

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2016 7:57 PM
Subject: Budget Speaker Registration/Testimony
Attachments: 20160509195651_2016_Budget Committee_Bill 14 CD2.pdf

~~Speaker Registration/Testimony~~

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Meeting Date (*)	2016-05-10
Council/PH Committee (*)	Budget
Agenda Item (*)	Bill 14, CD2
Your position on the matter (*)	Support
Representing (*)	Organization
Organization	Kamehameha Schools
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? (*)	No
Written Testimony	
Testimony Attachment	20160509195651_2016_Budget Committee_Bill 14 CD2.pdf
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Attn: Councilwoman Ann H. Kobayashi, Chair
Councilman Joey Manahan, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Budget

Aloha mai kākou,

Chair Ann H. Kobayashi, Vice Chair Joey Manahan and members of the Budget Committee, my name is Kau'i Burgess, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Kamehameha Schools, in strong support of Bill 14, CD2, related to the 2017 fiscal year budget, seeking funds for the Festival of Pacific Arts slated for the year 2020 and the Ola Ka 'Ilima Artspace Lofts in Kaka'ako.

The act of securing the prestigious two-week Festival of Pacific Arts in Hawai'i by the Hawaiian Arts Administration and the PA'I Foundation, echo Kamehameha Schools' efforts to support, cooperate, and collaborate with community members and organizations that share a vision and commitment to the collective well-being of the people of Hawai'i.

As stated in written testimony provided by Vicky Holt Takamine, administrator for the Hawaiian Arts Administration and the executive director of PA'I Foundation, the Native Hawaiian community has taken on the kuleana, or responsibility, of beginning to organize and plan for the Festival of Pacific Arts. While there is importance in Native Hawaiian organizations coming together in support of the arts and culture, as with any venture of this size and stature, supplementary funds and resources are a necessity. The monies allocated by the passage of Bill 14, CD2, will serve a great purpose by providing a well-rounded experience for the people of Hawai'i, along with amenities to the nearly 2,700 artists and cultural practitioners selected to represent their Pacific nations, the thousands of visitors who flock to each hosting site during festival years, and even national and international media pools expected to cover the festival, elevating the City and County of Honolulu to a global platform.

In addition to the Festival of Pacific Arts, Kamehameha Schools asks for the Committee's support in providing funding via a grant for the Ola Ka 'Ilima Artspace Lofts. Allowing for such funding of an art gallery and performing arts center, presents groups such as the PA'I Foundation the opportunity to not only continue to support the nonprofit arts sector, but also to enhance critical programs that will benefit the City and County of Honolulu, along with communities all across Hawai'i.



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Art serves as a catalyst for positive transformation, while also teaching our youth the collaborative, communication and critical thinking skills increasingly required by our changing economy. Kamehameha Schools believes the arts are integral to creating vibrant communities that will entice businesses, talent and tourists, while engaging our residents. Evidence of this is seen through our organization's efforts related to Our Kaka'ako, a community built on the foundation of our city's arts and culture visionaries. With the addition of the Ola Ka 'Ilima Artspace Lofts, we will witness the Kaka'ako district evolve into an area driven by innovation, activism and creative spirit, earning the title of social epicenter of Honolulu.

At a time when Honolulu's growing the economy remains a high priority, I encourage the committee to uphold an investment in arts and culture, an investment with a proven positive return on educational outcomes for Hawai'i's people.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony,

Kau'i Burgess
Director of Community Relations
Kamehameha Schools