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

**Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026
Conference Room 224 at 1:00PM
SENATE BILL 3007
RELATING TO CULTURE AND ARTS**

Dear Chair Lee and members of the Committee,

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts provides comments on S.B. 3007 which establishes the Office of Creative Innovation within the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts for administrative purposes only. Requires annual reports to the Legislature.

The SFCA seeks additional details about the Office of Creative Innovation and its relationship with the SFCA: Is the Office of Creative Innovation accountable to the SFCA and will this office align with SFCA priorities and its Strategic Plan? What SFCA financial resources and administrative support must go to support the Office of Creative Innovation? What would be the projected annual operating cost of this office? There is also need for clarification that under Chapter 9 HRS, that this office and its staff, budget and work be governed by the SFCA Commission. Currently the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts does not have sufficient infrastructure with administrative services or personnel and relies on the Department of Accounting and General Services for such technical and government needs. Is it proposed that this office will also require assistance through contracting, procurement, and personnel needs from the same department?

It is unclear that specific statutory authority the Office of Creative Innovation would possess that does not currently exist within the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. With additional support from the legislature, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts is well suited to fulfil the stated purposes of the Office of Creative Innovation with existing staff, operations and organizational structure. More importantly, the SFCA believes that the ambiguity and redundancy of the Office of Creative Innovation as it is proposed may not effectively serve the needs of the people of Hawaii. We appreciate any clarifying language as to its intended functions and duties that are already provided and appreciate future dialogue on its establishment.

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

cc Konrad Ng, Chairperson
State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission

SB-3007

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 11:34:54 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 3007 to create an Office of Creative Innovation under the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. This office will provide focused leadership for advancing innovative arts initiatives, strategic collaborations, and community-centered cultural programming.

Importantly, the cultivation of the arts (and especially music, which so deeply shapes Hawai‘i’s cultural identity and youth development) helps ensure the long-term sustenance of our state’s creative growth. Recognizing music and the broader arts as drivers of innovation affirms that they are not peripheral, but essential to how Hawai‘i educates, builds community, and imagines its future.

By strengthening arts infrastructure and elevating creative capacity across sectors, SB 3007 helps give music and the arts a true seat at the table in all that the state believes and prioritizes. The bill supports a more vibrant, equitable arts ecosystem that enriches cultural life, educational opportunity, and economic vitality for all of Hawai‘i’s communities.