
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INCREASE ACCESS TO ARTS
AND CULTURAL INSTRUCTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, providing a well-rounded education to all public
2 school students advances the economic and social health of
3 Hawaii; and

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5 WHEREAS, art, music, and cultural curricula constitute
6 important parts of a well-rounded education that address the
7 developmental needs of the whole child; and

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9 WHEREAS, in 2013, researchers in the Department of
10 Education Reform at the University of Arkansas found that
11 instruction in visual arts led to gains in critical-thinking
12 skills; and

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14 WHEREAS, according to a 2014 study performed by Lois
15 Hetland and Ellen Winner of the Harvard Graduate School of
16 Education, education in music and drama is causally related to
17 increases in verbal achievement and spatial reasoning; and

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19 WHEREAS, Paul T. Sowden, a professor of psychology at the
20 University of Winchester in England, has noted that arts and
21 cultural education develops children's capacity for
22 collaboration, creativity, and intellectual inquiry; and

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24 WHEREAS, research performed by Mariale Hardiman, Director
25 of the Neuro-Education Initiative at the Johns Hopkins School of
26 Education, has shown that students with access to arts and
27 cultural content are more adept at retaining instruction
28 regardless of subject matter, demonstrating that arts and
29 cultural instruction could help to mitigate learning loss; and

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31 WHEREAS, a study conducted by researchers at the University
32 of Missouri and Texas A&M University found that a substantial
33 increase in access to arts education led to a 3.6 percent



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1 reduction in disciplinary infractions, an improvement of 13
 2 percent on standardized writing scores, and an increase of 8
 3 percent in measures of compassion for others; and
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5 WHEREAS, in an article published by the Brookings
 6 Institution, the same researchers concluded that the arts
 7 "challenge us with different points of view, compel us to
 8 empathize with others, and give us the opportunity to reflect on
 9 the human condition"; and
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11 WHEREAS, the researchers further found that "among adults,
 12 arts participation is related to behaviors that contribute to
 13 the health of civil society, such as increased civic engagement,
 14 greater social tolerance, and reductions in other-regarding
 15 behavior"; now, therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 18 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 19 Session of 2024, that the Department of Education is urged to
 20 increase access to arts and cultural instruction in public
 21 schools; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than twenty days prior
 24 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025, the Department
 25 of Education is requested to provide a report to the Legislature
 26 on the amount of arts and cultural instruction provided in
 27 public schools and recommendations for improving access to arts
 28 and cultural education in underserved areas; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 31 Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board of
 32 Education and Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY:



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