



HAWAI'I

STATE FOUNDATION on
CULTURE and the ARTS

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

Governor
Josh Green, M.D.

Comptroller
Keith A. Regan

Chairperson
Konrad Ng

Commissioners
Susan Browne
Nalani Brun
Sean Connelly
Randall Fujiki
Jill Kuramoto
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**Testimony of KAREN EWALD, Executive Director
State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Thursday, April 4, 3:00 p.m.
CR 224 and Videoconference
G.M. 577**

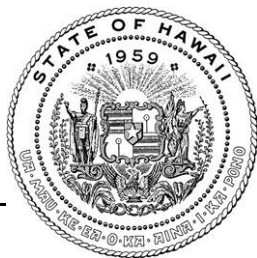
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE KONRAD NG
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2027.**

Chair Lee and members of the Committee, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) is in **SUPPORT** of the nomination of Konrad Ng to serve as a commissioner for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

Mr. Ng is not only a dedicated leader, he also has extensive knowledge of the arts and culture community in the state. He has demonstrated accomplishment and expertise in the field of culture, the arts, history and the humanities and has extensive background in the needs of the communities in the field.

Over the past year, Mr. Ng has faithfully served as a commissioner with the SFCA and we are grateful for his contributions in support of the SFCA and its mission to promote, preserve and perpetuate culture and the arts for the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Ng's nomination.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Thursday, April 4, 2024
3:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room #224 & Videoconference

In support of
GM 577
**RELATING TO THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KONRAD NG,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2027.**

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports GM 577, that recommends Konrad Ng to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts for a term to expire on June 30, 2027.

Mr. Ng's extensive background in the arts, from museum management to curation for the Smithsonian to Shangri La, his passion for promoting the arts, artists and cultural practitioners are hallmarks of a leader in the arts. With his experience in the role of film and media as art forms, Mr. Ng will add depth to his role in support of the mission and programs of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony Presented Before
The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Second Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 409

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024 at 3PM

by

Beckie Stocchetti, Executive Director, Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF)

**MEASURE GM577 - CHAIRPERSON, STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE & THE ARTS,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE KONRAD NG**

Dear President Kouchi and Members of the Senate:

This testimony is in **support** of Measure GM577 to appoint and confirm **Konrad Ng** as the Chairperson, State Foundation on Culture & the Arts through June 30, 2027. HIFF is the largest and only statewide independent film organization in Hawai'i, serving over 50,000 residents, tourists, filmmakers, students, and emerging creative artists annually through Festivals, Education programs, and Industry/professional development initiatives. On behalf of HIFF, I am writing to enthusiastically endorse Konrad Ng for this appointment to serve as Chairperson, SFCA. Konrad's exceptional qualifications, demonstrated leadership, and unrivaled understanding and support of the arts and culture sector of Hawai'i makes him the standout candidate for this esteemed position.

Mr. Ng has vast experience working across Hawai'i and nationally to support a breadth of multi-disciplinary artists in our state. His wealth of knowledge and established networks - locally, nationally, and globally - are invaluable and vital to our artists and creative entrepreneurs. His academic background and established career pedigree provide strong foundations in critical thinking and interdisciplinary knowledge. His dedication to serving the community for over two decades has led Mr. Ng to maintain a grounded, approachable, non-judgmental consistent support of artists and creative entrepreneurs from a variety of backgrounds, skill sets, career levels, interests, cultures, and beliefs.

His work and leadership with the Shangri La Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, UH ACM, HoMA, HPR, HIFF, and more have showcased his ability to create spaces for learning about diverse cultures and art forms, his enthusiasm for service, and highlight his contribution to the cultural enrichment of our whole community. Further, it should be noted that he has sacrificed pursuing his own art in order to support others. His experience is also a direct reflection of the support and trust he has earned from our community. Mr. Ng has proven that he fundamentally serves to support artists and creatives.

In conclusion, his impressive background, extensive experience, and unwavering commitment to education, culture, and community service make Konrad Ng an exceptional candidate for this appointment. I wholeheartedly recommend Mr. Ng for this esteemed position.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Measure GM577. Respectfully and with aloha,


Beckie Stocchetti

Executive Director - Hawai'i International Film Festival



April 3, 2024

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Sunhee Kim Jung, Artist, Lecturer, Anne Arundel Community College

Aaron Koos, VP of Communications, BGE

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Courtney McKeldin, Baltimore City Zoning Commissioner (Ret.)

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Crickett Woloson, Elbow Fund

Emeritus

Jean Baker, Ph.D., Professor, Goucher College (Ret.)

Mimi Cooper, environmentalist

James E. "Buzz" Cusack, President, Charles/Senator Theaters

Janet Heller, Baltimore Architecture Foundation, Board Member Emerita

Walter Schamu, FAIA, partner, SM+P Architects

Ex Officio

Jackson Gilman-Forlini, Historic Preservation Officer, Baltimore City, Department of General Services

Shauntee Daniels, Executive Director, Baltimore National Heritage Area

Pro Bono Consultants

Heather Ewing, Assoc. Dean, NY Studio School

Kimberly J. Min, Partner, Whiteford, Taylor and Preston

Re: Konrad Ng nomination for Chairperson, Commission for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

Dear Senate Transportation and Culture and the Arts Committee (TCA),

It is with great enthusiasm that I support Governor Green's nomination of Konrad Ng to serve as Chairperson for the Commission for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Konrad Ng's fulfillment of this role on an interim basis since last year is just the latest in a career of important leadership roles that Konrad has played in the arts and cultural sector. Characteristically, it is a service he has provided to his community with profound passion and commitment to the well-being of the community he is part of. It is only right that his generosity of spirit and dedication be recognized with his formal appointment to the role as recommended by Governor Green.

Before becoming the founding director of The Peale, Baltimore's Community Museum, I had the great pleasure of working with Konrad at the Smithsonian Institution, where I was Head of Mobile Strategy while he directed the Asian Pacific American Center. I was immediately drawn to Konrad's brilliance and ability to mobilize participation and support for the Center's innovative initiatives. He went on to undertake transformative work back in Hawaii as Executive Director of Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Culture & Design, continuing to work towards a more creative and inclusive world. I cannot imagine a better advocate for why arts and culture are important, everyday and everywhere, than Konrad Ng. I applaud Governor Green's nomination and hope for the sake of the nation as well as the great state of Hawaii that Konrad's nomination will be confirmed by the TCA.

Sincerely,

Nancy Proctor, Ph.D.
Chief Strategy Officer and founding Director
The Peale, Baltimore's Community Museum
CSO@ThePeale.org +1 301-642-6257

April 2, 2024

Dear Senate Transportation and Culture and the Arts Committee:

My name is Won Ju Lim. I am a multimedia artist based in Los Angeles, CA. I am writing this letter as a testimony in support of Konrad Ng's nomination as the Chairperson of the State Foundation on Culture & the Arts.

I have known Mr. Ng for over eighteen years. I met him when he was the film curator at the Honolulu Academy of Arts and was appointed as the main catalog writer for my exhibition, *In Many Things to Come*, which opened in 2006. Since then, we have kept in touch, speaking about contemporary art and film, two topics we have in common and care deeply about.

I write this testimony from the perspective of a practicing artist with over twenty years of experience. During these years, I worked with numerous writers, curators, and directors—without hesitation, I can say that Mr. Ng is one of the best I have worked with. The main reason is that he profoundly cares about the arts and the eminent position they have in cultivating a healthy society. It shows in what he does, how he builds discourse in visual art, and in who he is as a being in this world. A particular time comes to mind: it was a rainy day during a long, ten-day install time in preparation for my exhibition to open at the museum. The work I was installing is comprised of multiple sculptural components and four synchronized video projections. Although we had many conversations about my practice and the new installation work for the show in preparation for the catalog essay, Mr. Ng felt it was necessary to be in the space with the work. He walked into the exhibition space with a note pad, sat down on the floor, and stayed for at least five hours observing and making notes—not a single word was exchanged between the two of us. This was the moment I realized the level of his dedication, compassion, and intelligence.

We (people in general and artists in particular) need someone such as Konrad Ng who can speak and advocate for the importance of the arts in our culture. I respectfully submit this testimony with great hope that Konrad Ng will be appointed as the Chairperson of the State Foundation on Culture & the Arts.

Sincerely,



Won Ju Lim
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Los Angeles, CA 90042
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jujubeelim@gmail.com
<https://www.wonjulim.com/>

GM-577

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 12:32:16 PM

Testimony for TCA on 4/4/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Nichols	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to give my strongest recommendation for Konrad Ng for the position of Chairperson for the Commission for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. I have known Konrad for many years through the art community in Hawaii, but particularly through his former role as the Executive Director of the Shangri La Museum. Konrad is currently a member of the Advisory Board for the School of Cinematic Arts (SCA) at UH Manoa, Hawaii' film school, for which I serve as Chair. He has been a valuable member of our 10-member SCA advisory board since its inception, invariably providing constructive input, especially in view of his association with the film school at UH Manoa as a faculty member (2007-2015) and as curator of film at the Honolulu Museum of Art for many years prior to that.

In short, Konrad's deep knowledge, proven executive experience and expertise, and dedication to the Arts and Culture in Hawaii, including policy and management, uniquely qualifies him for this position as Chairperson of the Commission. As Interim Chairperson, Konrad has undoubtedly already contributed significantly. There are presently a number of crucial issues surrounding the on-going development of film production in Hawaii, particularly in regard to culture and education in film and the arts. In his role on the Commission, Konrad will bring the perspective and understanding of difficult situations needed in order to provide invaluable insight into articulating ways to solve problems.

Once again, I strongly recommend Konrad Ng for the position of Chairperson for the Commission for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and do so without reservation.

Linda Nichols

Chair, Advisory Board of the School of Cinematic Arts at UH Manoa

LATE

April 3, 2024

To the Honorable Senator Chris Lee, Chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts, Vice Chair Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of KONRAD NG as the Chairperson for the State Foundation on Culture & the Arts.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Konrad for over two decades and can personally vouch for his deep knowledge, commitment and service to the culture and arts of our State and beyond.

As the Founding Director of the Hawai'i International Film Festival (HIFF) from 1981 through 1996, I am particularly familiar with his outstanding service to the film cultures of Hawai'i. I personally experienced the benefits our State received while Konrad was a film programmer for HIFF, and later as the film programmer for the Honolulu Museum of Arts (2001 -2004.) I was so impressed by Konrad's work that I nominated him to serve as an Academy member for the prestigious Asia Pacific Screen Awards, headquartered in Queensland, Australia. The Asia Pacific Screen Awards Academy consist of the world's most well-respected film critics, scholars, and filmmakers.

In summary, it's been a joy to watch KONRAD NG become a globally recognized expert in Culture and the Arts. I have no doubt he would serve Hawai'i with distinction as the Chairperson for the State Foundation on Culture & the Arts. Please confirm his appointment.

Jeannette Paulson Hereniko
Founder, Hawai'i International Film Festival
Founding Board Member, NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asia Pacific Cinema)
Founding Nomination Council, Asia Pacific Screen Awards

LATE

GM-577

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 4:03:37 PM

Testimony for TCA on 4/4/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosina Potter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that Konrad Ng is the best choice to chair the State Foundation on Culture & the Arts. He has extensive leadership experience and is a champion of the art's role in creating a beautiful and more inclusive world.

Mahalo,

Rosina Potter

LATE

GM-577

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 4:37:00 PM

Testimony for TCA on 4/4/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vilsoni Hereniko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Konrad Ng has served in senior leadership positions regarding arts and culture in the State of Hawai'i and nationally as well. He can bring to the SFCA his experience to make informed decisions that will benefit the people of this State. More specifically, he has had broad leadership experience in film and the visual arts especially. It is rare to find someone with experience in film on the SFCA, and as a filmmaker and a professor of film at the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, I feel that the SFCA could do more in this area. Konrad's experience in fundraising for resources as well as his broad range of contacts in Hawai'i and on the continental United States make him an ideal candidate. He has my full support.