

MAR 08 2024

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# SENATE 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



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 Senate of the Thirty-second  
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,  
19 that the Department of Education is urged to increase access to  
20 arts and cultural instruction in public schools; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than twenty days prior  
23 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025, the Department  
24 of Education is requested to provide a report to the Legislature  
25 on the amount of arts and cultural instruction provided in  
26 public schools and recommendations for improving access to arts  
27 and cultural education in underserved areas; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
30 Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board of  
31 Education and Superintendent of Education.

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34 OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

