



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/10/2020
Time: 02:45 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2960 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the Department of Education to develop and implement a statewide arts education curricula plan for all grades. Requires the department to ensure that each public high school offers at least one art course during each school year.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on SB 2960.

Board Policy 105-9 "Fine Arts Program" promotes arts education in public schools. Based on this policy, the Department supports schools in establishing and maintaining robust fine arts programs for students to broaden their understanding of the world and the diverse cultural influences that surround them.

The Department recognizes the importance of arts education for all public school students and our existing Hawaii Content and Performance Standards (HCPSIII) for Fine Arts serves as the basis for arts education curricula for grades K-12.

The Department currently offers art courses at all public high schools and, therefore, believe this measure is not needed at this time.

Thank you for your opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2960.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



SENATE BILL 2960, RELATING TO EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 10, 2020 · SENATE EDUCATION
COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. MICHELLE N. KIDANI

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports SB 2960, relating to education, which requires the Department of Education to develop and implement a statewide arts education curricula plan for all grades, and requires the department to ensure that each public high school offers at least one art course during each school year.

According to a 2014 study performed by Lois Hetland and Ellen Winner of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, education in music and drama shows a generalizable causal relationship to increases in verbal achievement and spatial reasoning. Researchers in the Department of Education Reform at the University of Arkansas similarly found, in 2013, that instruction in visual arts led to gains in critical thinking skills.

Analysts at the Brookings Institution reported, in 2019, that they found that a substantial increase in arts educational experiences had “remarkable impacts on students’ academic, social, and emotional outcomes.” Relative to students assigned to the control group, treatment school students who received additional arts education experienced a 3.6 percentage point reduction in disciplinary infractions, an improvement of 13 percent of a standard deviation in standardized writing scores, and an increase of 8 percent of a standard deviation in their compassion for others.

In terms of our measure of compassion for others, students who received more arts education experiences were also more interested in how other people feel and more likely to want to help people who are treated badly.

When their analysis was restricted to elementary schools—which comprised 86 percent of the sample and were the primary target of the program—the researchers found that increases in arts learning positively and significantly affected students' school engagement, college aspirations, and inclinations to draw upon works of art as a means for empathizing with others. In terms of school engagement, students in the treatment group were more likely to agree that schoolwork was enjoyable, made them think about things in new ways, and that their schools offered programs, classes, and activities that maintained students' interest.

Additionally, the arts allow engage students in the cultural, social, emotional, and historical life of their communities, encouraging them to find creative solutions to pressing problems. Arts courses can also be a means of allowing students to express their innermost thoughts and feelings during their formative years, becoming a source of rehabilitation and restoration for schools seeking to implement trauma-informed continuums of care on their campuses.

SB-2960

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 1:58:26 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB-2960

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 12:00:15 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Skillman	Testifying for Hawai'i Arts Alliance	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senator Taniguchi and Education Committee:

I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Arts Alliance in support of SB 2960 Relating to Education.

Founded in 1980, Hawai'i Arts Alliance has had a long-standing affiliation with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and is State Captain for Americans for the Arts, the national arts advocacy organization. We support all the of the Arts, while our members (1,940 individuals and 114 organizations) represent the diverse, distinct Arts disciplines and cultures. The Arts Alliance provides programming to schools to supplement the lack of a strong K-12 Arts curriculum. Ideally, all schools should have arts integration as a foundational priority that can be built on from pre-K-12, and not just a single class option.

Hawaii Arts Alliance has a track record of providing arts education programs, professional development for educators, and arts in afterschool programs. This Fall, in celebration of our 40th year, the Hawai'i Arts Alliance inaugurates our Early Childhood Arts Integration Initiative [pre-K- 1]. High-quality early childhood arts education is essential to giving children the best possible start in school and in life. Studies demonstrate that an enriched, stimulating environment can enhance a child's cognitive, academic, and social development. Providing such an environment is critical during the first five years when 85% of brain growth occurs. The Arts help children develop academic and social skills that are the foundation for their future learning, behavior, and health. The Arts Alliance is building a consortium as the Hawaii Affiliate for the Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts [Wolf Trap Institute], to provide much needed professional development, training, and resources in the performing arts for educators, pre-K-12.

Laying this foundation requires follow-through at every grade level beyond pre-K from K-12. The Arts Alliance encourages the Legislature to support building a statewide arts integration program for all schools and to offer a diverse curriculum that would include world music, dance, and cultural arts to better represent the many ethnic communities present in Hawai'i. We believe that this will also foster respect and appreciation between local ethnic communities, lead to a decline in bullying, provide students with

creative outlets, employ teaching artists, and help students develop innovative, problem-solving solutions.

Please also consider the support system that is needed for an integrated pre-K-12 arts curriculum. Educators need to be trained in arts integration as part of their certification, teaching artists can be employed to work one-on-one in the classroom with teachers to mentor them and give them the confidence to use arts integration strategies across the curriculum. More diverse Arts classes need to be offered. In order to be implemented, funding is direly needed.

We support SB 2960 and encourage more details, financial support, and a broader vision for arts integration to be included in the Bill.

Mahalo nui for your time and work on arts in education,

Teri Skillman
Associate Director
Hawai'i Arts Alliance