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February 3, 2026

HB1764 – Relating to the Music Accessibility Pilot Program

Chair Kapela, Jeanne
Vice Chair Kong, Sam Satoru
House Committee on Culture Members and Arts

Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Committee Members,

My name is **Paul Kosasa**, and I am the **President and Chief Executive Officer of ABC Stores**, a locally owned business that has served Hawai‘i’s communities for more than seven decades. In addition, I am currently serving as Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Honolulu Symphony for 15 years. I write to express **strong support for HB1764**, relating to the Music Accessibility Pilot Program.

Music and the arts play a vital role in shaping Hawai‘i’s cultural identity and strengthening our communities. Expanding access to music, particularly for students and individuals who may otherwise face barriers, supports creativity, learning, and personal growth, while also contributing to a more inclusive and vibrant society.

As a long-standing Hawai‘i employer, ABC Stores recognizes the broader impact that accessibility to arts and education programs can have on residents, families, and the local workforce. Initiatives such as the Music Accessibility Pilot Program help foster opportunity, inspire talent, and ensure that the benefits of arts education are more widely shared across our state.

HB1764 reflects a thoughtful investment in Hawai‘i’s future by promoting access, equity, and community enrichment through music. We commend the Legislature for its continued commitment to programs that enhance quality of life and strengthen cultural and educational opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony and for your consideration of HB1764. We respectfully urge your support for this measure.

Mahalo,

Paul Kosasa

President & Chief Executive Officer
ABC Stores

HB-1764

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 9:57:02 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cassidy Condit	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a constituent and a resident of Oahu and I am writing in support of HB1764. Our family has benefited greatly from the Hawai'i State Public Library System and the enrichment programs it has offered over the years. I believe that establishing the Music Accessibility Pilot Program to expand access to public concerts and musical education throughout the State would greatly enrich our community.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Cassidy Condit

99-581 Honohina St

Aiea, HI 96701

HB-1764

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:02:40 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

For a state as small in population as Hawai'i is, we are so fortunate to have a world class symphony orchestra. Everyone should have an opportunity to share in its repertoire, and this bill will allow the orchestra to perform in public spaces for public enjoyment. Please pass this bill.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 11:05:44 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a music teacher and educator and new resident to Honolulu, I fully support **HB1764** to *expand access to public concerts and musical education throughout Hawaii*. I hope this bill will be passed.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 11:31:24 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Richards Dona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

I am writing in support of HB1764, which establishes the Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawai'i State Public Library System.

Access to live music and musical education should not be limited by geography or income. This bill represents an important step toward making high-quality musical experiences available to more people across our state, particularly for keiki, kūpuna, and underserved communities. Libraries are trusted, welcoming spaces, and pairing them with music education and performance is a thoughtful and inclusive approach.

As someone who deeply values the role music plays in community well-being, education, and cultural enrichment, I strongly support this effort and encourage you to pass HB1764.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Angela Richards Dona
Honolulu, Hawai'i

HB-1764

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 11:44:17 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patty Chang Pezzella	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill- **HB1764**.

Thank you, Patty Chang Pezzella

HB-1764

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 11:56:00 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Heathcock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha as a parent and pediatrician I wholeheartedly support this bill. Creating more opportunities for children to learn music and be exposed to music is great for their development and growth. My family has enjoyed many community events thanks to the symphony and we look forward to more.

Lindsey Heathcock MD

HB-1764

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:26:41 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha no, I am writing in support of HYB1764, the bill establishing music accessibility pilot programs within the Hawai'i State Library System to expand access to public concerts and musical education throughout our state. As a retired D.O.E classroom and District Level Resource teacher, I speak from experience about the value and importance of music accessibility. Music was an essential part of the daily proceedings in my classroom, regardless of the grade level. It is a leveling factor that can be related to no matter one's age, cultural, religious, or political beliefs. Music helps bring us all together, especially in times as challenging as we are currently living in. I respectfully encourage you to PLEASE support this piece of legislation. It is so extremely important to the very fabric of our Lahui Hawai'i.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Maureen Buckley

HB-1764

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:26:46 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Girish Varma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is my position that arts and music education are essential for the development of humans whose values exceed the attainment of comfort, security and financial sovereignty. If students and developing adults are not provided with the means to engage with art and music, they run the risk of becoming only workers who exist only in the bubble of business, working for money and then using it to seek pleasure from things that are destructive to themselves and/or others and the environment (drugs, alcohol, gambling, sex, etc.) rather than seeking pleasure from things that are constructive such as books, theater, arts and music. Access to arts and music is critical for perpetuating a healthy society. Please support making access to music and music education a higher priority.

Girish Varma

HB-1764

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:31:56 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Lei Perron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a former educator, librarian and currently a public library manager, **I have witnessed the positive results of collaboration between libraries and orchestras.** As a teacher-librarian on Oahu's Windward Side it became evident that many students/families cannot access the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra (HSO) and/or musical performances in general. As a Public Library Manager on Maui, I realized it was even more difficult to gain access to HSO. Whether such exclusion is the result of geography, finances, or lack of time may be irreparable. However expanding access to public concerts and musical education throughout the state lies within your power. **Please recognize how music has the ability to inspire, heal, and bring our people together. Let HB1674 be Hawaii's catalyst for harmony at a time when discord divides our country.** *Mahalo*

HB-1764

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:39:38 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberley Dixon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am here to testify to the impact that HSO has in our community and in my personal life. When considering what state/CITY we should retire to my husband and I placed a high priority on whether or not we would be able to attend a symphony on a regular basis. Honolulu was the winner in our case. We enjoy attending the symphony and bringing along guests and friends who have never experienced it. Please consider making this wonderful symphony the official symphony for this great city and state.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 1:08:54 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 2:59:03 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 3:43:08 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Weeshoff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Chair and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully submit this testimony in **strong support of HB1764**, which establishes the Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawai‘i State Public Library System.

HB1764 advances an important and timely goal: expanding equitable access to live music and musical education across Hawai‘i, particularly for residents of Hawai‘i Island, Kaua‘i, and Maui. By leveraging the trusted, community-based infrastructure of the public library system, this bill meets people where they are and removes geographic and economic barriers to participation in the arts.

The pilot program’s focus on public concerts, music education, and cultural collaboration will provide meaningful benefits to local communities while supporting Hawai‘i’s musicians and creative workforce. Encouraging the commissioning of new works that reflect Hawai‘i’s unique heritage further strengthens the connection between the arts and our cultural identity, ensuring that programming is both accessible and locally relevant.

HB1764 is also thoughtfully designed as a pilot. It includes clear reporting requirements, defined outcomes, and a sunset date, allowing the Legislature to evaluate effectiveness before considering long-term continuation. This approach demonstrates fiscal responsibility while still making a meaningful investment in arts access, education, and community well-being.

The authorization for collaboration with organizations such as the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra and other partners enables the program to draw on existing expertise, maximize impact, and avoid duplication of effort. The proposed appropriation supports fair compensation for musicians and necessary travel costs, ensuring that programming can reach neighbor island communities in a sustainable and respectful way.

Access to the arts is not a luxury; it is a public good that supports education, cultural understanding, community connection, and quality of life. HB1764 represents a practical, inclusive, and well-structured step toward expanding those benefits statewide.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,

William Weeshoff

Endorsement of the Music Accessibility Pilot Program Bill HB1764

Hawai'i State Legislature

There are some gifts that do not fade with time.

Music is one of them.

Long before screens and wires, before earbuds and algorithms, people gathered in shared spaces to hear a living sound rise from living hands. The breath of a flute, the thunder of drums, the steady pulse of strings—these were not luxuries. They were the heartbeat of community.

The Music Accessibility Pilot Program restores that ancient truth.

By bringing live concerts and musical education into public libraries across Hawai'i—especially to the counties of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, and Maui—this bill does more than fund performances. It rebuilds a bridge between generations, cultures, and communities. It invites keiki, kūpuna, families, and neighbors of every background to gather again, face to face, in shared wonder.

For Our Youth

For young people, live music is not just entertainment—it is discovery.

It teaches discipline, creativity, and courage. It shows them that talent is not born in isolation but grows in community. When young musicians see professionals perform up close, they glimpse what is possible for their own lives.

For Our Elders

For kūpuna, music awakens memory and belonging. It stirs stories, laughter, and tears—reminding them they are still part of the living song of Hawai'i. A concert in a library is not just a program; it is a homecoming.

For Our Many Cultures

Hawai'i is a woven lei of peoples and traditions. This program honors that truth by encouraging new works that reflect our unique heritage and by supporting local musicians who carry the voices of their communities. When artists from different backgrounds share a stage, they do more than perform—they teach us how to listen to one another.

For Our Communities

Live music lifts the spirit.

It brings joy where silence has lingered.

It turns ordinary spaces into sacred gatherings.

By collaborating with the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra and local artists, this program ensures that talent is not hidden behind ticket prices or geography. It places beauty where everyone can reach it—freely, openly, and with dignity.

A Worthy Investment

The appropriation of \$600,000 is not an expense—it is a seed.

A seed of creativity.

A seed of connection.

A seed of hope.

This pilot program does what government should always strive to do: serve the whole community, not just those who can afford the arts, but those who need them most.

Let the music rise again in our libraries.

Let the young dream.

Let the elders remember.

Let the many voices of Hawai'i sing together.

For all these reasons, I strongly support the Music Accessibility Pilot Program and urge its passage.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 4:08:28 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beppie Shapiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We and our children and grandchildren on Oahu have been privileged to be able to attend Symphony concerts, and benefit from in-school music exposure. Some of this has reached our neighbor islands, but it's scarily dependent on fund-raising. This bill will establish a pilot showing the value of Symphony educational program across the islands. I heartily endorse it.

Please pass HB1764

HB-1764

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 4:12:50 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

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.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 5:21:11 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ana Trovinger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This past year, the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra has taken inspiring strides to expand their discount and advertising of offerings for groups such as students, first responders, and military personnel. This initiative has opened doors for families like ours to experience the transformative power of live concerts. Supporting the orchestra allows us to enjoy beautiful music. Supporting accessibility would enriches our community by making this a universal experience reasonably available to all.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 5:23:45 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley de Coligny	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm a Kaneohe resident writing in support of this bill to expand music access and education in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Ashley de Coligny

HB-1764

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 6:06:08 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Cha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the honorable members of the House Committee,

I submit this testimony in support of this bill, and ask you to favorably recommend it out of your committee's hearing.

Thank you for your time.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:02:06 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Poranee Sponsel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is crucial that we establish the Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawai'i State Public Library System to expand access to public concerts and musical education throughout the State.

Music is enriching the health of all population and reduce cost of health care

HB-1764

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:03:38 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce L Hultgren	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wish to express my support for this pilot program that would help expand access to world class music in our community, particularly for our keiki.

The addition of music in a child's life is a great gift, and has a positive long term effect on a child's future.

Please support this bill. We are fortunate to have the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra in our community. Increasing access to it for our youth would be very beneficial.

Thank you

HB-1764

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 8:34:04 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marsha Nager	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As residents of Kaua'i and former residents of Nashville, we have had the privilege of experiencing wonderful orchestral music. However, we have found that the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra has truly surpassed our previous experiences.

We are proud supporters of the HSO and attend as many concerts as possible. The caliber of the musicians is exceptional, particularly under the direction of conductor Dane Lam. Music is a vital component of any city, and we believe the HSO should be revered and appreciated for the excellence they bring to our community.

I am writing to urge you to please support the HSO and help ensure their continued success.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 10:41:23 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thalia L Woodward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Music is integral to a community - as an expression of our world and as a way to share an experience. Especially during this devastating and scary time for our nation, it's even more urgent that we protect and support the arts. As a piano teacher of 51 years, I have witnessed how music can be a enriching outlet for children and provide safe and rewarding ways for them to succeed. Please pass this bill!

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:08:45 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline Beckman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill HB1764 to establishe the Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawaii State Public Library System to expand access to public concerts and musical education throughout the State. As an educator and parent this is an innovative way to motivate youth and interest in music and the arts.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:07:28 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
carol bodnar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support *the Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawai'i State Public Library System to expand access to public concerts and musical education throughout the State* .
All peoples should have access to beautiful music.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE MUSIC ACCESSIBILITY PILOT PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. (a) There is established the music
2 accessibility pilot program within the Hawaii state public
3 library system. Under the pilot program, the Hawaii state
4 public library system shall expand access to public concerts and
5 musical education throughout the State, ensuring that residents
6 in the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui have access to public
7 concerts and musical education; support local musicians and
8 cultural collaboration; and encourage the commission of new
9 works that reflect Hawaii's unique heritage. The Hawaii state
10 public library system may collaborate with the Hawaii Symphony
11 Orchestra and other organizations to implement the pilot
12 program.

13 (b) The Hawaii state public library system shall submit
14 the following reports to the legislature:

15 (1) A progress report on the music accessibility pilot
16 program no later than twenty days prior to the
17 convening of the regular session of 2027; and



1 (2) A final report of findings and recommendations,
2 including a recommendation as to whether the pilot
3 program should be extended, modified, or discontinued,
4 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
5 the regular session of 2028.

6 (c) The music accessibility pilot program shall cease to
7 exist on June 30, 2028.

8 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$600,000 or so much
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the
11 music accessibility pilot program, including for costs
12 associated with travel expenses and payment to musicians for
13 public concerts; provided that this appropriation shall not
14 lapse at the end of the fiscal biennium for which the
15 appropriation is made; provided further that all moneys from the
16 appropriation unencumbered as of June 30, 2028, shall lapse as
17 of that date.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii state
19 public library system for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.
21



H.B. NO. 1764

INTRODUCED BY:

Jefferson

JAN 21 2026



H.B. NO. 1764

Report Title:

Music Accessibility Pilot Program; Hawaii State Public Library System; Hawaii Symphony Orchestra; Appropriation

Description:

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. Appropriates funds.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.



HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 7:57:32 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Wallace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is so important that we make music part of our education system for our children.

The Hawaii state library system is a wonderful way to do this both offering education and concerts.

I fully and wholeheartedly support this bill

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 8:05:53 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tom Wallace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support hb1764 to establish the music accessibility program.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 5:48:40 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Graham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Exposing public library visitors to the symphony is a great use of funds and an excellent way to create connections in our communities. Strongly support!

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 8:48:32 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ilana Nimz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the music accessibility pilot program, which will expand access to music throughout the State. Music is so important to Hawaii, and exposure to music at all ages is excellent for skill development, mental health and community.



TESTIMONY OF DAVE ERDMAN, PRESIDENT & CEO
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
FEBRUARY 2, 2026

IN SUPPORT OF HB 1764 - TO THE MUSIC ACCESSIBILITY PILOT PROGRAM

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

My name is Dave Erdman, and I am the Interim President and CEO of Retail Merchants of Hawai'i (RMH), a statewide nonprofit trade association representing retailers, shopping centers, and allied businesses across the islands.

Retail Merchants of Hawai'i respectfully submits testimony in **support of HB 1764**, which establishes the Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawai'i State Public Library System to expand access to public concerts and music education statewide.

RMH supports the arts, music education, and programs that make cultural experiences more accessible to residents across Hawai'i. Music and the arts play an important role in creating vibrant, connected communities. When young people are given opportunities to attend performances and participate in music education, they develop creativity, confidence, collaboration skills, and leadership qualities that benefit them throughout their lives.

This pilot program leverages Hawai'i's public library system as a community hub where adults, students, and families already gather. Expanding access to concerts and music education through libraries helps ensure that cultural opportunities reach a broad and diverse audience, including those who may not otherwise have access to formal arts programming.

There are also positive economic and community impacts. Libraries hosting public concerts and music activities attract residents and visitors who often dine, shop, and spend time in the surrounding neighborhood. This activity benefits nearby small businesses and retail districts, strengthening local economies while enhancing the overall community experience.

Retailers themselves are creative, innovative, and community-minded. Many RMH members actively support arts programs, education, and initiatives that foster curiosity and engagement. Programs like the Music Accessibility Pilot Program align with the values of our retail community and contribute to making Hawai'i an attractive place to live, learn, and visit.

For these reasons, Retail Merchants of Hawai'i supports HB 1764 and respectfully urges the Committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your continued support of arts, education, and community enrichment in Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Erdman
Interim President and CEO
Retail Merchants of Hawai'i

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:57:02 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barrie Kealoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is ample evidence that exposure to music and music learning programs, especially for children and those from underprivileged backgrounds, is incredibly beneficial for cognitive and community growth.

Hawaii Public Library is a vital facet of our society, and extending music programs through their system would have a wonderful effect on our communities.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:41:52 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vicky Cayetano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong and Committee Members,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit testimony in proud and grateful support of HB1764, which establishes the Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawai'i State Public Library System to expand access to public concerts and musical education throughout the State.

Growing up in a family where music was the dessert at the end of every dinner, I'm grateful to have personally experienced the joy and healing of music in one's life. My father would say "just as you need food for the body, you need music for the soul". We need that music and soul in our community now, more than ever especially for our keiki.

HB1764 provides expanded access that will not only impact lives, but I believe change lives. Thank you very much for your consideration .

Very respectfully,

Vicky Cayetano

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:49:20 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha

Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Chair

Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

I am in Strong Support for HB1764.

Linda Rich

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:11:31 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Jane Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this Bill. Living on the Westside of the island, opportunities for musical performances are limited. Many low-income residents simply cannot afford the high cost of theatre tickets or have the ability to travel to Honolulu where most performance venues are.

I was blessed this past summer when both Nanakuli and Waianae public libraries put on programs offering a variety of musical performance, from quartets to groups from the University to local halau willing to step up.

Libraries are essential to our communities - but they are, I believe, at a pivot point. With so many choosing to use e-readers, their role as a lender of books has changed. While that is a whole other discussion, I believe their role as sources of information and their interaction with the broader community is essential to our well-being. This Bill, will enable our libraries to continue to enhance local community lives by allowing access to more musical performances.

Thank you.

Susan Austin

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:13:34 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
susan hogan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Successful passage and implementation of HB1764 will provide Hawaii's families with increased access to not only music and music education but with all the resources our wonderful libraries have to offer. It will bring people in and together.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:29:05 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Molly Mamaril	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB1764 which would establish the Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawai'i State Public Library System to expand access to public concerts and musical education throughout the State. By leveraging our public libraries, this program would create inclusive spaces for residents to engage with live music and musical education in their own communities.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Molly Mamaril

Kaimuki, O'ahu

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:38:34 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My adult son with autism has very few options when it comes to community outings. Concerts are the joy of his life! Thank you for keeping the arts accessible to all! Mahalo Nui Lia for your time and attention to this important matter for society.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:42:26 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wailani Kontic	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1764 because access to music in a safe, inclusive environment like public libraries is an outstanding idea. Instrumental music helps brain processing and comprehension, and expanding libraries' reach to collaborate with music organizations will further expose young people and their families to music, which is so important. I personally have attended a chamber music performance at the Kaimuki Library, and can vouch for the benefits of accessible, free programs like these.

**Testimony in Support of HB1764
Relating to the Music Accessibility Pilot Program**

Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 9:30 AM
Hearing: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 9:30 AM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Yvonne Manipon, and I respectfully submit this testimony in **strong support** of **HB1764**, which establishes a **Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawai'i State Public Library System**.

HB1764 is a thoughtful and forward-looking measure that recognizes music as both an educational tool and a vital cultural resource. By utilizing our statewide public library system, this pilot program has the potential to reach residents across islands, rural areas, and communities that have historically had limited access to live music performances and music education opportunities.

Public libraries are trusted, accessible, and community-centered spaces. They already serve as hubs for lifelong learning, cultural exchange, and intergenerational connection. Expanding their role to include public concerts and music education is a natural extension of their mission and an effective way to ensure equitable access to the arts for keiki, youth, kūpuna, and families alike.

This program also supports local musicians, educators, and cultural practitioners by creating new opportunities for employment, collaboration, and community engagement. In a state where music is deeply woven into our cultural identity, investing in music accessibility helps sustain our traditions while nurturing the next generation of artists and audiences.

At a time when arts education and cultural programming are increasingly vulnerable to funding limitations, HB1764 offers a practical, community-based solution that leverages existing infrastructure to deliver meaningful impact statewide.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to **pass HB1764** and support expanded access to music, education, and cultural enrichment for all people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your continued support of arts, culture, and community well-being.

Respectfully,

Yvonne Manipon

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:57:08 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimo Cashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB 1764: RELATING TO THE MUSIC ACCESSIBILITY PILOT PROGRAM

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Kimo Alexander Cashman (Faculty, University of Hawai‘i-Mānoa, College of Education) and I respectfully submit testimony in strong support of this measure, which establishes the Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawai‘i State Public Library System and appropriates funds to expand access to public concerts and musical education throughout the State.

Libraries as Community Cultural Hubs

Hawai‘i’s public libraries are among the most trusted, accessible, and inclusive public institutions in our communities. They already serve as hubs for literacy, lifelong learning, and cultural connection. Establishing a Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the library system builds upon this role by recognizing music as an essential form of learning, expression, and community well-being.

By leveraging existing library infrastructure, this program can reach:

- **Keiki, youth, and families with limited access to formal music education**
- **Rural and neighbor island communities**
- **Kūpuna and lifelong learners**
- **Community members who may not otherwise attend concerts or arts programming**

Expanding Access to Music Education and Performance

This pilot program would meaningfully expand access to:

- Live, public musical performances
- Workshops, demonstrations, and interactive music learning opportunities
- Exposure to local musicians, cultural practitioners, and educators

For many residents, particularly those in under-resourced areas, cost, transportation, and availability are significant barriers to music education and live performance. This program directly addresses those barriers by bringing music into free, familiar, and community-centered spaces.

Cultural and Educational Impact

Music is deeply embedded in Hawai‘i’s cultural heritage and contemporary creative life. Supporting music accessibility through public libraries:

- Honors Hawai‘i’s diverse musical traditions
- Supports local artists and cultural practitioners
- Encourages intergenerational learning and community connection
- Contributes to social-emotional well-being and creative development

Research consistently shows that engagement with music supports cognitive development, academic engagement, and social connection. This program complements formal arts education while also serving community members of all ages.

Why a Pilot Program Matters

Establishing this initiative as a pilot program allows the State to:

- Assess community demand and participation
- Evaluate program models and partnerships
- Gather data to inform future expansion or permanent implementation

With appropriate funding, the Music Accessibility Pilot Program can serve as a scalable, cost-effective model for expanding arts access statewide.

Conclusion

I strongly urge the Legislature to support this measure and provide the necessary funding to establish the Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawai‘i State Public Library System. This investment affirms that music is not a luxury, but a public good, and that access to the arts should be available to all residents, regardless of age, income, or location.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your commitment to education, culture, and community well-being in Hawai‘i.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 12:34:34 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Watanabe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB1764 because access to music in a safe, inclusive environment like the public libraries is a terrific idea. Instrumental music helps the brain to process and comprehend. Collaboration between the libraries and music organizations will further exposure for young people and their families. I personally have attended several music events at Waikiki & Salt Lake Public Library and can vouch for the benefits of programs like these. Music connects communities and for the keiki who attend, it allows them to have a chance to see live performances and interact with the musicians who are performing. I've seen people come in tired and leave with a smile on their faces after hearing the performances at the libraries. It is a great opportunity to expand the reach and what our libraries do to serve the community. Libraries are a vital part of the community. I hope you will support this bill to allow libraries to further the great work they already are doing in our communities.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 12:36:39 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ARNOLD A. ALCONCEL	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony for HB1764

Hearing: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 9:30 a.m.

Subject: In Strong Support of HB1764 – Establishing the Music Accessibility Pilot Program

Dear Chairperson, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am honored to submit testimony in strong support of HB1764, which establishes the Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS). I write today as a lifelong resident, concerned constituent and music educator for the past 34 years who recognizes the vital role that music plays in the cultural, educational, and economic life of our island 'ohana. This legislation advances equitable access to music, fosters lifelong learning, and strengthens community connections throughout our islands.

Music Education and Access Challenges in Hawai'i

Access to music education and live performance remains inconsistent across Hawai'i. Far too many of our public schools do not offer comprehensive music programs, meaning many students—particularly in rural and neighbor island communities—have limited exposure to formal music education and quality music resources.

Organizations such as the Hawai'i Youth Symphony (HYS) and Oahu Band Directors Association(OBDA) fill critical gaps, serving hundreds of students from dozens of schools and providing countless hours of music instruction and performances. Yet a statewide infrastructure is still needed to ensure every person has meaningful opportunities to explore,experience, and create music.

Public Libraries as Community Music Hubs

Public libraries serve all residents regardless of age, income, or geographic location. By embedding music programming into HSPLS, the state leverages existing community infrastructure to:

- Bring live music performances and interactive concerts to neighborhoods that lack traditional music venues.
- Provide free or low-cost music education, workshops, and resources that inspire music creativity and learning.
- Support local musicians with new platforms to teach and perform, fostering sustainable careers and community engagement.

This pilot program is not just about performance; it's about access, education, and inclusion. In communities where music education is otherwise scarce, this initiative can make a profound difference.

Expanding Cultural Participation Across the State

Arts and culture are significant to Hawai'i's economy and quality of life. The creative industries—including performing arts and music—comprise a multibillion-dollar segment of the state's GDP, supporting nearly 50,000 jobs statewide. Engaging residents through music helps sustain that creative economy while enriching social and educational outcomes for keiki and kūpuna alike. By connecting libraries with music access, Hawai'i sends a powerful message: the arts are for everyone. HB1764 creates a tangible pathway for communities across all islands to experience the transformative power of music.

I strongly urge the committee to pass HB1764. Investing in music accessibility through our public library system will strengthen communities, support local artists, and nurture the next generation of Hawai'i's creative students and citizens. Lastly for example and on a personal note, investing in music accessibility will help to ensure people such as my former student, Cayne Hiraoka (Castle High School '24), will be exposed and nurtured by the beauty and art of music. While a senior at Castle High School, Cayne was given the opportunity to be a soloist with the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra for the Symphony In The Park Nā Hōkū 'Ōpio Young Stars Concert on July 24, 2024 at Kailua District Park. This annual concert is a favorite and very well attended concert for the Windward Community of Oahu.

<https://youtu.be/221O-kZZLHQ?si=HbTUwvE6ZxYO2XTb>

Cayne is currently in his 2nd year at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa majoring in Music Education and is the university's principal student saxophonist.

Mahalo for your leadership and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Arnold A. Alconcel

Band Director, Castle High School (1996-2026)

https://youtu.be/wk_-tt1r-dQ?si=17Br9iKaMNKxxyK0

General Music Teacher, Kalakaua Intermediate School (1993-1996)

Band Director, Kaimuki Intermediate School (1992-1993)

Band Director, (Aiea Intermediate School (1992)

Former President Oahu Band Directors Association

Former Chairperson Oahu Band Directors Association High School Select Band

Director, Hawai'i All State Marching Band 2024 Tournament of Roses Parade
Pasadena, California

https://youtu.be/V6DgvvVNc7c?si=_nQ6DGEqKbgWjHYQ

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 12:45:51 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair Representative Sam Satoru Kong, and Members of the Committee,

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

Director of Advancement

Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 1:03:25 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Sergent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

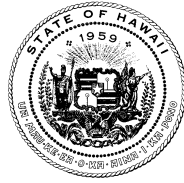
Comments:

I SUPPORT HB1764 because access to music in a safe, inclusive environments like our public libraries is wonderful idea. I have personally attended and enjoyed several free community concerts hosted by the Salt Lake-Moanalua, Kaimuki, Waikiki-Kapahulu library branches. It has been great to see these concerts attended by community members who may not otherwise attend performances due to lack of accessibility. These performances create a more inviting space for, in particular, families with young children who may be more hesitant to attend concerts in a more formal setting. Young children especially stand to benefit from this program as music helps the brain process, comprehend, and develop other skills.

Collaboration between the libraries and music organizations will further exposure for young people and their families.

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

**House Committee on Culture & Arts
February 4, 2026, 9:30 am
State Capitol, Room 309**

HB 1764 – Relating to the Music Accessibility Pilot Program

To: Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Chair
Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Culture & Arts

The Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) supports HB 1764 to establish a music accessibility pilot program within the Hawai'i State Public Library System. The purpose of the program is 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 and your continued support of our communities and the Hawai'i State Public Library System.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 2:38:16 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Browne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Music is a vital part of life in Hawai‘i. Not everyone has access to high quality music or music education. This bill would be a wonderful step towards providing equity for music.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 3:57:26 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret A. Perkinson, PhD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1764.

Margaret A. Perkinson, PhD

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 4:20:18 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB1764 because access to MUSIC in a safe, inclusive environment like the public libraries is a terrific idea. Instrumental music helps the brain to process and comprehend. Collaboration between the libraries and music organizations will further exposure for young people and their families. I personally have attended La Sorellanza's performance at the main branch of the Hawaii State Library and can vouch for the benefits of programs like these.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 5:28:48 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support of HB 1764**, which recognizes the value of classical music programming in Hawai‘i’s public libraries and the important role libraries play as accessible artistic and educational spaces.

Our Hawaii State Public Library System is among our most trusted and equitable civic institutions. Our libraries serve as safe havens, learning hubs, and gathering places for people of all ages, backgrounds, and income levels. Their strategic geographic distribution across the state (including rural and neighbor island communities) makes them uniquely positioned to function as public centers for live music and arts engagement.

It is also important to acknowledge that many community-based organizations already bring classical music to public libraries. These efforts reflect a broad ecosystem and range of youth, collegiate, and professional musicians, and music educators, who use and rely on libraries as inclusive venues for live performance, learning, and community connection.

As this bill moves forward, I respectfully encourage the Legislature to ensure that its implementation supports and sustains this wider field of contributors, so that libraries remain open, welcoming stages for musicians of many ages and backgrounds.

Strengthening libraries as vibrant centers for music deepens access, supports intergenerational learning and connection, and reinforces the library’s role as a cornerstone of public life. For these reasons, I urge your **support** of HB 1764.



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

Governor
Josh Green, M.D.

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Keith A. Regan

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Chris Lee
Jeanne Kapela

Executive Director
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808.586.0300

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sfca.hawaii.gov

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

**Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE & ARTS
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026 Conference Room 309 at 9:30AM**

**HOUSE BILL 1764
RELATING TO
THE MUSIC ACCESSIBILITY PILOT PROGRAM**

Dear Chair Kapela and members of the Committee,

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 **SUPPORTS** H.B. 1764, 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. Appropriates funds.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts supports programs such as the proposed music accessibility program that will provide a thriving arts experience to all participating residents.

The SFCA currently administers a similar program, the Outreach Initiative Program, which is supported by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts. The program supports statewide touring and outreach activities that increase opportunities for individuals to experience different forms of artistic and cultural expression and engagement.

The touring program prioritizes underserved communities, including rural areas, socio-economically and geographically disadvantaged populations, disadvantaged youth, Native or immigrant groups, and individuals with varying abilities. Activities must be accessible, held in person at public venues such as senior centers, libraries, and public housing, or offered in a hybrid online format, and must serve at least three islands.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts encourages the administrator of the proposed program in the measure to follow similar criteria.

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

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 6:19:21 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB1764 - Music Accessibility Pilot Program withing the Hawai'i State Library System.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 6:37:39 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabrielle Igarta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1764 because access to music in a safe, inclusive environment like the public libraries expands the areas where music education can reach. Libraries are a vital structure for the public to access knowledge, especially to rural areas where the local library is a lifeline for necessary services. Collaboration between the libraries and music organizations will further expose music to young people and their families, and other library patrons who may otherwise not be regular concert attendees, thus strengthening a sense of community.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 8:55:13 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Wilmer Patio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please provide our children and community the opportunities for growth, confidence building, connection and joy that music can provide. In a time of so much divisiveness, we need more positive outlets like this to bring us together. I am in full support of this measure.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:26:22 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cameron Goya Lynde	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1764**TO:** Members of the Hawaii State House of Representatives**FROM:** Cameron Goya Lynde**RE:** HB1764 — Music Accessibility Pilot Program

Aloha Chair and Members,

I write in strong support of HB1764.

Music is not a luxury. It is a public good that strengthens learning, mental health, cultural connection, and community life. Yet for many residents — especially on neighbor islands — access to live music and musical education is limited by geography and cost.

HB1764 directly addresses this by bringing concerts and music education into our public libraries, spaces that already serve as trusted community hubs. This bill expands access for families on Hawaii Island, Kauai, and Maui, while also supporting local musicians and encouraging new works rooted in Hawaii's unique heritage.

This is a thoughtful, efficient use of public resources. It meets people where they already are, invests in local artists, and creates shared cultural experiences that reach beyond traditional concert halls. For keiki, kupuna, and everyone in between, this program offers meaningful access to creativity and connection.

At its heart, HB1764 affirms that the arts belong to everyone — not just those who can afford tickets or travel.

I respectfully urge your support for HB1764.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Cameron Goya Lynde



HAWAI'I
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

DANE LAM | MUSIC AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Regular Session of 2026
House Committee on Culture & Arts
Testimony by Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra
February 4, 2026

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

Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Committee,

As Music and Artistic Director and President and CEO, respectively, of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, and we thank you and request your continued 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, which are more readily available on O'ahu, can be shared more 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. 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.

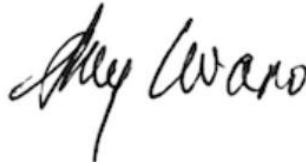
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dane Lam". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dane" being more prominent than the last name "Lam".

Dane Lam

Music and Artistic Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Iwano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" being more prominent than the last name "Iwano".

Amy Iwano

President and CEO

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:11:12 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support HB 1764.

This bill establishes the Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawaii State Public Library System and expands access to public concerts and musical education throughout the State.

As a supporter of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, the Masterworks Series and other programs, access to live music of all kinds is important to our culture, the arts and our way of life.

Funds are needed for this program. Please support HB 1764. Thank you.

Ted Meehan

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:56:14 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ginny tiu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you very much for your consideration to support HB1764. Designating our world class Hawaii Symphony Orchestra as the State's symphony orchestra would give Hawaii one more thing to be so proud of.

Mahalo,

Ginny Tiu



Testimony of Katie Pickman
General Manager – Hawai'i News Now

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1764 - Music Accessibility Pilot Program

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

My name is Katie Pickman, and I am a parent and resident of Hawai'i. I am writing in strong support of HB1764. As a parent, I have seen firsthand the positive impact that access to music has had on my children, not just as an extracurricular activity, but as a core part of their emotional well-being, academic confidence, and sense of community. When children have opportunities to experience music, through listening, performance, education, and shared participation - they develop valuable life skills that extend far beyond the concert hall.

Research shows that music participation supports children's emotional well-being, social development, and cognitive skills (National Institutes of Health - National Library of Medicine, systematic reviews on music education and child development).

Why this program matters:

- Music supports emotional health, focus, and learning outcomes for children.
- Group music experiences build teamwork, empathy, and self-confidence.
- Music strengthens memory, language, and executive-function skills.
- This program helps ensure more keiki can experience music and the arts.

From my own perspective, expanding access to music is not a luxury, it is an investment in our children's emotional resilience, intellectual growth, and cultural enrichment. Programs like this help nurture the whole child, their heart, mind, and spirit.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to pass HB1764 and support the Music Accessibility Pilot Program in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katie Pickman".

Katie Pickman
General Manager
Hawaii News Now

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:17:47 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Williams	Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association 501(c)(3)	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

My name is Michael Williams, and I serve on the Board of Directors of the Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association (HSGA). I am submitting this testimony on behalf of HSGA to voice our enthusiastic support for HB1764, which establishes the Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawai'i State Public Library System to expand access to public concerts and musical education across the state.

At HSGA, our core mission is the promotion and perpetuation of traditional Hawaiian music, with a special focus on the distinctive "signature sound" of the Hawaiian steel guitar. We strive to cultivate a global network of enthusiasts and practitioners of this art form. HB1764's pilot program would democratize music education and performances, making them available through public libraries and reaching underserved communities. This initiative could directly incorporate traditional Hawaiian music elements, such as steel guitar lessons or concerts, fostering greater appreciation and participation. By enhancing accessibility, the program supports our efforts to preserve and share Hawai'i's musical traditions with future generations and a worldwide audience.

We strongly encourage the committee to advance HB1764 to make music education a cornerstone of community enrichment in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your time and support.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:25:42 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

- ***I SUPPORT HB1764*** because access to MUSIC in a safe, inclusive environment like the public libraries is a terrific idea. Instrumental music helps the brain to process and comprehend. Collaboration between the libraries and music organizations will further exposure for young people and their families. I personally have attended _____ (insert an example of attending a concert in a library) and can vouch for the benefits of programs like these.



**Hawai'i Alliance
for Arts
Education
dba Hawai'i Arts
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February 3, 2026

**Testimony in Support of HB1764
Relating to the Music Accessibility Pilot Program**

Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the
Committee:

My name is **Gaye Humphrey**, and I submit this testimony on behalf
of the **Hawai'i Arts Alliance** in **support of HB1764**.

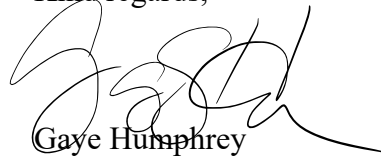
HB1764 advances a simple but powerful idea: using our public
libraries as welcoming community hubs to expand access to live music
and music education across Hawai'i. By establishing a Music
Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawai'i State Public Library
System, this bill helps ensure that residents—particularly on Hawai'i
Island, Kaua'i, and Maui—have greater opportunities to experience
public concerts and musical learning close to home.

We appreciate that this measure supports local musicians, encourages
cultural collaboration, and allows for partnerships with organizations
such as the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra, while remaining a time-
limited pilot with clear reporting back to the Legislature. This
thoughtful approach allows the State to learn what works and build
from there.

Music brings people together, strengthens community, and deepens
cultural connection. HB1764 offers a practical, community-centered
way to expand access while supporting Hawai'i's musicians and
cultural life.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify, and we respectfully urge your
support of HB1764.

Kind regards,


Gaye Humphrey
Executive Director
Hawai'i Arts Alliance

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:56:38 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Representative Kapela, Vice Chair Representative Kong and Members of the Committee on Culture and the Arts.

Please support HB 1764 which, to my understanding, would be helpful to the people of Hawaii by allowing more access to public concerts and musical education.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

The Hawaii Symphony is an important cultural institution that should be shared with the entire state of Hawaii. Supporting HSO provides an opportunity to enrich the lives of everyone in Hawaii. The orchestra is made up of eighty exceptional musicians and is lead by a dynamic conductor and music director, Dan Lam. The orchestra is also most fortunate to have the talents and skills of its superb resident composer, Michael Thomas Foumai.

I discovered HSO four years ago when I moved to Honolulu. I was astonished to discover how exceptional this orchestra is. The fact that so many talented professional musicians are present here on Oahu in the middle of the Pacific Ocean is amazing. They play a wide variety of styles including classical, Hawaiian, movie scores, and jazz. The versatility is incredible.

HSO has certainly enhanced my life. Now I would like to see it expanded so that more people in our state can share these benefits through more public concerts and music education.

HSO is truly an Oahu treasure and it needs to be available to everyone in the state. I urge you to pass HB1764.

Robin Ching

February 2, 2026

The Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Hawai'i State House of Representatives

Culture and Arts

Honorable, Jeanne Kapela, *Chair*

Honorable, Sam Satoru Kong, *Vice Chair*

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Culture & Arts

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1764; Music Accessibility Pilot Program

Dear Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the committee,

My name is Christopher Cabrera, and I serve as the General Manager of Chamber Music Hawai'i (CMH). I am writing in strong support of HB1764, the Music Accessibility Pilot Program.

Public libraries are among Hawai'i's most powerful and underutilized cultural assets. Beyond access to books, technology, and educational services, libraries function as trusted community gathering spaces where residents of all ages can engage in lifelong learning. HB1764 recognizes this reality by investing in music as an essential public good delivered through an existing statewide infrastructure.

With 52 branches across the islands, the Hawai'i State Public Library System inherently embeds equity across geography and demographics. Access to live music through libraries is not determined by zip code, income level, or island of residence. This bill ensures that cultural access is built into the system itself.

Chamber Music Hawai'i is uniquely positioned to speak to the merits of this proposal. Founded in 1982, CMH presents our resident ensembles (Galliard String Quartet, Honolulu Brass Quintet, Spring Wind Quintet) through concerts and educational presentations. Made up of members from the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Hawaiian Band, our musicians are experienced and highly trained professionals. Through our Statewide Touring Program, we have partnered extensively with the Hawai'i State Public Library System to deliver free, high-quality chamber music performances across Hawai'i Island, Kaua'i, Lāna'i, Maui, Moloka'i, and O'ahu. On average, CMH presents approximately 30 free performances and musical demonstrations annually in libraries, schools, and community spaces.

Since the fall of 2022, we've proudly visited and performed at over 20 library branches, serving over 1,300 community members:

Aina Haina Public Library
Hanapēpē Public Library
Hawai'i Kai Public Library
Honoka'a Public Library
Kahuku Public and School Library

Kailua Public Library
Kāne'ohe Public Library
Kapolei Public Library
Kihei Public Library
Lahainaluna High School

Lāna'i Public and School Library
Laupāhoehoe Public and School Library
Liliha Public Library
Mililani Public Library
Moanalua Public Library
Nā'ālehu Public Library

Nānākuli Public Library
Pearl City Public Library
Salt-Lake Moanalua Public Library
Waianae Public Library
Waikīkī-Kapahulu Public Library
Waimea Public Library

From our firsthand experience, library-based music programming supports learning, not just entertainment. These performances frequently incorporate narration, musical demonstrations, and audience interaction, aligning directly with libraries' educational missions. For keiki and students, these programs reinforce listening skills, curiosity, and musical literacy. For adults and kūpuna, live music in libraries fosters cognitive engagement, social connection, and overall well-being. Libraries offer an accessible, welcoming environment where first-time audiences feel comfortable engaging with live music.

HB1764 also represents a high return on investment for the State. Library-based performances require minimal overhead, utilize existing public spaces, and consistently draw strong attendance due to their free and accessible nature. A single allocation of \$600,000 has the potential to support hundreds of performances across multiple islands, while also enabling partnerships with several local arts organizations. Rather than creating a new delivery system, this pilot program strengthens and scales a model that is already working.

Importantly, this bill also supports Hawai'i-based musicians serving the public. The Music Accessibility Pilot Program helps sustain local artists, provides meaningful employment opportunities, and keeps cultural resources circulating within our communities. It invests in Hawai'i's creative workforce while delivering tangible public benefit.

CMH's track record demonstrates proof of concept. The demand is real, the infrastructure exists, and the outcomes are measurable. In our experience, when music is brought into libraries, communities show up. The impact is immediate and lasting.

In short, HB1764 formalizes a proven approach to cultural access, education, and equity by leveraging the statewide reach of our public libraries. For these reasons, Chamber Music Hawai'i strongly supports HB1764.

Respectfully,



Christopher Cabrera
General Manager
Chamber Music Hawai'i

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:41:45 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Orr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of the music accessibility pilot program. I feel strongly that music education plays an active role in brain development and academic success. Including music education in libraries makes a perfect match. I witnessed how my sons developed the skill of reading with confidence after participating in band class at school. That means they were in seventh grade before they read books with confidence.

Music performance requires using all the senses to watch the leader and the music, to hold an instrument (or clap correct rhythm), to hear the sound, to start and stop their sound on time, etc. Using all the senses kept my sons engaged in the learning process while their skills developed. Mistakes are obvious when the sound comes out wrong which encouraged more practice.

Band class was a group setting where movement and talking were allowed, giving permission to actively participate, rather than sit still at a desk alone.

Being part of an ensemble required my sons to keep pace with the group and demanded that they accurately read across the line and down the page—skills that reading alone in a quiet setting had not developed because it was too easy to be distracted.

Music performance demands sustained attention to play a song correctly to the end. Progress is easy to measure as the melody and harmony take shape.

Pairing music education in public libraries may allow other children of the island to gain those academic skills much earlier than seventh grade.

Access to concerts cannot begin soon enough in my opinion. Exposure to quality performance opens the eyes, heart, and mind to possibilities.

I watched my five-year-old granddaughter take in the imagination of Beethoven last spring when we attended a free concert by the Honolulu Symphony. For her, it was a magical experience. She had never seen some of the instruments that were on the stage that day.

The maestro suggested animal themes with the different musical phrases, and she was right with him. She whispered to me throughout the performance how the ducks, fish, or flowers were

interacting as she imagined them while the music played. She described sunshine and storms before the maestro magically put everything to sleep.

I repeat, exposure to quality performance cannot come too soon.

Please begin this pilot program, then quickly expand it for the benefit of all our children.

Thank you for considering my testimony.



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAI'I®
MĀNOA

Music Department
College of Arts, Languages & Letters

February 3, 2026

To whom It May Concern:

I support HB1764 because access to music in a safe, inclusive environment like a public library is a terrific idea! There are countless studies that document the positive effects of music. Collaborations between libraries and music organizations will expose more people to the healing effects of music and broaden the connections between arts organizations and our community. I have personally attended music programs at libraries in Salt Lake, Kaimuki and Waikiki: people love it. The arts create a more vibrant community and this idea seems like a no-brainer. I support!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JS".

Joseph Stepec
Associate Professor of Music
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Symphony Program Director
Hawai'i Youth Symphony

Artistic Director
Pacific Music Institute

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:11:50 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiara Womack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong support of HB 1764.

Mahalo nui, Kiara

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:27:54 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mamiko Carroll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou, I am testifying in SUPPORT of HV1764, establishing a Music Accessibility Pilot Program. Expanding access is necessary, especially for rural communities.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:02:38 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gena Whitten	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support making classical music accessible through our public libraries and schools. Thank you.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:10:42 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

The Public Library offers a wonderful platform for making concerts and music education accessible to the public. I support the program to spread the benefits of music to a wider audience and especially to the young people.

Lucy Goodell



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Representative Jeanne Kapela, Chair
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair
Committee on Culture & Arts

RE: HB 1764 - Relating to the Music Accessibility Pilot Program – In Support
Wednesday, February 4, 2026; 9:30 AM
Conference room 309

Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong 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, 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 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

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 1:11:24 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan O'Shea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in heavy favor of House Bill 1764.

200 years ago, American missionaries came to the Kingdom of Hawai'i. They deemed that Hawaiian chant was sinful and against Christian beliefs, so they suppressed it. Even worse, the bans on teaching in Olelo Hawai'i further suppressed the transmission of Hawaiian music, an artistic medium deeply tied to language.

Today, work has been ongoing to revive this part of culture, but comprehensive music education is only accessible in 5% of our public schools, which includes performance, theory, creation, and especially history. I strongly believe that HB1764 can solve this problem.

Personally, I am super invested in this bill because I love making music, and I am lucky enough to be in a school where the deep history of our islands' music is taught in a way that we can understand and associate with. These lessons give so much meaning to the mele I perform, and I believe that this history is vital to having a holistic understanding of our culture. I realize just how many students aren't as fortunate as myself, and I wholeheartedly stand in support of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ryan O'Shea

Sophomore at Kalaheo HS

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 4:34:27 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcela Montalto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill that *establishes the Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawai'i State Public Library System to expand access to public concerts and musical education throughout the State. Access to the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestral's music should be widely accessible by all Hawaiian residents.*

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:46:58 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brenner Danielson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the committee,

While supporting the arts and promoting access to music is a noble goal, it is not one that requires government assistance at this time. Access to music has never been more readily available through modern technology, as well as through small musicians performing at bars and other local venues.

Additionally, funding such a venture is unwise given the state's current financial challenges. As taxpayers, we must limit our expenses during times of limited resources, and it is reasonable to expect the government to do the same by prioritizing essential services.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-1764

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:26:04 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Young	CARES Community Advocacy Research Education Services	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Please consider amendment to consult with nonprofits, businesses, other state offices & county offices such as Friends of the Library and Department of Education to implement an effective problem.