



**To:** Arts Action Fund Members  
**From:** Americans for the Arts Action Fund  
**Date:** August 2, 2018  
**Re:** Mazie Hirono and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for Hawaii U.S. Senate

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**Name:** Mazie Hirono  
**Party:** Democrat  
**Occupation:** United States Senator from Hawaii  
**Incumbent:** Yes  
**Years Served:** 2013-Present, 5 years  
**Born:** November 3, 1947 (age 70) in Koori, Fukushima Prefecture, Japan.  
**Previous Public Offices Held:** Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Hawaii's 2nd district (2007-2013), 9th Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii (1994-2002), Member of the Hawaii House of Representatives from the 32nd district (1985-1993), Member of the Hawaii House of Representatives from the 12th district (1981-1983).  
**Other Positions:** Practiced law in Honolulu.  
**Educational Background:** Received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from The University of Hawaii at Mānoa and Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center.

**Contact Information:**

- Campaign Website: <https://mazieforhawaii.com/>
- Campaign Email: [info@mazieforhawaii.com](mailto:info@mazieforhawaii.com)
- Campaign Mailing Address: Post Office Box 677 Honolulu, HI 96809
- Headquarters Phone: 808-829-8297

**Social Media Platforms:**

- Facebook: @senatorhirono 21K followers
- Twitter: @maziehirono 217K followers
- Instagram: @maziehirono 10.2K followers

### 2018 General Campaign Prediction:

- Solid D (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Last General Election: 61.6% (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Last Primary Election: 56.8% (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))

### Personal Arts Background:

- Met with NEA Chairman, Jane Chu, on February 18, 2016 in Honolulu, Hawaii at a reception hosted by the Hawai'i State Art Museum (Source: [NEA](#)).
- Attended the 2011 NEA Heritage Fellows awards ceremony at the Capitol Visitors Center to help celebrate master folk and traditional artists (Source: [NEA](#)).
- On April 3, 2018 Sen. Mazie Hirono visited Hokulani Elementary School to see arts integration in action. She met with a fourth-grade class in the Honolulu Museum of Art's Art Seed program (Source: [Honolulu Museum of Art](#)).

### Notable Arts Quotes:

- *"Programs like the Manoa Heritage Center and East-West Center help expand our knowledge of the histories, languages, and cultures that shape our world view. I remain committed to ensuring that Hawaii continues to receive important federal funding for programs that support the humanities."* – Senator Mazie Hirono said on August 9, 2017 in a grant announcement (Source: [Press Release](#)).
- *"By increasing access to Native Hawaiian manuscripts and historic materials, the projects supported by this grant will help to preserve Native Hawaiian traditions and culture. I will continue working to see that Native Hawaiian programs receive the federal support they need to implement important projects like these."* – Senator Mazie Hirono said on September 15, 2017 in a grant announcement of \$500k to local arts organizations (Source: [Press Release](#)).

### Arts Action Fund Congressional Report Card:

- [2016 Congressional Report Card](#): Thumbs up
- [2014 Congressional Report Card](#): Thumbs up
- [2012 Congressional Report Card](#): A+
- [2010 Congressional Report Card](#): A+

### Examples of Actions on the Arts

- **NEA Funding:**
  - Voted no on amendment offered by Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI) as part of the FY 2011 long-term Continuing Resolution to reduce funding for the National Endowment for the Arts by \$20.6 million on February 17, 2011. (Source: [2012 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
  - Voted no on amendment offered to the FY 2012 Interior Appropriations bill by Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI) to reduce funding for the National Endowment for the Arts by \$10.6 million on July 28, 2011. (Source: [2012 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))

- **Every Student Succeeds Act:**
  - Voted yes on S.1177—Senate bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, titled *Every Child Achieves Act* (ECAA) on July 16, 2015. (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
  - Voted yes on S.1177—Final legislation to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, now called the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), replacing No Child Left Behind on December 9, 2015. (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
  
- **Tax Cuts and Jobs Act:**
  - Voted no on *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* (HR 1) sponsored by Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX) which would double the standard deduction limiting specific incentives for income tax deductions of gifts to charity, becoming severely limited to only the top five percent of taxpayers who itemize their deductions. The Senate voted 51 to 48 on December 13, 2017 to pass the bill in a party-line vote. (Source: [New York Times](#))
  
- **Letters:**
  - Cosigned a “Dear Colleague” letter on March 16, 2018, asking Senate appropriators to fund the NEA and NEH at no less than \$155 million in FY 2019. The letter was led by late Representative Louise Slaughter. (Source: [Arts Action Fund](#))
  - Cosigned yes on a “Dear Colleague” letter on March 16, 2016, asking Senate appropriators to fund the NEA and NEH at no less than \$149.8 million in FY 2017. The letter was led by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM). (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
  - Cosigned yes on a "Dear Colleague" letter in 2015 and 2016, asking Senate appropriators to support "robust" funding for the Office of Museum Services in FY 2016 and FY 2017. The letter was led by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY). (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
  - Cosigned yes on a "Dear Colleague" letter on January 23, 2014, asking Senate tax leaders to protect the full value and scope of the charitable deduction during any comprehensive tax reform efforts. (Source: [2014 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
  - Co-signed a Congressional Arts Caucus “Dear Colleague” letter in 2009 2010, asking for a funding increase for the department of education’s arts education grant programs. the letters were initiated by caucus co-chairs representatives Slaughter (D-NY) and Platts (R-PA). There were 40 House signatories. (Source: [2010 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))

#### **Arts Membership:**

- Hirono has been a member in the Senate Cultural Caucus since 2010. She is currently serving as a member in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. There are 34 members and the list is maintained by office of Caucus Co-Chairs, Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#)).

### Information on Arts and the Economy in Hawaii:

- In Hawaii, arts and culture was a \$2.5 billion industry—equivalent to 3.1 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 22,206 arts and culture industry jobs.<sup>1</sup>
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 2,781 businesses employed 12,323 people in Hawaii involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—4.9 percent of all businesses and 1.69 percent of all employees.<sup>2</sup>

### Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts:

- Senator Hirono, the budget of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) was cut in half during the 1990s. With its current funding of \$153 million, the NEA spends just 47 cents per American—half the cost of a pack of gum. Would you support a plan to increase federal arts funding to the NEA to \$1 per American, so that arts organizations in your state or district can present even more accessible arts programs for all its residents?
- With the implementation of *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), states now have more responsibility for providing a well-rounded education – including the arts. Would you support full funding (\$1.6 billion) of the Well-Rounded Education provisions of ESSA, including data collection of arts education programs by the states and advocating for the integration of the arts into STEM education?
- Nonprofit arts organizations are charities, and on average, 25 percent of their annual budgets rely on donations made by individual taxpayers to serve the public good. The charitable tax deduction incentive is currently only available to individuals who itemize their tax returns. Would you support a Universal Charitable Deduction, so all taxpayers have the incentive to donate?

### About ArtsVote2018:

- The mission of ArtsVote2018 is to advance the role of arts in the 2018 midterm elections by providing arts advocates, arts leaders, elected officials, and media with needed information to effectively advocate for the arts.

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<sup>1</sup>Arts and cultural production are defined as those industries that produce arts and culture related commodities and generally follow the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). Employment estimates for ACP-related industries are for “direct” employment. [Arts and Culture Production Satellite Account](#) (ACPSA), 2015; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and National Endowment for the Arts, 2018.

<sup>2</sup>Findings count active U.S. businesses registered with Duns & Bradstreet in the following categories: museums and collections; performing arts; visual art/photography; film, radio, and television; design and publishing; schools and services. [Creative Industries: Business & Employment in the Arts](#), Americans for the Arts, 2017.