



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HONOLULU --- Arts and culture measures at the 2026 Hawai'i State Legislature include arts education, arts and health, music accessibility, performing arts grants and more.

The Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) supported all measures as they passed out of committee this week.

An online community meeting to discuss these active bills will be hosted by the SFCA soon. People interested in the meeting can go to sfca.hawaii.gov for updates and to subscribe to the SFCA email newsletter.

- **Arts Integration in Public Schools**
[HB2436](#), establishes within the Dept. of Education (DOE) arts integration coordinator positions and arts integration specialist positions to support fine arts education and arts integration in public schools statewide.
- **Arts and Health**
[HB2605](#), establishes a position within the SFCA to support implementation and coordination of specialized arts programs and therapeutic arts interventions for underserved and neurodiverse populations. Appropriates funds for the position.
- **Cultural Trust**
[HB2438](#), Establishes the Hawai'i Cultural Trust within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. Establishes an income tax credit for contributions made to the Hawai'i Cultural Trust and qualified Hawai'i cultural organizations, under certain conditions. Establishes a special number plate for motor vehicles to support the Hawai'i Cultural Trust.
- **SFCA Artists in the Schools (AITS) program**
[HB2437](#), appropriates funds to the SFCA for the AITS program.
- **Performing Arts Grants Program**

[HB1815](#), explicitly applies existing grant standards to Performing Arts Grants Program grants under the SFCA.

- **Music Accessibility**

[HB1764](#), Establishes the Music Accessibility Pilot Program within the Hawai'i State Public Library System to expand access to public concerts and musical education throughout the State. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000

- **Performing Arts Special Fund**

[HB2604](#), establishes a performing arts ticket surcharge on the sale of certain performing arts tickets for an event held in the State.

- **Works of Art Special Fund, Appropriation**

[HB2461](#), increases the ceiling for the WOASF. Appropriates funds for the maintenance, upkeep, and preservation of the State's public art and collections. Appropriates funds for a collections manager position within the SFCA.

- **Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra**

- [HB1860](#), designates the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra as the State of Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra. Requires annual reports to the Legislature.
- [SB2603](#), designates the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra as the State of Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra. Requires annual reports to the Legislature.

- **Arts Data Mapping**

[HB2117](#), Establishes the Mapping of Arts Data for Education Task Force to conduct a study and develop a comprehensive, publicly available statewide database and geographic information systems map of arts entities and programs engaged in arts and arts education. Requires interim and final reports to the Legislature

- **Transferring SFCA from Dept. of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) to Dept. of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT)**

[HB2118](#), transfers SFCA and King Kamehameha Celebration Commission from DAGS to DBEDT, appropriates funds for positions within DBEDT.

Media contact

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About the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

The [Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts](#) (SFCA), a government agency administratively attached to the [Department of Accounting and General Services](#) (Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 9), was established by the Hawai'i State Legislature in 1965, to promote, perpetuate, preserve and encourage culture and the arts, history and the

humanities as central to the quality of life of the people of Hawai'i. SFCA funding is provided by the state of Hawai'i and the [National Endowment for the Arts](#). SFCA programs include [Capitol Modern: the Hawai'i State Art Museum](#).