

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 'I 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE & ARTS

MARCH 18, 2026, 10:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 309 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.B. 3022, S.D. 1

RELATING TO CULTURE AND ARTS

Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. 3022, S.D. 1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) **supports** S.B. 3022, S.D. 1 which establishes a Hawai'i Leadership Awards Program and offers the following comments:

- 1) Too often, people who are honored today are forgotten tomorrow. To truly honor these individuals, we'd like to permanently remember their accomplishments in a repository designed to provide the finest protection for irreplaceable heritage materials, overseen by trained and trusted professionals.
- 2) DAGS would like to create a true memorial of the recipients' works and

achievements to guide and inspire future generations.

- 3) By empowering the State Archives to document and preserve the deeds and accomplishments of these worthy individuals, their work will be readily accessible in a centralized location for posterity. Archived material would include photographs, videos, oral histories, documents, writings and examples of the honorees' work to ensure that their accomplishments never fade from public memory.

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



16 March 2026

House Committee on Culture & the Arts (CAA)
Rep. Jeanné Kapela, Chair
Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of SB 3022 — Hawai'i Leadership Awards Program

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

Hawai'i Youth Symphony stands in **support of SB 3022**, which establishes the Hawai'i Leadership Awards Program to honor individuals who have made considerable and outstanding contributions to our State and who serve as inspirations to others.

This recognition, especially with its **dedicated categories for the Music and the Arts**, is a meaningful step toward valuing the full breadth of leadership that powers Hawai'i's cultural, economic, and social vitality. Hawai'i has many musical and artistic heroes, and this makes it possible for them to be recognized by them to be recognized by the State; a truly dignified honor.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to support SB 3022 and ensure that the leadership we uplift reflects the diverse contributions that truly sustain our communities.

Mahalo for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Wong".

Randy Wong
President & CEO, Hawai'i Youth Symphony

SB-3022-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 12:25:35 PM

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

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

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB3022 – Hawai‘i Leadership Awards Program

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

My name is Terri Madden, and I am the founder and executive director of PlayBuilders of Hawai‘i Theater Company. I write in strong support of **SB3022**, which establishes the **Hawai‘i Leadership Awards Program** to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to our state and who serve as inspirations in fields such as the arts, literature, music, and community engagement.

Hawai‘i is rich with individuals whose work strengthens our communities, preserves our cultural heritage, and uplifts future generations. Yet many of these leaders—especially those working in the arts and community-based fields—do their work quietly and without broad recognition. A statewide program that celebrates their contributions would acknowledge the profound role that creativity, storytelling, and cultural leadership play in shaping Hawai‘i’s identity.

Artists, writers, musicians, and community practitioners often serve as bridges between generations and cultures. Through their work, they help communities process shared experiences, preserve traditions, and imagine new possibilities for our islands. Recognizing these individuals through a formal state program not only honors their achievements but also signals to young people that leadership in the arts and community engagement is valued and worthy of aspiration.

Programs like the Hawai‘i Leadership Awards can also strengthen civic pride and cultural understanding by highlighting the diverse voices and contributions that make Hawai‘i unique. When we celebrate leaders across multiple disciplines—including the arts—we reinforce the idea that leadership comes in many forms and that creativity and cultural stewardship are essential to a thriving society.

I respectfully urge you to support **SB3022** and help establish a program that honors the individuals whose leadership, creativity, and dedication enrich the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Terri Madden
Founder & Executive Director
PlayBuilders of Hawai'i Theater Company



March 17, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **SB3022 SD1**, Relating to Culture and Arts

To: Representative Jeanne Kapela, Chair
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Culture and Arts

From: Llasmin Chaine, LSW, Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of **SB3022 SD1**, Relating to Culture and Arts

Hearing: Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women **supports SB3022 SD1** in the establishment of the Hawaii Leadership Awards Program as a means of honoring individuals whose contributions have significantly benefited the State and inspired others. As the **Commission** is committed to advancing gender equity and the status of women and girls in Hawaii, it **is invested in ensuring that state-sponsored recognition programs reflect the full diversity and leadership** present in our communities. One of our statutory goals and **strategic priorities is ensuring the visibility of female contributions, achievements, and leadership in Hawaii.**

The creation of a formal awards program presents an important opportunity to elevate the stories and achievements of leaders from historically underrepresented groups, including women. Programs of this nature **can help to address gaps in public recognition, inspire future generations, and foster a culture of civic engagement.**

We encourage the Legislature to ensure that the Hawaii Leadership Awards Program incorporates clear guidelines for diversity and inclusion in both nominations and selection criteria. This could include outreach to underrepresented communities, transparent criteria that value a broad range of leadership styles, and a selection committee that reflects the diversity of Hawaii's population.

We respectfully urge this Committee to **pass SB3022 SD1** and support the establishment of a program to honor individuals, across our islands, who have made considerable and outstanding contributions to the State in their respective fields.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



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

**Testimony of the Hawai'i Arts Alliance
In Support of SB3022 (SD1)
Relating to the Hawai'i Leadership Awards Program**

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

The Hawai'i Arts Alliance **supports SB3022**, which establishes the Hawai'i Leadership Awards Program to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to our state.

This measure creates an important opportunity to honor leaders across fields—including the arts—whose work strengthens our communities and serves as inspiration for future generations.

Recognizing excellence in arts, culture, and community leadership helps elevate the value of these contributions and reinforces Hawai'i's commitment to a vibrant and thriving cultural landscape.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Respectfully submitted,

**Gaye Humphrey
Executive Director
Hawai'i Arts Alliance**

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SB-3022-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:05:28 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurel Nakanishi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou

I am writing to express my support for **SB3022** to establish the **Hawai'i Leadership Awards Program** to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the state and serve as inspirations in fields including arts, literature, music, and community engagement.

Mahalo

Laurel