

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

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Statement of  
**GEORJA SKINNER**  
**Administrator, Creative Industries Division**  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE & ARTS**

Wednesday, March 25, 2026  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of  
**HCR162/HR152**  
**REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ARTS DATA AND MAPPING TASK  
FORCE TO IDENTIFY AND MAP ARTS ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTITIES  
THROUGHOUT THE STATE.**

Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee. The Creative Industries Division (CID) of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports HCR162 and HR152, 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.

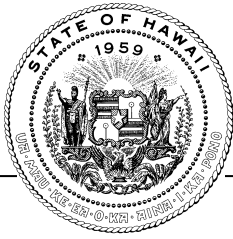
CID agrees with the membership composition of the proposed task force, the two-phase reporting requirement. We recognize the creation of a centralized, statewide database addressing arts, education and the creative economy provide essential tools for identifying gaps in education, access, coordinating services, and aiding in decision-making regarding policy, funding, and program development.

By leveraging advances in GIS and open data platforms, the MADE Task Force will create transparent, accessible resources that benefit communities and educators statewide. This initiative aligns with DBEDT's commitment to fostering workforce

development and promoting economic growth throughout Hawai'i's vibrant creative sector.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

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

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
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Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS, Director**

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND ARTS**

Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

in consideration of  
**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 162 / HOUSE RESOLUTION 152  
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 Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the House Committee on Culture and Arts, the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) supports House Concurrent Resolution 162 / House Resolution 152, 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.



**HAWAII**  
STATE FOUNDATION on  
CULTURE and the ARTS

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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 25, 2026 Conference Room 309 at 10:00AM**

**HCR 162\_HR 152  
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 Kapela and members of the Committee,

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

SFCA **SUPPORTS** H.C.R 162, H.R. 152 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.

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

**FROM:** Elise Inouye, Director of Policy and Public Affairs

**RE:** Testimony in Support for HCR 162/HR 152

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 10:00 am

**LOCATION:** Conference Room 309

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The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) **supports HCR 162/HB 152**, 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/HB 152** to continue to affirm the importance of arts and culture in Hawai'i.



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**24 March 2026**

House Committee on Culture & the Arts  
Representative Jeanné Kapela, Chair  
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

*Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of  
HR 152 / HCR 162 – Arts Data & Mapping Task Force*

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

Thank you for hearing HR 152 / 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.

HR 152 / 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.

It is often said that we can never have "enough" arts opportunities for youth. But what are the actual metrics of equitable access in our state? Of the approximately 200,000 K–12 students in Hawai'i, which communities currently have access to arts education, and which do not? Just as importantly, what barriers prevent some students from participating?

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".

Randy Wong  
President & CEO, Hawai'i Youth Symphony

**HR-152**

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 12:07:40 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/25/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an artist and member of several local artist's organizations, I support any measure that supports and strengthens arts education and the arts in our State. The positive benefits of this are immeasurable and critically important to the well-being, aesthetics and emotional health of our island community.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

Beth Anderson

**HR-152**

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 8:54:29 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/25/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emi Horii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of HCR162/HR152, 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