

SCR130

Date: 03/28/2011

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SCR 130

Purpose of Bill: 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.

Department's Position: The DOE supports Art education as an important part of a student's education. The DOE also recognizes that the provision of appropriate facilities is a challenge and is open to participating in a working group to look into the possible options to re-purpose the existing Office of School Facilities and Support Services functions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

HEARING

DATE: Monday, March 28, 2011
TIME: 2:00 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 225, State Capitol

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 Afternoon Chairs Tokuda 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.

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