

MAR 03 2016

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SUPPORT EDUCATION IN  
THE FINE ARTS AND HAWAIIAN STUDIES.

1 WHEREAS, the adoption of high-stakes standard in Hawaii's  
2 public schools has emphasized testing and testable subjects such  
3 as mathematics and language arts, and de-emphasized other  
4 subjects; and

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6 WHEREAS, a study conducted in 2014 by the Harvard Graduate  
7 School of Education indicated that education in music and drama  
8 contributes to an increase in verbal achievement and spatial  
9 reasoning; and

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11 WHEREAS, a study conducted in 2013 by the Department of  
12 Education Reform at the University of Arkansas indicated that  
13 instruction in visual arts led to gains in critical thinking  
14 skills; and

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16 WHEREAS, public schools in Hawaii are racially and  
17 culturally diverse, with Native Hawaiians constituting the  
18 largest group of students throughout the system, followed by  
19 Filipino Americans, Caucasians, Japanese Americans,  
20 Micronesians, Latinos, Samoans, and Chinese Americans; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, fifty-two percent of the student population in  
23 Hawaii's public schools come from economically disadvantaged  
24 households; and

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26 WHEREAS, a whole child approach to education broadens the  
27 curriculum to place greater emphasis on visual arts, music,  
28 theater, and dance, as well as examining the struggles faced by  
29 students who come from underprivileged ethnic and social  
30 classes; and  
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1 WHEREAS, education in fine arts and Hawaiian studies is  
 2 especially valuable and relevant to students in Hawaii; now,  
 3 therefore,

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 5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
 6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the  
 7 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
 8 Education is requested to support an increased emphasis on  
 9 education in fine arts and Hawaiian studies, including visual  
 10 arts, music, theatre, dance, Hawaiian and Polynesian studies,  
 11 Hawaiian language, Native Hawaiian culture, Native Hawaiian  
 12 traditional and customary practices, and physical education; and  
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
 16 Board of Education and Superintendent of Education.  
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 18  
 19

OFFERED BY:

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