
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INCREASE ACCESS TO ARTS
AND CULTURAL EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO ADDRESS
LEARNING LOSS CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

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

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

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

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21 WHEREAS, access to arts education has a positive impact on
22 social and emotional learning and academic performance across
23 subject areas; and

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25 WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Hawaii's public
26 school students experienced "learning loss", with the Department
27 of Education reporting in 2021 that just thirty-two percent of
28 public school students were proficient in math, a twenty-six
29 percent drop from 2019; and

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31 WHEREAS, the Department of Education also reported that
32 language arts proficiency dropped to fifty percent from fifty-
33 four percent and science proficiency dropped from forty-four
34 percent to thirty-five percent during the same time period; and

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36 WHEREAS, the Department of Education received hundreds of
37 millions of dollars in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency
38 Relief funds to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on school
39 communities and student achievement; now, therefore,

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41 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
42 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session



H.C.R. NO. 164

1 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education
2 is urged to increase access to arts and cultural education in
3 public schools to address learning loss caused by the COVID-19
4 pandemic; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
8 Board of Education and Interim Superintendent of Education.

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11 OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ce' followed by a stylized flourish.

MAR 11 2022

