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HONOLULU, HAWAII**From:** loluiek@gmail.com on behalf of Louise King Lanzilotti [executive@htyweb.org]

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**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2009 11:03 AM**To:****Cc:**

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**Subject:** Council Meeting Testimony - RESTORE MOCA'S PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS

Here is my testimony asking to restore the MOCA proposed budget cuts. I have also attached it to this document. I'm sharing it with all of you in case I don't get the opportunity to testify. Aloha, Louise Lanzilotti

To the members of the City Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony (and possibly to testify) on proposed budget cuts to the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts. My testimony is simple and brief. The arts provide a much needed outlet for people during a time of economic hardship.

The arts organizations supported by City funding are vital to the health of the community, spiritually and emotionally. In the specific case of Honolulu Theatre for Youth, City funding helps us to extend our programming to audiences that would not otherwise be able to share in our work. Every citizen should have the opportunity to share in the cultural richness of Hawaii, not just those who have the money to afford it.

Arts organizations are businesses, employing thousands of people in the state and generating income not only for their employees but also for surrounding businesses that will be negatively impacted by the lack of programming. Cutting arts programming in a neighborhood has a domino effect on the economy - lack of a program in a neighborhood leads to a lack of traffic, which leads to a decrease in clientele to restaurants and other business, etc.

The arts are a treasure that all citizens in Hawaii should be able to enjoy. Please restore funding for the MOCA and allow us to continue serving the public effectively in these desperate times.

Thank you for hearing my views. I hope you will restore funding to the MOCA>

Aloha,

Louise King Lanzilotti  
Managing Director  
Honolulu Theatre for Youth

"Every disease is a musical problem; every cure is a musical solution." Novalis

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