

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2513

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2603
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts, to which was referred S.B. No. 2603 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Designate the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra as the "State of Hawaii Symphony Orchestra";
- (2) Require the President and Chief Executive Officer of the State of Hawaii Symphony Orchestra to provide annual reports to the Legislature; and
- (3) Appropriate funds for the general operating costs of the State of Hawaii Symphony Orchestra.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts; Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra; Retail Merchants of Hawaii; Hawai'i Youth Symphony; Musicians' Association of Hawaii; Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association; Servco Pacific, Inc.; Hawai'i Arts Alliance; ABC Stores; and ninety-four individuals.



Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General.

Your Committee finds that the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra has provided a public service to the State for over a hundred years through its beloved performances, free and educational programming, support of artists and the arts economy, and promotion of Hawaiian musical culture. Your Committee further finds that public funding plays a crucial role in sustaining and enriching the arts, especially in ways that the private market alone often cannot. This measure will sustain the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra and ensure it continues to enrich the State for generations to come by designating it as the State of Hawaii Symphony Orchestra and enabling it to regularly obtain state funds to help cover its general operating costs.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting legislative findings that clarify the public purpose of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra and the depth of its history and ties to the State;
- (2) Inserting language to clarify that the appropriated funds are for the general operating costs of the State of Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, including matching funds for any performance made open to the public and held at a state facility or institution or on state property; and
- (3) Inserting a blank appropriation amount.

Your Committee notes that this measure, as amended, contains an appropriation for an unspecified amount. Should your Committee on Ways and Means choose to deliberate on this measure, your Committee respectfully requests that it consider inserting an amount of \$500,000 for fiscal year 2026-2027.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2603, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B.



No. 2603, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water, Land,
Culture and the Arts,



CHRIS LEE, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
WLA

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2603	Committee Referral: WLA, WAM	Date: 2/4/2026		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
LEE, Chris (C)	✓			
INOUYE, Lorraine R. (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
LAMOSAO, Rachele	✓			
DECORTE, Samantha	✓			
TOTAL	5			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes