



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 3007, S.D. 2, RELATING TO CULTURE AND THE ARTS.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE & ARTS

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 18, 2026      **TIME:** 10:30 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 309

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Ian Robertson, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Kapela and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments regarding this bill.

The purposes of this bill are (1) to establish the Office of Community Culture and Innovation to be attached for administrative purposes to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) and (2) to appropriate funds from the Works of Art Special Fund for preservation and relocation of works of art from Aloha Stadium.

The purpose of this bill, as introduced, was to establish the "office of creative innovation" within the SFCA for administrative purposes. Senate Draft 1, in **section 3**, added an appropriation for an executive director position and a specialist position for the office of creative innovation.

Senate Draft 2, **section 2**, changes the name of the new office established within the SFCA for administrative purposes to the "office of community culture and innovation" (page 3, line 3) and expands the duties of the office; and **section 3** adds an additional "other expenses" item to the appropriation for the new office.

Senate Draft 2 additionally **expands** the scope of the bill in **section 4**, by adding an appropriation from the Works of Art Special Fund "for the preservation and relocation of works of art from Aloha stadium." Page 8, line 19, to page 9, line 2.

The above-described amendment in section 4 of Senate Draft 2 does not appear to be related to the original purpose of the bill. We believe that amendment may subject

the bill to challenge under *League of Women Voters of Honolulu v. State*, 150 Hawai'i 182, 205, 499 P.3d 382, 405 (2021), in which the Hawai'i Supreme Court held that the constitutional requirements that a bill must pass three readings in each house "begin[s] anew after a non-germane amendment changes the object or subject of a bill so that it is no longer related to the original bill as introduced." We believe a court could conclude that the amendment in section 4 of Senate Draft 2 is outside the scope of the purpose of the original bill and that it will violate article III, section 15, of the Hawai'i Constitution if it does not receive three additional readings in the House of Representatives.

To stay within the scope of the bill as originally drafted, we respectfully suggest that the Committee delete section 4.

Additionally, article V, section 6, of the Hawaii Constitution provides in relevant part that "[a]ll executive and administrative offices, departments and instrumentalities of the state government and their respective powers and duties shall be allocated by law among and within not more than twenty principal departments[.]" Although section 9-2(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, places the SFCA within a principal department, the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS), to clarify that the new Office of Community Culture and Innovation is attached to DAGS as its principal department, we respectfully suggest that the Committee replace the term "foundation" on page 3, line 3, with "department of accounting and general services". The wording in the purpose section at page 2, lines 1-5, should be revised accordingly.

We respectfully ask the Committee to consider our comments.

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
**KE KE'ENA O KA MEIA**  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA



MICHAEL D. FORMBY  
MANAGING DIRECTOR  
PO'O HO'OKELE  
  
KRISHNA F. JAYARAM  
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR  
HOPE PO'O HO'OKELE

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Jeanne Kapela, Chair  
The Honorable Sam Kong, Vice-Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Culture and Arts  
Hawaii'i State House of Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street, Rm 309  
Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813

SUBJECT: Support for Senate Bill 3007 SD2

Dear Chair Kapela, Vice-Chair Kong and Committee Members:

The City and County of Honolulu (City), **strongly supports SB3007 SD2**, and believes the establishment of an Office of Community Culture and Innovation and a Community and Cultural Partnership Program in that office would be timely and prudent.

Through the Mayor's Office of Culture and Arts, the City has prioritized the public's ability to engage with our State's rich history, and local artists and their works.

Additionally, since coming into office, the Blangiardi Administration has undertaken sizeable efforts to revitalize the Chinatown Historic District of Honolulu, while maintaining its historical and cultural heritage. We believe that doing so will create a greater sense of community among our residents, and allow those businesses and community groups operating in and around the area to realize their full potential.

The City would warmly welcome increased efforts by the State to further preserve our State's one-of-a-kind cultural heritage, and would seek opportunities to collaborate should this office and program be established.

The Mayor and I greatly value the work of the State in preserving and promoting cultural heritage and believe the passage of SB3007 SD2 will be a helpful step forward.

The Honorable Jeanne Kapela, Chair  
The Honorable Sam Kong, Vice-Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Culture and Arts  
March 13, 2026  
Page 2

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony. Should there be any questions, please reach out to Anthony Miranda, Legislative Liaison, via email at [anthony.miranda@honolulu.gov](mailto:anthony.miranda@honolulu.gov)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Formby', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael D. Formby  
Managing Director

**SB-3007-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 12:18:58 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/18/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Madden	PlayBuilders of Hawaii Theater Company	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 16, 2026

To: The Honorable Members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature

Re: **Support for SB3007 SD2 – Relating to Culture and the Arts**

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

My name is Terri Madden, founder and executive director of PlayBuilders of Hawai‘i Theater Company. For the past fourteen years, I have worked with communities across Hawai‘i using **story circles and community-based theatre** to help residents share lived experiences, preserve cultural knowledge, and strengthen community relationships.

This work demonstrates how grassroots cultural programs can elevate local voices and build understanding across communities. Establishing the **Office of Community Culture and Innovation** and the **Community and Cultural Partnerships Program** will help support and expand this kind of community-driven cultural work statewide.

Mahalo for supporting initiatives that invest in Hawai‘i’s cultural vitality and community well-being. I respectfully urge you to pass SB3007 SD2.

Sincerely,  
Terri Madden  
Founder and Executive Director  
PlayBuilders of Hawai‘i Theater Company

March 16, 2026

The Honorable Jeanne Kapela, Chair  
The Honorable Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Culture & Arts

Subject: Testimony: SB3007, SD2 Relating to Culture and Arts  
Hearing: March 18, 2026, at 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 309

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB3007, SD2, relating to culture and arts. We strongly support the intent of the bill to expand the State's commitment to integrating culture, arts, and history into community development and public spaces.

In particular, we would like to express strong support for Section 4 of the bill, which appropriates funds from the Works of Art Special Fund for the preservation and relocation of works of art from Aloha Stadium.

As the State advances the redevelopment of the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED), it is important that the cultural and artistic legacy of the existing stadium be preserved. Aloha Stadium has served as one of Hawai'i's most significant civic gathering places for nearly five decades, hosting sporting events, concerts, cultural celebrations, and community activities. Over the years, the facility has also become home to several state-owned works of art including the Satoru Abe's Volcano sculpture and Governor John A. Burns sculpture that reflect Hawai'i's cultural identity, history, and creative expression.

With the demolition of the existing stadium under way for the new facility, these artworks must be professionally preserved, carefully removed, and relocated to ensure they remain part of Hawai'i's public art collection and continue to be accessible to the community.

The preservation and relocation of these works involves specialized work, including:

- Professional conservation and condition assessments
- Careful removal and transportation of artworks
- Storage and restoration where necessary
- Planning and installation at appropriate future locations within the stadium district or other public facilities

Page 2

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Given the scale and complexity of this effort, we have received estimates ranging from \$620,000 up to \$1.2 million, and the procurement process will help vet the most practical and feasible alternatives for preservation and relocation. Accordingly, we respectfully request that Section 4 include an appropriation of \$1 million from the Works of Art Special Fund to ensure sufficient resources are available to complete this work.

Providing funding at this level will allow the State to responsibly preserve these important public art assets while the redevelopment of the Aloha Stadium site moves forward. It will also ensure that these works can be conserved and relocated in a manner consistent with professional standards and best practices for public art stewardship.

The redevelopment of the Aloha Stadium site represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to integrate culture, art, and community identity into a major civic project. Preserving the stadium's existing artworks will help ensure that the history and stories associated with the site remain part of its future.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to pass SB3007, SD2 and support the inclusion of a \$1 million appropriation in Section 4 for the preservation and relocation of works of art from Aloha Stadium.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stanford S. Carr', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Stanford S. Carr



250 South St  
Second Floor  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Governor  
Josh Green, M.D.

Comptroller  
Keith A. Regan

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Konrad Ng

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Marcia Morse  
Janet Sato

Ex-Officio  
Chris Lee  
Jeanne Kapela

Executive Director  
Karen A. Ewald

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

**Before the  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE & ARTS  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026 Conference Room 309 at 10:30AM  
SENATE BILL 3007\_SD2  
RELATING TO THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Dear Chair Kapela and members of the Committee,

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts **provides concerned COMMENTS on SB 3007\_SD2**, which Establishes the Office of Community Culture and Innovation within the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts for administrative purposes only. Requires annual reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds for the establishment of 1 full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Executive Director position and 1 full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Specialist position within the Office of Community Culture and Innovation. Establishes the Community and Cultural Partnerships Program. Appropriates moneys for the preservation and relocation of works of art from Aloha Stadium.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) carries out its work in accordance with the SFCA Strategic Plan, which was developed through extensive public input and guides the foundation's programs and partnerships statewide. SFCA already supports arts-based community development and creative engagement through collaborations with numerous state agencies and community partners. These include partnerships with the Department of Health on arts and healing initiatives, the Judiciary on exhibitions, the Department of Transportation on Works of Art projects, and public libraries for programming and community gathering. SFCA is also expanding initiatives that serve neurodivergent individuals, kūpuna, and veterans through innovative arts engagement and funding opportunities. State arts agencies regularly perform this type of community-building work and are structured and resourced accordingly.

While SFCA appreciates the bill's emphasis on arts-based community development, creative placemaking, and creative best practices, several concerns remain. The bill does not specify the level of funding required to implement the proposed projects, and SFCA's existing budget is dedicated to programs that directly serve the community and cannot be redirected to support a new office.

The measure would also create additional administrative responsibilities for existing staff, particularly those responsible for procurement and grants administration. Currently, SFCA relies on the Department of Accounting and General Services for technical and administrative services, including procurement, contracting, and personnel support, and it is unclear whether the proposed office would rely on the same infrastructure. In addition, several provisions extend into areas such as historic preservation, land development policy, public transit planning, and economic development planning—areas that already fall under the jurisdiction of other state agencies—raising concerns about duplication, inefficiency, and unclear agency roles.

As there has not been discussion prior to this measure's introduction, the SFCA encourages early communication with the Legislature regarding proposed initiatives so that sufficient time is available to plan, allocate resources, and incorporate new efforts into the budgeting process. With additional legislative support, SFCA is well positioned to carry out many of the goals described in the bill within its existing structure. However, further formulation and clarification of the proposed Office of Creative Innovation, including its purpose, scope, staffing, and funding—would be beneficial before this measure is enacted into law.

Additionally, the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) is concerned that this measure appears to misunderstand the current allowable uses of the Works of Art Special Fund. Under Act 131, enacted in 2025, SFCA is now prohibited from using the Works of Art Special Fund for the preservation or relocation of artworks purchased through that fund.

This measure proposes using the fund to relocate sculptures at Aloha Stadium. However, this is no longer an allowable use of the fund under current law. As a result, SFCA would not be able to use the Works of Art Special Fund to move or preserve these artworks.

If relocation or preservation of these works is necessary, a separate appropriation from the general fund would be required to support that effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify to this measure.



Aloha Committee Members,

I write to you today with deep concern about SB3007 SD2. While I understand the intention behind this bill is to enhance community culture and innovation, I respectfully oppose it because I believe it takes us in the wrong direction—away from strengthening what already works and toward creating unnecessary duplication that will ultimately weaken the very programs we all care about.

For decades, the people of Hawai'i have invested their time, voices, and hearts into building the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts into what it is today. SFCA's Strategic Plan wasn't created in a vacuum; it grew from countless community meetings, public input sessions, and collaborative conversations with artists, cultural practitioners, and residents across our islands. That plan already does what this new office proposes: arts-based community development, innovative partnerships, and cultural enhancement projects.

So when I read this bill, my first question is: why are we creating a parallel structure instead of investing in what we've already built together? This isn't innovation, it's duplication and possibly competing with existing intent. And in tight budget times, when families are struggling, and essential services are stretched thin, creating competing bureaucracies within our own state government feels like a betrayal of the public trust.

I'm troubled by the practical questions this bill leaves unanswered. How would this new office work alongside SFCA's Board of Commissioners and existing strategic initiatives? Where will the funding come from for both the administrative overhead and the actual community projects? SFCA staff already manage procurement, contracts, and grants for statewide arts programs—will they now be burdened with supporting a parallel office too, spreading already-thin capacity even thinner?

And perhaps most concerning: how will the arts community have a voice in shaping this new office's work? SFCA has earned its credibility precisely by listening to our communities. This bill offers no framework for such inclusive engagement.

Then there's the effective date: July 1, 2050. Twenty-four years from now. If this office is truly necessary and well-conceived, why wait a quarter century to implement it? This date raises real questions about whether this bill has been fully thought through or whether it's simply placeholder legislation looking for a problem to solve.

I care deeply about arts and culture in Hawai'i. I want to see our communities thrive through creative engagement. But I've learned that good intentions aren't enough—we need smart implementation that builds on our strengths rather than fragmenting our efforts.



Here's what I believe would truly serve our communities: adequately fund SFCA's existing programs. Give them the resources to expand what's already working. Strengthen the partnerships they've built with other state agencies and community organizations. Invest in administrative capacity to enable them to do more of the good work they're already doing. And most importantly, have honest conversations with SFCA, artists, and community members about the gaps that actually exist, then address them strategically, not bureaucratically.

Every dollar we spend creating a new administrative structure is a dollar we're not spending on actual artists, actual community programs, and actual cultural projects. In a time when we're asking residents to tighten their belts and making hard choices about funding for homelessness, healthcare, and education, creating duplicate offices feels like exactly the wrong priority.

The people of Hawai'i have built SFCA into something special, a bridge between government and community, between cultural preservation and innovation, between our past and our future. Let's honor that investment by strengthening what exists, not undermining it with competing structures that will inevitably create confusion, territorial disputes, and wasted resources.

I urge you to oppose SB3007 SD2. If there are specific things SFCA isn't doing that our communities need, let's have that conversation directly with them. Let's work together to identify real gaps and real solutions. Our arts and culture community deserves thoughtful stewardship, not bureaucratic expansion for its own sake.

Mahalo nui loa for taking the time to consider these concerns. I know you care about Hawai'i's cultural vitality as much as I do. I trust that, together, we can find better ways to support our communities than this bill proposes.

Maki Morinoue  
HULI PAC. Hawai'i Island



**Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Chair**  
**Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair**  
Committee on Culture & Arts

10:30AM Conference Room 309

RE: SB3007 SD2 - SFCA: Office of Community Culture and Innovation -  
Comments Only

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

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents more than 580 small businesses, sole proprietors and entrepreneurs across Hawai'i committed to a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity.

We appreciate the intent to strengthen the integration of culture, arts, and community development. Investing in vibrant, culturally grounded places is essential to Hawai'i's economic resilience and quality of life.

However, we have concerns about duplication and clarity of purpose. The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) already carries a mandate to promote, preserve, and integrate culture and the arts across our communities. SB3007 proposes a new Office of Community Culture and Innovation with broadly overlapping responsibilities, but does not clearly identify what gap this new entity fills or why these functions cannot be strengthened within SFCA itself.

We also note the office's expansive scope, which extends into community planning, economic revitalization, and tourism development. These are significant responsibilities that intersect with multiple existing agencies. Without clear boundaries and coordination mechanisms, this structure may create fragmentation rather than efficiency.

Additionally, the proposed governance model—particularly exemptions from civil service and centralized appointment authority—raises questions about transparency, accountability, and long-term continuity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

### Hawaii Legislative Council Members

Joell Edwards  
Wainiha Country Market  
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman  
Island Naturals  
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson  
Niko Niko Family Dentistry  
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia  
Hawaii Taro Farm  
Wailuku

Maile Meyer  
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger  
Kihei Ice  
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki  
Abundant Life Natural Foods  
Hilo

Chamber of  
Sustainable Commerce  
808.445.7606  
P.O. Box 22394  
Honolulu, HI 96823

**SB-3007-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:39:01 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/18/2026 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Browne	State Foundation on Culture and the Arts	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I have been a commissioner on the SFCA board for almost eight years. I have also been a leader in arts education in the state for over 30 years. I have seen many changes in the arts community and feel that I know what works and what doesn't. Support for the SFCA is critical to have a vibrant and productive arts community. Adding more top heavy positions is not what is needed. This will take away funding and support for the many arts organizations already in existence in Hawai'i. Support for artists and the amazing organizations that we already have is what we need.**

**I am happy to answer any questions on this.**

**Susan Browne**

**SB-3007-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:01:55 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/18/2026 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laurel Nakanishi	HO'A program	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou

Mahalo for your hard work and commitment to arts and culture. I appreciate how this bill seeks to expand the role of arts and culture in community revitalization, public space improvements, and innovative partnerships across state agencies.

However, I have many questions about the bill. How would the new office coordinate with the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts' current programming and initiatives? Would the SFCA receive more funding to support this office? How will the arts community be engaged in shaping the kuleana of this office?

While I support the intent behind this bill, I believe that there needs to be more communication with the SFCA and community stakeholders before proceeding.

mahalo

Laurel Nakanishi



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

**Testimony of the Hawai'i Arts Alliance  
In Consideration of SB3007 (SD2)  
Relating to the Office of Community Culture and Innovation**

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

The Hawai'i Arts Alliance offers comments on SB3007, which proposes the creation of an Office of Community Culture and Innovation within the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

The Hawai'i Arts Alliance recognizes the intent of this measure to expand the role of arts and culture in community revitalization, public space improvements, and cross-sector partnerships across state agencies. These are important goals that reflect the value of arts and culture in strengthening communities across Hawai'i.

**However, we urge careful consideration of how this proposal would be implemented within Hawai'i's existing arts and cultural infrastructure.** Members of the arts community have expressed concern about the potential for overlap with current programs and initiatives already led by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and other state agencies.

In particular, there is a need for greater clarity around:

- How the proposed office would coordinate with and complement existing strategic initiatives
- What dedicated resources and funding would be provided to support the office without diverting from current programs
- How roles and responsibilities would be clearly defined to avoid duplication and fragmentation
- How the arts community would be meaningfully engaged in the design and ongoing work of the office

**At a time when many arts organizations and cultural practitioners continue to face resource constraints,** it is critical that new structures strengthen—rather than complicate—the systems that currently support the sector.

The Hawai'i Arts Alliance respectfully encourages further dialogue and engagement with the arts community to ensure that any new initiative is well-integrated, adequately resourced, and responsive to the needs of artists and communities statewide.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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  
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**SB-3007-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 9:30:38 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/18/2026 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation.

David Ball

Waiialae-Kahala

**SB-3007-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 1:33:59 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/18/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teig Grennan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am in opposition to SB 3007. The mission of arts and culture must remain protected from political influence that consistently attempts to exploit, control and profit from vulnerable groups such as the arts community. This legislation is an attempt to overtake control over the SFCA and its resources using this Trojan Horse type legislation to do so. There is no intention behind this bill to benefit the SFCA or the local arts community, as the authors of it are the same ones who consistently seek to weaken all protections for arts funding in Hawaii to begin with. The authors of this bill consistently ignore public testimony by local artists and teachers, and have demonstrated they have no concerns for community needs. SB 3007 is an attempt to inject direct political control over a democratically structured arts agency originally designed to benefit the public. The SFCA was not established to serve the special interests of elected officials. It is difficult to reconcile the contradictions being offered by the legislature that the arts "get too much funding" and should be cut back , while suggesting at the same time that their own new, redundant pet program should be injected within the SFCA they consistently argue should operate with less funding. Support the Arts we already have. Fulfil the responsibilities required to support the existing SFCA's staff, programs and collection that is currently loved by the public at large. However, the public is powerless to change the will of those in power who refuse to listen, and I hope that truth is not proven once again with this legislation's passing.**

**Thank you**

**SB-3007-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 3:22:57 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/18/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Manipon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is **Yvonne Manipon**, and I submit this testimony **strongly in opposition of SB3007** which would create a statewide **Office of Community Culture and Innovation within the State Found on Culture and the Arts**.

There are questions about how the proposed office would function alongside existing programs at the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and other state agencies already engaged in arts-based community development. Important questions include:

- How the new office would coordinate with the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts' current strategic initiatives, its Strategic Plan and direction from the Board of Commissioners

*The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) already carries out arts-based community development work through its Strategic Plan, which was developed with extensive public input.*

- What resources and funding would support the office that would have to support the projects

*Creating a new office could add **additional administrative burdens** to existing staff, particularly those handling procurement, contracts, and grants.*

- How responsibilities would be clearly defined to avoid duplication of existing programs

*SFCA currently partners with many state agencies and community organizations to bring arts programs to the public*

- How the arts community would be engaged in shaping the work of the new office

*The public would benefit from **more details about the office's purpose, authority, staffing, and funding** before it is created to ensure proper use of taxpayer dollars.*

More development and clarification of the Office of Creative Innovation should occur **before this proposal is enacted into law**. Early communication with SFCA about proposed initiatives would allow time to properly **plan, budget, and implement programs**.

**SB-3007-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 3:45:38 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/18/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB3007. My comments are offered in a personal capacity as a Hawai'i resident who works closely with artists, cultural organizations, and the broader creative community in our state.

I appreciate the spirit of this bill and the recognition it gives to creativity as a valuable public resource. The idea that artistic thinking, design, and cultural knowledge can contribute to solving complex public problems is compelling. Hawai'i has enormous potential for demonstrating that creative practices across visual art, design, craft, and Indigenous knowledge systems can help communities imagine and shape more resilient futures. Efforts to bring creative approaches into public life and government decision-making are therefore welcome and worthy of exploration.

At the same time, I have concerns about the institutional placement proposed in the bill. SB3007 would locate a new Office of Creative Innovation within the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. While the SFCA plays an essential role in Hawai'i's cultural ecosystem, its statutory mission and operational structure are primarily focused on supporting the arts sector through grants, administering the Art in Public Places program, stewarding the state art collection, and fostering arts education and community partnerships.

The kind of cross-agency innovation work envisioned in this bill appears to extend well beyond those responsibilities. Programs designed to introduce creative thinking into government policy and infrastructure typically require strong coordination across multiple state departments and direct alignment with executive leadership. Placing such a function within the SFCA risks creating an initiative that lacks the authority and institutional capacity needed to operate effectively. At the same time, it would place new and somewhat misaligned expectations on an agency already meeting substantial existing responsibilities with very limited resources.

For these reasons, I respectfully question whether the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts is the most appropriate location for this initiative. SB3007's goal to bring creative thinking into public problem-solving is laudable and deserves thoughtful consideration. In my view, however, it would require a different administrative structure or broader consultation with the cultural sector and relevant state agencies to ensure that it can succeed. At present it risks becoming a symbolic gesture that also strains the mission and resources of the SFCA.

I commend the Legislature for recognizing the importance of creativity and culture in Hawai'i's public life. With further discussion about structure and implementation, this idea could evolve into a valuable initiative. At present, however, I am unable to support the bill as written.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Hawai'i's cultural community.

Sincerely,

Tyler Cann  
Honolulu, Hawai'i

**SB-3007-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 9:57:20 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/18/2026 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Solomon Enos	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Chair Representative Kapela.

Vice Chair Representative Kong.

The Committee on Culture and the Arts.

SB3007 SD2

Wednesday, March 18th, 10:30am,

House Conference Room 309

A testimony IN OPPOSITION to SB3007 SD2.

To the Committee of Culture and the Arts, Representative Kapela, Vice Chair Representative Kong, and members of the committee.

My name is Solomon Enos, and I am the Artist in Residence at the Capitol Modern, the Hawai'i State Art Museum. I am here IN OPPOSITION to SB3007 SD2.

In the two years I have had the luxury to volunteer at the Capitol Modern, I have had the opportunity to work closely with the dedicated leadership and exemplary staff of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. I have witnessed the high of professionalism they exhibit to bring forth the essential shared product of community and creativity, through the works they collect and the lives they change. From my studio space at the entrance to the museum, I engage with the multitude of children who visit with schools and families, and the visitors from across the islands and across the globe, who benefit profoundly from the work of the SFCA, who have curated the nectar of what makes Hawai'i a singular example of arts from the Pacific, which is a third of the Earth.

This bill is, in my humble opinion, a needless encumbrance, considering recent changes made to public funding that has already jeopardized the access to, and perpetuation of, Public Art in Hawai'i. Furthermore, this comes at a time when the boon of the arts, which compel critical thinking, problem solving, thriving imaginations, and for so many of our youth, a refuge of

beauty and purpose at a time when the tragedy of war and corruption threatens to take what hope they have left.

The language in this bill, to be frank, is parasitic in effect, taking resources to sustain itself at the cost of access to wonder for children and communities near and far.

I urge the members of this committee to stop this bill from becoming law, for it is needless when we consider the SFCA is fully capable of meeting and surpassing any of the goals which this Bill claims to offer.

Mahalo nunui for this opportunity to add my voice IN OPPOSITION To SB3007 SD2

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Solomon Enos, Artist in Residence.

**SB-3007-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 10:30:26 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/18/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Tara Gumapac, and I am an educator, artist, and cultural practitioner, from Kāneʻohe, Hawaiʻi. I respectfully submit testimony in opposition to SB3007.

While I strongly support the importance of arts, culture, and innovation in Hawaiʻi, I have significant concerns regarding the creation of a new Office of Community Culture and Innovation within the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA).

At its core, this proposal raises important unanswered questions about how the new office would function alongside existing programs at SFCA and other state agencies already engaged in arts-based community development. The SFCA already carries out this work through its Strategic Plan, which was developed with extensive public input and is guided by the Board of Commissioners. It remains unclear how this proposed office would coordinate with, align to, or potentially duplicate these existing strategic initiatives.

There are also concerns regarding the resources and funding required to support this new office. Creating an additional administrative structure may place further strain on existing staff and systems, particularly those responsible for procurement, contracts, and grant administration. At a time when many existing programs require sustained investment, it is critical to consider whether resources would be better directed toward strengthening current efforts rather than expanding bureaucracy.

Additionally, the bill does not clearly define how responsibilities would be delineated to avoid duplication of existing programs. SFCA already partners with numerous state agencies and community organizations to deliver arts and cultural programming across Hawaiʻi. Without clear boundaries and coordination mechanisms, there is a risk of redundancy, inefficiency, and fragmentation of services.

Another key concern is how the broader arts and cultural community would be meaningfully engaged in shaping the work of this new office. The public would benefit from greater clarity regarding the office's purpose, authority, staffing structure, and funding sources before it is established. Ensuring transparency and community input is essential to maintaining trust and ensuring the responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

Given these uncertainties, more development and clarification of the proposed Office of Community Culture and Innovation should occur before this measure is enacted into law. Early and ongoing communication with SFCA would allow time to properly plan, budget, and implement any new initiatives in a way that is aligned with existing priorities and community needs.

I strongly encourage thoughtful dialogue between SFCA and the Legislature prior to moving forward with this proposal.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to reconsider SB3007 in its current form.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Me ka mahalo,  
Tara Gumapac  
Kanaka Maoli Artist, Educator and Cultural Practitioner  
tarakeanuenue@gmail.com

**Comments regarding SB3007 SD2**

**Date:** March 16, 2026

**To:** Chair Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair Sam Satoru Kong, and Members of the House Committee on Culture and Arts (CCA)

**From:** Janet Sato

**Affiliation:** Maui Commissioner, SFCA

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

Thank you for your commitment to supporting Hawaii's arts and culture sector. I am a retired public high school visual arts teacher currently serving on the Board of Commissioners for the SFCA, and appreciate SB 3007 SD2's focus on arts-based creative development and innovation for our varied communities, yet have concerns regarding its implementation.

Clarification of the proposed Office of Community Culture and Innovation's scope of responsibilities as well as discussion regarding specification of funding must be addressed before enactment of this measure. As the SFCA's existing budget is already fully committed to current programs, significant administrative burdens may be created when alignment of these proposed initiatives face budgeting processes and restrictions.

I respectfully submit my comments and look forward to future opportunities for discussion and clarification.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,

Janet Sato

**SB-3007-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:42:16 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/18/2026 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dr. Rachel Klein	Hilo Community Players	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to respectfully oppose this measure. While the creation of an *Office of Community Culture and Innovation*, this idea needs to be better explained and detailed before any implementation to avoid additional administrative burdens on an already taxed system. The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts needs more funding and resources, not more red tape and boxes to check. Mahalo for your consideration of this issue.

Dr. Rachel Klein

**SB-3007-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:06:45 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/18/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Janes-Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

include:

Aloha Chair & Members,

I am Paul Janes-Brown, a resident of Maui, an advisor to the STFCA on art acquisition for the State's art collection and a long time arts supporter. This bill needs more development and investigation before being enacted. There are many questions that this bill raises. Such as:

- How the new office would coordinate with the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts' current strategic initiatives, its Strategic Plan and direction from the Board of Commissioners?

*The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) already carries out arts-based community development work through its Strategic Plan, which was developed with extensive public input.*

- What resources and funding would support the office that would have to support the projects?

*Creating a new office could add **additional administrative burdens** to existing staff, particularly those handling procurement, contracts, and grants.*

- How responsibilities would be clearly defined to avoid duplication of existing programs?

*SFCA currently partners with many state agencies and community organizations to bring arts programs to the public*

- How the arts community would be engaged in shaping the work of the new office?

*The public would benefit from **more details about the office's purpose, authority, staffing, and funding** before it is created to ensure proper use of taxpayer dollars.*

More development and clarification of the Office of Creative Innovation should occur **before this proposal is enacted into law**. Early communication with SFCA about proposed initiatives would allow time to properly **plan, budget, and implement programs**.

I hope these remarks will guide you to oppose this bill until the above mentioned matters are resolved. Mahalo nui loa.

Paul Janes-Brown

**SB-3007-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:10:05 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/18/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I'm opposed to this proposed bill because of several factors: different vision, hindered communication and collaboration, limited resources in funding and staffing, overlapping of job responsibilities, staff morale may be lowered as two agencies compete against each other and lastly, additional administrative responsibilities to the current staff in procurement and accounting.

The new agency would have different visions from SFCA, which has an Executive Director who is elected by Board of Commissioners from the community from across the State and from different islands. The Executive Director for the new agency is an appointed position by the Governor, who generally is new to the job and field, basically not knowing what SFCA knows about the art community. My belief is that the new agency's vision would be grandeur and SFCA knowledge of how things operate (reality) would hinder communication and collaboration between the two agencies.

There are limited resources in funding and staffing. Both agencies would be competing for more funding for each side to promote their visions. There is already a problem in staffing and this is the happening throughout the State and City jobs. SFCA needs to keep the best employees and hire the best employees for the jobs. Having the second agency would have SFCA competing for hiring the best candidates. More employees cost a lot money, including salaries and their fringe benefits, and additional operating costs, such as computers and office supplies. There would be probably overlapping of job responsibilities as each agency has their own vision.

Staff morale may be lowered because of competing resources between the two agencies. The new agency's staff may get newer equipment, newer supplies, bigger office space and even a higher salaries.

Current staff would get more work and responsibilities with the additional agency because of new vendors and the costs of getting the job done.

Thanks

Karen Kau

**SB-3007-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:17:18 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/18/2026 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Esteemed Legislators,

I want to commend the legislature for thinking about the importance of Innovation and Culture throughout the government. I am a Maui resident on the Hawaii State Foundation for Culture and the Arts teaching artist roster, and I am also an entrepreneur and business owner both in the arts and in conservation and regenerative tourism.

I support this bill, with reservations. With that in mind, I have two questions:

- Innovation requires flexibility and the ability to act on an idea. How will this additional office support innovation, rather than be an additional cog in the wheel of government?
- The SFCA is applying the arts as a tool for learning, culture, connection, and health. They ARE innovating. How will this office *expand* the reach to new areas, rather than limit or overlap areas already covered by the SFCA?

I want to make sure that any implementation expands the reach of innovation and creativity, rather than inhibit the funding of the arts and current programs within the Hawaii State Foundation for Culture and the Arts.

When I am teaching drawing and painting I am teaching people to navigate the creative process. When people are unfamiliar with taking creative risks, they avoid them, and both personal expression and new solutions are lost out. It's how we stay stuck in the same problems. Innovation is the creative process applied to a problem--and we need to be comfortable with innovation, both in the public and private sector, to meet the challenges facing Hawaii and the world.

Additionally, when I teach art, I often work within arts integration--using art as a tool for learning--for learning to closely observe nature through drawing, in order to better understand a science concept, for instance. I am a continual proponent of the arts and creative thinking to enrich other content areas.

Again, Innovation is creativity applied to a challenge. Creativity is bringing an idea into this world that didn't previously exist. It doesn't *just* have to do with painting or singing or dancing.

So I am 100% for innovation and culture being engrained in our state government. However, as this would be a new government office, implementation needs to ensure several things:

- This office needs to expand rather than duplicate efforts by the SFCA's current programs. (Ideally, the right collaborative approach could develop.)
- This office needs to have no impact on funding for the SFCA's programming and efforts.
- This office needs to help ideas move to implementation quickly, rather than an added step of government that slows down action.

If these concerns are accounted for, I am all for this bill. Thank you for considering the necessity of innovation in our state.

**SB-3007-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 2:41:21 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/18/2026 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joseph Uno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill which proposes to fund an autonomous Exec Director and staff position to administer a culture and arts-based community innovation program that should position Chinatown as a priority.

**SB-3007-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 5:12:54 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/18/2026 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Don Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an architect and former Associate Professor at UH, I am writing in support of this bill which proposes to fund an autonomous Exec Director and staff position to administer a culture and arts-based community innovation program that should position Chinatown as a priority. I believe this bill would help this historic district to revitalize and reach its potential as a key part of Honolulu's cultural fabric. Signed, Don Shaw AIA

**SB-3007-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 5:30:55 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/18/2026 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dean S. Sakamoto	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I support this legislation if the State can bring much-needed funding for economic and physical development in the Chinatown Historic District in collaboration with the City & County of Honolulu. The City cannot do it alone. I am a registered architect with expertise in community-based planning and design and through the non-profit SHADE Institute, based in Chinatown. Our Chinatown is a missed opportunity in plain sight. It needs to be cleaned up and revitalized for locals and cultural tourism. We need to start revitalization now as the rail station is completed by 2031. The Community Action Center is needed on-site in Chinatown and other TOD neighborhoods and run by a competent organization.