
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ARTS INTEGRATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a well-rounded
2 education includes access to high-quality fine arts instruction
3 and opportunities for students to learn through creative
4 expression. Arts education and arts integration strengthen
5 student engagement, cultural connection, and whole-child
6 development, while supporting learning across subject areas,
7 including general education and classrooms that are focused on
8 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

9 The legislature further finds that the department of
10 education's Nā Hopena A'o learning outcomes, also known as the
11 HĀ: BREATH framework, emphasizes belonging, responsibility,
12 excellence, aloha, total well-being, and Hawaii, and that arts
13 integration supports implementation of HĀ by connecting learning
14 to cultural practice, identity, and respect for diverse
15 cultures.

16 The legislature recognizes the value of the state
17 foundation on culture and the arts' artist in the schools



1 program, which provides professional teaching artists in public
2 schools, and finds that arts integration complements this work
3 by training and supporting educators to use arts-based
4 strategies to teach academic content.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish arts
6 integration coordinator positions or arts integration specialist
7 positions within the department of education to support fine
8 arts education and arts integration statewide through island-
9 based coordination, educator support, and strengthened
10 partnerships with local artists, cultural practitioners, and
11 arts programs.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
14 and to read as follows:

15 **"S302A- Arts integration; coordinators; specialists;**
16 **establishment.** (a) There is established within the department
17 one arts integration coordinator position or arts integration
18 specialist position, as determined by the department, for each
19 of the following islands: Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii island.

20 (b) Each arts integration coordinator position or arts
21 integration specialist position shall interface with and support



1 multiple school complexes on their respective island and shall
2 provide coordination and technical assistance to support fine
3 arts education and arts integration in public schools.

4 (c) The duties of each arts integration coordinator
5 position or arts integration specialist position shall include
6 but not be limited to:

- 7 (1) Supporting the integration of fine arts and arts-based
8 instructional strategies into classroom curriculum and
9 instruction across grade levels and subject areas;
- 10 (2) Providing professional learning, coaching, and
11 technical assistance to teachers, school leaders, and
12 staff on arts integration strategies aligned with the
13 department's instructional goals and the Nā Hopena A'o
14 framework;
- 15 (3) Coordinating with the state foundation on culture and
16 the arts to support and strengthen the artist in the
17 schools program, including facilitating communication
18 and coordination between schools, complexes, teaching
19 artists, and the state foundation on culture and the
20 arts;



1 (4) Supporting educators and teaching artists by
2 developing resources, guidance, and implementation
3 tools to strengthen high-quality arts learning
4 experiences;

5 (5) Strengthening partnerships between the department,
6 local artists, cultural practitioners, community arts
7 organizations, and cultural programs to expand access
8 to arts learning and culturally grounded experiences;

9 (6) Supporting culturally responsive arts integration
10 strategies that connect to Hawaii's history, 'ike
11 kūpuna, and diverse cultural communities, and that
12 promote respect, belonging, and aloha;

13 (7) Supporting instructional strategies for English
14 learners and multilingual learners through arts
15 integration approaches that promote language
16 development, comprehension, and engagement; and

17 (8) Collecting and sharing promising practices and
18 examples of effective arts integration strategies,
19 including approaches that increase student engagement
20 and academic achievement.



1 (d) The department may consult with the state foundation
2 on culture and the arts, public school complexes, and relevant
3 stakeholders to develop implementation guidance and coordinate
4 services statewide for the purposes of this section.

5 (e) For the purposes of this section:

6 "Artist in the schools program" means the program
7 administered by the state foundation on culture and the arts
8 that places professional artists in public schools to provide
9 arts learning experiences.

10 "Arts integration" means an approach to teaching and
11 learning in which educators use fine arts strategies to teach
12 academic content and improve student engagement, including
13 training and support for teachers to incorporate arts-based
14 strategies in classroom instruction."

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$600,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to
18 establish and fund four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) arts
19 integration coordinator positions or arts integration specialist
20 positions within the department of education, including salary,
21 fringe benefits, and operational expenses; provided that one



1 position shall be established in each of the islands of Oahu,
2 Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii island.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 education for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY:


JAN 27 2026



H.B. NO. 2436

Report Title:

DOE; State Foundation on Culture and the Arts; Arts Integration; Positions; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes within the Department of Education arts integration coordinator positions and arts integration specialist positions to support fine arts education and arts integration in public schools statewide. Appropriates funds.

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