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# 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'ō 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' artists 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 and  
6 appropriate funds for arts integration coordinator or 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 **"§302A- Arts integration; coordinators or specialists;**  
16 **establishment.** (a) There is established within the department  
17 one arts integration coordinator or specialist position, as  
18 determined by the department, for each of the following islands:  
19 Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii.

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



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

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

6 (1) Supporting the integration of fine arts and arts-based  
7 instructional strategies into classroom curriculum and  
8 instruction across grade levels and subject areas;

9 (2) Providing professional learning, coaching, and  
10 technical assistance to teachers, school leaders, and  
11 staff on arts integration strategies aligned with the  
12 department's instructional goals and the Nā Hopena A'o  
13 framework;

14 (3) Coordinating with the state foundation on culture and  
15 the arts to support and strengthen the artists in the  
16 schools program, including facilitating communication  
17 and coordination between schools, complexes, teaching  
18 artists, and the state foundation on culture and the  
19 arts;

20 (4) Supporting educators and teaching artists by  
21 developing resources, guidance, and implementation



- 1 tools to strengthen high-quality arts learning  
2 experiences;
- 3 (5) Strengthening partnerships between the department,  
4 local artists, cultural practitioners, community arts  
5 organizations, and cultural programs to expand access  
6 to arts learning and culturally grounded experiences;
- 7 (6) Supporting culturally responsive arts integration  
8 strategies that connect to Hawaii's history, 'ike  
9 kūpuna, and diverse cultural communities, and that  
10 promote respect, belonging, and aloha;
- 11 (7) Supporting instructional strategies for English  
12 learners and multilingual learners through arts  
13 integration approaches that promote language  
14 development, comprehension, and engagement; and
- 15 (8) Collecting and sharing promising practices and  
16 examples of effective arts integration strategies,  
17 including approaches that increase student engagement  
18 and academic achievement.
- 19 (d) The department may consult with the state foundation  
20 on culture and the arts, public school complexes, and relevant



1 stakeholders to develop implementation guidance and coordinate  
2 services statewide for the purposes of this section.

3 (e) For the purposes of this section:

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

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

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



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

3           SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

4           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

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

**Description:**

Establishes within the Department of Education arts integration  
coordinator or specialist positions to support fine arts  
education and arts integration in public schools statewide.  
Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is  
not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

