

Oppose Welcome to Gboard clipboard, any text you copy will be saved here.HB1378 HD2 – Protect Arts and Culture Funding in Hawai‘i

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To: Chair Chris Lee,. Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts (TCA)

From: Faryn Kogachi

Affiliation: Artist

Subject: Strong Opposition tio HUse the edit icon to pin, add or delete clips.B1378-HD2

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

My name is Faryn Kogachi. I'm a Honolulu resident. I'm an artist and provide my work to Mori Hawai'i in order to supplement my income. I **strongly oppose HB1378-HD2**, which threatens the future of arts and culture funding in Hawai'i.

The funding for the Arts in Hawaii is crucial to the well being of the community. It provides a venue for artists to show and sell their work and it offers opportunities for everyone to learn to express themselves artistically. It perpetuates Hawaii's traditional techniques in woodwork, fiber weaving, and incorporating island materials to create something beautiful.

Key Points

1. **HB1378-HD2 Jeopardizes Long-Term Funding for the Arts.**
The bill restricts the **Works of Art Special Fund**, which is the **only dedicated and sustainable source of public funding for arts and culture statewide**. Without it, Hawai'i's creative community will face deep cuts, leaving programs, jobs, and future opportunities at risk.
2. **General Funds Are Not a Reliable Replacement.**
The proposed general fund appropriation is **temporary** and comes with no guarantee of future support. As federal funds diminish, general funds will likely be diverted to essential services such as **health, housing, and education**—leaving the arts with little to no funding at all.
3. **Arts and Culture Are Essential to Hawai'i's Identity and Economy.**
The arts not only preserve our cultural heritage but also contribute to tourism, education, and **community well-being**. We need **stable, dedicated funding** to ensure arts and culture can thrive for future generations.

Closing

I urge you to **OPPOSE HB1378-HD2** and to protect the **Works of Art Special Fund**, which has supported the arts and culture ecosystem for decades. This is not the time to dismantle the very foundation that sustains our creative and cultural communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony, and for your commitment to supporting Hawaii's arts and culture sector.

Sincerely,

Faryn Kogachi, Honolulu, HI