HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PARTNER WITH PRIVATE BUSINESSES TO DEVELOP AN ART OUTLET PROGRAM THAT WILL DECREASE VANDALISM IN NEIGHBORHOODS.

WHEREAS, vandalism is a costly problem that can lead to blight in neighborhoods and results in destruction and defacement of cultural landmarks and public and private property; and

WHEREAS, considered vandalism by some, and a welcome form of art by others, graffiti is often used as a vehicle for self-expression by many in our community, particularly youth; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as Pow Wow Hawaii and Youth Art Works, that have designated public spaces where graffiti and mural art are allowed, have proven that providing space, time, and materials for young artists to express themselves is an effective way to reduce illegal acts of vandalism; and

WHEREAS, a similar program may be developed under the Department of Education that encourages students to develop their artistic talents in an appropriate setting; and

WHEREAS, private businesses may also benefit greatly from this type of program, as it may help reduce property damage from acts of vandalism by redirecting social energy into a more constructive and suitable environment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, that the Department of Education is urged to partner with private businesses to develop an art outlet program that will decrease vandalism in neighborhoods and encourage healthy artistic expression within the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is encouraged to partner with private businesses to obtain the resources for art materials as may be necessary for the program including paper, paints, brushes, pens, pencils, canvasses, chalk, and stencils; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is encouraged to provide the venues and settings for students to participate in group and individual art projects; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is urged to locate and sponsor guest artists and art mentors to provide guidance and leadership to student artists who might otherwise be involved in vandalism and other acts of property damage and destruction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education and the Executive Director of the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

OFFERED BY:

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