



SAMPLE TESTIMONY

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I strongly OPPOSE SB2764 and HB2565!

[SB2764](#), [HB2565](#) would transfer the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. ***Revoking and dismantling*** the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Commission. Requires the ***Governor, a nonexpert in this field, to select the Executive Director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, with the advice and consent of the Senate.*** ALL NONEXPERTS in the field of culture and the arts. This is dangerous and reflects the darker history of humanity.

These bills would cut out island representation and ***silence*** the input from professionals in this field of culture, arts, and humanities. Giving power and authority to people not vetted with the right background, experience, and heart [*integrity*]. Instead, in tourism and economic development, they have long eyed the funds *the people of Hawai'i advocated for since the 80s*. It would cause a catastrophic domino effect on the ability of SFCA to receive significant funding because this bill would deconstruct the organization, and it would no longer be eligible to legally meet oversight standards for receiving funding from primary outside sources.

Arts and Culture should stand in the leadership of those expert practitioners and not be dictated by corporate gain. The commission should continue to be well-represented with neighboring island voices and experts in this field. When the government leadership dictates culture and the arts, it poisons the purpose of pursuing pure, creative, honest expression and the true power and value of culture and the arts to our society. It *reverts* us towards, as the late Haunani-Kay Trask puts it, "[Cultural Prostitution.](#)" Hawaiian Culture must take up space as a valid cultural practice away from economic development and perpetuate the culture through education, spirituality, and skills.

Mahalo

[FULL NAME]

[TOWN, ZIP CODE]