

Date of Hearing: February 11, 2008

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. No. 2230, Relating to Education

Purpose: Appropriates moneys for the development, renewal, and maintenance of fine arts classes in secondary schools.

Department's Position: While the Department of Education (DOE) supports performing and fine arts education programs, we do not support S.B. 2230 at this time due to Hawaii's impending fiscal austerity and priority for the current Board of Education's budget priorities. Arts in 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 high attendance rate than those that do not.

To: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Committee on Education

From: Jodeen Enesa  
(808) 271-5246

Date: February 8, 2008  
Hearing on 02-11-08 in conference room 225.

Subject: **Support of SB 2230, Relating to Education**

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate moneys for the development, renewal, and maintenance of fine arts classes such as visual arts, music, chorus, drama, band and dance in secondary schools. I support this bill. I am currently a student studying Social Work at the University of Hawaii. I want to focus on Health. I feel that in order for our overall health and wellbeing to be in balance, areas such as our physical, emotional, mental and social need to be considered.

I went to Kahuku High and Intermediate. I was involved in preparatory classes for Marching Band and ceramics. I don't recall having dance classes but students had the opportunity to prepare every year for May Day. As I look back on the experiences I had in the fine arts opportunities such as these, I realize that for me this increased my confidence, creativity and increased my capacity in coping skills to life's challenges.

As a social worker, I feel that my responsibility is to assist in the empowerment and education of individuals whose lives are not in balance. I feel that confidence is key in ones self-motivation to accept or to act upon fears to change. Creativity coupled with critical thinking is needed to problem solve, which is what education in my perspective is all about.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.