education to their humanity and the humanity of others.

The Duties section of the Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 9 (see below) details State Foundation on Culture and the Arts activities focusing on statewide arts preservation, perpetuation, education, accessibility, and sharing Hawaii's culture, its arts and humanities. This clearly demonstrates the importance the State places on cultural expression for the sake of Hawaii's people- past, present and future - and their ongoing story. The continuation of that evolving story depends on arts education to support our current and future artists as chroniclers of their times and the life of Hawaii. That duty is hugely supported by the monies derived from the renovations and construction of state buildings and it is crucial that "renovation" and "construction" remain in the law.

§9-3 Duties. The foundation shall:

- (1) Assist in coordinating the plans, programs, and activities of individuals, associations, corporations, and agencies concerned with the preservation and furtherance of culture and the arts and history and the humanities;
- (2) Establish written standards and criteria by which grant contracts shall be evaluated;
- (3) Appraise the availability, adequacy, and accessibility of culture and the arts and history and the humanities to all persons throughout the State and devise programs whereby culture and the arts and history and the humanities can be brought to those who would otherwise not have the opportunity to participate;
- (4) Stimulate, guide, and promote culture and the arts and history and the humanities throughout the State;
- (5) Devise and recommend legislative and administrative action for the preservation and furtherance of culture and the arts and history and the humanities;
- (6) Study the availability of private and governmental grants for the promotion and furtherance of culture and the arts and history and the humanities;

(7) Through its executive director:

(A) Administer funds allocated by grant, gift, or bequest to the foundation; accept, hold, disburse, and allocate funds that may become available from other governmental and private sources; provided that all those funds shall be disbursed or allocated in compliance with any specific designation stated by the donor and in the absence of any designation, the funds shall be disbursed or allocated for the promotion and furtherance of culture and the arts and history and the humanities; and

(B) Accept, hold, disburse, and allocate public funds that are made available to the foundation by the legislature for disbursement or allocation, pursuant to the standards and procedures established in part II, for the promotion and furtherance of culture and the arts and history and the humanities;

(8) Submit an annual report with recommendations to the governor and legislature, prior to February 1, of each year. Annual reports shall include the total number and amount of gifts and other grants and income received, payroll disbursements, contracts entered into, and progress and accomplishments made during the year, including the efforts of the Hawaii arts education partners and its progress in implementing the Hawaii arts education strategic plan and the accomplishments of the art in public places and relocatable works of art programs and the state art museum;

(9) Convene the Hawaii arts education partners, which is composed of the department of education, the colleges of education and arts and humanities of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, and the Hawaii Alliance for Art Education, to fully implement the terms of the Hawaii arts education strategic plan;

(10) Display student art works in public buildings, sponsor student art displays, promote arts education, and in other ways encourage the development of creative talent among the young people of Hawaii;

(11) In cooperation with qualified organizations, conduct research, studies, and investigations in the fields of

ethnohistory and the humanities:

(A) Make, publish, and distribute works documenting the contributions of individual ethnic groups in their relationship to one another and to the whole population of Hawaii;

(B) Place ethnohistorical and cultural materials developed by the foundation or received by the foundation as gifts and donations in public archives, libraries, and other suitable institutions accessible to the public; and

(C) Maintain a register of the location of such materials;

(12) Cooperate with and assist the department of land and natural resources and other state agencies in developing and implementing programs relating to historic preservation, research, restoration, and presentation, as well as museum activities;

(13) Establish an individual artist fellowship program to encourage artists to remain and work in Hawaii and to reaffirm the importance of Hawaii's artists and their cultural and economic contributions to the State by:

(A) Recognizing and honoring Hawaii's exceptionally talented visual and performing artists for their outstanding work in and commitment to the arts; and

(B) Enabling these artists to further their artistic goals;

(14) In consultation with the comptroller and affected agencies and departments, administer the art in public places and relocatable works of art programs established pursuant to section 103-8.5; and

(15) Administer the operations of the state art museum established pursuant to section 9-22. [L 1965, c 269, §3; am L 1977, c 112, §1; am L 1980, c 293, §3; am L 1992, c 181, §4; am L 1993, c 133, §2; am L 1999, c 80, §4; am L 2001, c 306, §2; am L 2004, c 125, §4]

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:41:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
chucky boy chock	kauai museum	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Carol Yotsuda does great work on Kaua'i! please continue to fund her Programs it's a no brainer!

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:50:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Rich	East Hawaii Cultural Center	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

An increased emphasis in art can transform our society. Artistic experiences and access to art are the things that shape the way we see our lives – and ourselves. Creativity and inspiration offer a broader lens of dynamic experiences and give us stronger connections as human beings, transforming us into people who will go out and change the world for the better.

Art matters and is critical for healthy communities. Defunding art is as detrimental as defunding roads or telecommunications.

Keep art in our communities!



Aloha,

HULI PAC CONTINUES TO OPPOSE **HB1807** STRONGLY

HB1807 intends to amend this bill by eliminating the word “renovation” from the law and replacing it with the word ‘construction’ which is WORST! Continuing to take away from the State Foundation for Culture and Arts (SFCA) budget will have a massive adverse domino impact in which hundreds of testifiers from the outer island implied the impact on our children and communities.

Changing it to construction is even worse because you're not fixing existing buildings but creating and opening opportunities for constructing anything, including something new.

We were disappointed that over 240 testimonies in opposition were not respected or heard by the majority who passed this bill with these amendments to continue a devastating impact on ALL island programming. *Those who passed and amended this bill have **self-proclaimed*** a narrative that the SFCA has enough works of art, and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection, even when the SFCA, executive director Karen Ewald explained it to be untrue.

*The amendments in HB1807 will continue to harm vital outer-island educational programming. **Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society. When we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring to all islands through a circular economic impact that touches many industries for the better, we will create a future that will invite more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation.***

Many outer island community leaders and educators testified to share the Honolulu-centric collection and public art display with demands to nourish outer island communities and that the outer island grossly lacked representation and funding appropriations as it stands. Taking away funding will cut equitable opportunities for our communities.

*Consequently, with this bill, most of the Art in Public Places Program support would end. This bill would end support for Professional Development for all DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. **It impacts over 10,000 kids**, our next generation. This also will take away much-needed staff fees.*

Please do not pass this bill.

Mahalo,
Maki Morinoue
HULI PAC, member
Holualoa, HI

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:44:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maggie Costigan	Maui Dance Council	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to request that you oppose House Bill 1807 HDI, relating to the Works of Art Special Fund.

In proposing this bill, perhaps Representative Yamashita was unaware that the Works of Art Special Fund goes far beyond supporting the acquisition of new works of art for the SFCA's collection.

With the Maui Dance Council (MDC), a non-profit organization serving Maui County since 1978, these funds go to annually support arts education for over 2,500 students in 13 public schools on 4 Hawaiian islands: Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i and Hawai'i, through the Artists In The Schools: Arts in Public Places grants.

MDC's 8-week art education residencies guide students through an artistic exploration that helps develop students' cognitive skills and capacities for critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, and innovation, the personal capacities for self-regulation, self-efficacy, self-expression, and self-motivation, and the social and civic capacities for communication, collaboration and participation in changing societies. The arts offer students an engaging way to deepen understanding while making rich and personalized curricular connections.

These MDC arts residences receive high accolades from classroom teachers and school administration, proven by continued annual requests for services.

Understanding this, it is hard to imagine that Representative Yamashita would consider arts education anything but a valuable use of these State funds.

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 1807 HDI....in support of arts education for our Hawai'i public school youth.

Sincerely,

Maggie Costigan

Executive Director, Maui Dance Council

HB-1807-HD-1

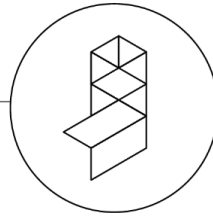
Submitted on: 2/21/2024 7:35:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Kean	Kean Arts Inc.	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a working artist, art educator, and strong proponent of the arts and their value in fostering creative and critical thinking, I strongly OPPOSE this bill. I am on the current teaching artist roster with the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and am in the application process for the Art in Public Places, Artist in the Schools program. As I understand it, this bill would cut over 50% of the Art in Public Places revenue. It has the potential to reduce or virtually eliminate government support for many arts organizations, programs, and artists statewide. The youth and future of Hawaii will suffer because of this. Art is continuously evolving. To cut or end support of current and past artists in effect, silences our creative voices. These voices allow for diverse interpretations of the world around us. Every voice is valid and should have the opportunity to thrive in the ever-changing and evolving place we call home - Hawaii.



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22 February, 2024
Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am the Executive Director of Hawaii Contemporary, the organization that produces the Hawaii Triennial, the state's largest multi-site public exhibition of contemporary art. I am writing to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 1807. This bill seeks to adjust capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a funding source for the works of art special fund. If enacted, this legislation would severely impact the Art in Public Places program, significantly reducing government support for arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide.

The rationale behind SB1807 suggests that the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) currently possesses a surplus of artwork, rendering further acquisitions unnecessary. However, while there may indeed be a modest surplus of artworks in storage, this is not indicative of redundancy but rather responsible management ensuring artworks are available for replacement and rotation. It is profoundly meaningful for artists to have their work acquired by the state and displayed in public buildings, including your offices, as it not only recognizes their talent but also enriches public spaces for all to enjoy.

Moreover, artistic expression is dynamic and continually evolving. New artworks are essential for reflecting the diversity and vibrancy of our society. Restricting the acquisition of new artworks could stifle artistic innovation and deprive our communities of the opportunity to engage with contemporary artistic practices, thereby hindering cultural growth and development.

Making adjustments to the percent-for-art law would significantly reduce financial support for native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries, and organizations. Hawaii Contemporary is a direct beneficiary of this support. The Hawaii Triennial draws over 100,000 visitors each iteration, generating substantial economic activity both locally and from out-of-town visitors. For instance, data from AmericansfortheArts.org indicates that the Hawaii Triennial 2022 had an estimated economic impact of \$1.7 million from resident attendees and \$60.82 million from out-of-town visitors. Similar events in the past have shown even greater economic benefits, underscoring the critical role of SFCA's support for such endeavors.



Investing in the arts brings significant economic benefits. Studies have consistently shown that arts investments yield substantial returns for local economies by attracting tourists, stimulating spending in local businesses, and creating employment opportunities across various sectors. Additionally, a vibrant arts scene enhances the overall desirability of a destination, attracting skilled workers, entrepreneurs, and investors, thus fostering economic growth and prosperity.

Additionally, the arts sector serves as a catalyst for innovation and entrepreneurship. Artists and creative professionals drive economic development through their innovative ideas, products, and services. By nurturing a supportive environment for the arts, we can cultivate a thriving creative economy that generates new opportunities for economic diversification and sustainable growth.

In conclusion, preserving the works of art special fund and continuing to invest in the arts are essential steps towards harnessing the economic potential of creativity and innovation, thereby building a more prosperous and resilient future for Hawaii. I urge you to reconsider SB1807 and its potential impact on our state's cultural landscape and economic well-being.

Mahalo nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosina Potter', written in a cursive style.

Rosina Potter
Executive Director
Hawai 'i Contemporary

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:29:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hugh Jenkins	Hawaii Craftsmen	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am the current president of the Hawaii Craftsmen organization, We have a history of over 50 years supporting and promoting the educationa and presentation of hand crafted arts on all islands in Hawaii. One of the sources of funding for our programs is the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA). As a non-profit, all of our funds go directly to provide for venues and presentaions which promote exposure and improvement of education and growth of the arts in our state. Elmintaion of funds availale to the SFCA will seriously hinder fullfillment of our mission.

Sincerely, Hugh Jenkins

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:32:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jody Brotman	Kahilu Theatre Foundation	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A reduction in state funds allocated for the purchase of art will negatively impact Kahilu Theatre and many other arts organizations and individual artists in state. State art purchases made through Kahilu Theatre, for example, have had a significant impact on our small art gallery budget and for the artists statewide we are able to showcase. We encourage an increase in state funding for small to midsize arts organizations, rather than reduce existing funds that currently help support these organizations and the livelihoods of the artists they showcase.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:54:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean-Joseph T.K. Choo	Kamamo House	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Sean Choo, I'm testifying to oppose this measure as the Lead Steward + Head Jester of Kamamo House, my queer-centered theatre, artist cultivation/advocacy organization, and podcast.

A few years ago, Kamamo House co-produced the QASI Queer Arts Festival at Captiol Modern, with no small help from the lovely staff at the museum and an American Rescue Plan Individual Artist Grant distributed by the SFCA. Getting the opportunity to produce a playreading for the first time was difficult, but a rewarding experience. The playreading featured new work by two queer/māhū-identifying writers who were taking a leap into playwriting, developing a one-act play for the first time, under the mentorship of Victoria Nalani Kneubuhl. Because of the grant, I was able to support myself, pay the actors and the writers, promote new work, and celebrate our community. Taking away funding as this measure would do minimizes opportunities to produce things like my playreading, or projects like *'IMI Ā LOA 'A*, the augmented reality play experience I wrote stories and music for in partnership with Honolulu Theatre for Youth. That experience partially took place on the grounds of Capitol Modern, and it explored Hawaiian concepts of space, and time, looking into the history of the land surrounding HTY and Capitol Modern for students to explore. It has been wonderful to build pilina with Capitol Modern the past few years. Growing up, I don't believe I had any interaction with the SFCA or Capitol Modern, and I hope moving forward, that's not the case for most kids growing up here, because I love going there. I always look forward to returning to the museum's doors, including this week for Super Saturday and the 61st annual Hawai'i Regional Scholastic Awards art gallery opening. I continue to look forward to ways that accessibility for art can be expanded for our keiki.

Taking away funding would minimize opportunities for exploration, education, and creative risk, which are ideas and ways the arts can facilitate for the public good. Theater can do this in an embodied way, and I do look forward to more opportunities to talk story with y'all and produce shows, and to continue to plan for what is best for the arts and artists here in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your work, time, and consideration.

Sean Choo

kamamo.house@gmail.com



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February 22, 2024

To the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing this letter in strong opposition to House Bill 1807 (HB1807), which proposes the repeal of capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the Works of Art Special Fund and the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA). I have witnessed firsthand the vital and significant impacts of SFCA's initiatives, both through my capacity as Director of Maui Arts & Cultural Center's Schaefer International Gallery and as a Maui resident and community member.

Maui Arts & Cultural Center has worked with SFCA on numerous occasions to coordinate Art Acquisition Selection Committee visits that nominate works of art for accession into the Art in Public Places (APP) Collection. This collection plays a vital role in integrating the arts into public spaces throughout the state, providing visibility and recognition for Hawai'i's dynamic artist community and ensuring that these works remain accessible into the future. HB1807's statement that "removing the redundancy of applying the special fund to renovations would have no adverse effects on the art in public places program" is misleading and fails to acknowledge the significant detrimental effects this bill would have on the arts in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i's enactment of the Art in State Buildings Law in 1967 and creation of the Works of Art Special Fund in 1989 distinguished the state by signaling the importance of the arts as a necessary element to humanize public space. The APP Program represents an evolving collection that is meant to grow alongside contemporary developments in the art scene. To imply that it is "complete" is to close the door on including the current and future movements of Hawai'i's artists as part of this public resource.

In addition to the Art in Public Places Collection, the Works of Art Special Fund supports numerous vital initiatives that enable the implementation of arts educational programs throughout the state and provide funding to non-profit organizations. These include but are not limited to the Artists in the Schools program serving 124 public and charter schools; professional development for Department of Education teachers; the Scholastic Art Exhibition and Young Artists of Hawai'i Exhibition; numerous outreach programs to underserved populations; and support for Native Hawaiian and local arts organizations.

An amount of one percent of a renovation budget can make a substantial impact for artists, students, and non-profit organizations throughout the state when stewarded through the Works of Art Special Fund and SFCA's initiatives. I respectfully request that you prioritize the role of the arts as an essential facet of our cultural vitality by rejecting HB1807.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Yukio Clark
Director, Schaefer International Gallery

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 7:59:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Young	CARES	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

CARES testifies in strong support.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 10:06:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tuiaana Scanlan	IATSE 665	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

IATSE 665 stands in opposition to HB1807

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:10:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Sato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:20:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Sato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In STRONG OPPOSITION

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:54:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlyn Jean Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Arts in Hawaii enhances our environment and that of the many visitors to our islands. To deprive any of the few public arts programs of any amount of funding and support takes away from what has been proven to be an indirect benefit that improves the quality of life in any community.

By taking away site/foundation work funding from construction and or renovation you deprive an already underfunded program of needed resources that have been put back into our communities in many formats.

In 1989-90 I was the Arts, Crafts, Fashion Design Coordinator for the Department of Business and Economic Development. In my capacity as the Coordinator of this program I found research and statistics that confirmed that promoting and supporting the Arts in a community leads to direct benefits in tourism and community well-being.

I am unable to attend the hearing that is scheduled, however I would be happy to answer any questions the committee members have regarding my testimony. Please feel free to email me.

Respectfully submitted,

(Marlyn) Jean Williams,

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:10:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolann Biederman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am opposed to the proposed bill which would adversely reduce or eliminate government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Carolann Biederman, 44-391 Nilu St. #4, Kaneohe, HI 96744

cabc.consulting@gmail.com

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:16:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik Sullivan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Erik Sullivan, and I am an artist and resident of Honolulu in Hawaii. I write today to express my strong opposition to HB1807 HD1, which proposes to amend the Works of Art Special Fund by excluding the construction of site work necessary for capital improvement projects from the 1% assessment currently allocated to support the arts in our state.

The arts are a fundamental component of Hawaii's cultural fabric, serving not only as an expression of our diverse communities but also as a crucial economic driver and educational tool. The proposed amendment to reduce funding for the Art in Public Places program significantly undermines the support for Native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries, and organizations. By doing so, it not only diminishes our cultural heritage but also impacts the livelihoods of those who contribute to the vibrant arts scene in Hawaii.

The assertion that the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) has "enough works of art" and that there is "no need to acquire more art for the state collection" is shortsighted. Art is not a commodity to be accumulated until a certain quota is met; it is a living, evolving expression of our society and its values. The continuous support for new works of art ensures that our cultural narrative is inclusive of contemporary voices and perspectives, reflecting the dynamic nature of Hawaii's people and our times.

Furthermore, the inclusion of site work in capital improvement projects as part of the 1% for art law has been instrumental in integrating art into public spaces, making it accessible to all residents and visitors. This not only enriches our public spaces but also fosters a sense of community and pride in our local culture.

Reducing funding for the arts, particularly at a time when many artists and cultural organizations are still recovering from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, is counterproductive. Investment in the arts is an investment in Hawaii's future, supporting education, economic development, and the well-being of our communities.

I strongly urge the committee to reconsider the proposed amendment to HB1807 HD1. Instead, let us reaffirm our commitment to supporting the arts in Hawaii, recognizing their essential role in our society and ensuring that our artists and cultural organizations have the resources they need to thrive.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit my testimony in opposition to this bill. I hope you will stand with me and countless others who believe in the power and importance of the arts in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Erik Sullivan

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:51:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan C. Browne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

By amending the 1% for Art Special Fund by excluding capital improvement projects, a significant percentage of the Art in Public Places program revenue will be lost. These funds are not used to to only buy art. It is important that the committee understands what these funds are used for. To state that "the SFCA has enough works of art and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection" demonstrates a serious lack of knowledge about what these funds support. Losing this revenue will mean a serious loss of support for Native Hawaiian artists, galleries, and organizations. Arts education is also supported by the APP funds. Hundreds of children will not receive arts residencies if there is a reduction in funds. Student art exhibits may not take place. Teachers will not receive professional development in integrating arts into their curriculum. SFCA does more with this funding than buy art. Please do not take away this lifeline to our culture and arts sector in Hawaii.

Mahalo for being reasonable and reading this statement.

Susan Browne

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:54:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Jordan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill would cut over 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide. The elimination of “renovation” or “construction” from the percent for art law would cut monetary support for many Native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries, and organizations, including the Hawaii Arts Alliance and the Artists-in-the-Schools program that grow our next generation of all types of artists who can chronicle and reflect Hawaii through the arts.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:01:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Nehmad	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear COmmittee Members:

I strongly oppose this bill as does every other artist and cultrual practitioner.and arts organizations in this state. As I noted in my earlier testimony before Sen Lee's committee, the 1% for art funds so many important programs that nurture and benefit the entire communitcy in so many ways. I don't see any analysis as to how much money this bill will siphon off, but any amount is too much. I also don't see any justification provided for taking such an action.

Please oppose this bill in its entirety.

Thank you

Deborah Nehmad



From: Debra Drexler
Acting Director of the Museum and Gallery
Chair, Drawing and Painting Area
Professor
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

To: House Committee

RE: Opposition to HB1807

This testimony is to express my strong objection to HB1807. As an educator and Acting Gallery Director, I see the positive impacts that the 1% for art makes on the community, Native Hawaiian artists, and the emerging artists. The SFCA is one of the only avenues for support for Native Hawaiian artists. Recently, the The Art Gallery at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa held the exhibition Mai Nā Kūpuna Mai, which featured works by Native Hawaiian artists. The SFCA recommended four major pieces out of this show for purchase. Three of those artists had not had work previously collected by the SFCA (Marques Hanalei Marzan, Maika'i Tubbs, Puni Jackson) The fourth artist, Sean Kekamakupa'aikapono Kaonohiokalani Lee Loy Browne, is considered a treasure of the community. While the SFCA has collected his sculpture in the past, this is the first of his paintings recommended for collection. The bill states that "the SFCA has enough works of art and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection." That is not true. The state does not have enough work by Native Hawaiian artists and is working to address that through recommendations of purchases.

The state also does not have enough work by the upcoming generations of emerging artists. There are currently 280 art students at UHM, who have a great deal to contribute to the community. Often the first opportunity students have professionally is funded through programs offered by the State Foundation and Culture in the Arts. The SFCA funds organizations that give young artists the opportunity to exhibit and sell their work and to work in the community doing valuable service such as Arts in the School. Compared to other states Hawai'i is sadly lacking in art education in public schools. Often the only exposure students get to the arts is through SFCA programs. Already, there is a huge brain, drain, with talented students going to other states where there is more opportunity, without the 1% for art, we would lose even more of our talented young artists. Because I work closely with these young artist, I know how passionate driven and gifted they are. I know how much they are willing to give back to the community, and it is important for them to have the cultural institutions in place that allow them to reach their full potential. In sharing their immense talents with the community they make the state a better place to live in. I have taught at UHM for 32 years, and over the years, I have seen the great impact that my former students have made in the community because of their access to programming that is funded by the SFCA.

Tourist destinations are becoming more competitive. Many tourists look for a place that offers cultural engagement. Funding of the arts is essential in making Hawaii a desirable destination. The arts also raise the quality of life for those who live here. Thank you for considering my testimony.

21st February 2024

Representative Kyle Yamashita

Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street Room 306
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Opposition to HB1807

Dear Representative Yamashita,

I am a lifelong resident of Maui County, recently retired after 42 years of service as a public school teacher. I have spent my life working in and advocating for the arts, particularly secondary arts education. My students, like hundreds of others across Maui County in elementary, intermediate and high schools, have been the grateful beneficiaries of the SFCA's Artists-in-the-Schools program over many, many years. The valuable experiences provided opportunities for my high school students to meet and work with professional artists, private organizations, and outreach programs have extended their learning far beyond the walls of the classroom and deep into the community. Many of them, now in varied professional careers, continue their community mindedness in admirable ways as young adults with growing families. As young parents, they now express concern over their children potentially being left without the valuable humanizing experiences, which, as they fondly recall, looked forward to and engaged in when they were students.

I am writing in opposition to HB 1807 which seeks to repeal capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. This bill seriously threatens to significantly weaken Hawaii's state arts agency (SFCA) as it would cut over 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs and individual artists statewide. The bill states that "the SFCA has enough works of art and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection."

The elimination of "renovation" from the percent-for-art law would cut monetary support for numerous Native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries, and organizations including Hui Noe'au, Viewpoints Gallery, and the Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association on Maui, East Hawaii Culture Center and Wailoa Center on Hawaii Island, the Kauai Society of Artists on the Garden Isle, and the University of Hawaii Galleries, Honolulu Theater for Youth, Pu'uhonua Society, and Fishcake on Oahu, to name a few.

Citing this "surplus" of artwork as rationale for the elimination of "renovation" from the percent-for-art law would also significantly cut monetary support for educational and outreach programs including:

- Artists in the Schools arts education program (serving 124 public and charter schools statewide)
- Professional development for DOE Teachers
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Hawaii Regional Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony

- Hawaii Arts Alliance
- Kahauiki Village
- Institute for Human Services
- RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
- Family Friendly Programming for LGBTQ populations
- LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
- Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

At this point in our history, wouldn't you agree that it is imperative that we uphold the mission of the SFCA, first envisioned by Maui's own Masaru "Pundy" Yokouchi, to share a continuing responsibility to protect, perpetuate, and promote culture and arts in Hawaii?

Currently serving my first term as the Maui commissioner on the board of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, I have been impressed with what I am learning in regard to the breadth and scope of how the SFCA works tirelessly to not only "beautify state buildings and increase public access to the arts" but strives to positively impact every community member on every island through educational outreach programs to ensure that authentic arts and cultural education thrive in Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Janet Sato

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:16:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell Sato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am respectfully submitting my opposition to HB 1807 and urge all committee members to carefully consider the longterm negative impacts this bill would potentially set into motion.

Thank you.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:28:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Motter Anne Snell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the bill. We need art in public places. It beautifies and enriches our lives.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:46:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helena Noordhoff	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairpersons Tam, Martinez, and committee members,

My name is Helena Noordhoff and I am writing to strongly oppose House Bill 1807. As a professional working artist and art educator I view this bill as a horrible detriment to our community in the arts and at large for all people who value and appreciate the arts or creative expressions. The arts serve as a crucial avenue for expression, critical thinking, and cultural enrichment. Cutting funding undermines educational diversity. Art education fosters empathy and innovation, so it's not a luxury but a fundamental component of a well-rounded education. We should be investing in our artistic future and nurturing the next generation of thinkers, creators, and visionaries.

Mahalo for your consideration to oppose House Bill 1807,

Helena Noordhoff

Artist/ Studio Programs Instructor in Printmaking at Honolulu Museum of Art School

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 6:00:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Otani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807 because it will have a negative impact upon the arts and cultural programs

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 6:37:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Haia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Arts are crucial to the well being of a community. Nothing should be taken away from the already paltry sum put towards the arts. Nor should people not specialized in the arts become the people that make decisions regarding art purchases.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 6:51:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moses K Haia III	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 7:00:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faith Stone	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Big island needs support for the arts overseen by qualified artists and art directors.

I vehemently oppose SB2764 and HB2565! These bills seek to relocate the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, effectively dismantling the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission.

This move would put the selection of the Executive Director in the hands of the Governor, who lacks expertise in this field, with the Senate's advice and consent. Such a decision, made by non-experts, poses significant risks and echoes troubling historical patterns. The proposed legislation would diminish outer island representation and stifle input from professionals in the fields of culture, arts, and humanities. It grants power to individuals without the necessary background, experience, or integrity, potentially redirecting funds originally intended for cultural initiatives since the 1980s toward tourism and economic development agendas.

This shift would have a detrimental impact on the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts' ability to secure essential funding, as the organization would no longer meet the necessary oversight standards. Arts and culture leadership should remain in the hands of expert practitioners, free from corporate influence.

The commission must maintain representation from neighboring islands and individuals with expertise in cultural matters. When government officials dictate cultural policy, it undermines the essence of creative expression and diminishes the true value of culture and the arts in our society, resembling what the late Haunani-Kay Trask described as "Cultural Prostitution."

Hawaiian culture deserves recognition as a legitimate cultural practice, separate from economic interests, and should be preserved and propagated through education, spirituality, and skill development.

Thank you for listening and I urge you to protect State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission.

Warm regards,

Faith Stone

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 7:10:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clarice Miki Yokouchi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representative Yamashita,

Please accept this testimony in opposition to HB 1807.

Passage of HB 1807 would significantly undermine the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) by cutting over 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue – reducing the crucial government support that is integral to the success of art programs, organizations, and artists throughout Hawaii. The monetary support that would be lost due to the elimination of “renovation” from the percent-for-art law would have ripple effects in our communities statewide.

I kindly ask that you please consider the mission of the SFCA, ‘to promote, perpetuate and preserve culture and the arts in Hawaii’ and the meaningful impact the agency has on cultivating arts and cultural programming throughout Hawaii and in our communities.

My father, Masaru “Pundy” Yokouchi, was the first SFCA member and Founding Chairperson, appointed by Governor Burns in 1966. Growing up with my father, we were fortunate to learn from him and see through his eyes the importance of the arts not only in education and day-to-day life, but importantly, its positive influence on us as individuals and, collectively, upon our community. Art can counterbalance the negative in life – allowing us a quick escape and dive into something beautiful, meaningful, thoughtful, intentional... In part, the SFCA ensures access to art for all in our community through not only Art in Public Places, but also through the educational and outreach programs it provides to artists, teachers, students, galleries, exhibitions, and museums.

Please consider all effects – intended and unintended – of the bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Clarice Miki Yokouchi

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 7:51:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mari j. matsuda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an educator who cares about Hawaii's future, I ask you to continue support for the arts. If anything, funding should increase. There is no successful tech hub/vibrant economy city that is not connected to a world class arts scene. That is simply the facts. Cutting art is relegating us to limits in revenue growth, as well as depriving citizens of something that gives life meaning.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 8:03:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Marie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose any cut to funding for the arts.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 8:08:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maile Yawata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not cut funding for the SFCA's art in public places program, it's acquisitions program, financial support of arts organizations, as well as programs that benefit children in the public school system. The health and creative thinking of our keiki is fostered by participation in and access to all forms of art making. Art activities teach problem solving, independent thinking, integrates learning with other subjects and is therapeutic. It affects all aspects of our lives. Our multi-cultural communities are defined through their traditional and evolving art forms, exemplifying their educational relevancy. Investing money into the arts will bring benefits beyond measure.

Thank you for your consideration,

Maile Yawata

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 8:27:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
W. Kevin Marshall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, and thank you for listening to my written testimony. I' am writing concerning the bill to defund arts programs that have been partially funded by the state. I'd like the members to vote against this as it has been proven nationally that funds towards arts programs generate more funding that it costs the state. Also, Hawaii is in a unique position in that funding of local arts promotes the heritage and culture of this land.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

W. Kevin Marshall

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 8:45:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Babcock	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Full support of the arts is vital to our community and supports not only individual artists but a multitude of community and educational organizations.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 8:56:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lola Solveig	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill HB1807, HD1, which proposes amendments to the Works of Art Special Fund 1% assessment. This bill, if passed, would have severe repercussions on the vibrant arts community in our state, adversely impacting numerous organizations, programs, and individual artists.

The proposed amendment seeks to exclude the construction of site work necessary for capital improvement projects from the Works of Art Special Fund. While the bill argues that the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) has enough works of art, it fails to recognize the vital role that continued investment in the arts plays in fostering cultural enrichment, community engagement, and economic growth.

This bill's passage would significantly reduce support for Native Hawaiian and local artists, galleries, and organizations across the islands, including notable institutions like the Downtown Arts Center, the University of Hawai'i Galleries, the Hula Preservation Society, and the Honolulu Theatre for Youth, among so many other valuable and impactful organizations. These entities contribute immensely to our cultural identity, education, and economic vitality.

Furthermore, the bill's impact extends to crucial programs, such as the Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide, professional development for DOE teachers, exhibitions and programming at the Hawaii State Art Museum, and outreach programs benefiting diverse populations.

In essence, the proposed amendments would jeopardize the very fabric of our artistic and cultural landscape, affecting not only artists but also communities and educational institutions. I urge you to reconsider and reject HB1807 HD1 to preserve the invaluable contributions that the arts make to our society.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Lola Solveig

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 9:04:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
BradTaylor	University of Hawaii at Manoa Department of Art and Art History	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB 1807 will impact the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in a negative way. Support from this funding filters through to students, staff and faculty of the institution allowing for a higher quality of education. One prominent visible place that this takes place is within the gallery system at the university. Funding from this source encourages participation from individuals with significant careers in the arts. the participation of these people in the programing at the University influences our young people to become more creative and encourages participation in cultural activities. The ethics infused into the university population from this source permeates the institution and its members at large. Creativity and the solutions it leads to permeate the purpose of the University. Cuts in this funding source will negatively impact the quality of education provided by one of our most prominent institutions.

Please continue to fund our Arts organizations within the State of Hawaii.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 9:07:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sally french	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an artist who has been working in the Arts in Hawaii for almost 50years. I have served on the purchase advisory committee for the SFCA as well as been a recipient of the award and have artworks circulating in the State Relocations Collection. I have served my Kauai community as a 15-year board member of our Kauai Arts organization and led as a past president for 8 years. I have an understanding of how vital the SFCA is to our grassroots arts organizations, our children and our communities exposure to the Arts. These islands are isolated, we must have connection between our cultural center of Honolulu and our rural islands. This is what the SFCA provides via this funding and to lose almost 60% of it will devastate outreach into neighbor island communities. Our children have lost their arts programs in the schools, some children survive an unstable home by finding solice in the arts that are now only provided by not-for-profit arts centers funded in large part by money this bill will cut. We will all lose out. Please protect the art centers and the maintenance of our Statewide art collection that we have fought so long and hard to protect. Please don't let it go, the Arts are vital to the well-being of a community, please help us us protect our ability to serve our rural communities with access and outlets for the Arts.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 9:08:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily McIlroy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a professional artist and art educator working in Hawaii for nearly 17 years, I strongly OPPOSE amending the works of art special fund's one per cent transfer requirement to exclude capital improvement appropriations designated for the construction of site work. Although this bill claims that The Art is Public Places Program will not be affected by this amendment, due to the surplus of works currently in storage, this statement is simply not true on multiple levels. Firstly, in addition to furnishing state buildings with works of art, The APP Program commissions local artists to create new works of art for specific locations, and so funding for these site-based projects would certainly be adversely affected. Secondly, The APP Program supports arts education programming in schools during the school day, out-of-school arts education for pre-K students and lifelong learning for adults, all of which would be affected by this bill. Furthermore, through supplying works of art for state sites and buildings, The APP Program also nourishes the artistic vitality of our community and helps make it possible for professional artists to live and work in Hawaii. Cutting funding to The APP Program would essentially take away from the livelihoods of our community's working artists. Lastly, the The APP Program's collection would suffer, as funding for new works of art reflecting our current life and times would not be able to be purchased. Clearly, anyone believing that the mission and services upheld and provided by The APP Program would not be affected by this bill is under or misinformed. For the reasons stated above, I vehemently OPPOSE this bill.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 9:09:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jeanne wheeler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill - our islands need continued encouragement for creative works by artists! Mahalo for considering my comments, JW

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 10:09:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Avalon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am writing in strong opposition of HB1807. As an artist, I know all too well how easy it is for the state to view arts funding as unnecessary. I see no reason why construction sites should result in less spending on local arts. Can you folks not imagine how local muralists might beautify an athletic court? Or how school groups might enhance public bridges with art? Think outside the box, please. While this bill states that there are artworks in storage still waiting to be put on display, this does not mean there cannot be continued aquisition of artworks, or working with and paying artists to beautify public spaces. To limit the spending of the SFCA in any capacity sets a harmful precedent. We artists need all the support we can get.

Mahalo,

Avalon P.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 10:33:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaikea Nakachi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the FIN committee. My name is Kaikea Nakachi from North Kona, Hawai'i Island and I oppose HB1807. The reduced funding proposed by this bill would hamper important places and projects that keep many aspects of Hawaiian culture alive through art and education. I would see these places continue to foster creative spaces that promote learning and the perpetuation of Hawaiian language, customs, and values.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in opposition to HB1807.

Aloha,

Kaikea Nakachi

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 10:51:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gaye Chan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1807 HD1 would reduce over 50% of the Art in Public Places program revenue, adversely reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs, Hawaii's artists, and the Artists-in-the-Schools program. In a state with a small cultural scene, support for arts, art organizations and artists is crucial.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 10:58:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Marshall	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose bill [HB1807](#). As a resident of Hawai'i, I believe this bill is unfounded and hurtful to our entire community. Art is valuable and should not have its funding cut. I am an active member of the arts community; while new to the islands, I'm building my creative connections through the arts organizations I found before moving to Hawai'i. I did not look for places to sightsee, swim, or eat; I looked for organizations to help me build a foundation in Hawai'i.

Art is a connector for people. These organizations, in turn, support me as a creative by offering opportunities to share my work through competitions, exhibitions, and gatherings. Art is a platform for voices to be heard. Art organizations help expand my knowledge through workshops and lectures, affording a communal space for creatives to discuss their work and develop ideas. Art builds communities. Art supports Hawai'i by fueling investment in the people who live here, celebrating their voices, opening its arms to their challenges, and making us all feel welcome. I am a freelance designer, and several art organizations have hired me to assist with web development and social media. I am fed by the arts, clothed by the arts, and give back to the arts of Hawai'i.

I write this after attending a board meeting for a local non-profit. In that meeting, the board discussed successes and challenges. The successes included creating and documenting the works of local artists through print media, video, and digital content, which reached a global audience—bringing in master artists and celebrating master artists already here, facilitating the space for them to share their techniques and knowledge with our community through workshops and lectures. They connect youth with the arts through artist-led discussions of works within one of our exhibitions, a new program for that organization. They offer traveling jurors so neighboring islands can participate more easily in juried exhibitions, and the list can go on.

Two significant challenges arose during the discussion: A deficit in funding and increased rental space fees. If you cut funding to the arts, you must realize it's a domino effect. You can't cut one without hurting everyone. Downtown Arts Center and Art at Marks Garage are two gallery spaces frequently reserved for artists to exhibit. They give our creative community space to gather, learn, and grow, creating a vibrant expression of our islands that everyone, including visitors, can enjoy and carry with them.

Each organization is vital; for example, the Downtown Arts Center gallery space allows artists to sell their work and elevate their recognition. It also provides community members and visitors opportunities to enjoy works of art and take classes. A non-profit focused on fiber arts rents a

portion of the DAC facility. That organization supports my family by contracting me to edit websites and create printed media. If you cut funding from either, you are personally hurting me and my family. You hurt me as an entrepreneur by forcing an organization to cut me from their budget because their rent went up. You hurt me as an artist by making it even harder to show and sell my work because exhibition entry fees went up or are no longer offered. You hurt me as a mother and resident of Hawai'i by making it harder for my family and me to afford living here due to a loss of income.

Cutting arts funding hurts our children by limiting or eliminating opportunities to facilitate their creative growth. That hinders their problem-solving ability, making them unable to tackle the challenges of today and tomorrow. Bringing artists into our schools provides children an opportunity to look at something from a different perspective. It gives them a safe space to fail and build up confidence by trying again or trying something in a different way. It enables them to communicate and debate. It builds character, acceptance, and resilience within our youth. Art is a tool to combat the hardships of today, and when youth aren't given access to even learn about these tools, our children lose out. Art can speak a narrative without words; for example, to learn hula, you tell a story through movement and relate history within every gesture.

Artwork in public spaces elevates the areas around it. I remember walking into a state building and seeing a massive mosaic mural on the wall. Instead of looking at my phone while waiting, I was mesmerized by the detail and depth the mosaic artist elicited. It made me enjoy my time in a waiting area that otherwise would have been an echoing hall of glass and concrete. I was happy to be in that space for that moment in time.

The bill notes that the State already has an extensive collection of artworks, yet how often are they featured in State spaces? There are opportunities to generate cultural awareness, community connection, and share Aloha. If works of art are collecting dust in your archives, you should bring them out and share them with all of Hawai'i. Those works are not meant to be hidden away. Gift our community by sharing your bounty and tell us the importance behind those collected items. If you still have too many, review your deaccession policy, consider the pathway to generate funds by selling some works, and then pour those funds back into supporting the arts.

In closing, I urge you to recognize the consequences this bill represents and realize how invaluable the contributions of the arts are to our community. I oppose this bill [HB1807](#), and ask for you to reject this bill; if you do, you are stomping on the spirit of Aloha and causing irrevocable harm to all of Hawai'i. Instead, let us continue building a vibrant, creative, and inclusive future by supporting and funding the arts.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 11:21:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Pasqua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tam and members of the Committee,

Seems like every Legislative session someone decides that Works of Art Special Fund's 1% law should be raided. Please do not pass HB1807. This funding does a lot more than buy art, it helps maintain and showcase the art which is displayed to the public at Hawai'i State Art Museum and in state buildings like the State Capitol, public schools and public libraries. These funds support local artists who create the art, and teaching artist who bring arts experiences to public school students as well as professional develop in the arts to classroom teachers. Reducing the funding will negatively affect all the above as well as many arts organizations throughout the state.

Bill HB 1807 states that the SFCA has enough works of art and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection. I totally disagree. Art is a record of our culture and our history. As keeper of that record the SFCA has a responsibility to continue acquiring art.

I oppose HB1807. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

Marcia Pasqua

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 11:26:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Iijima	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1807 HD1

This bill would significantly reduce the Art in Public Places program revenue, resulting in the reduction or elimination of governmental support for many key arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide.

The scope of this bill will impact much more than the purchasing of art for the state collection. It will adversely affect the ability of this state to preserve and nurture the Arts and Culture of Hawaii. It will potentially hurt art and cultural organizations that have developed over decades, organizations that are currently struggling to survive. It will end educational programs that help our youth and our whole community. It will jeopardize years of collaboration, relationships, and partnerships.

Arts and culture are more than things created by people. They are the foundation of our identity and the expression of our humanity. In Hawai'i, this identity and expression are more diverse than anywhere else in America. When realized through the support of organizations and programs, this realization of self can become our superpower in the most difficult times. Arts and culture can bring us together, heal our traumas, and help us to help others. They bring us opportunities for reflection, joy, realization, and transformation. Also, the art created by an individual can create a moment of clarity or light a spark in someone who experiences it, and it could even change their life. I personally have had that experience, time and again, when I have encountered a person's writing, theater work, or visual art.

It is essential that the State of Hawaii continue its wholehearted support for Arts and Culture. We have so much that is already in place, and much can be lost if this bill takes effect.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Renee Iijima

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 12:05:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Duarte	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not reduce funding for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA). The Foundation is an integral part of the arts community here in Hawai'i and funds so many worthy arts organizations, educational programs, and individual artists — support that has an exponential effect in the community. As an arts professional and kama'āina to O'ahu, I know just how much SFCA efficiently supports and bolsters the arts community. I've also witnessed, many times over, how important it is to artists and their respective career trajectories that SFCA continue to support and collect their artwork.

Art is not decor, it is not made for the purposes of beautifying a space. Its making, its practice, its exhibition, and its viewing/experiencing is part of the human experience. It's a deeply personal yet universal expression. Through art we understand ourselves, our world, and our futures.

I do hope that the State legislature puts the people of Hawai'i first, champions the cultural enrichment that art brings, and understands how vital art is to a well-rounded, healthy society.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 1:34:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Yee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stand strongly in opposition of HB1807

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 5:31:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Alice	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. We should be putting more, not less funding into art. Please do not pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Kristen Alice

Hilo

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 6:55:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Kamau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 6:57:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Stone	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. PLEASE DO NOT PASS!! We need to save art and culture in our schools.

mahalo,

Monica Stone, 96740

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:14:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
melissa tomlinson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will cause harm to artist in Hawai'i and potentially will impact art being shared from those off island. The art industry in general needs more resources, this bill seemingly seeks to minimize support. I oppose it and encourage you to also.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:29:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miriam Kotubetey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please hear and advocate for your constituents. For the vitality of our people, we need more funding of the arts in Hawai'i. Do not reduce funding of the State Foundation for Culture and Arts. Mahalo

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 7:31:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary True	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1807 HD1. Both the East Hawaii Cultural Center and the Wailoa Center have added to my life. Anything which detracts from them, detracts from the richness which is Hilo.

Thank you for your attention, Mary True, Pepekeo, 96783

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:00:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee members,

The amendments in HB1807 will continue to harm vital outer-island educational programming. Austerity politics and policies will have many negative consequences for the future of our society. When we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the positive impact that the culture and arts bring to all islands through a circular economic impact that touches many industries for the better, we will create a future that will invite more dysfunction and crime. We need more healing and circular economic vitality and innovation.

Many outer island community leaders and educators testified to share the Honolulu-centric collection and public art display with demands to nourish outer island communities and that the outer island grossly lacked representation and funding appropriations as it stands. Taking away funding will cut equitable opportunities for our communities.

Consequently, with this bill, most of the Art in Public Places Program support would end. This bill would end support for Professional Development for all DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. It impacts over 10,000 kids, our next generation. This also will take away much-needed staff fees.

please do not pass with the amendments,

Diane Ware

moku o Ka'u Keauhou ahupua'a

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:12:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Chairman and Members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature House Committee,

My name is Monica Lee, and I was born in Hilo on Hawai‘i Island, grew up in Salt Lake and Moanalua on O‘ahu, and now live in Waikīkī. As a concerned art enthusiast and culture advocate, I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill HB1807 HD1 RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND, which aims to exclude site work projects from the one percent transfer requirement to the Works of Art Special Fund.

While the bill acknowledges the importance of public art and the success of the Works of Art Special Fund, I believe its proposed changes would have detrimental effects on our state's artistic landscape. Here are my key concerns:

- 1. Diminishes Public Art Presence:** Excluding site work from the fund would significantly reduce the opportunities to integrate art into public spaces. Roads, bridges, athletic fields, and other infrastructure projects often serve as central community hubs and gateways. Denying them artistic elements diminishes the opportunity to create a more aesthetically pleasing and engaging environment for residents and visitors.
- 2. Undermines the Spirit of the Percent-for-Art Law:** The bill undermines the core principle of the percent-for-art law, which aims to enrich public spaces regardless of their specific function. Excluding certain projects based on their classification creates an arbitrary distinction and weakens the law's overall impact.
- 3. Disregards Potential for Site-Specific Art:** The claim that site work lacks artistic potential overlooks the growing trend of site-specific art installations. Many artists excel at creating works that seamlessly integrate with the landscape and functionality of specific sites. Excluding these projects limits the potential for innovative and meaningful public art experiences.
- 4. Surplus Artwork Argument is Unsound:** The justification for excluding site work based on a surplus of existing artwork is unconvincing. Public art is not a static collection but a dynamic force that constantly evolves and responds to changing communities and landscapes. New projects would continue to require fresh artistic perspectives and site-specific solutions.
- 5. Sets a Precedent for Further Exclusions:** This bill sets a dangerous precedent for further exclusions from the Works of Art Special Fund in the future. Once the principle of excluding

certain project types is established, it becomes easier to justify further exemptions, ultimately weakening the program's reach and impact.

That being said, the **economic impact** of public art programs include:

1. Job Creation and Tourism: Public art programs can create jobs for artists, designers, fabricators, and maintenance workers. Studies suggest that every \$1 invested in public art generates \$4-7 in economic activity through tourism, retail spending, and property values.

2. Increased Property Values: Studies have shown that properties located near public art installations can experience increased value, ranging from 3-12%. This can benefit neighborhoods by attracting businesses and residents, further boosting the local economy.

3. Enhanced Retail Sales: Public art can attract foot traffic to businesses, leading to increased sales. A study in San Diego found that businesses located near public art experienced a 9% increase in sales compared to those without nearby art.

4. Community Development: Public art projects can revitalize neighborhoods, attracting investment and encouraging community pride. This can lead to increased property taxes and reduced crime rates.

Therefore, I urge you to oppose House Bill RELATING TO THE WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND. By protecting the existing one percent transfer requirement, we can ensure that public art continues to enrich our communities, fostering creativity, enhancing public spaces, and contributing to the overall well-being of our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

Monica Lee

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:21:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathleen Murayama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1807. In addition to the art pieces displayed in public places which needs to definitely continue, the support for art education in the schools and training for teachers and the art programs in the community most definitely needs to continue and funding not compromised.

Thank you for your consideration to not cut funding to the arts.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:26:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirk Kurokawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kirk Kurokawa and I am artist from the island of Maui. HB 1807 would be tremendously damaging to our art community. It will drastically reduce art education in our schools as well as professional development for our teachers. It will also take away the few opportunities that artists have. Our community is a creative one. We excel in the visual arts, performing arts, hula, poetry and music. The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts helps us to create, develop and share our voices. Please to do not take this important resource away from our children, artist and our community.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:41:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:43:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
doug young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not cut funds for Arts and Culture. They are the backbone of Hawai'i nei.

Doug Young

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:48:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elise von Dohlen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1807 Relating to the Works of Art Special Fund

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill HB1807 which proposes to exclude appropriations for passenger facility charges, rental motor vehicle customer facility charges, and construction site work of specific types as sources of funds for the works of art special fund.

Hawaii was the first state in the country to adopt a percent-for-art law. The Works of Arts special fund supports essential arts and culture programs throughout the state. Repealing these appropriations as a source of funds for the works of art special fund will greatly reduce funding. Arts and culture programs continue to be underfunded, and the impact of this bill would greatly impact local arts organizations, local artists, and cultural practitioners; and decrease access to arts for youth. We have seen how essential arts and culture are to the fabric of our community and support our individual and collective wellbeing especially in times of disaster.

I urge the committee to vote against HB1807 and support increasing funding to ensure the promotion, perpetuation, and preservation of culture and arts in Hawaii.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:03:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Please defer this badly misguided legislation.

The Arts Mean Business!

Thank you,

R A Culbertson

Honokaa

I arrived in Hawai'i with the US Navy in 1995 and retired here after 30 years of service. As a Navy Illustrator and artist I was encouraged to make Hawai'i my home in large part thanks to a robust creative landscape. I became affiliated with the Honolulu Printmakers (I am an artist-engraver) and enjoyed many productive years with that organization, and in concert with the other community groups; ceramicists, metal-arts people, glass-arts, sculptors, fabric artists, painters, etc. working at the Honolulu Museum Art School (Linekona). For several years I ran a weekly art class there for PTSD-diagnosed soldiers from Schofield Barracks highlighted by a collaborative mural event with Pro-Bowl football players.

In 2019, this "Wounded Warriors" program was terminated while the Museum Art School closed its doors to all the art community groups, with little or nothing in the way of warning or discussion. This was devastating to those many individuals, like myself, who had fashioned a life with the Art School at its epicenter. Seen as the work of careerist administrators and an unsympathetic and disconnected Board of Directors, the ill-feeling generated persists to this day, with the vast majority of those disenfranchised refusing to have anything to do with the new Museum. For myself, I had no facility for Printmaking for years, not until the entire operation was moved to Chinatown at considerable effort and expense. Our Monday Night Drawing Group found a new home at the Downtown Arts Center, where once again Art has begun to thrive.

And here we are it seems at work again to try to bring it all down. Who is behind this and why?

At its core perhaps a contempt for the Arts? Certainly money; which is I guess one reason they're closing the beautiful YWCA pool to regular folks; those who rely on that facility for fitness and health, both physical and mental. Where there may be joy, be sure to rub it out!

David Brooks wrote a column in the NY Times recently: "How to Save a Sad, Lonely, Angry and Mean Society". <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/25/opinion/art-culture-politics.html> - the title alone is instructive. What became of our belief in the "Pursuit of Happiness?" Is there some underlying hatred of humankind that believes we don't deserve it?

Art is one area that transcends all other indicators of "well-being"; the pursuit of wealth and power, the either/or futility of culture wars / holy wars, various addictions, including drug addiction, addiction to guns, and mental illness against which creative endeavor stands as a bulwark. Art bridges our separateness in a

language and a currency that moves through all divisions. Roosevelt understood the essential value of art in his New Deal Programs which helped to pull the country from the abyss of Depression. We have a Depression of sorts in this country already. One needs to look no further than the cynical behavior of politicians in Congress, and business "leaders" who do not actually "lead" but only "execute".

I strongly oppose this legislation and those which seek to further eviscerate the Arts programs and our quality of Life. Thank You.

My name is Robert Pollock. In 1999, I founded and direct Ebb & Flow Arts in Hawai'i. I testify before you today as the result of government funding to the Arts. In 1975, I co-founded the New York Guild of Composers. In 1980 -1998, I founded and directed the Composers Guild of New Jersey. During that time a pro-Arts Governor, Thomas Kean, increased funding to the NJ State Council on the Arts from 2 million to 22 million dollars. My CGNJ was one of the beneficiaries of that enlightened policy. Here in Hawai'i, we have been the beneficiary of biennium grants from SFCA. These have enabled dozens of free concerts throughout the state, as well as the development of a music education curriculum, Scaling Haleakala. But there has been a slow, steady and disturbing whittling away of the SFCA's budget over the years.

I strongly oppose the HB1807 that would erroneously try to fix something that is not broken and thereby make it worse. This bill is a vile, mean-spirited piece of legislation. It would send SFCA into a "death spiral." In my nearly 50 years in the non-profit Arts world, I have never witnessed such a regressive proposal. It would turn back the clock to before the establishment of the SFCA in 1965!

HB 1807 is based on the illogical notion that SFCA has enough works of art. It is a vicious circle - a basic logical fallacy - to pose that ALL works of Art that can be possibly held by the State are completed. Our government would close its doors to new Art from its constituents. What about the next one? Art by its nature is a creative endeavor. Art is defined by the creation of new works. A piece of legislation based on a logical fallacy cannot stand.

Reducing funding for the percent for art law would cut monetary support for the following:

SUPPORT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND LOCAL ARTISTS, GALLERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Hawaii Island

Donkey Mill Arts Center
East Hawaii Culture Center
Kahilu Theatre
Wailoa Center

Maui

Hui Noe'au
Lahaina Plein Air Painters Association
Maui Arts and Culture Center
Viewpoints Gallery

Kauai

Kauai Society of Artists

Oahu

Downtown Art Center

Arts and Letters
Fishcake
University of Hawaii Galleries

ORGANIZATIONS

Pu'uhonua Society
Hawaii Contemporary
Hawaii Watercolor Society
Honolulu Printmakers
Honolulu Theatre for Youth
Hawaii Handweavers Hui
Hula Preservation Society
NOTAE

- Artists in the Schools arts education program serving 124 public and charter schools statewide.
- Professional development for DOE Teachers
- The Hawaii State Art Museum - Capitol Modern exhibitions and programming
- Scholastic Art Exhibition and Ceremony
- Young Artists of Hawaii Exhibition and Ceremony
- Hawaii Arts Alliance support
- Outreach programs:
 - Kahauiki Village
 - Institute for Human Services
 - RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment
 - Family Friendly Programming for LGBTQ populations
 - LGBTQ Legacy Foundation
 - Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

The Arts are an economic boon to our society.

In 2022, nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences generated \$151.7 billion in economic activity—\$73.3 billion in spending by the organizations, which leveraged an additional \$78.4 billion in event-related spending by their audiences. The impact of this economic activity is far reaching, supporting 2.6 million jobs, generating \$29.1 billion in tax revenue, and providing \$101 billion in personal income to residents. AEP6 (the authoritative Arts and Economic Prosperity Study - <https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/reports-and-data/research-studies-publications/arts-economic-prosperity-6>) sends a strong signal that when we support the arts, we are investing in economic and community well-being.

However the Arts are essential in more profound ways than the material, economic, and bureaucratic. Imagination and creativity are uniquely human traits. Through our senses we experience colors, forms, sounds, and motion. We transform these objects of the senses into powerful, emotional, intellectual and healthily creative works. Such activity humanizes us and distinguishes us from the rest of the animal world. Such artistic activity enlivens our spirits and nourishes our soul with its beauty and freedom.

Art has always needed outside support: state, church, aristocratic, foundation, corporate, philanthropic, etc. If a market economy could alone sustain Art, then famous artists such as Dutch painter Vincent Van Gogh, German composer Franz Schubert and American author Herman Melville would have been rich men. But they made little money from their art during their lifetimes.

Art is a survival tool. There are countless stories of survivors from the Holocaust and other disasters who attended concerts or viewed exhibits, or heard a poetry reading that allowed them to enter the realm of Spirit and transcend the horrors of their subjugation. They survived because of Art. We must place the enlivenment of our spirits and nourishment of our souls as high a priority as the necessary sustenance of our bodies. Body is a function of Spirit. The experience of Art transcends and includes the experience of surviving. We must integrate Art into our lives and in all sectors of the society, private, civic and government. If we do not, then the reason for surviving disappears. Art reminds us of the priority of things - of what is most important in life. It pulls us away from the dark, destructive societal forces that create the "death spiral."

Cultures are remembered not for their fast food chains, commercial activity, apartment complexes, or consumerism. Cultures are remembered for the Art they create. Art Presupposes Peace. and stimulates the healthiest human process - creativity. Art keeps our imaginations active - a necessary component for future success and happiness.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:21:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C.Yamamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1807 and its related amendments. Continuing to take away from the State Foundation for Culture and Arts (SFCA) budget will create an adverse domino effect, which hundreds of testifiers from the outer islands implied the impact on our children and communities through their testimony. Those who passed and amended this bill have self-proclaimed a narrative that the SFCA has enough works of art, and there is no need to acquire more art for the state collection, even when the SFCA, executive director Karen Ewald explained it to be untrue. The amendments in HB1807 will continue to harm vital outer-island educational programming. When we cut back on public services to balance the budget and do not value the immense positive impact that the culture and arts have on all islands, it impacts the local commercial activity, the economic viability of communities, and therefore the vibrancy, including safety and strength of each neighborhood. Many outer island community leaders and educators testified to share the Honolulu-centric collection and public art display with demands to nourish outer island communities and that the outer island grossly lacked representation and funding appropriations as it stands. Taking away funding will cut equitable opportunities for our communities. Consequently, with this bill, most of the Art in Public Places Program support would end. This bill would end support for Professional Development for all DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian Arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands, along with outreach programs. It impacts over 10,000 kids, our next generation. This also will take away much-needed staff fees. Please do not pass this bill.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:43:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Aynessazian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Members and Chair of the Finance Committee,

My name is Tanya Yamanaka Aynessazian and I live in Pahoia, Hawaii Island. I strongly OPPOSE HB1807.

HB1807 would end support for Professional Development for all DOE teachers, 13 art centers, and 8 organizations that offer Native Hawaiian and arts-based programs that impact 124 public and charter schools on all major islands. The bill also repeals capital improvement appropriations for renovations of state buildings as a source of funds for the works of art special fund. This bill would cut an estimated 68% of the Art in Public Places program, reducing or eliminating government support for many arts organizations, programs, and individual artists statewide. And this would be a detriment to Hawaii on many levels, especially by reducing access to arts and culture.

Culture and Arts do more than just bring our community together. In a world of pain and suffering, in a world that is constantly telling us who to be, art is essential to bring us back to who we are.

We need access to arts and culture and professional development for our teachers in public schools more than ever. Like access to clean water and public transportation, access to the arts has a deep impact on our standard of living. Like clean water, the arts provides a reflection for us to see ourselves. Like water to the body, art is to the soul, cleansing, healing, revitalizing, sustaining. It is impossible to thrive without it. Like public transportation, arts and culture move us, taking us to places we otherwise could not go.

Life is not as concrete as we like to pretend it to be. Yet educational curricula is filled more and more with that which is concrete, what we can test, and assess. But life is subjective, dependent upon our internal rather than external world. Our feelings are subjective. Our memories are subjective. Our likes and dislikes are subjective. Our personal interpretations of current events are subjective. Art is subjective. What a disservice to not teach how to live and work with subjectivity, when it's very definition is relating to the real nature of something.

Access to the arts and arts education is a critical component of how we teach future generations to be in touch with that part of us within that is creative, and curious. Curious enough to develop our own thoughts and develop our own ideas. Arts and culture is at the core of the professed

outcomes of Hawaii's public education system. Educational outcomes we have branded as lifelong learners, effective communicators and complex thinkers. Great buzzwords. But how can we become complex thinkers without understanding and addressing the subjective? How can we become effective communicators without the ability to discuss the subjectivity of life? How can we become lifelong learners without fueling the curiosity and creative impulses within, that the arts is proven to so well facilitate? Access to arts and culture is essential to providing opportunities for students, of all ages, to expand their perception and awareness, creating a greater whole person.

Access to arts and culture, and [Arts education is associated with lower dropout rates, as well as better academic outcomes \(Elpus, 2013; Catterall, Dumais, & Hampden-Thompson, 2012; Scheuler, 2010; Barry, Taylor, Walls, & Wood, 1990; Isreal, 2009; Deasy, 2002\). Studying the arts promotes academic self-efficacy and school engagement \(both predictors of persistence to graduation\), and it enhances socioemotional skills valued in social relationships, the workplace, and education settings \(Beveridge, 2010\).](#)

Indeed, the very fact that there are legislators who want to cut arts and culture funding is a result of not funding it enough to have instilled an appreciation of their impact on us as individuals and on local culture.

In 1986, the State of Hawaii passed the "Aloha Spirit" law, Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 5-7.5. And, though it is virtually impossible to enforce, the late Aunty Pilahi Pahi wrote the statute because she foresaw a twenty-first-century world in deep suffering that would turn to Hawaii for healing, and she saw that Aloha would be the one penetrating solution to the myriad of conflicts and problems we humans have created for ourselves and our planet. All citizens and government officials of Hawaii are encouraged to recognize the Aloha Spirit law and conduct themselves according to the principles of Aloha, which are regarded as a working philosophy of the Hawaiian people. The law reads that "Aloha Spirit is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. The Aloha Spirit brings each person to the self. Each person must think and emot good feelings to others." To act in accordance with the life force of Aloha, an alignment of one's heart and mind is essential. Access to arts and culture facilitates the real time working knowledge of the heart-mind connection we know as the Aloha Spirit.

In closing, I hope that my testimony has appealed to the Aloha Spirit within each of you. Please, do not pass HB1807, let us invest in our future by providing access to arts and culture, arts education and professional development for our teachers. The future of education includes arts and culture as a core component. The future of Hawaii's residents and indeed, the world, lies in our heart-mind connection and our authentic expression of the Aloha Spirit.

Tanya Yamanaka Aynessazian

Pahoa

Ellen Crocker
P.O. Box 965
Kealahou, Hawai'i 96750
808-640-6716

February 22, 2024

To: Hawai'i State Legislature
Re: HB1807

Aloha,

I am writing in opposition to Bill HB1807. I work as a Teaching Artist in South Kona schools. Over the last 4 years I have worked within the Art in Public Places grant which is funded by the money collected from state buildings renovations.

I believe if you cut HB1807 it will deeply impact the Arts in Public Places grants which are used in schools across the state. Working within the guidelines of the APP grants, I introduce students to the museum, via video, the collections which include Hawaiian art forms. Students are surprised to see canoe paddles in the museum. It broadens their opinions about something they may use every day.

This change will not only affect the APP grants but the annual education conferences for Teaching Artists. The APP Grant program possibly may not exist after this change.

I disagree the suggestion that artwork is in current buildings and more art is not needed. Installations are permanent but many pieces are not. There are art works which rotate upon request.

This change would also affect artists, in that the SFCA would not be funded to purchased artworks from shows in Hawai'i.

Please reconsider changing the income from 100% to 50% for these programs and leave it at 100%.

Thank you,
Ellen Crocker

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:51:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Forrest Leonard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

By amending the works of art special fund to exclude the construction of site work, the SFCA would lose up to 68% of its funding for the art in public spaces program. This program is essential for the arts in Hawaii, providing a variety of organizations with resources for art education throughout the islands. By stripping this funding, the state will immediately hobble a large percentage of its arts organizations. These arts organizations are essential to the preservation and development of the unique culture found in Hawaii. Additionally, these arts organizations typically foster economic growth by increasing the foot traffic in their local communities. Removing this funding from the arts may slightly balance the government's budget, but it would be detrimental to the growing economy of the arts located here in Hawaii.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:01:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sheryl seaman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill 1807. Hawaii has been a beacon for art and art education since the establishment of the the art in public places act was first put into place. Access to art and art education should be a right not a privelege for citizens of a civilized society. It is through our art that we express our culture and our connection to the aina and our ohana. it also helps to educate our vistors and to communicate our culture to them making them better citizen visitors.

I am opposed to this bill and hope our legislature has the wisdom to maintain or improve our art in public places program.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:07:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kilihea Inaba	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

This testimony is in strong opposition of HB1807.

The arts we have here in Hawai‘i are so special because of the influence of so many different people and ethnicities over the years. We can also thank the autonomy that different programs and organizations have had in the perpetuation of their arts and cultures. These organizations create opportunities for children, families and communities to learn and teach this work. A bill amendment like this would adversely affect how these organizations, programs and artists are funded. If you enjoy any type of art (and even if you don‘t, you may have family members or keiki that do), please see the importance of supporting these individual organizations.

Please listen to the people and oppose this bill.

Mahalo,

Kilihea Inaba (Kaloko, Kona, Hawai‘i)

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:10:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin L	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand firm in strong opposition to HB1807. The proposed change, swapping "renovation" with "construction," is a cause for concern as it puts the State Foundation for Culture and Arts (SFCA) budget in jeopardy. This doesn't just affect the bureaucracy; it directly impacts the lives of our kids and communities, a fact emphasized by the countless testimonies from the outer islands. Despite over 240 voices speaking against it, the bill passed with amendments, undermining the SFCA's mission as described by its executive director, Karen Ewald. This isn't just about art; it's about vital outer-island educational programs, public art displays, and funding for Native Hawaiian Arts initiatives. Rejecting HB1807 is a plea to preserve opportunities, nurture our communities, and safeguard the cultural richness that defines us.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:18:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Kimoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was born and raised on Maui, a beneficiary of an arts education and community that has shaped my secondary education, college path, and now career. Growing up, I was constantly inspired by art shows and field trips at the MACC, an arts-integrated education at Pomaikai Elementary, trained by a DOE teacher with over four decades of service, and validated by programs such as Hui Noeau's Malama Wao Akua and Scholastic Art Exhibition.

As much as the arts have impacted me, I am not an artist. I do not work in the fine arts field. I am an engineer. I create infrastructure such as roads and utilities, seemingly so different than strokes of paint on a canvas or a meticulously carved sculpture, yet I believe suggesting that the work of the SFCA is redundant and that the renovations work is not needed is a misdirected effort.

As someone involved in the construction and engineering field, I understand the logistics of construction. But I also understand the importance of place, culture, beauty, and responsibility. Art is crucial to providing a sense of community amongst all who encounter it, therefore increasing longevity and purpose for everyone. This bill will impact multiple organizations, small businesses, individual artists, and larger industries including hospitality and education. I do believe there must be an alternative to your goals for this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts and for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Julia Kimoto

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:23:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
diana nicholette jeon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HI was a national leader in establishing and maintaining 1% for the arts. Lets maintain this. Cutting the funding under HB 1807 is giving in to private interests, allowing them to dictate to us how we spend money. Kill the bill, support those of us in the arts, and the programs in education and Capitol Modern. KILL THE BILL.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:24:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Summer Escajeda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose this bill as it cuts funding for SFCA which will have negative impacts on more than just artists' lives. This would negatively affect the reach of an organization that is dedicated to our cultural enrichment. Additionally as a state dependent on tourism voting yes on this bill will have rippling affects throughout that industry. Tourists want to experience Hawaiian culture and take handcrafted items back with them. Hurting the artists will hurt us all. Thank you.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:26:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Tengan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Mr. Yamashita (and those who continue to support his efforts against the arts in Hawai‘i),

As an arts professional, an arts advocate, and a concerned citizen, I am writing to express my vehement opposition to HB1807. This bill is misleading and short-sighted, as removing the Works of Art Special Fund allocation for specific renovations will cut funding for several critical programs and organizations supported by SFCA.

Ironically, the preamble of the bill recognizes the value of art in feeding the human spirit, providing inspiration and education, and making our world more beautiful and interesting. It acknowledges Hawaii's unique position as the first state to adopt a percent-for-art law, emphasizing the importance of allocating one percent of construction costs for new buildings to the acquisition of works of art. However, the most recent repeal suggests removing the requirement for the Works of Art Special Fund to apply to capital improvement appropriations designated for the renovation of state buildings. Amended now, it seeks to remove the one percent requirement for:

- (1) Appropriations from the passenger facility charge 6 special fund established by section 261-5.5 and the 7 rental motor vehicle customer facility charge special 8 fund established under section 261-5.6[--]; and 9
- (2) Appropriations that limit work strictly to 10 construction of site work such as roads, waterworks, 11 bridges, airfields, walls, canals, surface parking, 12 utilities, piers, landscaping, athletic fields, and 13 play courts.”

This cut bill severely affects funding for the works of art special fund, which directly affects the Arts in Public Places Collection but also provides critical funding for SFCA educational programs and critical support for local arts organizations.

- The justification for this change is based on the belief that renovations already have access to artwork through the Art in Public Places program, rendering the Works of Art Special Fund redundant.
 - The “surplus” of artwork in storage does not negate the importance of collecting art made by artists living and working today. It is the State’s responsibility to maintain a *healthy* art collection, which means that it needs to (1) steward and

maintain the works it has in its collection in a responsible way, and (2) must continue collecting works that are being made artists living and working today, until July 1, 3000. Thus, the redundancy argument does not fully capture the broader impact of the Works of Art Special Fund.

- The bill states that one of the goals of the one-percent law is to “increase public access to the arts” (line 9), which is what this bill states the fund is for.
 - How does cutting funding and support to SFCA, and in turn, the larger arts community across Hawai‘i Island, Maui County, O‘ahu, and Kaua‘i, fulfill the purpose of this bill?

Enough with austerity politics and politicking, Mr. Yamashita. This bill represents a serious attack on arts funding and is taken very seriously. Again, **are you ignorant of how the Works of Art Special Fund operates, or are you truly an opponent of the arts in Hawai‘i?** This is the message you send when you consistently try to gut arts funding year after year.

Very concerned,

Josh Tengan

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:26:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Merrill Kelley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1807. Supporting art in Hawaii is imparative to our culture. This bill will reduce government support to artists, educational programs and other organizations supporting art.

Kathy Merrill Kelley

Merrill & Associates, Inc.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:47:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Walter A. Dods III	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting written testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1807.

I oppose this bill, because it attempts to carve out an exception to the Works of Art Special Fund's 1% requirement, for improvement appropriations designated for the construction of site work.

Site work *IS* construction. Site work *IS* capital improvement. Without sitework there can be no new construction and often no renovation either. How do you build something without first clearing and grading the land. Without pouring the foundation upon which the very building will sit?

This bill attempts to remove the very "*foundation*" upon which both the Special Fund and the buildings it oversees, relies upon.

Please consider the wide-ranging impact this bill will also have on programs which rely upon funding from this Special Fund, including Arts programs in the state affecting over 10,000 of our children.

The beauty of our state goes way beyond the beaches. It's primarily the people abut also the tremendous artwork in public spaces which make this place so very special. Please consider the negative impact this bill would have on both and vote no on HB1807.

Thank you for your time,

Walter Dods

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:59:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Asagi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This written testimony is in opposition to this bill. This withdraw of state support for the arts at this level will impact a thriving creative local economy and community for years to come. It may never recover. This cut of an estimated 68% of funding for the SFCA Arts in Public Spaces which includes Capitol Modern (Hawai'i State Art Museum), arts education programs for public schools, and professional development for public school teachers affects a broad base of local residents. The losses this bill would insure will unfold in layers that are economic, educational, cultural, and historical. This cultural downward shift will be irreversible. What has taken decades to grow will be lost.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 11:02:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hiroko Sakurai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear eho may concern,

Funding for SFCA is crucial to support artists in Hawai'i. I am an artist whose works are in the state

s collection and got tremendous benefits to expose my artworks for the local community and to gain the financial support by SFCA's purchases. Please do not pass the budget cut bill, it is very important to keep local artists active.

Hiroko Sakurai

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 11:16:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Edwards	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1807, and any bill cutting funding for the arts. The SFCA is one of the few public programs that really works. It perpetuates the cultural relevance of this state, and brings joy to the general population as well as visitors. Shame on you for trying to take something good away.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 11:21:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Solomon Enos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A testimony in Opposition to HB1807 HD1

To the Chairperson Representative Kyle T. Yamashita and Vice Chairperson Representative Lisa Kitagawa in the House Committee on Finance.

Friday February 23rd at 11:30am in Conference Room 308 at the Hawai'i State Capitol, 415 South Beretania st.

I am testifying in Opposition to House Bill 1807 House draft 1.

My name is Solomon Robert Nui Enos, Artist in Residence at Capitol Modern, Hawai'i State Art Museum. In this role, which is purely voluntary, I help to instill a sense of wonder and passion for the arts to the many various schools and patrons who visit the museum. As part of this sense of responsibility to help cultivate a healthy art community in Hawai'i, I have been blessed to be able to travel across the Pacific and around the world as a Native Hawaiian Artist, giving me the opportunity to witness the various degrees for support of the Arts, and to bring these experiences with me back to Hawai'i.

Some of what I have learned on these various trips, is that the role the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts plays is a critical counterbalance to the limited amount of public art programs and commissions which many other countries provide, such as the support I see for public art commissions in the United Kingdom and Aotearoa, New Zealand. The very idea that we have enough art, and we don't need to keep adding to our collection, comes at a particularly vulnerable time when the advent of A.I. will have an indeterminable impact on so many parts of our society. The Arts are one of the last few bastions of our humanness. Furthermore, the collection has only within the past few years begun to include more works created by indigenous artists, as the collection is further diversified in ways that it hasn't over the past decades. And to add to all this, these are some of the few opportunities that Hawai'i artists can receive that will help propel them into a career that could allow them to stay and work here at home.

To put a further limit on art opportunities for all communities in Hawai'i, is akin to take a living and breathing life form and immersing it in formaldehyde. Culture is a living thing, and it needs room to grow and flourish. The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts needs more support at this time, not less.

Me ka ha'aha'a ame ka 'ano nui,

Solomon Robert Nui Enos



HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 11:28:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Mori	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the committee members,

I strongly oppose this bill HB 1807.

Thank you for your consideration

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 11:29:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Mukaihata Hannemann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Committee on Finance

Hearing on HB1807, HD1

Relating to the Works of Arts Special Fund

February 23, 2024

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gail Mukaihata Hannemann. I am submitting my personal testimony in **OPPOSITION of HB1807, HD1**. In particular, the bill’s language that states, “The legislature notes that removing the redundancy of applying the special fund to the construction of site work would have no adverse effects on the art in public places program, as the State currently possesses a surplus of artwork in storage for future use.” is fundamentally flawed in several ways.

The law purposefully distinguishes between construction and renovation of state buildings. authors did not consider the language redundant because they understood how state buildings come into being, are maintained, and/or repurposed overtime. Thus, the bill makes a statement that misrepresents the intent of the law. Practically speaking since most of the funding from the special fund comes through renovations of state projects, the bill would have an adverse effect on the public places program.

Also, the statement that “the State currently possesses a surplus of artwork in storage for future use” does not recognize the reason why the special fund was created. Having the financial means to acquire new works of art and offer community support speaks to the important role the arts play in society. The arts preserve, protect, and perpetuate the stories of humanity. Specific to Hawaii, the special fund helps to record and account for the history of Hawai`i. Significantly reducing the special fund would mean that the State’s collection will effectively be frozen in time, not appropriately reflecting our past, present, and future artistic works.

Lastly, the purpose of fund is more than just about beautifying buildings, it speaks to the opening sentences of the bill, “The legislature finds that art feeds the human spirit and offers priceless value; inspiring, educating, and challenging individuals to think differently, while making the world a more beautiful and interesting place.” Having works of art and community programs that appropriately reflect the rich history of Hawai`i as well as supports public access to works of art is in fact priceless. The intent of the bill undermines the purpose of the special fund, thus, devalues the contributions that the people of Hawaii can and do make in the world.

Thank you for allowing me to share my views about the bill. I urge you not to support the bill.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 11:38:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Owen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It will truly hurt arts and culture in our great state of Hawaii!

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 11:50:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry Savage	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Terry Savage testimony OPPOSING HB1807

Aloha Committee Members,

As a Hawaii taxpayer, artist, and arts patron I strongly oppose HB1807 which would reduce mandated funds for state construction projects. Continued support for SFCA’s Arts in Public Places at its current level is necessary to enrich all of our lives.

Regarding “surplus” state owned artwork in storage for future public use, those artworks should not be considered excessive or over abundant any more than a museum’s artworks which are not on display at any particular time.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts art in public places program has nurtured island artists and enhanced a diverse array of public facilities in communities large and small throughout the state since its founding in 1965. Please do not enact HB1807 which will diminish the positive impact of state funded art in public places projects.

Thank you.

Terry Savage



Kailua, HI 96734

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 2:38:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hazel Ito	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As an artist and art educator based in Hawaii, I respectfully oppose Bill 1807, which would effectively repeal renovation funds that are used to support arts organizations in Hawaii, such as the State Foundation for Culture and the Arts. Please continue to fund the 1% of new construction costs that ensure that art in Hawaii can be supported and sustained in perpetuity, as this support flows on to our local emerging and established artists.

Thank you,

Hazel Ito

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita
Hawaii House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: **Please OPPOSE HB1807**

Dear Chair Yamashita and members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1807 (HB1807) as amended, which proposes significant changes to the structure and representation of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA). As a Maui resident and beneficiary of our state's vibrant art community, I am one of the thousands of individuals who benefit from the invaluable contributions made by the SFCA. I believe that this bill undermines the fundamental principles of community representation, cultural preservation, and equitable access to the arts.

First, the provision in HB1807 that eliminates representation from the neighbor islands on the commission threatens the core value of community representation within the SFCA. By centralizing decision-making power and reducing transparency, this change undermines the diverse perspectives and needs of communities across Hawai'i. The loss of neighbor island representation diminishes the voice of those who are directly impacted by cultural and artistic initiatives and jeopardizes the integrity of the SFCA's mission.

Second, HB1807's proposal to attach the SFCA as a branch of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) risks reducing native Hawaiian culture and arts to mere economic commodities. The independence of the SFCA is crucial for fostering authentic traditions and ensuring that cultural and artistic expressions are not solely driven by economic interests or tourism promotion. Preserving native Hawaiian culture requires an independent agency dedicated to safeguarding and perpetuating our heritage with integrity and authenticity.

Furthermore, I am deeply concerned about the potential conflicts of interest and misalignment of priorities that may arise if the SFCA becomes integrated into a department primarily focused on business and tourism. Education, access to the arts, and cultural preservation should not be subordinate to economic agendas. It is essential to maintain an independent perspective within the SFCA to prioritize the diverse needs and priorities of our communities, rather than being overshadowed by economic imperatives.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the provisions of HB1807 and uphold the integrity and independence of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Preserving our cultural heritage and supporting the arts are vital components of Hawai'i's identity

and should not be compromised. I implore you to prioritize the voices and concerns of our communities and reject any changes that undermine the SFCA's commitment to transparency, cultural preservation, and equitable access to the arts.

Thank you for considering these concerns. I respectfully request that you oppose HB1807 and uphold the values that are essential to the well-being and vibrancy of our cultural and creative landscape.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. J. i.", written in a cursive style.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:04:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Lathrop	SFCA and AITS program	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to this bill that will ultimately take away funding for Hawaiian culture and arts that are so important to our the livelihood of our communities. The Art in Public Places along with the AITS are such important programs for our keiki to further the mana'o of the Hawaiian culture and values. It is a great supplement for our school that are already vastly underfunded especially in the area of arts and culture. It would truly be a travesty to not have these opportunities.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:24:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Zimmel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The idea that we can support local art and local artists without buying more art is pure madness. In the face of the fire and all our other struggles we need to support the arts more not stop it's creation. I'm lost for words. How can we support art and artists without buying art?

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 9:39:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
samuel schryver	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha my name is Samuel Schryver, a professional worknig artist on Kauai. I want to express strong oppososition to HB1807, viewing it as a misguided attempt to slash funding for local arts, education, and culture. The bill lacks legitimate justification and seems rooted in the misguided belief that resources should be diverted away from arts and education. Contrary to public preferences, this bill disregards the proven positive impacts of supporting arts and education. Additionally, the bill's potential reversal of recent amendments raises concerns about its lack of transparency and alignment with public will.

HB-1807-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 10:09:32 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mericia Palma Elmore	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.