



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 03/11/2021  
**Time:** 02:00 PM  
**Location:** 309 & 430 Via  
Videoconference  
**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Resolution:** HCR 0054 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INCREASE ACCESS TO ARTS AND CULTURAL INSTRUCTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HCR 54, which proposes to urge the Department to increase access to arts and cultural instruction in public schools.

Arts education is an important component of a whole-child approach to a well-rounded education. Arts education supports emotional growth, increases student engagement, and inspires a joy of learning in students. As such, arts and cultural education are embedded in grade levels as part of the Department's standards-based approach to learning.

The Department held a statewide Multilingualism and Arts Symposium in School Year 2019-2020. The Multilingualism and Arts Symposium focused on how the arts may partner to heighten multilingualism and student voice. As part of the symposium, grades K-12 teachers participated in an ongoing professional development opportunity to identify and apply strategies and resources to connect the arts, cultures, and language in the classroom.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HCR 54.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in

every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).