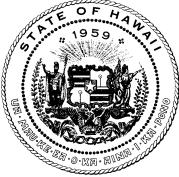


JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



STACEY A. ALDRICH
STATE LIBRARIAN
Ke Po'o Hale Waihona Puke Moku'āina

STATE OF HAWAI'I
HAWAI'I STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
'OIHANA HALE WAIHONA PUKE AUPUNI O KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN
44 MERCHANT STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96813
(808) 586-3704

House Committee on Education

February 17, 2026, 2:00 pm

State Capitol, Room 309

HB 1764 – Relating to the Music Accessibility Pilot Program

To: Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Trish La Chica, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Education

The Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) **supports** HB 1764 HD1 to establish a music accessibility pilot program within the Hawai'i State Public Library System to expand access to public concerts and musical education throughout the State to residents in the counties of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, and Maui.

Music is a form of storytelling that inspires the mind and brings people together. Our public libraries are community hubs that offer a variety of music programs from learning how to play instruments to opportunities to hear live music.

Attendance statistics show that our communities want more opportunities to hear live music and learn. Last year, we had over 200 people attend a jazz program in Kailua, and when Uncle Wayne does his music program for children and families, more than 100 people show up for his program.

Respectfully, we request adding language and funding that allows for the use of funding for instruments and resources to support the musical performances at the libraries.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1764 HD1 and your continued support of our communities and the Hawai'i State Public Library System.



Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Regular Session of 2026
House Committee on Education
Testimony by Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra
February 17, 2026

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1764 – RELATING TO
THE MUSIC ACCESSIBILITY PILOT PROGRAM

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee,

As Music and Artistic Director and President and CEO, respectively, of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, we thank you and request your support of **HB1764**, which establishes a Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawai'i State Public Library System to expand access to public concerts and musical education across our islands. This bill represents an important investment in cultural equity, local arts, and statewide community well-being.

HB1764 directly addresses long-standing gaps in access to live music for residents of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, and Maui counties by funding public concerts and educational opportunities in communities that often lack them. The program ensures that high-quality musical experiences that are more available on O'ahu can be shared broadly across the state.

The bill also strengthens Hawai'i's creative economy by providing resources for **travel costs and payment to musicians**, ensuring that local artists are fairly compensated for sharing their expertise statewide. This type of investment directly supports Hawai'i's working musicians and helps sustain our cultural workforce.

Importantly, HB1764 encourages **collaboration with the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra (HSO)** and other organizations to deliver concerts and educational programming through the library system. As the state's leading professional orchestra, HSO is uniquely positioned to bring high-quality, culturally relevant performances to communities throughout the islands. This partnership aligns with the orchestra's mission to serve all of Hawai'i and to provide programming "shaped by and for Hawai'i."

Beyond performance access, the bill supports the creation of **new musical works that reflect Hawai'i's heritage**, contributing to the development of repertoire that honors our local culture and stories.

This pilot program is a smart, focused investment that will yield significant cultural, educational, and economic returns **for Hawai'i's residents, regardless of where they live.**

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to pass HB1764. This bill uplifts local artists, strengthens access to arts education, and fosters a more connected, culturally vibrant Hawai'i.

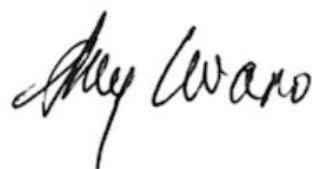
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.



Dane Lam

Music and Artistic Director



Amy Iwano

President and CEO



SERVCO PACIFIC INC.
2850 PUKOLOA ST. STE. 300
HONOLULU, HI 96819 USA

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Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair
Committee on Education

RE: **HB 1764 HD1 - Relating to the Music Accessibility Pilot Program – In Support**

Tuesday, February 17, 2026; 2:00 PM
Conference room 309

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica and members of the committee:

As a Board of Director of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra (HSO) and on-behalf of Servco Pacific, Inc., I am writing in support of HB 1764 HD1, which establishes the Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawaii State Public Library System to expand access to public concerts and musical education throughout the State, and appropriate funds.

This bill aligns with HSO's mission to serve all of Hawaii. It expands access to residents of Hawaii, Kauai and Maui, who often have fewer opportunities for live orchestral events, to gain greater access to concerts and music education. The bill also provides funding to help cover travel costs for musicians, ensuring music professionals can sustainably participate in statewide cultural programming.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. We ask for your favorable consideration in passing HB 1764 HD1 as it would help the orchestra reach more residents, enhance community well-being, expand cultural equity statewide, and bring orchestral music to places it normally cannot reach due to logistics and cost.

Peter Dames
President & CEO

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 2:06:31 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kylie E Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support this bill. Music education was a part of my life from piano lessons at 5 years old until I graduated with a BA in music from UH Manoa. Elementary school, high school, and college were filled with various instruments and experiences. Symphony concerts when the Honolulu Symphony would fly to Kaua'i once a year, KPAC musicals once a year, singing at school performances, all the way through being on stage playing piano and playing music for theater programs, every part of it was amazing. If every child in the state could experience professional performances and participate in school-level performances just imagine what we could become.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 2:13:21 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rie Schmidt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a support of the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra and think that projects with music education are essential to the community. Public concerts open to everyone are important for education and audience building. I hope you will support HB1764.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 2:08:15 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ann chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, my name is Ann Chang and I'm a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii.

Please consider this bill. This bill will allow for expanding access for culturally needed programs for our youth and community.

Thank you,

Ann Chang

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 2:53:31 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Winston R Welch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I'll keep this short. I fully support HB1764 for the many benefits this bill will bring to individuals and our society as a whole through music education and access across the state.

Thank you for your support.

Winston Welch, Honolulu

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 2:56:23 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul J Kay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1764, **Music Accessibility Pilot Program** within the **Hawai'i State Public Library System**, in partnership with the **Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra**. I want this to expand access to **public concerts, music education opportunities, and community programming** across the state.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 2:27:37 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1764, HD 1 for passage this legislative session. Public concerts and music programs are typically concentrated in urban centers, leaving rural communities underserved. This measure addresses that disparity by establishing the Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawaii State Public Library System to expand access to public concerts and music education statewide, promoting creative collaboration and enriching Hawaii's cultural landscape.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 1764, HD 1.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 2:56:34 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee Putnam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Respected Legislators,

I make heavy use of both the HSL and the HSO. Collaboration between them will be a significant element in enhancing quality of life statewide. Please advance and fund this bill.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of the very long list of supporters.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 3:02:00 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Littman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an educator I have been well aware of the importance of music in Education. Instruction on a musical instrument can raise a student's IQ by us much as 10 points. It creates pathways in the brain, contributes to concentration and all over makes the student a better person. The aesthetic value of music is tremendous. Philosophers called music "the sweet balm of the soul." The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra is the main instrument of classical music in Hawaii. Without the orchestra we woudl not have all the teachers of flute, violin, cello, viola, trumpet, available in the community. The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra already spends over \$600,000 of its funds on education in the state. 5,000-6,000 elementary school children attend special concerts at the symphony per year. A grant and support of the legislature would enhance the education of the entire state. Please vote for this bill.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 3:01:58 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Tortora	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony on HB1764 whose goal is to expand access to music across Hawaii. I would like to strongly support this bill because funding provided in this program would allow the expertise of the Hawaii Symphony with the reach of the Hawaii Public library system to provide expanded access to music and music education. Countless studies show the benefits of learning music on brain function, especially for our Keiki. In addition, Hawaii culture frequently incorporates music, and expanded access to a variety of musical genres can't help but perpetuate our love of music of different styles.

Please do a favor to our communities and to our Keiki and support this initiative. Thank you.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 3:24:26 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorna Holmes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this measure to give our keiki access to a broad spectrum of music education, such an important basic element to life. It also gives much-deserved support to the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, our precious local treasure.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Dr. Lorna Holmes, Mo'ili'ili 96826

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 3:35:51 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward K. Conklin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1764. Easy access to music in all its various forms is an important part of the educational process.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 3:40:23 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Penelope Hazzard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wonderful blll. Getting people into good music early on and continuing through all their life makes for healthier citizens

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 3:45:23 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Mastrantonio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Access to the arts is not a luxury it should be easily available to all the community and this bill is a step in the right direction. Please pass this bill as it is a step forward allowing expanded access throughout the State. As a Manoa resident I urge the committee to please endorse and pass this bill for the future of our State and our keiki. Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Mastrantonio

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 3:51:58 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Fong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have played musical instruments my entire life, starting at the age of 8. I joined orchestra as a child when I played terribly. I played through elementary, middle, and high school. I even played a bit in college. I took great pleasure in being in an orchestra where music binds us together. Music unifies people in multiple ways. We are in divided times with extreme polarization on either side. If we can do something and provide a service that joins our ohana, I then feel there is no downside. As a retiree, I am still playing in a community orchestra. We are from all walks of life playing our instrument with the goal of playing a piece of music into a cohesive whole that sets our souls free.

the goals of the HSO is to unite our keiki and families in the common pursuit of music appreciation.

I want the legislature to know that I am in full support of HB1764.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 3:46:12 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB1764, which would establish a Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawai‘i State Public Library System in partnership with the Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra.

This measure represents a meaningful investment in statewide access to the arts. By providing funding for public concerts, music education opportunities, and community programming, HB1764 expands cultural access to residents who may not otherwise have the means or proximity to participate. Libraries are among our most trusted and accessible public institutions, and pairing their reach with the expertise of the Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra creates a powerful platform for lifelong learning, creativity, and community connection.

Music education and exposure to the performing arts have well-documented benefits for youth development, cognitive growth, and community well-being. This pilot program would help ensure that families across Hawai‘i—on every island—can experience high-quality musical programming regardless of income or geography.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1764.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 3:57:04 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Committee Members,
I am writing in support of HB 1764, which would expand access to public concerts and musical education throughout the State through the State Library System. This is a wonderful way to expose more members of the public to quality music programs.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Marcia Kemble
Makiki

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 3:57:40 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariann Tesauro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB1764'

Mariann Tesauro

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 4:02:54 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kat Malecha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting my support for HB1764. Music education and community access is so important for our community and our young people. Having access to programs and free concerts/community engagements helps foster the arts and our rich island culture.

Mahalo,

Kat Malecha

Paul Brown Salon

Managing Director

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 4:23:39 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support!

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 4:05:35 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ray Kan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the bill establishing the Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawaii State Public Library System. Expanding access to free public concerts and musical education will enrich our communities, foster creativity among keiki and adults alike, and ensure that residents across the State—regardless of income or location—can experience the cultural and educational benefits of music. By investing in this pilot program and appropriating the necessary funds, the Legislature will strengthen our libraries as vibrant community hubs and help cultivate the next generation of musicians, audiences, and lifelong learners throughout Hawai‘i.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 4:38:02 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Autumn Woods	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1764, which establishes the Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawai‘i State Public Library System. As Director of Advancement at the Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra (HSO), I believe deeply in the mission of this bill to expand access to public concerts, support local musicians, and ensure statewide cultural engagement through music.

Over the past year, I have seen the powerful impact of bringing live symphonic music directly into schools, neighborhoods, and unexpected community spaces. HB1764 furthers this vision by making music and musical education more accessible, especially in Hawai‘i, Kaua‘i, and Maui counties, and by encouraging the creation of new works that reflect our islands’ diverse heritage. The opportunity for HSO and other organizations to collaborate with the State Library System through this pilot program is both practical and inspiring.

With proper support and funding, this initiative can strengthen our cultural infrastructure and ensure that the transformative power of music reaches every corner of our state. Mahalo for your consideration of this important bill.

Sincerely, Autumn Woods

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 5:17:17 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Ann Castro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Expanding access to public concerts, music education opportunities, and community programming across the state is an amazing way to have our community engaged, sharing the art of music and having everyone coming together and also it helps nurture future generations to explore and chase their dreams! Music should not be a dying art and we should encourage people to learn more about it and have our talented artists showcase their beautiful work.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 8:52:16 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Li Hagan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for considering my comments.

I am so thrilled to hear about and wholeheartedly support this pilot program within the **Hawai‘i State Public Library System**, in partnership with the **Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra**.

My son was fortunate enough that the public middle and high schools he attended had music programs. Music brought out his creativity and taught him discipline and determination. I can't say enough about the wonders of music and its significance in a child's education.

I have lived on Oahu for the past 15+ years and have greatly benefited from the public library system. The partnership between the Public Library System and the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra would be amazing for the community.

I do hope that our Legislature will support this initiative and our community will be better for it.

Sincerely,

Alice Li Hagan

Honolulu, Hawaii

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 10:32:23 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CRISTINE NATIVIDAD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The positive impact that music can have on a someone is phenominal. Music can be used to teach, heal, stay connected, and bond. It is such a saving grace for many and should be enjoyed by all. Its important to have programs to provide equitable access to Music Concerts and Education. Please allow for this program to be implemented

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 5:36:58 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Gagnon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Living on Oahu's North Shore and on a rather fixed income, I never have the opportunity to attend paid live performances of music. That is why I love it when the Waialua Library--though infrequently--sponsors musical performances.

Whenever such a program does occur, the audience is so appreciative. Lots of little kids, their parents, grandparents, and others really enjoy the experience.

HB1764 will enable many more public concerts--I hope, free ones--so that all these folks (the whole gamut of ages and backgrounds) can enjoy not just hearing music but seeing real musicians doing what they love: playing music in a very, very congenial setting.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 6:29:11 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph A. Bobich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 11:59:28 AM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
d lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Growing up in Kalihi (in the 60's) I feel privileged and humbled to have been exposed to the symphonies. It was such a magical experience filling my soul. Of course my family couldn't have provided this venue (Kalihi) so I know what a Blessing it was.

It has influenced so many aspects of my life and all the positive good things. God loves our Joyful noise. I still go to concerts and symphonies within my budget and time.

I believe our keiki desperately need to be exposed to this freedom of music. Especially symphonies from the masters. I pray that when they appreciate beautiful music, their world will greatly improve. No longer bound, but set free in their hearts and minds. Aloha and Mahalo and God bless :)

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 5:14:01 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martha Nakajima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Thank you. Martha Nakajima, Honolulu

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 7:10:11 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Levin Matsukawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you chair persons for this opportunity to submit a testimony in support of HB 1764. May our symphony remain in perpetuity for generations to come.

Very Respectfully,

Levin A. Matsukawa

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 8:08:10 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L Perry, Support

1764 HB RELATING TO THE MUSIC ACCESSIBILITY PILOT PROGRAM.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 7:12:42 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Sone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB1764. I live on Kauai and would like to see the benefits of this bill extended to those on the neighbor islands.

James Sone

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 9:29:37 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradford Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Access and exposure to music throughout the state of Hawaii is an issue of equity, cultural preservation, and providing a complete cultural education for our keiki and communities.

The neighbor islands lack a symphony orchestra and all the amazing musical programming that comes with it as compared to Oahu.

programs like these are a public good, the very type of thing that must be supported by government and taxpayer dollars.

there is no good substitute for hearing live music, experiencing musical collaborations, new music, Hawaiian music, and the convergence of art forms. The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra is a state treasure and needs to be supported and made available to people on ALL islands of the state.

In the age where mental health and anxiety and screen time are scourges on the youth and keiki, live music is an antidote to this that fosters cross-cultural exchanges, human interaction, cultural awareness and preservation, and something that gives optimism and hope to the next generation.

-Dr Bradford Lee, MD

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 10:22:33 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Meehan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB 1764 as it would expand access to **public concerts, music education opportunities, and community programming** across the state. Thank you.

Ted Meehan

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 11:06:41 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Moffitt	Musicnas' Association of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I write in strong suport of HB1764.

Having performed as a musician for many years throughout the State library system, I know this bill would provide valuable education possiblites for communities around the State. I have seen the impact of these experinces on people of all ages as I engage with them through the visits.

I urge you to pass this vital bill.

Thank you,

James Moffitt, President,

Musicians' Association of Hawaii

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 10:54:07 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to support the arts and education now more than ever given what is happening in this world.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 10:38:49 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linh Le	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure and appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve community access to the arts and music.

Aloha, esteemed Legislature members:

I am a veteran 30+ year secondary school educator, lifelong musician, and supporter of the arts, whose entire life has been profoundly enriched by comprehensive, sustained musical education. I hail from a family of musicians and music aficionados, and my husband and I are proud parents of a piano and cello-playing daughter, now a college junior. Music has served as a compass and catalyst in our lives.

I strongly urge your unbridled, enthusiastic support for HB1764, the passage of which would exhibit good-faith, tangible commitment to advancing the arts in Hawai`i. Let us welcome the proposed dynamic collaboration between two highly respected, community-centered, and successful educational institutions: the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra and the Hawaii State Library System!

HB1764: A Vital Investment:

- **Educational Equity:**
 - Music, a universal language, speaks to the human soul. It provides an engaging vehicle for joyful learning, critical thinking, reflective discernment, and creative expression for people of all ages and persuasions.
 - Increasing music accessibility to all Hawai`i citizens, particularly our keiki, yields superior returns for a modest financial investment. The proposed program bridges the gap between rural and underserved communities and the urban core, by increasing access to high-quality arts education. Educational equity represents a fundamental pillar of a democratic society.
- **Proven, Research-Based Cognitive Benefits:**
 - Music builds brains, increasing neuroplasticity and enhancing executive function and memory. These factors could close the achievement gap and produce improved academic outcomes.
- **Cultural Representation:**
 - Under the direction of dynamic conductor Dane Lam, our symphony's artistic repertoire reflects not just Western classical favorites, but the rich cosmopolitan spectrum of cultures that comprise our islands.

- Our symphony has a long-standing history of showcasing island-raised talent, such as Raiatea Helm and Jake Shimabukuro.
- The HSO educates public audiences by exposing them to less familiar works by composers from marginalized groups, including women and African-Americans. It also showcases innovative, cutting-edge contemporary compositions, such as the works of composer-in-residence, Michael-Thomas Foumai.
- **Cultural Stewardship & Island Identity**
 - Understanding the cultures, history, and traditions that produced and influenced musical works.
 - Passage of this bill protects Hawai‘i’s legacy as a musical powerhouse and celebrates Hawai‘i’s rich and diverse musical heritage, including not just classical, but Hawaiian, popular, and global works.
- **Community Mentorship & Professional Excellence**
 - Many of the HSO’s world-class professional musicians mentor to young musicians in our community, actively building the next generation of local talent.
 - Quality music provides aesthetic enrichment, pleasure, and inspiration.
- **Workforce Development & Life Skills**
 - Music education fosters the long-term discipline, pro-social behavior, and collaborative "ensemble thinking" necessary for a 21st-century workforce.

In sum, passing this bill would represent a victory not just for the arts, but for families, social equity, justice, and universal, lifelong education for all. Especially in this arts-adverse climate, the Hawai‘i State Legislature and Governor Green should exercise visionary leadership by passing this vital bill into law.

Mahalo piha,
Lara Cowell

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 10:42:53 AM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Music is so important. I have heard musicians tell me that when they were growing up in the 60s they listened to music on the radio and worked out how to play the melodies and chords. Music is also therapeutic. How wonderful it would be to expand access to public concerts and music education throughout the State. Please move this bill forward.

lynne matusow

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 11:08:54 AM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra is a vital cultural institution in our state. It enriches our community by providing world-class musical performances, educational programs for students, and opportunities for local musicians to thrive. The orchestra plays an important role in making the arts accessible to residents and visitors alike, helping to sustain Hawai‘i’s cultural vibrancy and quality of life.

Public investment in the arts is an investment in education, community well-being, and economic vitality. The orchestra’s outreach efforts inspire young people, foster creativity, and contribute to a well-rounded education. Additionally, cultural organizations like the HSO help attract tourism and support local businesses.

Sustained and increased funding will ensure that the Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra can continue its important work and remain a source of pride for our state.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 1:12:12 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
carole richelieu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill would provide funding to expand access to **public concerts, music education opportunities, and community programming** across the state for everyone.

Hawaii Kai voter

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 12:50:53 AM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1764, which would establish a **Music Accessibility Pilot Program** within the **Hawai'i State Public Library System**, in partnership with the **Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra**. This bill would provide funding to expand access to **public concerts, music education opportunities, and community programming** across the state.

Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra is a vitally important arts organization and funding its education efforts as described above out make huge difference for Hawaiian students and communities.

Please vote in favor of this bill.

Mahalo,

Jennifer

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 5:50:11 AM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane CipolliniCotter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Symphony Orchestra has my full support. Please pass this bill to make it accessible to more people. Whenever we are in Honolulu we go to a concert but if this bill passes we would be able to listen to more beautiful music and enjoy it more often. We need to expose more people to classical music if it is to survive since most people who attend concerts are older. Please support this bill.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 7:18:43 AM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Day	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support the subject bill. The government should support music as access to **public concerts, music education opportunities, and community programming** is very important and needs this support to continue.

The Honolulu Symphony went bankrupt because of no support. I don't want the Hawaii Symphony to bankrupt also. Please pass this bill.

Thank you,

James R. Day

private citizen who subscribes to the concert series

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 9:52:02 AM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Derek Graber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1764 and the establishment of the Music Accessibility Pilot Program. Music programs changed the course of my life, and I would not be who I am today without access to music education and community performance and program opportunities.

As a young person, having places to learn, play, and experience live music gave me purpose, discipline, and connection. It helped me build confidence, emotional awareness, and communication skills that carried into my adult and professional life. Music was not just an activity — it was a foundation.

Partnering the Hawai‘i State Public Library System with the Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra is a powerful and practical way to bring music directly into communities. Libraries are trusted, welcoming spaces, and this program would open doors for keiki, families, and maybe even kūpuna who might never otherwise attend a concert or receive guided musical exposure.

Access matters. One concert, one workshop, one moment of inspiration can redirect a life. I am living proof of that.

Please pass HB1764 and invest in the cultural and human potential of our communities through music.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 10:08:25 AM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nina Ungerleider	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. What a great opportunity to bring more music into the communities. My friend works for a similar program in Arizona and she said it is very well received by her city.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 3:56:37 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Sojot	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong and heartfelt support of HB1764.

Music shaped who I am. As a child, participating in school music programs and taking field trips to the symphony opened a world I didn't even know existed. I still remember being completely captivated by *Peter and the Wolf* and the sweeping beauty of Tchaikovsky. Hearing those stories and emotions come alive through a full orchestra sparked my imagination in a way nothing else had. I felt inspired, challenged, and deeply connected to something bigger than myself. Those experiences built my confidence, creativity, and discipline. They gave me a sense of belonging and showed me that my voice mattered.

Music is still a major part of my life today through my work in musical theatre and professional entertainment. The foundation built in those early programs continues to shape my career and my identity.

HB1764 will give keiki and families across Hawai'i that same chance. Every child deserves the opportunity to experience the joy of music and discover their own gifts. Music breaks down barriers, brings people together, and reminds us of our shared humanity.

Please pass HB1764. The impact will echo for generations.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 3:17:18 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth M. Nakasone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a fan and patron of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, I am appreciative of the fact that Hawaii has a world class orchestra with dedicated professionals sharing their talent. Growing up in Hawaii's public school system, I remember fondly our annual field trips to see the symphony, hear the music and learn about the instruments.

With the cost of living today, it seems like access to music of this calibur is limited for many. Moreover, changes in the public school system curricula has made it more difficult for students to participate in band and orchestra programs. Thus, our students have to seek out and pursue their own music education to enrich their lives and improve their learning.

How can they do this if they are not provided access to and exposed to different types of music by those best qualified to share it with them?

I support HB1764 and respectfull request that you vote for it.

Mahalo.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 7:51:37 AM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Representative Woodson, Vice Chair Representative LaChica and Members of the Committee on Education.

Please support HB 1764 which, to my understanding, would help the people of Hawaii by allowing for more access to public concerts and musical education. Music can be uplifting, enriching and healing, and can be so beneficial to emotional, mental and spiritual health.

Again, please support HB 1764.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 9:21:04 AM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kolleen Roessig	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HSO. They have helped positively influence my love of music and the passing of this bill would help them influence so many others. I support the passing of 1764 HB.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 2:28:43 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Ling	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the arts and HB1764. We need arts more than ever during this time of fear and uncertainty. Arts feed and settle the soul. Mahalo

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 9:27:01 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I KĀKO‘O this bill. As programs for music are being cut or lessened for our keiki, this is a great way to provide valuable exposure and opportunities for them. Music can change lives and all it takes is one experience to motivate creativity.

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ola‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 12:46:32 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
May Okihiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Very supportive of this bill to support music and libraries!

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 7:51:05 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maureen Ballard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1764 in its efforts to expand music appreciation and education thru the library system. More and early access to music csn have a profound influence on children's lives.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 10:31:55 AM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Casey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I grew up in Boston, Massachusetts during the 60's ~ 70's. Rough times, lots of violence and racism. My middle/high school was in a rough section of the city. Fortunately, it offered an outstanding music education program. I found great sanctuary in that. I played the drums, and the program expanded my exposure to conga drums, timpani, and the full range of percussion instruments. The band program was a distraction from the whirlwind of violence that seemed all around me, and afforded one rather to focus on the moment, performance, concentration, and practice. This culminated in a trip to Europe as a 16-yr-old to perform with the Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble, a program very similar to the Honolulu Youth Symphony.

Existing in the neighborhood of my public school were the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Pops, and the Berklee School of Music. All offered programs of encouragement for Boston Public School students, from free individual classes, to free concerts, and even the chance to perform alongside these world-class orchestras. I was fortunate to also be able to avail myself of these programs.

I went on to a career with the military and the federal government and am now retired. The focus, discipline, attentiveness, repetitive training towards skill mastery, and commitment acquired through the Boston public school system proved to serve me well in that non-music career. Everyone benefits from exposure to the wonderful world of music, but particularly the young and the old of a community. For the former, music training expands their horizons and instills in them positive traits that will stand them in good stead regardless of their chosen career path. For the latter, a visit to their local library to attend a performance by a small wind/string ensemble will rekindle memories of wonderful days from decades past, when the sound of music helped to drown out the voices of hate, unreasonableness, and disharmony, and restore a sense of decency and communal cohesiveness. Please pass HB 1764 and establish a **Music Accessibility Pilot Program** within the **Hawai'i State Public Library System**, in partnership with the **Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra**.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 7:05:49 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kera Wong-Miyasato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Music education is vitally important in our education system and in the development of our keiki. It should be accessible to all.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 2:28:37 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucille Frances	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

music is a necessary opportunity for all during this highly stressful and violent time in our government.

music facilitates good mental health.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 5:40:01 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucy Goodell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1764. I have seen the huge benefits of providing access to **public concerts, music education opportunities, and community programming**. I believe proper funding for access to music and music education is very important for the health of our society.

Lucy Goodell

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 6:28:01 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this innovative arts legislation.

David Ball

Waialae-Kahala

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 2:57:30 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pauli Tashima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HSO because of the excellent public programming they have offered. As a mother of two small children, I have taken them to age-appropriate concerts such as *Peter and the Wolf*, *Frozen*, and *Pines of Rome*, the last of which came with free instrument petting. These were all extremely educational and memorable experiences for the whole family. I wish that HSO can expand their public offerings so that more people can benefit from these invaluable musical and artistic experiences.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 11:16:09 AM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kesha Morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support funding this pilot program to allow keiki and general population to have access to music via the public library system. Music is a vital part of learning, community and provides ways for children to perhaps be a part of music for their lifetime. By allowing the public library system to work in partnership with the Honolulu Orchestra, it will increases the access to music allowing more of the general population to have opportunities and access with the Honolulu Orchestra.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 12:43:23 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurel Nakanishi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Lawmakers,

I am writing to express my support for SB1764 because I believe that partnering music education with the State's public library system would provide equitable and safe spaces for music for all. Please support SB 1764.

Warmly,
Laurel Nakanishi

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 1:24:52 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Selena Mobbs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in support of HB1764, HD1 to establish a Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawai‘i State Public Library System.

Music enriches lives, fosters creativity, and connects people across generations. Placing this program in the public library system ensures equitable access to musical experiences statewide. I urge the committee to pass HB1764, HD1 and invest in Hawai‘i’s cultural and educational vitality.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 1:49:01 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Amy Bossler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Justin H. Woodson
Hawai'i House of Representatives Education Committee
H.B. 1764
February 17, 2026
2pm, conference room 309

My name is Dr. Amy Bossler. I am a former licensed and highly qualified Hawai'i DOE educator and completed a Doctorate of Education in Exceptionalities Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in 2015.

I am testifying as proud cellist and lover of performing arts. I support HB1764.

1.) Supporting state-funded music education and public concerts isn't just about entertainment — it's about investing in kids, communities, and culture.

Music education improves:

- Memory and language development
- Math and pattern recognition skills
- Focus and discipline
- Emotional regulation
- Teamwork and leadership

Studies consistently show students involved in music often perform better academically and have higher graduation rates. For many children — especially those who struggle in traditional classrooms — music becomes the place they shine. Without public funding, music often becomes a “luxury” only wealthier families can afford.

2.) Public concerts build community.

Free or low-cost state-funded concerts, bring families together. They support local identity and support local musicians. Additionally, they create safe, positive gathering spaces and create local business traffic.

3.) Economic Return on Investment

The arts: create jobs (teachers, performers, technicians, event staff), boost tourism, revitalize downtown areas, and increase property values in culturally active communities. Every dollar invested in the arts often generates more in economic activity.

4.) Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing

Music is one of the most powerful tools for: processing emotion, reducing stress, building identity, and creating belonging. For teens in particular, band, choir, and orchestra can become their anchor — a reason to stay connected and engaged.

5.) Preserving Culture & Civic Identity

Publicly funded arts programs preserve: music traditions, heritage, and cultural expression. They also allow students to explore music beyond commercial trends — Hawaiian, classical, jazz, folk, world music, and more.

In summary, when we fund music publicly, we're saying: creativity is not a privilege. It's part of a complete education and a healthy society. If funding disappears, music programs are often the first to be cut — and the hardest to rebuild. I support HB1764 and ask that you do too.

Respectfully,

Dr. Amy M. Bossler

HB-1764-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 1:57:09 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Chou	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Justin H. Woodson Hawai'i House of Representatives Education Committee H.B. 1764 February 17, 2026 2pm, conference room 309

My name is Stephanie Chou. I'm the granddaughter of a brass professor and trombonist, and music was a huge part of my development. I fully support HB1764.

1.) Supporting state-funded music education and public concerts isn't just about entertainment — it's about investing in kids, communities, and culture.

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- Teamwork and leadership

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In summary, when we fund music publicly, we're saying: creativity is not a privilege. It's part of a complete education and a healthy society. If funding disappears, music programs are often the

first to be cut — and the hardest to rebuild. I support HB1764 and ask that you do too.
Mahalo,

Stephanie Chou