
HOUSE 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

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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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32 WHEREAS, a study conducted by researchers at the University
33 of Missouri and the University of Texas A&M found that a



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1 substantial increase in access to arts education led to a 3.6
2 percentage point reduction in disciplinary infractions, an
3 improvement of thirteen percent on standardized writing scores,
4 and an increase of eight percent in measures of compassion for
5 others; and

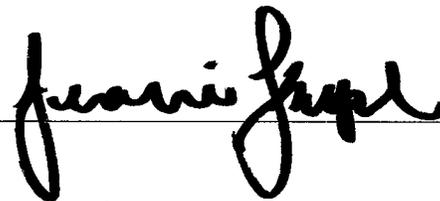
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7 WHEREAS, in an article published by the Brookings
8 Institution, the same researchers concluded that the arts
9 "challenge us with different points of view, compel us to
10 empathize with others, and give us the opportunity to reflect on
11 the human condition"; and

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

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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
21 of 2021, that the Department of Education is urged to increase
22 access to arts and cultural instruction in public schools; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
26 Education and Superintendent of Education.

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29 OFFERED BY:



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