

# Civic Engagement in the Arts During Hawaii's 2025 Legislative Session

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## Meeting Recap: Session 1

**Date:** January 16, 2025

**Hosted by:** Hawai'i Arts Alliance

**Special Guests:** Karen Ewald, State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) and Keanu Young, Public Access Room (PAR) Assistant Coordinator

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### Opening Remarks:

The session began with a warm welcome from Gaye Humphrey, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Arts Alliance, emphasizing the critical role of arts advocacy in Hawai'i and the importance of collective action. Gaye also shared highlights of the Alliance's ongoing advocacy efforts and plans to pilot an annual arts advocacy training program in late summer.

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### Key Topics Covered by Karen Ewald:

Karen Ewald provided an in-depth walkthrough of the [Hawai'i State Legislature website](#), demonstrating how to:

- Navigate the site and track bills by number or subject.
- Set up notifications for updates on specific bills.
- Access the legislative calendar and identify state representatives.
- Find committees that oversee arts and culture.

Karen emphasized the urgency of registering on the site and logging in frequently, as hearings can be announced with as little as 48 hours' notice.

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### Bills to Watch:

Karen highlighted the potential resurfacing of **HB 1807**, a previously deferred bill that sought to reduce the 1% for Art Fund. This change could significantly impact SFCA funding. The bill may reappear under a new number, and both SFCA and the Hawai'i Arts Alliance are monitoring developments closely.

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### **Advocacy Tips:**

Karen underscored the importance of constituent voices in advocacy efforts and recommended:

1. **Building Relationships:** Connect with lawmakers and understand their positions.
2. **Attending Hearings:** Show up in person whenever possible.
3. **Providing Testimony:** Submit written testimony, testify in person, or participate via Zoom.

Keanu from the [Public Access Room](#) also shared resources available on their [YouTube channel](#) to help participants engage more effectively.

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### **Call to Action:**

The group discussed the need to expand participation in future sessions. Everyone was encouraged to stay engaged, invite others, and actively advocate for the arts.

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### **Next Steps:**

Join us for **Session 2** on **Thursday, January 23, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. HST**. Please note the updated Zoom details here:

Topic: Civic Engagement in the Arts – Session 2

Time: Jan 23, 2025 12:00 p.m. HST

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86790649560?pwd=xDqXTIMCvmiRlwiIdwRLCsKWmoGqde.1>

Meeting ID: 867 9064 9560

Passcode: 506155

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Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to this important discussion. Together, we can ensure that arts and culture remain vital to Hawaii's future.

