

MAR 03 2016

S.R. NO. 26

SENATE RESOLUTION

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
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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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32 WHEREAS, education in fine arts and Hawaiian studies is
33 especially valuable and relevant to students in Hawaii; now,
34 therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
 2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016,
 3 that the Department of Education is requested to support an
 4 increased emphasis on education in fine arts and Hawaiian
 5 studies, including visual arts, music, theatre, dance, Hawaiian
 6 and Polynesian studies, Hawaiian language, Native Hawaiian
 7 culture, Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices,
 8 and physical education; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 11 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 12 Education and Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY:

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