

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator David Ige , Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

HEARING

DATE: Wednesday April 13, 2011  
TIME: 9:30 am  
PLACE: Conference Room 211, State Capitol  
\_\_\_\_ copies

SCR 130 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONSIDER USING THE PROPERTY LOCATED ON YOUNG STREET, ADJACENT TO THE ACADEMY ART CENTER, AS AN ART RESOURCE CENTER FOR TEACHERS.

Good morning, Chairs Ige and Kidani and Committee Members:

Senate Concurrent Resolution 130 calls attention to the fact that Fine Art is one of ten Core Content Areas in the National and Hawaii State Department of Education's standards-based education benchmarks.

Although general classroom teachers in K thru 6 are required to teach "fine art" (including the visual arts), many teachers feel under-prepared and even fearful of art to the point of saying to their students: "We're going to study art today. I'm not an artist, but we have a real artist with us who is going to show us how to draw." During my many visits to elementary classrooms in Hawaii I have never heard teachers say anything like this regarding any of the other educational disciplines that they are required to teach.

When you were in elementary school did you ever hear a teacher say to a class: "We are going to do mathematics today. I am not a mathematician, but you need to learn math, so we are studying math."? Or "We are going to write today. I'm not a writer, but you need to learn to write so we are going to learn how to write today."?

Due to this major disconnect in our educational agenda we need multiple ways to provide practical help and guidance to general classroom teachers as they, in turn, help students develop their innate creativity. For this purpose I support SCR 130 as a major step toward solving the problem.

Thank you.

Duane Preble, Art Professor Emeritus, UHM  
3347 Anoaia Place  
Honolulu HI 96822 h. 988-7500 c. 551-5994  
Email: preble@hawaii.rr.com