



Hawaii Youth Symphony

May 12, 2009

The Hon. Todd Apo, Council Chair
The Hon. Nester Garcia, Budget Committee Chair
Honolulu City Council
Honolulu Hale
Honolulu, HI 96813

RECEIVED
MAY 12 9 50 AM '09
CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

RE: Restore MOCA's Budget Cuts

Dear Council Chair Apo and Budget Chair Garcia:

We are writing to ask that you please restore the \$172,500 budget cut to the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts. While we understand the need for our city's leaders to make difficult decisions regarding the budget, we are asking that you please not take measures that will irreparably harm to the arts community.

This significant cut to MOCA's budget will affect its grants programs. As a recipient of a grant from MOCA, I can tell you that the small investment that the City makes in the Hawaii Youth Symphony is well worth the value. With assistance from the City, HYS is able to accomplish the following:

- Service more than 600 students a year, providing high quality music education that is filling the gaps left by our under-resourced school system;
- Produce free, educational concerts, targeted at school children, and reaching nearly 10,000 students a year;
- Through the HYS Academy, offer free general music and beginning band classes at the Boys and Girls Club for any interested student.

Our programs are providing jobs for some of Hawaii's finest music educators, and they are providing educational opportunities that our young people cannot find elsewhere due to cuts from every sector.

We have extraordinary creative talent in our small state. The arts deserve to be supported and protected to ensure the health and well being of our communities. The arts provide jobs, education and other services in our city. Please restore the budget cuts. The payback is so much greater than the investment you are making in our community and our children.

Thank you,

Selena Ching
Executive Director

MISC. COM. 1000

B