



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <https://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Director

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE & ARTS

Wednesday, February 4, 2026
9:30AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

in consideration of
HB2117
RELATING TO THE ARTS.

Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the House Committee on Culture & Arts, the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) offers the following **comments with amendments** on HB2117, which establishes the Mapping of Arts Data for Education (MADE) Task Force to conduct a study and develop a comprehensive, publicly available statewide database and geographic information systems (GIS) map of arts entities and programs engaged in arts and arts education.

OPSD supports the intent of HB2117 and understands the value of developing a publicly accessible GIS map and data set of arts entities and arts education programs. However, given the relatively short duration of the MADE Task Force, it will be challenging to develop and maintain the outreach lists, data schema, survey tools, and data visualizations associated with this study for the full breadth of arts organizations and education programs in the State.

OPSD recommends the following **revisions**:

1. Add an appropriation to this bill to ensure that there are sufficient resources available to carry out this work;
2. Extend the sunset date for the MADE Task Force; and
3. Narrow the scope in the first calendar year of the effort to music organizations and music education programs as a pilot to gain experience and resolve issues related to coordinating, collaborating, collecting, compiling, visualizing, and maintaining the data.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND ARTS

Wednesday, February 04, 2026
9:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
415 South Beretania Street

In consideration of
HB2117
RELATING TO THE ARTS

Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) offers comments on HB2117, which establishes the Mapping of Arts Data for Education (MADE) Task Force to conduct a comprehensive statewide survey, develop a publicly accessible database and geographic information system (GIS) map of arts entities and programs and provide a report on all findings to the Legislature.

DBEDT supports the intent and requests the committee adopt the amendments recommended by the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, as subject matter experts in developing GIS maps.

The creation of a centralized, statewide database addressing arts education and the creative economy will provide essential tools for identifying gaps in education, access, coordinating services, and aiding in decision making regarding policy, funding, and program development.

By leveraging advances in geographic information systems and open data platforms, the MADE Task Force will create transparent, accessible resources that benefit communities statewide. This initiative aligns with DBEDT's commitment to fostering workforce development and promoting economic growth through Hawai'i's vibrant creative sector.

While certain counties have developed geographic information system tools, these are limited in scope and do not comprehensively capture statewide data. This measure will enable nonprofit administrators, business leaders, philanthropists, lawmakers, educators, and grant makers to better understand the geographic distribution and availability of arts programs across all counties, ultimately supporting equitable access to arts education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2117

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 11:00:18 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorrin Hirano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Lorrin Hirano, a board member of the Hawaii Youth Symphony. I strongly support, and respectfully urge the Committee to pass and advance House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts. We believe that Music and the Arts are not just a privilege, but rather they are a right to which all students are entitled. This Bill will help create a database and map that will greatly improve the ability of government administrators, nonprofit organizations, philanthropists, educators, and other stakeholders and interested parties to identify ways to increase access to the Arts for students across the entire State. A creative economy is essential to the well-being of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts.

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 3:06:12 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis Higashiguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a supporter of arts education, I urge support for HB2117. A public arts database and GIS mapping tool will strengthen nonprofits' ability to secure grants, illustrate community needs, and collaborate across sectors to expand access to the arts in Hawai'i.

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:10:44 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:

HB2117 is needed to hold the Department of Education accountable for providing arts education to all students.

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:38:29 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'm writing in support of HB2117 to support equitable access to music and arts education in our schools and communities. As a musician myself, I can personally attest to the ways that arts education develops creativity, cognition, interpersonal and communicative skills, and a host of other benefits that stay with a person their whole life. This bill will help do the important work of helping arts organizations, lawmakers, educators, artists, and arts supporters work together to ensure music and the arts are a right for all. The information gained by this taskforce will help organizations plan programs, and serve more students equitably across our islands.

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:48:36 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 2117: RELATING TO THE ARTS.**Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:**

I am Dr. Kimo Alexander Cashman (Faculty, University of Hawai‘i-Mānoa, College of Education), and I am in strong support of HB 2117, which will establish the Mapping of Arts Data Task Force to conduct a study and develop a comprehensive, publicly available statewide database and geographic information systems map of arts entities and programs engaged in arts and arts education. This bill will play a critical role in advancing arts education policy in Hawai‘i’s elementary, middle, and high schools. Today, Hawai‘i is one of the few states that does not require arts instruction at any level of K–12 education — despite overwhelming evidence that the arts are a vital component of a complete, well-rounded education.

National Context: Arts Education Policy

According to national data compiled from the National Center for Education Statistics and state policy analyses:

- 45 states require arts instruction at the elementary school level — but Hawai‘i does not have such a requirement.**
- 45 states require arts instruction at the middle school level — again, Hawai‘i is not among them.**
- 44 states require arts instruction at the high school level, yet Hawai‘i lacks a state policy mandating this core educational experience.**
- Only 26 states require students to earn course credits in the arts for high school graduation — Hawai‘i currently does not include arts credits as a graduation requirement.**

These findings mirror those reported in the 2015 state policy snapshot — which revealed that nearly all states recognize arts education as essential enough to require it within their statutory frameworks, but that Hawai‘i is one of only a handful without such mandates.

Why This Matters

Research shows that participation in the arts supports:

- **Cognitive development, including critical thinking and problem solving.**
- **Academic engagement and achievement, especially when arts are integrated across curricula.**
- **Social-emotional learning, fostering creativity, collaboration, and resilience.**

While statewide standards and local implementation are important, without a clear statutory requirement, schools can — and often do — prioritize tested subjects like reading and math at the expense of the arts.

Hawai‘i’s Opportunity

Hawai‘i’s students deserve the same access to comprehensive arts education that 44+ states provide. Establishing arts instruction requirements at the elementary, middle, and high school levels — and including arts credit toward graduation — would:

- **Ensure consistency across all public schools.**
- **Support equitable access for all students, regardless of ZIP code or socioeconomic status.**
- **Strengthen Hawai‘i’s cultural, creative, and economic future by nurturing the next generation of artists, designers, educators, and innovators.**

Conclusion

I respectfully urge this body to adopt policy that requires sequential, standards-based arts instruction across K–12, and to include arts course credits in Hawaii’s graduation requirements. Doing so aligns Hawai‘i with the vast majority of states, affirms the value of the arts in a complete education, and supports our keiki’s academic and creative success.

Mahalo for your consideration.



Testimony in Strong Support of HB 2117 – Relating to the Arts

Dear Chair Kapela and Members of the Committee,

I write in strong support of HB 2117, which establishes the Mapping of Arts Data for Education (MADE) Task Force to create a comprehensive, publicly accessible statewide database and geographic information system map of music and arts entities and programs.

For too long, Hawai'i has lacked a unified understanding of where music and arts education opportunities exist and where gaps remain. By conducting a statewide survey to identify program types, populations served, and geographic distribution, this measure takes an essential step toward ensuring equitable access for communities across our state.

In my role as President & CEO of Hawai'i Youth Symphony, I have experienced firsthand the difficulty of defining and addressing opportunity gaps without statewide data. While indicators of need are sometimes visible, the absence of a coordinated data system limits our ability to quantify disparities, align resources, and collaborate at scale. Without geographic visibility, we risk allocating limited resources based on history or assumption, rather than demonstrated community need. When visibility is limited, well-intended investments can unintentionally bypass the very communities they are meant to serve.

A comprehensive mapping effort is necessary for Hawai'i leaders to move beyond assumptions, and to build equitable access for all. Although collecting clean, reliable data requires discipline, doing so builds the foundation for smarter public and private investment, stronger cross-sector coordination, and more responsive planning.

Modern geographic information systems now make it possible to organize arts data so that it can be analyzed alongside other publicly available datasets such as poverty, housing, education, census, and transportation. Viewed together, these layers can reveal patterns of both access and invisibility, helping guide informed decisions.

Importantly, the proposed dataset is descriptive rather than evaluative; it maps availability and distribution without judging program quality. This approach encourages broad participation while establishing critical infrastructure for long-term planning across education, workforce development, and community well-being.

As a nonprofit leader, arts administrator, and community member, I see every day how access to music and arts education strengthens young people and the communities in which they live. HB 2117 builds the infrastructure necessary for Hawai'i to make informed, future-oriented decisions about music and arts education and access.

I respectfully urge your support for this forward-looking measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Wong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Randy" and last name "Wong" clearly distinguishable.

Randy Wong
President & CEO, Hawai'i Youth Symphony

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 12:23:44 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 HB2117 because a statewide arts data map will help communities like mine see where arts education exists and where it doesn't. Music and the arts are vital experiences that all youth should have the ability to access. Not having data like this makes it very difficult for organizations that support arts education to know where there is a need for arts education programs and to obtain funding. This information will help organizations plan programs, and serve more students equitably across our islands. Thank you for your consideration and time. I hope you will give your full support to this bill.

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 12:47:14 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'm writing in SUPPORT of HB2117 because a statewide arts data map will help communities like mine see where arts education and programs exist and where they don't. Music and the arts are vital experiences that everyone, but especially our youth, should have the ability to access.

As a musician who is involved with multiple arts organizations in Hawai'i, I can personally attest to the importance of equitable access to music and the arts in our schools and communities. This bill will help arts organizations, lawmakers, educators, artists, and supporters work together to ensure music and the arts are a right for all.

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 1:00:56 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandy Chen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Sandy Chen, a parent of the Hawaii Youth Symphony. I strongly support, and respectfully urge the Committee to pass and advance House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts. I believe that any form of Art plays an important role in a student's education, and in particular playing music has been proven to enhance the development of a youth's cognitive skills, language ability, and physical dexterity. Your support of this measure will help to serve more students equitably across our islands. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts.

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 1:11:37 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Todd	Moanalua High School Music Department	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Todd Oshima , a alumni of the Hawai‘i Youth Symphony and current music director of the largest music department in Hawai‘i We have 600 students participating in music here at Moanalua High School. I strongly support, and respectfully urge the Committee to pass and advance House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts. We believe that Music and the Arts are a right to which all students are entitled. This Bill will help create a database and map that will greatly improve the ability of government administrators, nonprofit organizations, philanthropists, educators, and other stakeholders and interested parties to identify ways to increase access to the Arts for students across the entire State. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts.

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 1:30:15 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Simon	Simon Leadership Group	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Scott Simon, a supporter of the Hawaii Youth Symphony and founder of Simon Leadership Group. I strongly support, and respectfully urge the Committee to pass and advance House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts. We believe that Music and the Arts are a right to which all students are entitled. This Bill will help create a database and map that will greatly improve the ability of government administrators, nonprofit organizations, philanthropists, educators, and other stakeholders and interested parties to identify ways to increase access to the Arts for students across the entire State. The leadership of Hawaii Youth Symphony has been very proactive, dedicated, and resourceful in connecting youth throughout our community with music, and this Bill will help to magnify the positive impact of their efforts. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts.

I am David Masunaga and for over 50 years I have supported the programs and mission of the Hawaii Youth Symphony as an alumnus, volunteer and donor. I strongly support and respectfully urge the Committee to pass and advance House Bill 2117 Relating to the Arts. We believe that Music and the Arts are a right to which all students are entitled. This Bill will help create a database and map that will greatly improve the ability of government administrators, nonprofit organizations, philanthropists, educators, and other stakeholders and interested parties to identify ways to increase access to the Arts for students across the entire State of Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 2117 Relating to the Arts.

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 2:35:20 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:

In order to provide a quality education to our Hawai'i students, they must have arts in the curriculum. Understanding where and what we are already teaching would be invaluable to providing a complete and equitable education. Thank you for proposing to create an on-line map for arts education!

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 3:05:45 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirk Shitaoka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Kirk Shitaoka, a parent of the Hawaii Youth Symphony. I strongly support, and respectfully urge the Committee to pass and advance House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts. I believe that any form of Art plays an important role in a student's education, and in particular playing music has been proven to enhance the development of a youth's cognitive skills, language ability, and physical dexterity. Your support of this measure will help to serve more students equitably across our islands. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts.



**Hawai'i Alliance
for Arts
Education
dba Hawai'i Arts
Alliance**

February 2, 2026

Testimony in Support of HB2117

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 HB2117**.

HB2117 proposes a thoughtful and practical step toward strengthening arts and arts education statewide by establishing the Mapping of Arts Data for Education (MADE) Task Force. Across Hawai'i, arts programs exist in schools, libraries, nonprofits, and community spaces—but there is no single, public way to see where these programs are located or where gaps in access remain.

By directing the development of a statewide survey and publicly accessible database and map, this bill will help communities, educators, policymakers, and funders better understand the current landscape of arts and arts education across all counties.

HB2117 lays important groundwork for better coordination, smarter planning, and more equitable access to arts education for students and communities statewide. We believe this shared resource will strengthen Hawai'i's arts ecosystem and support informed decision-making for years to come.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify, and we respectfully urge your support of HB2117.

Respectfully submitted,

Gaye Humphrey
Executive Director
Hawai'i Arts Alliance

P.O. Box 3948
Honolulu, Hawai'i
96812-3948
Phone: (808) 533-2787

arts@hawaiiartsalliance.org
www.hawaiiartsalliance.org

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 3:48:56 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephan Boeker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Stephan Boeker, father of a student of the Hawaii Youth Symphony. I strongly support, and respectfully urge the Committee to pass and advance House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts. I believe that any form of Art plays an important role in a student's education, and in particular playing music has been proven to enhance the development of a youth's cognitive skills, language ability, and physical dexterity. Your support of this measure will help to serve more students equitably across our islands. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts.

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 3:54:34 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 HB2117.

Margaret A. Perkinson, PhD



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/04/2026
Time: 09:30 AM
Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: CAA

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB2117, RELATING TO THE ARTS.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes the Mapping of Arts Data for Education Task Force to conduct a study and develop a comprehensive, publicly available statewide database and geographic information systems map of arts entities and programs engaged in arts and arts education.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education supports HB 2117 but would defer to the Hawaii Youth Symphony in regards to the implementation of the task force.

The Fine Arts program: Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts are foundational to the development of the whole child. By integrating the Fine Arts into our students' learning, we empower our students to express their creativity and explore imagination. Student learning that embraces the Fine Arts enables students to bridge the connections between logic and wonder, connecting to themselves and their environment. Mapping the Fine Arts programs offered by schools, municipal services, nonprofits, and private businesses may be a means to bridge the gap between our existing arts resources and the communities, thus increasing opportunities for students to further explore the arts.

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

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 4:17:57 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'm writing in **SUPPORT** of **HB2117** to support equitable access to music and arts education in our schools and communities. As a musician myself, I can personally attest to the ways that it develops creativity, cognition, interpersonal, communicative, and other disciplines. This bill will help arts organizations, lawmakers, educators, artists, and supporters and work together to ensure music and the arts are a right for all.*

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 4:17:57 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'm writing in **SUPPORT** of **HB2117** to support equitable access to music and arts education in our schools and communities. As a musician myself, I can personally attest to the ways that it develops creativity, cognition, interpersonal, communicative, and other disciplines. This bill will help arts organizations, lawmakers, educators, artists, and supporters and work together to ensure music and the arts are a right for all.*



Testimony in Strong Support of HB 2117 – Relating to the Arts

Dear Chair Kapela and Members of the Committee,

I write in strong support of HB 2117, which establishes the Mapping of Arts Data for Education (MADE) Task Force to create a comprehensive, publicly accessible statewide database and geographic information system map of music and arts entities and programs.

For too long, Hawai'i has lacked a unified understanding of where music and arts education opportunities exist and where gaps remain. By conducting a statewide survey to identify program types, populations served, and geographic distribution, this measure takes an essential step toward ensuring equitable access for communities across our state.

In my role as President & CEO of Hawai'i Youth Symphony, I have experienced firsthand the difficulty of defining and addressing opportunity gaps without statewide data. While indicators of need are sometimes visible, the absence of a coordinated data system limits our ability to quantify disparities, align resources, and collaborate at scale. Without geographic visibility, we risk allocating limited resources based on history or assumption, rather than demonstrated community need. When visibility is limited, well-intended investments can unintentionally bypass the very communities they are meant to serve.

A comprehensive mapping effort is necessary for Hawai'i leaders to move beyond assumptions, and to build equitable access for all. Although collecting clean, reliable data requires discipline, doing so builds the foundation for smarter public and private investment, stronger cross-sector coordination, and more responsive planning.

Modern geographic information systems now make it possible to organize arts data so that it can be analyzed alongside other publicly available datasets such as poverty, housing, education, census, and transportation. Viewed together, these layers can reveal patterns of both access and invisibility, helping guide informed decisions.

Importantly, the proposed dataset is descriptive rather than evaluative; it maps availability and distribution without judging program quality. This approach encourages broad participation while establishing critical infrastructure for long-term planning across education, workforce development, and community well-being.

As a nonprofit leader, arts administrator, and community member, I see every day how access to music and arts education strengthens young people and the communities in which they live. HB 2117 builds the infrastructure necessary for Hawai'i to make informed, future-oriented decisions about music and arts education and access.

I respectfully urge your support for this forward-looking measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Wong".

Randy Wong
President & CEO, Hawai'i Youth Symphony

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 5:32:49 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noriko	HYS	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Noriko lassoff, a parent of the Hawai'i Youth Symphony. I strongly support, and respectfully urge the Committee to pass and advance House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts. I believe that any form of Art plays an important role in a student's education, and in particular playing music has been proven to enhance the development of a youth's cognitive skills, language ability, and physical dexterity. Your support of this measure will help to serve more students equitably across our islands. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts.



Letter of Support for HB2117

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of 'Ohina Labs, I am writing in strong support of HB2117, which establishes the Mapping of Arts Data for Education Task Force to study and develop a comprehensive, publicly available statewide database and geographic information systems (GIS) map of arts entities and arts education programs across Hawai'i.

'Ohina Labs is a Hawai'i-based nonprofit dedicated to strengthening the local creative economy by supporting filmmakers, storytellers, and media artists through professional development, mentorship, and education. Our work spans multiple islands and communities, particularly those that have historically been underrepresented in the arts sector. Through this work, we have consistently seen how difficult it can be for educators, students, artists, and policymakers to identify existing arts resources, programs, and gaps in access.

HB2117 addresses a critical need. A centralized, publicly accessible mapping of arts and arts education entities will provide invaluable data to inform policy decisions, improve coordination across agencies and organizations, and ensure more equitable distribution of resources statewide. For arts organizations, this mapping tool will strengthen nonprofits' ability to secure grants, illustrate community needs, and collaborate across sectors to expand access to the arts in Hawai'i.

We commend the Legislature for recognizing the importance of data-driven planning in the arts and for advancing a thoughtful, inclusive approach through HB2117. 'Ohina Labs respectfully urges your support for this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Gerard Elmore

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerard Elmore".

Executive Director

'Ohina Labs



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

Governor
Josh Green, M.D.

Comptroller
Keith A. Regan

Chairperson
Konrad Ng

Commissioners
Susan Browne
Sean Connelly
Randall Francisco
Randall Fujiki
Jill Kuramoto
Michael Marshall
Marcia Roberts-
Deustch
Janet Sato

Ex-Officio
Chris Lee
Jeanne Kapela

Executive Director
Karen A. Ewald

Telephone
808.586.0300

Fax
808.586.0308

Website
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 2117
RELATING TO THE ARTS**

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. 2117 which establishes the Mapping of Arts Data for Education (MADE) Task Force to create a comprehensive, publicly accessible statewide database and geographic information system map of arts entities and programs.

Arts data mapping is essential because it makes the creative work of Hawaii's communities visible, measurable, and protectable. Artists, cultural organizations, and creative spaces are often underrepresented from traditional data sources. When they are not counted, they are easily overlooked in funding decisions, policy development, and long-term planning.

Mapping arts data helps us understand where cultural activity actually happens, who is being served, and who is being left out. It reveals inequities in access to resources and allows public and private funders to invest more fairly and effectively.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts requests that there is ample time for the Taskforce to convene and develop a plan to establish a solid foundation and criteria for the data mapping project. The SFCA will also have the capacity to house and manage the data once the development of the project is set.

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

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 6:15:51 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 **HB2117**. Arts education is essential for K-12 students for learning how to think, problem solve and be creative.

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 6:20:36 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'm writing in SUPPORT of HB2117 to support equitable access to music and arts education in our schools and communities. As a musician myself, I can personally attest to the ways that it develops creativity, cognition, interpersonal communication, and other necessary skills for kids to become well-adjusted adults. Music is a bridge that brings people together from diverse backgrounds to share their common humanity.

Knowing where music and arts education programs are can give us a better idea of how to better serve communities where these programs are a cornerstone for a student's growth. This information can also give us ideas of how to improve access to these programs in underserved communities by showing their limitations, such as location, cost, lack of teachers, etc. This bill will help arts organizations, lawmakers, educators, artists, and supporters work together to ensure music and the arts are a right for all.

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 6:59:21 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Airi Nishimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Airi Nishimura, a student of the Hawaii Youth Symphony. I strongly support, and respectfully urge the Committee to pass and advance House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts. Music has been proven to be beneficial to childhood development and enhancement of learning skills for all students. Arts as a whole enrich not only our youth but the community as a whole. A statewide arts data map will help communities like mine see where arts education exists and where it doesn't. This information will be helpful to lawmakers, organizations, and students alike as we seek to make music and the arts a right across all islands. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts.



February 2nd, 2026

House Committee on Culture and Arts

Hearing Time: February 4th at 9:30 AM
Location: State Capitol Room 309
Re: HB2117 Relating to the Arts

Aloha e Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee:

We are writing **in strong support on** HB2117 Relating to the Arts.

This bill will establish the Mapping of Arts Data for Education Task Force to conduct a study and develop a comprehensive, publicly available statewide database and geographic information systems map of arts entities and program engaged in arts and arts education.

The work that will be conducted by the Mapping of Arts Data for Education Task Force will codify a statewide arts data inventory that is transparent and public, strengthening the capacity of educators, non-profit practitioners, cultural institutions, and philanthropists to use data to identify service gaps, guide resource allocation, and create more equitable access to arts education across Hawai'i's diverse communities. A centralized arts education dataset with a geographic component will allow users to see where programs exist, where resources are lacking, and how arts opportunities intersect with broader education, workforce, and community well-being indicators.

Hawai'i Data Collaborative (HDC) firmly believes that data informs our understanding of what's happening, why it's happening, and what we can do about it. Data helps identify opportunities, guide decisions, and create systems of accountability so we, as a community, can achieve better outcomes for all. Because HDC's focus is to improve the household need space, we partner with government, philanthropy, and community based organizations (CBO) to improve the data ecosystem in Hawai'i.

We support this measure.

Please support HB2117. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thomas Lee, PhD, MPH
Director of Government Partnerships
Hawai'i Data Collaborative

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:24:27 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 HB2117**TO:** Members of the Hawai‘i State House of Representatives**FROM:** Cameron Goya Lynde**RE:** HB2117 — Mapping of Arts Data for Education

Aloha Chair and Members,

I write in strong support of HB2117.

The arts are not extracurricular. They are foundational — to learning, to culture, to community health, and to Hawai‘i’s creative economy. Yet today, we lack even a basic statewide picture of where arts programs exist, who they serve, and where gaps remain.

HB2117 addresses this with a practical, forward-looking step: creating a centralized, publicly accessible map and database of arts and arts education programs across all counties. This is not about judging quality. It’s about visibility. You can’t build equity without knowing where resources are — and where they are not.

For educators, families, nonprofits, and policymakers, this data will make it easier to coordinate services, identify underserved communities, and direct funding where it can do the most good. For students, especially those in rural or disadvantaged areas, it means a better chance at discovering creative opportunities that might otherwise stay hidden.

Good policy starts with good information. HB2117 gives Hawai‘i the tools to plan thoughtfully, invest wisely, and ensure that access to the arts is not determined by geography.

I respectfully urge your support for HB2117.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Cameron Goya Lynde

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:19:13 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Iwano	Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB2117 will deliver the comprehensive arts education data Hawai'i urgently needs, empowering organizations like the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra to better understand where support is most needed and to more effectively serve the children of our communities.

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:20:56 PM

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

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

Comments:

Hello,

I speak in strong support of HB2117,

As an arts educator, I urge supprt of HB2117. A public arts database and GIS mapping tool will strengthen nonprofits' abilty to secure grants, show community needs and collaborate across sectors to expand aces to the arts in Hawaii.

Thank you,

James Moffitt

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 1:02:42 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emi Horii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 2117, which would establish the Mapping of Arts Data for Education (MADE) Task Force to create a comprehensive, publicly accessible statewide database and geographic information system map of arts entities and programs.

The creation of a statewide arts database will support more informed decision-making among nonprofits, schools, and philanthropic partners. I believe it will likewise be a meaningful resource for legislators and the general public.

By mapping arts opportunities through GIS, we can layer different data maps, including district boundaries. This will give legislators a clear idea of what programs and resources exist within their districts, where gaps remain, and which communities may be underserved. Ultimately, this tool will help lawmakers better understand and serve their communities.

Making this information available on a public website will also create a practical resource for the general public. Young people interested in exploring the arts, as well as adults seeking creative opportunities nearby, will be able to easily discover programs that might otherwise be harder to find. Too often, awareness of arts opportunities depends on individual organizations' outreach efforts. A centralized, statewide database will help ensure that more people can take advantage of the many arts programs Hawaii has to offer.

On a personal note, I am a proud Hawaii Youth Symphony (HYS) alumna, and the arts programming in Hawaii has had a significant impact on my life. Through opportunities like HYS, I developed a lifelong passion for violin, found a community of fellow musicians, and

learned the value of discipline, teamwork, and attention to detail. The arts offer meaningful benefits to students, and improved data can strengthen access to the arts across the state.

I respectfully urge your support for this measure.

Sincerely,

Emi Horii

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 6:52:33 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Rachel Schultz, a supporter of the Hawaii Youth Symphony. I strongly support, and respectfully urge the Committee to pass and advance House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts. We believe that Music and the Arts are a right to which all students are entitled. This Bill will help create a database and map that will greatly improve the ability of government administrators, nonprofit organizations, philanthropists, educators, and other stakeholders and interested parties to identify ways to increase access to the Arts for students across the entire State. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts.

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:19:33 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'm writing in **SUPPORT** of HB2117 to support equitable access to music and arts education in our schools and communities. As a musician myself, I can personally attest to the ways that it develops creativity, cognition, interpersonal, communicative, and other disciplines... _____ This bill will help arts organizations, lawmakers, educators, artists, and supporters and work together to ensure music and the arts are a right for all.*

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:32:00 AM

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

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

Comments:

As an active contributor to the arts in Hawaii -- music, ballet, theater, fine arts -- and the compelling importance of arts education for our children as a means of self expression and learning, I am support of HB2117. This is vitally needed because a statewide arts data map will help our community see where arts education exists and where it doesn't. Identifying these critical gaps will help organizations with arts education programs, e.g., Hawaii Youth Symphony, Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, Diamond Head Theatre, Hawaii Opera Theatre, Chamber Music Hawaii, Ballet Hawaii and many other non profit arts/charitable organizations apply for funding, plan programs and serve more students equitably across our islands. Most importantly, it will help ensure access to the arts for all students statewide by quantatively identifying the gaps. Thank you.

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:55:03 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Branner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am parent whose children have participated with the *Hawaii Youth Symphony*. I strongly support, and respectfully urge the Committee to pass and advance House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts. I believe that any form of Art plays an important role in a student's education, and in particular playing music has been proven to enhance the development of a youth's cognitive skills, language ability, and physical dexterity. Your support of this measure will help to serve more students equitably across our islands. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts.

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:29:38 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roda Aggabao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am Roda Aggabao, a parent of the Hawaii Youth Symphony. I strongly support, and respectfully urge the Committee to pass and advance House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts. I believe that any form of Art plays an important role in a student's education, and in particular playing music has been proven to enhance the development of a youth's cognitive skills, language ability, and physical dexterity. Your support of this measure will help to serve more students equitably across our islands. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts.

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 HB2117;
Relating to the Arts (Mapping of Arts Data for Education Task Force)**

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

My name is Christopher Cabrera, General Manager of Chamber Music Hawai'i (CMH), and I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of HB2117, which establishes the Mapping of Arts Data for Education Task Force.

Ask any arts and culture organization that applies either for private or public funding for their programming and you'll encounter the same pervasive issue: lack of data to support strategic decision-making, program planning, partnership building, funding prioritization, and program impact.

Hawai'i currently lacks a centralized, easily accessible resource that provides reliable statewide information about where arts programs and services exist, who they serve, and where gaps in access remain.

As an arts presenter with deep experience touring across Hawai'i and working with community partners, CMH has seen firsthand how gaps in access, awareness, and information can reinforce disparities in cultural participation. Having a reliable, central source of arts data would help organizations like ours deepen partnerships with schools, libraries, nonprofits, and community leaders, ultimately expanding opportunities for residents of all ages to experience and participate in the arts.

For these reasons, Chamber Music Hawai'i strongly supports HB2117 and respectfully urges the committee to pass this measure.

Respectfully,



Christopher Cabrera
General Manager
Chamber Music Hawai'i



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

Music Department
College of Arts, Languages & Letters

February 3, 2026

To whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of HB2117 to support equitable access to music and arts education in our schools and communities. A statewide arts data map is an essential tool that can be used to increase that access and provide a meaningful education and experience in the arts. As a musician myself, I can personally attest to the ways the arts develop creativity, cognition, interpersonal and communicative skills. The arts provide students with opportunities to express themselves. This is vital for a healthy community. The arts map will undoubtedly help arts-based non-profits better serve our ohana here in Hawaii.

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

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-2117

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:00:56 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Ing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Richard Ing, a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Youth Symphony. I strongly support, and respectfully urge the Committee to pass and advance House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts. I believe that any form of Art plays an important role in a student's education, and in particular playing music has been proven to enhance the development of a youth's cognitive skills, language ability, and physical dexterity. Your support of this measure will benefit all of Hawaii's students. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts.

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:06:57 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kisa Uradomo	Hana Hou Music Program	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Kisa Uradomo, an alumnus of the Hawaii Youth Symphony and I am the founder of the Hana Hou Music Program, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes the accessibility of music education on the island of Maui. I strongly support and respectfully urge the Committee to pass and advance House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts. We believe that Music and the Arts are a right to which all students are entitled. This Bill will help create a database and map that will greatly improve the ability of government administrators, nonprofit organizations, philanthropists, educators, and other stakeholders and interested parties to identify ways to increase access to the Arts for students across the entire State. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 2117.

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:09:06 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret Sutrov	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Esteemed Legislators,

Please support Bill 2117 HB.

I am a teaching artist on the island of Maui, meaning that I am both a professional artist and teach drawing, painting, and the creative process. I myself can attest to the varied settings and audiences that I engage with art. These range from art residencies in schools (funded by grants), with community groups, through conservation organizations, through arts organizations, and through both for-credit and continuing education courses at the University of Hawai‘i Maui College.

Engaging with the arts builds creative problems solving, a sense of belonging, personal well-being, a sense of community, resilience, innovation, and a confidence in ones own voice. Art programs have real benefits for the community that are often tricky to track through quantitative data. Tracking data on where art is happening can be done. It can help us understand where the arts are happening, who is being served, the benefits reaped, and what communities are being underserved.

Please support this bill.

Mahalo nui loa,

Maggie T Sutrov

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:10:26 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:

Strong support for HB2117

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:25:46 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 HB2117, Arts Education Mapping Task Force. Knowing where programs exist, who they serve, and where gaps remain must be done in order for us to know what needs to happen next to make arts education available to all students, not just the ones in expensive private schools and a few fortunate public school classrooms.

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:28:39 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gene Corpuz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB2117 to support equitable access to music and arts education in our schools and communities. As a musician myself, singing with the Oahu Choral Society, I can personally attest to the ways that it develops creativity, cognition, interpersonal, communicative, and other disciplines.

As a member of the Oahu Choral Society in both the Symphonic and Chamber Choirs, I have experienced performing great works such as Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, and looking forward to the upcoming Raise Hawaiki concert on April 19th. I am privileged to sing with people from all walks of life and age groups.

HB2117 will help arts organizations, lawmakers, educators, artists, and supporters work together to ensure music and the arts are right for all.

I urge you to vote YES on HB2117. Mahalo for your consideration.

Gene Corpuz

1132 Dole St. Apt 1503, Honolulu, HI 96822

808-7791965

gcorpuz15@aol.com

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:29:21 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helen Liu	Chamber Music Hawai‘i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB2117. As a person who has lived in Honolulu since 2011, performed with the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra since 2012 and Chamber Music Hawaii since 2015, and served as Education and Community Engagement Coordinator of CMH since 2021, I have seen the desperate need for arts education and equal access across the islands. Like a comprehensive medical exam, this data mapping allows us to identify systemic gaps before they become irreversible. Without it, we are operating precariously, unable to diagnose the problems, allocate resources responsibly, or sustain the vital arts organizations already serving our communities, including Hawai‘i Opera Theatre, Hawai‘i Youth Symphony, Hawai‘i Ballet, and many others. The need and access to the arts is so critical to the connective culture of Hawai‘i and to our community.

HB-2117

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 12:53:41 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kumi Lederer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Kumi Lederer, a (student/parent/alumni/supporter/etc.) of the Hawaii Youth Symphony. I strongly support, and respectfully urge the Committee to pass and advance House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts. I believe that any form of Art plays an important role in a student's education, and in particular playing music has been proven to enhance the development of a youth's cognitive skills, language ability, and physical dexterity. Your support of this measure will help to serve more students equitably across our islands. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 2117 Relating To The Arts.



TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND ARTS
The Honorable Jeanne Kapela, Chair
The Honorable Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Committee

FROM: Elise Inouye, Director of Policy and Public Affairs

RE: Testimony in Support for HB 2117, Relating to the Arts

DATE: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 9:45 am

LOCATION: Conference Room 309

The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) **supports** HB 2117, relating to the creation of the Mapping of Arts Data for Education Task Force.

HCF has a long history of partnering with the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) to increase access to arts education at public and charter schools through the Artists in the Schools program. While this program provides insight into the great demand for arts education, there is also a need to gather data to identify gaps and better coordinate services and resources throughout the state.

HCF believes that when opportunities to practice and participate in arts and culture are inclusive and accessible to everyone, from keiki to kūpuna, we will have a healthier community in Hawai'i. That is why we are committed to increasing access to arts and culture as a priority area within HCF's CHANGE Framework.

This task force will help develop a much-needed comprehensive database of arts data, to facilitate equitable access to arts education statewide and inform prioritization of access for participants that face the greatest barriers to accessing arts education.

Supporting the arts and culture community contributes significantly to the holistic well-being of Hawai'i's residents. Please advance HB 2117 to continue to affirm the importance of arts and culture in Hawai'i.