

Date of Hearing: February 11, 2008

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. No. 2165, Relating to Education

Purpose: Appropriates funds for performing arts and fine arts education programs in public middle and high schools.

Department's Position: While the Department of Education (DOE) supports performing and fine arts education programs, we do not support S.B. 2165 at this time due to Hawaii's impending fiscal austerity and priority for the current Board of Education's budget priorities. Arts in the public school curriculum is immeasurable, as it enables students to cultivate their skills through expression, creativity, courtesy, and critical thinking. Based on national research, students who participate in the arts generally have a higher attendance rate than those that do not.

Senate Bill Number 2165

Title: DOE; Performing and Fine Arts Education Programs; Appropriation

Good afternoon, Senators. My name is Dana Terasako and I am a junior at J. B. Castle High School. I am testifying on SB No. 2165, Fine Arts.

I support this Bill because the fine arts are a great way to be involved in school and make life long friends. The fine arts teach you life long skills and enable students to broaden their horizons. Students who are unable to attend Fine Arts programs are being deprived of obtaining required credits need for college and of the skills mentioned before.

As a very active member in the Fine Arts program I have personally made life long friends, acquired more than enough credits to graduate and go to almost any college of my choice. Most colleges do recommend having taken a foreign language and most high schools require two consecutive years of a foreign language to graduate. Schools that do not have such classes are holding their students back from furthering their education and broadening their minds.

Senate Bill (SB) Number 2165

Title: DOE; Performing and Fine Arts Education Programs; Appropriation

Good afternoon, Senators. My name is April Nakayama and I am a sophomore at J.B. Castle High School. I am testifying on SB No. 2165, DOE; Performing and Fine Arts Education Programs; Appropriation.

I support this Bill for the following reasons. The fine arts are a way for students to express themselves in diverse ways, while meeting new people and building strong friendships. It offers kids many opportunities to be creative and allows them to be who they are. Schools without a fine arts program are not only taking away from our student's education, but also not allowing them to get credits in certain areas they might need for college.

By passing this Bill it will help increase the chance of students getting into a college they want. Also it allows students to be well rounded and lets them take classes in areas they enjoy. Students are most likely to pay attention and do better in classes they enjoy rather than taking classes they dislike just because they have to.