



**HAWAI'I**  
STATE FOUNDATION on  
CULTURE and the ARTS

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

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

**Before the  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM  
And  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026 Conference Room 224 at 1:15 PM**

**HOUSE BILL 2604\_HD2  
RELATING TO PERFORMING ARTS**

Dear Chair DeCoite, Chair Lee and members of the Committees,

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

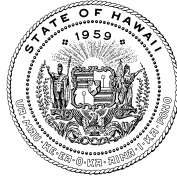
SFCA **SUPPORTS** H.B. 2118 HD2 which transfers the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission from the Department of Accounting and General Services to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts appreciates the additional administrative and personnel staff to either DBEDT or SFCA to ensure support in both the transition and a sustained future, to facilitate a smooth transition while maintaining the agencies independence, governance, mission while ensuring funding remains intact.

We appreciate that in HB 2118HD2 there is language to allow for time for this transfer to take effect for one year to provide time to make the necessary administrative changes so the organizations can continue without delays.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN  
COMPTROLLER  
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ  
  
MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
OF  
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
  
**COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM**  
**COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

MARCH 23, 2026, 1:15 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

H.B. 2118, H.D. 2

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

Chairs DeCoite and Lee, Vice Chairs Wakai and Inouye, and members of the  
Committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on H.B. 2118, H.D.2.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) offers testimony in  
**support** of H.B. 2118, H.D. 2 which transfers the State Foundation on Culture and the  
Arts (SFCA) and the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission (KKCC) from DAGS  
to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT).

DAGS provides the following comments:

1. SFCA's overall purpose and mission aligns more with the various attached  
agencies at DBEDT.

2. The proposed transfer will improve administrative efficiency and facilitate the operations of SFCA and KKCC while providing opportunities for collaboration, synergy and strategic partnerships.

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

STATE OF HAWAII



**KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION**  
355 NORTH KING STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

March 22, 2026

Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism  
The Honorable Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair  
And Members of the Committee  
and  
Senate Committee of Water, Land, and Culture and the Arts (WLA)  
The Honorable Senator Lee, Chair  
And Members of the Committee

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, March 23, 2026, at 1:15 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Aloha e Honorable Chairs Lee and DeCoit and Members of the respective Committees:

Aloha,

On behalf of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission, we would like to express our support for the House Bill No. 2118, HD2, which transfers SFCA and the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission from DAGS to DBEDT, and appropriates funds for positions within DBEDT.

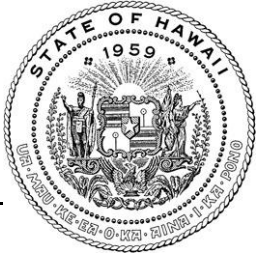
As a one-person office supporting the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission, the administrative support and subject matter jurisdiction provided by DBEDT would be helpful to allow our Executive Director to focus on the work of the Commission, which perpetuates the legacy of King Kamehameha I.

We are in support of this transfer. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions at (808-586-0003) or [kkcc@hawaii.gov](mailto:kkcc@hawaii.gov).

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Hammond".

Amy Hammond  
Executive Director  
King Kamehameha Celebration Commission  
(808)223-6040/ (808)586-0333  
[kkcc@hawaii.gov](mailto:kkcc@hawaii.gov)



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

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR

**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
DIRECTOR

**DANE K. WICKER**  
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Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
Director  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM**  
and the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Monday, March 23, 2026  
1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of  
**HB2118, HD2**  
**RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
AND TOURISM.**

Chairs DeCoite and Lee, Vice Chairs Wakai and Inouye, and members of the Committees: The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) offers comments on HB2118, HD2 which transfers the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) and the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission (KKCC) from the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) to DBEDT; transfers certain authority and responsibilities held by the Comptroller regarding the Works of Art Special Fund to DBEDT; and appropriates funds for positions within DBEDT.

This measure reflects an important evolution in how Hawai'i views culture and the arts, not only as heritage and identity, but also as a core economic sector and driver of innovation, workforce development, and industry growth.

SFCA's mission naturally aligns with DBEDT's Creative Industries strategy. SFCA's statutory duties include:

- Stimulating, guiding, and promoting culture and the arts statewide
- Supporting artists through fellowship programs
- Administering art in public places
- Expanding access to arts education and cultural participation
- Coordinating statewide arts and humanities initiatives

These responsibilities directly parallel and complement DBEDT's Creative Industries direction, which recognizes that today's creators operate not only in traditional arts spaces, but also in:

- Digital media production
- Film, animation, and immersive content
- Music and audio production
- Design, fashion, and product-based creative manufacturing
- Game development, virtual production, and interactive media

In today's economy, artists are content creators, and content creation is a form of high-value manufacturing, producing intellectual property, digital assets, and cultural products that are exported globally while rooted in Hawai'i's unique identity.

Placing SFCA within DBEDT strengthens a full continuum:

**Cultural Ecosystem**

Cultural preservation, heritage, identity

Public art, museums, humanities

**Creative Workforce**

Artist fellowships, arts education, access programs

Skill development in visual, performing, and media arts

**Creative Industry**

Film, digital media, music, design, fashion, gaming, immersive media

IP creation, content production, creative tech, cultural exports

SFCA's work builds the creative talent pipeline. DBEDT's Creative Industries strategy builds the industry infrastructure, markets, and economic pathways. Together, they support:

- Retention of local creators
- Growth of Hawai'i-based production capacity
- Development of globally competitive, culturally grounded content
- Expansion of careers in creative fields beyond tourism-dependent models

Hawai'i's economic diversification requires recognizing that:

- A film production is a manufacturing process
- A game studio produces exportable digital goods
- A designer or fashion technologist produces value-added products
- A musician or animator generates monetizable intellectual property
- SFCA supports the people and cultural foundations behind these sectors.

DBEDT supports the industry development, facilities, incentives, and partnerships that allow these creators to scale. This alignment ensures that cultural investment translates into:

- Jobs
- Small business growth
- Creative entrepreneurship
- Increased local ownership of content and IP

The bill also modernizes administrative alignment, including the Works of Art Special Fund and coordination roles between SFCA and DBEDT leadership. This provides:

- Stronger integration between cultural programming and economic development strategy

- Better coordination with creative facilities, innovation hubs, and production ecosystems
- Improved ability to connect arts funding, education, and industry pathways

HB 2118, HD2 recognizes that culture and the arts are not peripheral, they are foundational to Hawai'i's future economy. By aligning SFCA with DBEDT's Creative Industries direction, the State strengthens the bridge.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2118-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 11:20:00 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kaimi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The department of business, tourism and economic development should have nothing to do with the planning or coordinating of how Hawaiian culture and Hawaiian arts are preserved, celebrated, or showcased. This departments main objective is to cater to tourist. The Hawaiian culture has continuously been butchered to make it more palatable to the tourists. Throughout history the department of business, tourism, and economic development has shown that it will always put tourism first even at the sacrifice of authenticity of Hawaiiis unique culture.

# Letter of Support with Recommendations

## House Bill 2118, HD2

**Date:** March 20, 2026

**To:**

Representative Adrian K. Tam, Chair  
House Committee on Tourism  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Representative Jeanne Kapela, Chair  
House Committee on Culture & Arts  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Senator Chris Lee, Chair  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair  
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**From:**

R.Kana'iaupuni Gomes  
Kumu Hula

**RE: SUPPORT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS — HB2118 HD2, Relating to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism**

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Aloha kākou,

I write to you today in support of House Bill 2118, HD2, which transfers the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission and the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts from the Department of Accounting and General Services to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. I submit this testimony as a Kumu Hula who has the profound honor of greeting all who present ho'okupu (gifts) at the statue of King Kamehameha I on June 11 each year during our state's most important cultural celebration.

For a few years now, I have stood at the feet of our beloved ali'i, welcoming the royal societies, civic clubs, hālau hula, families, and communities who come to pay tribute. This kuleana has given me a deep and personal understanding of the spiritual, cultural, and historical significance of King Kamehameha Day, and of the critical role the King

Kamehameha Celebration Commission and its Office play in preserving and perpetuating that tradition with dignity and cultural integrity.

I believe HB2118 has the potential to strengthen the alignment between culture, arts, and economic development in our state. However, I respectfully urge the Legislature to consider several refinements to ensure that the cultural mission and independence of the King Kamehameha Celebration Office—and particularly the role and protections of its Executive Director—are preserved and strengthened in this transition.

## **Support for the Bill's Core Intent**

I support the transfer of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission and the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to DBEDT for the following reasons:

**Cultural and Economic Alignment.** Placing these entities within DBEDT, which already oversees creative industries, tourism policy, and economic development, offers a unique opportunity to integrate cultural values more deeply into statewide policy and planning.

**Clarity of Authority.** The bill's systematic replacement of references to the Comptroller with the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism provides clearer lines of administrative responsibility and fiscal oversight for both the Commission and SFCA.

**Preservation of Commission Structure.** The bill maintains the membership structure of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission, preserving representation from the Royal Order of Kamehameha I, 'Ahahui Ka'ahumanu, and other honored Hawaiian organizations, ensuring continuity of cultural expertise and authority.

**Employee Protections.** The transition provisions protect state employees from loss of salary, seniority, leave, and benefits, demonstrating care for the individuals who carry out this work.

**Transition Resources.** The appropriation of funds for a temporary administrator and a legislative coordinator within DBEDT shows foresight in supporting a smooth and thoughtful transition.

These strengths demonstrate the Legislature's commitment to honoring culture and supporting the people who serve it. I respectfully request that the Legislature build upon this foundation by addressing the concerns outlined below.

## **Concerns and Recommendations for Strengthening HB2118**

While I support the intent of HB2118, I believe the bill would be significantly strengthened by incorporating explicit protections and clarifications for the King Kamehameha Celebration Office and its Executive Director. Below, I outline six key areas of concern, along with specific recommendations for improvement.

## **1: Executive Director's Independence vs. DBEDT Control**

### **Concern:**

The bill shifts significant fiscal and administrative powers from the Comptroller to the DBEDT Director (the department head), but does not expressly reaffirm or strengthen the Executive Director's operational independence, especially in relation to cultural decisions and protection of King Kamehameha Day's spiritual and historical integrity. While HRS §8-5(d) states that the Executive Director is appointed by the Commission and serves at its pleasure, the bill does not clarify how the Executive Director's cultural authority will be protected from potential administrative or policy pressures within DBEDT.

### **Recommendations:**

- Add a non-interference clause to HRS §8-5, for example:

"The director of business, economic development, and tourism shall not override or interfere with cultural, ceremonial, or programmatic decisions of the King Kamehameha celebration commission or its executive director, except as required to ensure compliance with state and federal law."
- Codify the Executive Director's protected duties:

"The executive director shall have primary responsibility for planning and implementing King Kamehameha Day celebrations statewide, including cultural protocols, schedules, and program content, subject to commission approval, and shall not be reassigned to unrelated duties without the approval of two-thirds of the commission."
- Specify that any DBEDT rules affecting the Commission or its Executive Director must be adopted "in consultation with and with the concurrence of the commission" on cultural and programmatic matters.

## **2: Cultural Priorities vs. Economic and Branding Pressures**

### **Concern:**

Moving the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission to DBEDT may increase pressure to frame King Kamehameha Day celebrations as tourism products or branding opportunities rather than as primarily cultural, historical, and spiritual observances. The bill does not articulate a "culture first" standard to guide DBEDT's oversight and support of the Commission.

As a Kumu Hula who greets those who bring ho'okupu to our ali'i, I have witnessed firsthand the profound spiritual and cultural meaning of this day for Native Hawaiian families, cultural practitioners, and communities statewide. This is not a parade for visitors; it is a lā ho'omana'o—a day of remembrance and reverence. Any administrative home for the Commission must recognize and honor this.

**Recommendations:**

- Insert cultural primacy language into HRS §8-5, for example:

"In carrying out its duties, the commission and its executive director shall prioritize the cultural, historical, and spiritual significance of King Kamehameha I and the lā hoʻomanaʻo, and shall ensure that any economic or tourism benefits are secondary to cultural integrity."

- Require DBEDT to adopt written consultation protocols with Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, including representatives from the organizations listed in HRS §8-5(a), for any significant changes to parades, ceremonies, symbols, or public messaging related to King Kamehameha Day celebrations.

### **3: Ambiguity in Reporting and Advocacy**

**Concern:**

The bill does not clearly describe to whom the King Kamehameha Celebration Office Executive Director reports within DBEDT, or how conflicts between DBEDT's economic development goals and the Commission's cultural mission will be resolved. This ambiguity could lead to situations where the Executive Director is caught between competing priorities, without a clear mechanism for protecting the cultural mission.

**Recommendations:**

- Establish direct reporting to the Commission on programmatic matters:

"The executive director shall report directly to the King Kamehameha celebration commission on all programmatic and cultural matters and to the director of business, economic development, and tourism solely on administrative and fiscal matters."

- Create a statutory conflict-resolution mechanism:

Require that any DBEDT directive that the Commission believes compromises cultural integrity be brought back to the full Commission for a vote, with the ability to request consultation with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs or another designated Native Hawaiian cultural authority.

### **4: Works of Art and SFCA Authority Overshadowing the King Kamehameha Celebration Office**

**Concern:**

The bill provides detailed statutory language for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and works-of-art functions under DBEDT, but does not seem to explicitly name or protect the King Kamehameha Celebration Office (Executive Director and staff) as a distinct organizational unit. This creates a risk that the Office may be administratively absorbed, diluted, or deprioritized within DBEDT's larger structure.

**Recommendations:**

- Insert explicit statutory recognition of a "King Kamehameha Celebration Office":

"There is established within the department of business, economic development, and

tourism, for administrative purposes only, the King Kamehameha Celebration Office, headed by an executive director appointed by the commission pursuant to section 8-5."

- Protect minimum staffing and resources: Add language requiring DBEDT to provide dedicated staff support, distinct budget line items, and office resources for the King Kamehameha Celebration Office, and prohibiting the diversion of those resources without Commission approval.
- Require an annual public report specifically on King Kamehameha Day celebrations (programs, budget, community engagement, cultural protocols), submitted by the Executive Director through the Commission to the Legislature and made publicly available.

## **5: Transition Provisions Focus on Positions, Not Institutional Knowledge and Cultural Protocols**

### **Concern:**

The transition sections of the bill (Sections 7–11) appropriately protect employee positions, salaries, and benefits, but do not address the preservation of cultural protocols, archival materials, historical records, and long-standing relationships with ali'i societies, civic clubs, and Hawaiian organizations during the move from DAGS to DBEDT. These intangible but essential assets are the foundation of the Commission's work and must be safeguarded.

### **Recommendations:**

- Add a cultural continuity requirement to the transition provisions:  
  
Mandate the development of a written "King Kamehameha Celebration Cultural Protocol and Practices Plan," developed by the Commission and Executive Director in consultation with cultural practitioners and organizational representatives, to be formally adopted by DBEDT and incorporated into its internal policies and procedures.
- Require DBEDT to inventory and formally receive all cultural and historical materials, archives, photographs, recordings, protocols, and written agreements related specifically to King Kamehameha Day celebrations, with explicit protections on their use, storage, and access.
- Establish a formal process for DBEDT to meet with representatives of the organizations listed in HRS §8-5(a) during the transition to ensure continuity of relationships and respect for existing protocols.

## **6: Effective Date as a Placeholder**

### **Concern:**

The effective date of July 1, 3000 is clearly a legislative placeholder, indicating that further discussion and refinement are anticipated. While this is standard practice, it also means that the statutory protections and clarifications outlined above are not yet in effect, leaving the King Kamehameha Celebration Office and its Executive Director without clear guidance during what may be an extended period of legislative deliberation.

### **Recommendations:**

- When the effective date is amended to a realistic fiscal year, ensure that all strengthened protections and clarifications for the King Kamehameha Celebration Office and Executive Director are incorporated into the bill at the same time, so they are in place before or at the moment of transfer.
- Consider phasing the transition to allow time for DBEDT to develop the necessary policies, consultation protocols, and organizational structures before full administrative responsibility is transferred.

## Personal Reflection

As a Kumu Hula, I teach my haumāna that hula is not performance—it is protocol. It is our way of honoring our kupuna, our ‘āina, and our ali‘i. Every year, when I stand before the statue of Kamehameha to greet those who come to honor him, I am not simply performing a decorative, cultural function. I am fulfilling a kuleana that has been passed down through generations, one that demands reverence, precision, and the deepest respect for the mo‘okū‘auhau (genealogy) and kaona (deeper meaning) of what we do.

The King Kamehameha Celebration Commission and its Executive Director carry a similar kuleana. They are not event planners; they are cultural stewards. They are the keepers of a tradition that predates statehood, that is rooted in the mana of our ali‘i, and that must be protected from being reduced to a branding opportunity or a tourism product.

The recommendations I have outlined are intended to strengthen HB2118 by ensuring clear structure, explicit expectations, and well-defined roles. Clarity protects both people and purpose, and it safeguards the cultural mission from drift or dilution.

## Conclusion

I respectfully support HB2118, HD2, and I believe it has the potential to create a stronger, more integrated approach to culture, arts, and economic development in Hawai‘i. However, I urge you to ensure that the cultural mission of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission, and the independence and authority of its Executive Director, are explicitly protected in statute.

The recommendations I have outlined are designed to:

- Affirm the cultural primacy of King Kamehameha Day as a lā ho‘omana‘o, not a tourism product
- Protect the Executive Director's independence in cultural and programmatic decisions
- Establish clear reporting structures and conflict-resolution mechanisms
- Recognize and resource the King Kamehameha Celebration Office as a distinct unit
- Preserve institutional knowledge, cultural protocols, and community relationships during the transition
- Ensure that all protections are in place *before* or *at the time of the transfer*

I am grateful for your time and consideration, and I am available to provide further clarification or to testify in person if that would be helpful. Mahalo nui loa for your service to our lāhui and to the people of Hawai‘i.

Me ka ha'aha'a a me ke aloha,

**R. Kana'iaupuni Gomes**

Kumu Hula

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**Contact Information:**

rkgomes@gmail.com

808-348-4074

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Senator Chris Lee, Chair  
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

Testimony of Jame K. Schaedel

Monday, March 23, 2026

**Support** for House Bill No. 2118, HD No. 2 – Relating to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

### **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Honorable Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of House Bill No. 2118, HD No 2. This bill, if approved, would transfer the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) and the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission (“commission”) from the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT). It would further transfer the authority held by the Comptroller over the Works of Art Special Fund to the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

I offer this testimony as a private citizen, and not in my capacity as a commissioner of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. My testimony will be focused on the commission and not the SFCA.

The commission was formally established by the 20<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the Territory of Hawai‘i in 1939 via House Bill No. 379, which was signed into law by Governor Joseph Poindexter on May 15, 1939, as Act 237.

In 1939 and 1940, limited kuleana for the commission was held by the Territorial Auditor specific to the expenditure of funds to pay for celebration expenses on islands designated in Act 237 (SLH 1939). This is likely why the Comptroller still has kuleana over the commission today.

For nearly nine decades, the commission has persevered, undergoing 14 statutory amendments over the years, the most recent occurring in 2018. The latest amendments included commission membership changes, a certificate of good standing requirement, adding a commissioner to represent Lāna‘i, and authorizing the commission to appoint an Executive Director.

Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts  
March 23, 2026  
Page 2 of 2

In my opinion, DAGS considers the commission and its employees to be “low hanging fruit” and has often been the first agency targeted by the Comptroller for budget cuts throughout the past two decades. Despite statutory requirements contained in subsection (d), §8-5, HRS, it is my understanding that DAGS has not funded, solicited to fill, nor filled 1.5 FTE positions, which include the Arts Program Specialist, and a part-time Clerk Typist. These positions no longer exist in the budget.

This nearly two-decade status quo is no longer acceptable, and the commission would be more appropriately placed under the purview of DBEDT.

I also suggest two friendly amendments to the bill:

- Add the commission to subsection (b), §26-18, HRS.
- Strike SECTION 11 as it is a duplicate of SECTION 7, and re-number subsequent sections

Thank you for considering my testimony in **strong support** for House Bill No. 2118, HD No. 2. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Respectfully,

Jame K. Schaedel  
Kapolei, Hawai‘i