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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INCREASE ACCESS TO ARTS  
AND CULTURAL EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO ADDRESS  
LEARNING LOSS CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

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 shows a generalizable  
17 causal relationship to increases in verbal achievement and  
18 spatial reasoning; and  
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20 WHEREAS, Paul T. Sowden, a professor of psychology at the  
21 University of Winchester in England, has noted that arts and  
22 cultural education develop children's capacity for  
23 collaboration, creativity, and intellectual inquiry; and  
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25 WHEREAS, research performed by Mariale Hardiman, Director  
26 of the Neuro-Education Initiative at the Johns Hopkins School of  
27 Education, has shown that students with access to arts and  
28 cultural content are more adept at retaining instruction  
29 regardless of subject matter, demonstrating that arts and  
30 cultural instruction could help to mitigate learning loss; and  
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1 WHEREAS, a study conducted by researchers at the University  
2 of Missouri and University of Texas A&M found that a substantial  
3 increase in access to arts education led to a 3.6 percentage  
4 point reduction in disciplinary infractions, an improvement of  
5 thirteen percent on standardized writing scores, and an increase  
6 of eight percent in measures of compassion for others; and  
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8 WHEREAS, in an article published by the Brookings  
9 Institution, the same researchers concluded that the arts  
10 "challenge us with different points of view, compel us to  
11 empathize with others, and give us the opportunity to reflect on  
12 the human condition"; and  
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14 WHEREAS, the researchers further found that "[a]mong  
15 adults, arts participation is related to behaviors that  
16 contribute to the health of civil society, such as increased  
17 civic engagement, greater social tolerance, and reductions in  
18 other-regarding behavior"; and  
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20 WHEREAS, access to arts education has a positive impact on  
21 social and emotional learning and academic performance across  
22 subject areas; and  
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24 WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Hawaii's public  
25 school students experienced "learning loss", with the Department  
26 of Education reporting in 2021 that just thirty-two percent of  
27 public school students were proficient in math, a twenty-six  
28 percent drop from 2019; and  
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30 WHEREAS, the Department of Education also reported that  
31 language arts proficiency dropped to fifty percent from fifty-  
32 four percent and science proficiency dropped from forty-four  
33 percent to thirty-five percent during the same time period; and  
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35 WHEREAS, the Department of Education received hundreds of  
36 millions of dollars in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency  
37 Relief funds to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on school  
38 communities and student achievement; now, therefore,  
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40 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
41 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
42 of 2022, that the Department of Education is urged to increase



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1 access to arts and cultural education in public schools to  
2 address learning loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and  
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
6 Education and Interim Superintendent of Education.  
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OFFERED BY:



MAR 11 2022

