

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, March 1, 2024
9:55 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
415 South Beretania Street

In consideration of
SB2764 SD1
**RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
AND TOURISM**

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Y. Moriwaki and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SB2764 SD1, which transfers the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) and its King Kamehameha Celebration Commission to DBEDT and requires the Governor to select the Executive Director of the SFCA, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Attached to the department for administrative purposes only, the move is intended to increase the effectiveness and support for SFCA and DBEDT Creative Industries Division (CID) in fulfilling their respective strategic visions, while increasing synergistic opportunities for collaboration. The Hawai'i creative community is especially important to the well being of our island home as well as its economic future.

DBEDT welcomes the opportunity to work with and in concert with SFCA and looks forward to expanding more avenues of support for our arts, culture, media and performing arts community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

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Josh Green, M.D.

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**Testimony of KAREN EWALD, Executive Director
State Foundation on Culture and the Arts**

**Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024 Conference Room 211 at 9:55AM**

**SENTATE BILL 2764 SD1
RELATING TO
THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committees,

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), is dedicated to the promotion, perpetuation, and preservation of culture and the arts in Hawai'i.

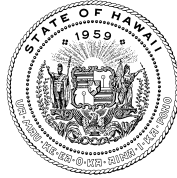
SFCA respectfully **COMMENTS** S.B. 2764 SD1 which transfers the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission t from the Department of Accounting and General Services to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

While S.B. 2764 SD1 no longer repeals the SFCA Commission, the bill does not address many of the issues raised through the public testimony process. The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts has concerns regarding such a transfer without the proper due diligence to ensure the agencies independence, governance, mission and funding remain as national statistics indicate that [state arts agencies whose placement changes suffer significant budget decreases](#).

Therefore, we request the bill be deferred and a task force be formed to encourage further discussion, study and report on the pro's and con's of the proposed transfer.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

MARCH 1, 2024, 9:55 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.B. 2764

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
AND TOURISM.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to **support** on S.B. 2764, S.D. 1 which transfers the State Foundation on the Culture and the Arts (SFCA) and the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, repeals the SFCA Commission, and requires the Governor to select the Executive Director of the SFCA, with the advise and consent of the Senate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



March 1, 2024

Committee on Ways and Means
Sen. Dela Cruz, Chair
Sen. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

The Senate
The Thirtieth-Second Legislature
Regular Session of 2024

RE: SB 2764 SD1- RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
DATE: Friday, March 1, 2024
TIME: 9:55 am
PLACE: Conference Room 211
VIA Videoconference
State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu HI

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the Members of the Committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **OPPOSITION** of SB 2764 SD 1- RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM.

SAG-AFTRA represents over 1400 actors, recording artists, and media professionals in our state. We are the professional performers working in front of the camera and behind the microphone.

We support education and access to the arts. We support the State Foundation for Culture and the Arts and its decades-long history as a national leader in community-based arts funding and decision-making. Please consider keeping this important organization intact.

Respectfully,

Mericia Palma Elmore

Mericia Palma Elmore, Executive Director SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local

Mericia Palma Elmore, Executive Director
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SCREEN ACTORS GUILD - AMERICAN FEDERATION
OF
TELEVISION AND RADIO ARTISTS
SAGAFTRA.org
Associated Actors & Artistes of America / AFL-CIO



IATSE LOCAL 665

FILM, TELEVISION, STAGE, PROJECTION AND TRADESHOWS
Since 1937



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES, MOVING PICTURE TECHNICIANS, ARTISTS AND ALLIED CRAFTS
OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS TERRITORIES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO, CLC

Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Regular Session of 2024
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by IATSE 665
March 1st, 2024

S.B. 2764 S.D. 1 - RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the Senate Committee,

My name is Tuia'ana Scanlan, International Trustee and President of IATSE Local 665, the union representing more than 800 technicians and behind the scenes workers in the Film/TV, Live Events, and Tradeshow sectors of the Entertainment Industry in Hawai'i. **Local 665 opposes SB 2764 SD1**, relating to film industry development.

The National Endowment of the Arts' State Partnership agreement eligibility requirements necessitate an independent board, council, or commission whose members serve in an advisory or policy making capacity. By shifting the administrative body of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts from DAGS to DBEDT, the SFCA will lose \$900,000 of funding from the NEA. This will be devastating to individual artists, local art houses, the arts community, and local businesses.

Art is educational. Art is cultural. Art is therapeutic. Art helps us to more fully appreciate and share our humanity with one another. It doesn't need to be monetized to be valuable. And not every artist dreams of being an entrepreneur. But art funding is necessary to perpetuate creative solutions for complex issues. 340 pages of testimony were submitted for the original version of SB 2764. Of the dozens of testifiers, two were in support, a handful offered comments, and the vast majority of testifiers were in opposition. In the face of overwhelming community opposition from individuals, businesses, art houses, cultural centers, cultural practitioners, and more, one cannot help but wonder why this bill is moving forward at all.

We humbly request that the committee defer SB 2764 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Tuia'ana Scanlan
IATSE International Trustee, IATSE 665 President (he/him/his)

February 28, 2024

Testimony of Beckie Stocchetti, HIFF Executive Director

Before the SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024 | Conference Room 211 at 9:55AM

**SENATE BILL 2764 SD1
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM**

Chair Lee, Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the committees:

Hawai'i International Film Festival, is the largest and only statewide independent film development organization in Hawai'i, serving over 50,000 residents, tourists, filmmakers, students, and emerging creative artists annually.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2764 SD 1. HIFF fundamentally supports measures that provide increased collaboration, effectiveness, and capital investment to our creative sector, advance development of a stronger media infrastructure across the state and offer more access to opportunities for Hawaii-based artists.

We hope the committee that reviews this measure considers the following points:

1. Any change to administrative body overseeing SFCA keeps in place all necessary elements required by the NEA to avoid any loss of the \$900,000 in funding that is essential to Hawaii's creative nonprofits and entrepreneurs. This funding is essential to maintain and grow a thriving arts and culture sector in Hawaii.
2. Any changes include measures to ensure continued community stakeholder participation in funding and strategy decisions for our sector, such as the intention of the SFCA commission.
3. The state considers establishing state contracts with Hawaii's vibrant nonprofit arts and culture organizations to execute initiatives in our community. As modeled in contracts between Hawaii's DOH and social service nonprofits, community organizations with decades of experience working together with the community can have a much stronger impact, deeper reach, and are more agile than state-run programs.
4. Clear directives of DBEDT CID include perpetuating arts and culture for the purposes of developing a thriving local community, and are separate from economic drivers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Respectfully and with aloha,



Beckie Stocchetti

Executive Director, Hawai'i International Film Festival

SB-2764-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 1:57:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support, as a former commissioner of the KKCC, more resources are available with the State Culture and Arts

SB-2764-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 10:26:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SCOTT SWARTZ	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Scott Swartz, and I am an actor, member of SAG-AFTRA, and a full time resident of Oahu. I OPPOSE SB2764.

Mahalo



SB-2764-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2024 7:36:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Gerard Elmore, VP of Film at NMG Network and Executive Director at 'Ohina, a Hawai'i film collective/incubator for local filmmakers and local stories.

As a professional and an artist, I am writing in strong opposition to this bill.

There are a number of bills floating around to hurt or weaken the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. It really saddens me that the testimony has been so overwhelming from the community. Countless pages of pages in opposition of SB2764, including testimony from keiki, artists, educators, all chucked away. It honestly feels like our voices are being disregarded because of back room politics. It is hard for me to understand that overwhelming community opposition doesn't seem to alter decision making...or at the very least lead to discussion with the community.

The arts had a profound impact on me as a student and as an adult. It kept me out of trouble and inspired me to grow as a communicator and find new ways to tell stories as a filmmaker. Art not only has the power to change lives but it can be used to preserve cultures, tradition and nurture talent.

I've seen keiki find their voice through the arts. I've seen people who have had a hard time communicating with people find a way to communicate via their art. I've seen teachers who are lifelong supporters of emerging artists. I've seen it because I was one of those kids.

This bill will lead to a loss of funding and that would be detrimental to our artist community.

Let's inspire more creators, dreamers and artists all across the state. Let's not take more resources away from them.

Please listen to our voices.

Mahalo for your time in reading this testimony.

Gerard Elmore