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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

FEBRUARY 13, 2026, 1:01 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.B. 3022

RELATING TO CULTURE AND ARTS

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. 3022.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) **supports** S.B. 3022 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.



February 12, 2026

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

To: Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

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

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

Hearing: Friday, February 13, 2026, 1:01 p.m.
Conference Room 224, State Capitol

The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women **supports SB3022** 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 and inspire future generations.** However, without clear criteria or processes that prioritize inclusivity and equity, there is a risk that the awards may inadvertently perpetuate existing disparities in visibility and acknowledgment.

COMMENTS: The Commission encourages the incorporation of explicit language within the bill or its implementation guidelines to ensure that the selection process for the Hawaii Leadership Awards is transparent, equitable, and actively seeks to recognize a diverse array of leaders.

We respectfully suggest that the Legislature consider amending the measure:

- to include advisory input from organizations representing women or the University of Hawaii at Manoa Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and/or
- to expand membership of the awards selection committee to include a designee from the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women.

Either of these amendments will help ensure that the Hawaii Leadership Awards Program truly reflects the breadth of leadership and achievement across our islands. I respectfully urge this Committee to **consider the Commission's comments and pass SB3022.** Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

12 February 2026

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

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members:

I am Randy Wong, President & CEO of Hawai'i Youth Symphony, an organization that nurtures creativity, builds lifelong learners through music education, and strengthens community bonds statewide.

I respectfully submit testimony in **strong 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 Arts and Music**, is a meaningful step toward valuing the full breadth of leadership that powers Hawai'i's cultural, economic, and social vitality.

Too often, leadership awards programs lump all nonprofit work together, or treat music and the arts as merely entertainment rather than as an essential public good... or, they overlook arts leadership entirely. Establishing a distinct category for the arts paves the way to both celebrate Hawai'i's many extraordinary arts leaders and affirm that the arts play a vital role in community well-being, education, and social connection.

Might I also suggest that Communications be included as a category? We have many fine journalists, radio professionals, newscasters, reporters, and communications leaders in our state, and their work may not necessarily fit into the other categories already defined.

In every community across our islands, arts and music leaders are educators, innovators, collaborators, and cultural stewards. They expand opportunities for Hawai'i's citizens, elevate civic life, and contribute to a healthier and more vibrant Hawai'i.

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,



Randy Wong
President & CEO, Hawai'i Youth Symphony