

## Talking Points: HB2407 Arts Education.

*Appropriates funds for high quality, integrated meaningful arts education for students K -12.*

### SUPPORT CREATIVE LEARNING

ARTS FIRST now needs a significant state commitment to build on its accomplishments and continue to leverage national and private support for arts education in Hawai'i.

**More than 1,500 CEOs<sup>1</sup> worldwide cited *creativity* as the top priority needed in the new economic environment.** With HB2407, we can strengthen creativity and critical thinking for our children through professional development for educators and teaching artists plus solidify our Artists-in-the-Schools (AITS) program to provide access to arts education in our schools.

### ARTS FIRST PARTNERS

ARTS FIRST Partners are legislatively mandated to work together for access to quality arts learning within Hawai'i's K-12 education system. ACT 306/01 was purposefully designed to name statewide agencies with responsibilities for education in all arts disciplines. By their respective legal mandates, ARTS FIRST Partners collectively represent the people of Hawai'i.<sup>2</sup>

ARTS FIRST Partners goals are aligned with the 2011 President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities: *Reinvesting in Arts Education*. To meet our great urgency to engage and motivate our students, we must integrate the arts with other core academics, expand the *in-school* role for teaching artists and provide professional development for collaborative teaching models.

Researchers continue to find that those who study arts outperform '*arts-poor*' students by virtually **every** measure: grades, test scores, attitudes and behavior irrespective of socioeconomic status.<sup>3</sup>

### NEED

ARTS FIRST has not received any legislative appropriations. With commitment and drive, the Partners have been able to leverage almost \$17 million (see chart on other side) to:

- Revise the K -12 Hawai'i Content and Performance Standards for fine arts
- Provide over 100 workshops resulting in doubling the number of qualified teaching artists
- Offer instruction in arts integration to more than 7,600 classroom teachers
- Create and distribute the ARTS FIRST Teaching Toolkit to all elementary public schools
- Conduct multi-year arts education research (funded by US DOE, NEA, Kennedy Center, private foundations)
- Improve the Artists-in-the-Schools from the one-time visits to residencies of 8 to 10 sessions for creative learning that integrates with the classroom curriculum.

### WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Without a serious commitment to creative learning, our 170,000 Hawai'i students will not be adequately prepared to meet the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce.

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<sup>1</sup> *Capitalizing on Complexity* 2010 IBM

<sup>2</sup> State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, Department of Education, University of Hawai'i – College of Education, College of Arts and Humanities, Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools, Hawai'i Arts Alliance. These six mandated Partners work closely with Affiliates – Honolulu Theatre for Youth and Maui Arts & Cultural Center.

<sup>3</sup> *Arts Education in America* 2011 National Endowment for the Arts.  
*Learning, Arts, and the Brain* 2008 Eric Jensen