

MAR 08 2024

---

# SENATE CONCURRENT 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

4

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

8

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

13

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

18

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

23

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

30



1 WHEREAS, a study conducted by researchers at the University  
 2 of Missouri and Texas A&M University found that a substantial  
 3 increase in access to arts education led to a 3.6 percent  
 4 reduction in disciplinary infractions, an improvement of 13  
 5 percent on standardized writing scores, and an increase of 8  
 6 percent in measures of compassion for others; and

7  
 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

13  
 14 WHEREAS, the researchers further found that "among adults,  
 15 arts participation is related to behaviors that contribute to  
 16 the health of civil society, such as increased civic engagement,  
 17 greater social tolerance, and reductions in other-regarding  
 18 behavior"; now, therefore,

19  
 20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
 21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the  
 22 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
 23 Education is urged to increase access to arts and cultural  
 24 instruction in public schools; and

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

32  
 33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board  
 35 of Education and Superintendent of Education.

36  
 37  
 38

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

