



HAWAII

STATE FOUNDATION on
CULTURE and the ARTS

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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 WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026 Conference Room 224 at 1:15 PM**

**HCR 162
REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ARTS DATA AND MAPPING TASK
FORCE TO CONDUCT A STATEWIDE SURVEY OF ENTITIES ENGAGED IN ARTS
AND ARTS EDUCATION AND DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE
DATABASE AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM MAP OF ARTS ENTITIES
AND PROGRAMS.**

Dear Chair Lee 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.C.R 162 requesting the establishment of an arts data and mapping task force to conduct a statewide survey of entities engaged in arts and arts education and develop a comprehensive 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.



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

Date: 04/17/2026

Time: 01:15 PM

Location: CR 224 & Videoconference

Committee: WLA

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HCR162, REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ARTS DATA AND MAPPING TASK FORCE TO CONDUCT A STATEWIDE SURVEY OF ENTITIES ENGAGED IN ARTS AND ARTS EDUCATION AND DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE DATABASE AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM MAP OF ARTS ENTITIES AND PROGRAMS.

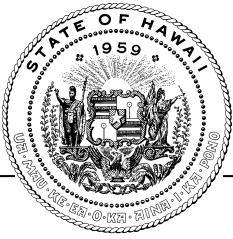
Purpose of Bill: Requesting The Establishment Of An Arts Data And Mapping Task Force To Conduct A Statewide Survey Of Entities Engaged In Arts And Arts Education And Develop A Comprehensive Statewide Database And Geographic Information System Map Of Arts Entities And Programs.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education supports HCR 162 but would defer to the Hawaii Youth Symphony in regards to the implementation of the task force.

The Fine Arts program, including music and dance, is foundational to the development of the whole child. By integrating the Fine Arts into our students' learning, we empower them to express their creativity and explore their 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 explore the arts further.

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



**STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Director

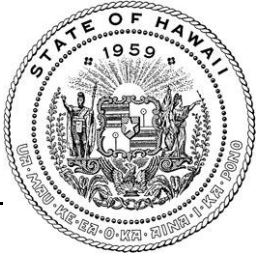
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Friday, April 17, 2026, 1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 162
REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ARTS DATA AND MAPPING TASK
FORCE TO CONDUCT A STATEWIDE SURVEY OF ENTITIES ENGAGED IN ARTS
AND ARTS EDUCATION AND DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE
DATABASE AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM MAP OF ARTS
ENTITIES AND PROGRAMS.

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts, the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) supports House Concurrent Resolution 162, which requests that the Chief Executive Officer of the Hawai‘i Youth Symphony convenes an Arts Data and Mapping Task Force to conduct a statewide survey of entities engaged in arts and arts education and develop a comprehensive statewide database and geographic information system (GIS) map of arts entities and programs.

A statewide database will help artists and practitioners, students, parents, educators, and policy makers better understand the ecosystem of arts organizations and arts education opportunities in Hawai‘i – where they are located, the programs and supports they offer, the communities they serve, and the gaps that exist. Furthermore, combining this data with other data in a GIS can provide additional context, revealing opportunities for investment and collaboration, and supporting informed decision making.

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'IKĀ'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

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Statement of
GEORJA SKINNER
Administrator, Creative Industries Division
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Friday, April 17, 2026
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
HCR 162
**REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ARTS DATA AND MAPPING TASK
FORCE TO CONDUCT A STATEWIDE SURVEY OF ENTITIES ENGAGED IN ARTS
AND ARTS EDUCATION AND DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE
DATABASE AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM MAP OF ARTS ENTITIES
AND PROGRAMS.**

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee. The Creative Industries Division (CID) of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports HCR 162, which requests the establishment of an arts data and mapping task force to conduct a statewide survey of entities engaged in arts and arts education and develop a comprehensive statewide database and geographic information system map of arts entities and programs.

CID agrees with the formation of this task force, the two-phase reporting approach. We recognize creation of a centralized, statewide database which includes assets in arts, arts education, and other related nodes of Hawai'i's creative economy can provide essential tools for identifying gaps in education, access, services, and aiding in decision-making regarding policy, funding, and more strategic program development.

By leveraging advances in GIS and open data platforms, the task force creates a transparent, accessible resource that benefit communities statewide, as well as policy makers. This initiative aligns with DBEDT's and CID's commitment to fostering workforce, business and skills development and promoting economic growth of 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 as well as economic development strategies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Committee

FROM: Elise Inouye, Director of Policy and Public Affairs

RE: Testimony in Support for HCR 162

DATE: Friday, April 17, 2026 at 1:15 pm

LOCATION: Conference Room 224

The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) **supports HCR 162**, 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. **We respectfully urge you to pass HCR 162** to continue to affirm the importance of arts and culture in Hawai'i.



'Apelila 14, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Kiana Rodriguez. I am a resident of Hālawā and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education with a keiki in Papa 8 at Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Kapolei and another who will be entering kindergarten next school year. I am sharing testimony in support of SCR 162, which convenes a shared decision-making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions because:

- This project will strengthen public and private partnerships to bring a K-12 kula kaiapuni in 'Ewa to fruition and address the systemic gaps that exist for Hawaiian Immersion education.
- Community members and parents will have a voice in the decision-making process based on their lived experience and expertise in our children's education.

The long-term benefit of these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their 'ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai'i.

Accessibility to Hawaiian Immersion education is deeply personal to my 'ohana. We enrolled our daughter at Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Waiāu when she was five years old because they could provide her with a strong connection to our culture in ways I lacked growing up in the Hawaiian diaspora. We chose kaiapuni education for her, even though at the time, there was no reasonable path for her to continue on after she graduated elementary school. The opening of Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Kapolei gave her back the choice to keep pursuing her education ma ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.



As my son approaches kindergarten, we are again faced with hurdles regarding accessibility as the demand for kaiapuni is skyrocketing. The only kula kaiapuni for elementary school in 'Ewa Moku is at capacity and commuting to another part of the island for school isn't realistic for us if they cannot take him. These resolutions support stakeholders to create an actionable plan so more 'ohana can choose kaiapuni education.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of Resolution 162.

E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i!

Me ke aloha,

Kiana Rodriguez

Kiana Rodriguez
Hope Pelekikena
Ke 'Alohi 'O 'Ewa



1350 S. King Street, Suite 201 • Honolulu, HI • 96814

15 April 2026

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Arts & Culture (WLA)
Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair

***Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of
HCR 162 – Mapping of Arts Data for Education Task Force***

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for hearing HCR 162, and for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Opportunities to participate in the arts have profound lifelong benefits. In addition to developing creative capacity and contributing to the collective cultural life of our communities, arts learning supports character development, cognitive growth, self-awareness, interpersonal skills, and emotional well-being. For many keiki, music and the arts also provide a meaningful connection to school, ‘ohana, kupuna, and community.

For the past fourteen years, I have served as chief executive of Hawai‘i Youth Symphony (HYS), working to expand equitable access to music education for youth statewide. During this time, our organization (and many of our colleagues across the arts) have sought to better understand the opportunity gap in Hawai‘i: who has access to arts education, where that access exists, and where it does not.

Through conversations with leaders in music, dance, theatre, and visual arts, it has become increasingly clear that Hawai‘i does not currently maintain a comprehensive dataset (or map) of arts education opportunities available to our youth. In contrast, many states on the continent regularly collect and publish this information.

HCR 162 addresses this gap by proposing a survey of public, charter, private, and community-based arts education programs and the creation of a publicly accessible statewide database and geographic information system (GIS) map; particularly one in which the arts can be visualized with other map layers. Such a resource would allow educators, policymakers, and nonprofit leaders to better understand where opportunities exist and where additional investment may be needed.

To my knowledge, this type of statewide mapping effort has never been undertaken in Hawai‘i. Completing it would bring our state into alignment with dozens of others that actively track and analyze their arts education ecosystems. The League of American Orchestras, the only national organization dedicated to orchestras and their communities, has expressed support for efforts that expand access to comprehensive data about the arts and arts education landscape.



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In researching how other states approach this work, I have learned that some states rely on private vendors to develop dashboards or standalone mapping systems. However, I believe that Hawai'i is uniquely positioned to approach this effort locally. Through the Statewide GIS Data Program (OPSD) and Hawai'i Policy Map from the Hawai'i Data Collaborative, our state already has strong, publicly accessible infrastructure that could support this project.

Interest in this project has also activated an impressive network of organizations and leaders who recognize the importance of the arts in the lives of Hawai'i's young people. The proposed task force brings together key partners across the state, including the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, the Hawai'i Arts Alliance, the Hawai'i State Department of Education, the Hawai'i Community Foundation, the State Public Charter School Commission, and the Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools, alongside practicing artists and arts educators, and our lawmakers. The breadth of this coalition reflects a shared recognition that developing a comprehensive dataset and GIS map of arts education opportunities is both timely and essential for strengthening access statewide.

A statewide dataset would allow nonprofit leaders like myself to identify opportunity gaps and measure progress more clearly toward expanding access. Reliable data is also essential when communicating impact to grantmakers, philanthropists, and other stakeholders. Without access to statewide data, organizations working to serve our youth are operating at a disadvantage.

Thank you for your consideration and for your support of this important resolution.

Sincerely,

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

Randy Wong
President & CEO, Hawai'i Youth Symphony

HCR-162

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 9:32:57 AM

Testimony for WLA on 4/17/2026 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

*My name is Wailani Kontic, and I work with Hawai'i Youth Symphony, supporting our mission of Making Music a Right for children in Hawai'i. As a **supporter of music education in our schools and communities**, I strongly SUPPORT HCR 162. Many excellent school and community music programs already exist, but a comprehensive arts database increases visibility, strengthens collaboration, and builds awareness for all. When arts data is layered with income, housing, and education indicators, it positions music as essential infrastructure for youth development. Publicly-accessible data also give philanthropic partners confidence to make sustained investments in Hawai'i's next generation, and more ways for us to champion the benefits of music and arts education for young people.*

HCR-162

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 9:37:13 AM

Testimony for WLA on 4/17/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Mau-Schank	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for **HCR 162**. As an alumna of the Hawai'i Youth Symphony (HYS) and its current Board Chair, I have seen firsthand how transformative music and arts education are for the youth of Hawai'i.

This measure is a vital step toward ensuring that every child in our state, regardless of their zip code, has the opportunity to experience the benefits of the arts.

The arts are essential to student success and community resilience. HCR 162 provides the framework we need to champion these benefits for the next generation of Hawai'i's leaders.

Mahalo for your time and for your support of music and arts education.

HCR-162

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 10:15:02 AM

Testimony for WLA on 4/17/2026 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a **parent**, I SUPPORT HCR 162 because finding consistent, high-quality music opportunities for our children can be difficult without clear information. A statewide arts and music education database would help ‘ohana identify programs in their communities and better plan their children’s participation. By mapping arts access alongside data like income and educational attainment, the state recognizes music as part of overall community well-being. This transparency also helps funders invest strategically, ensuring sustainable support for youth programs across Hawai‘i.

HCR-162

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 10:27:58 AM

Testimony for WLA on 4/17/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Ebisu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of **HCR 162** as a parent of a student in the Hawai‘i Youth Symphony (HYS), a violin teacher with over 20 years of experience serving students across Hawai‘i, and a professional violinist performing with the Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra.

As an educator, I have worked with many students and families navigating access to high-quality arts education opportunities. Programs such as Hawai‘i Youth Symphony provide transformative musical training and mentorship; however, awareness of these opportunities is often limited and inconsistent across communities. Many talented students miss opportunities simply due to a lack of centralized, accessible information.

The establishment of an Arts Data and Mapping Task Force, as proposed in this measure, would be an important step toward addressing these gaps. A comprehensive, statewide database and geographic mapping of arts organizations and educational programs would greatly improve visibility, access, and equity in arts education. It would allow educators, parents, and students to more easily identify opportunities, better understand regional disparities, and make informed decisions about participation.

As a parent of two children involved in music—one of whom participates in Hawai‘i Youth Symphony—and as a teacher, I have seen firsthand the profound impact that programs like HYS have on students’ musical development, confidence, and long-term success. Ensuring that such programs are visible and accessible to families across the state is essential. This initiative would also support collaboration among arts organizations and strengthen Hawai‘i’s broader arts ecosystem.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support HCR 162 and the establishment of the Arts Data and Mapping Task Force.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Nicole Ebisu, D.M.A.
Owner, Violin Artistry LLC
Violinist, Hawaii Symphony Orchestra

HCR-162

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 1:09:47 PM

Testimony for WLA on 4/17/2026 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

I definitely support arts education

TESTIMONY OF TERRINA WONG
IN SUPPORT OF HB 2117

Hearing Date: April 17, 2026

Senator Lee, Chair
Senator Inouye, Vice Chair

I have been a proud resident of Maunawili Valley in Kailua, the summer home of our Queen Liliuokalani where she composed “Aloha Oe.”

Music and all the arts are part of our State’s history and identity and are an integral part of the well-being of our community.

I am a very proud parent of a professional musician and music educator. I am a board member of the Hawaii Symphony Foundation and Chamber Music Hawaii. I actively participate as an adult student at Queen Emma Ballet and Diamond Head Theatre. I am a member of the Honolulu Museum of Art. I am an active concert goer for performances offered by all these arts organizations and many others. All these organizations bring the arts to our keiki through their educational programs and enrich their lives and giving them multiple avenues of self-expression and learning.

I urge you to support the arts educators with trusted and precise information. I know, for example that finding consistent, high-quality music opportunities for our children can be difficult without clear information. A statewide arts and music education database would help ‘ohana identify programs in their communities and better plan their children’s participation. By mapping arts access alongside data like income and educational attainment, the state recognizes music as part of overall community well-being. This transparency also helps funders invest strategically, ensuring sustainable support for youth programs across Hawai‘i.

As an active contributor to the field of the arts music, dance, visual arts and theater, I deeply believe in arts education in our schools and community. For example, in music, many excellent school and community music programs already exist, but a comprehensive arts database increases visibility, strengthens collaboration, and builds awareness for all. When arts data is layered with income, housing, and education indicators, it positions music as essential infrastructure for youth development.

Publicly-accessible data also give philanthropic partners confidence to make sustained investments in Hawai‘i’s next generation, and more ways for us to champion the benefits of music and arts education for young people.

I urge you to support HB 2117.

Mahalo.

Terrina Wong

HCR-162

Submitted on: 4/16/2026 7:43:59 AM

Testimony for WLA on 4/17/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keira Ida Ayu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an outer island student, I SUPPORT HCR 162 because students like me benefit when music programs are easier to find and better supported. A statewide arts map would help families like mine see what opportunities exist nearby, from school ensembles to community programs. The Arts, and especially Music, are essential to student success, not optional. This bill also helps funders understand where programs are needed most, so more students across Hawai'i can access music education.

HCR-162

Submitted on: 4/16/2026 8:29:33 AM

Testimony for WLA on 4/17/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edna Lau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- *As a **parent**, I SUPPORT HCR 162 because finding consistent, high-quality music opportunities for our children can be difficult without clear information. A statewide arts and music education database would help 'ohana identify programs in their communities and better plan their children's participation. By mapping arts access alongside data like income and educational attainment, the state recognizes music as part of overall community well-being. This transparency also helps funders invest strategically, ensuring sustainable support for youth programs across Hawai'i.*

HCR-162

Submitted on: 4/16/2026 8:33:48 AM

Testimony for WLA on 4/17/2026 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a **supporter of music education in our schools and communities**, I strongly SUPPORT HCR 162. Many excellent school and community music programs already exist, but a comprehensive arts database increases visibility, strengthens collaboration, and builds awareness for all. When arts data is layered with income, housing, and education indicators, it positions music as essential infrastructure for youth development. Publicly-accessible data also give philanthropic partners confidence to make sustained investments in Hawai'i's next generation, and more ways for us to champion the benefits of music and arts education for young people.

HCR-162

Submitted on: 4/16/2026 8:46:11 AM

Testimony for WLA on 4/17/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jean mcIntosh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

education in our schools and communities, I strongly SUPPORT HCR 162. Many excellent school and community music programs already exist, but a comprehensive arts database increases visibility, strengthens collaboration, and builds awareness for all. When arts data is layered with income, housing, and education indicators, it positions music as essential infrastructure for youth development. Publicly-accessible data also give philanthropic partners confidence to make sustained investments in Hawai'i's next generation, and more ways for us to champion the benefits of music and arts education for young people.

HCR-162

Submitted on: 4/16/2026 9:01:46 AM

Testimony for WLA on 4/17/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cristin Gallagher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent on Hawai‘i Island, I SUPPORT HCR 162 because families in rural communities often face limited and inconsistent access to high-quality music education. Many of our schools and local programs are underfunded, making it difficult to find reliable opportunities for our keiki to learn and grow through music.

A statewide arts and music education database would be especially valuable for neighbor islands, where resources are more scattered and harder to identify. Having clear, centralized information would help ‘ohana across Hawai‘i Island discover available programs and better plan their children’s participation.

By mapping arts access alongside data like income, geographic isolation, and educational attainment, the state acknowledges the disparities that exist between O‘ahu and the neighbor islands and recognizes music education as essential to overall community well-being. This kind of transparency would also guide funders to invest more equitably, helping ensure long-term, sustainable support for youth music programs in underserved areas like ours.

LATE

HCR-162

Submitted on: 4/16/2026 6:38:27 PM

Testimony for WLA on 4/17/2026 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts,

I am writing in strong support of HCR162, 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