

**Hawai'i  
Arts  
Alliance**



*A member of  
the Kennedy Center  
Alliance  
for Arts Education  
Network*

February 1, 2012

The Honorable Jessica Wooley  
Chair, House Committee on Culture and Arts  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 327  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Strong Support for HB2407

Dear Representative Wooley:

ARTS FIRST Partners<sup>♦</sup> have been working together so all children can have access to quality arts learning within our K-12 education system. Their indispensable contributions include programs for teaching artists in the schools, development of the Fine Arts standards, professional development for K-12 teachers, programs that reach underserved rural and urban areas with high quality creative learning in classrooms.

ARTS FIRST has not received any legislative appropriations. With drive and commitment to the vision of access to arts education for all, the Partners have been able to leverage almost \$17 million from national and private sources. To uphold the requirements of ACT 306/01, we humbly ask you to support HB2407, providing financial resources for the Artists-in-the-Schools program plus professional development for educators and teaching artists.

Creativity was cited the top priority by more than 1,500 CEOs worldwide in a 2010 IBM report. Arts education fosters creativity and innovation, critical to our current economic environment. Arts are named among the core academics under both state and federal law. A 2008 study by the non-profit Education Commission of the States concludes that students with high levels of arts learning experiences earn higher grades and score better on standardized tests than "arts-poor" students regardless of socio-economic status. A U.S. Department of Justice study shows that arts education results in better social skills and decreases delinquent behavior of youth.

With your support for state funding for ARTS FIRST, the Partners, educators and teaching artists can continue to make significant contributions to our education system and to attracting non-state resources to our economy. In the spirit of investing in our children's success, we ask you to give your full support to HB2407. Thank you for your commitment to better Hawai'i. If you have any questions, please feel free to call (808) 533-2787.

*Visit our  
Community  
Project:  
The ARTS at  
Marks Garage  
[www.artsatmarks.com](http://www.artsatmarks.com)*

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With aloha,

Marilyn Cristofori  
Chief Executive Officer

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<sup>♦</sup> Legislatively mandated by ACT 306/01: 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 Partners work closely with Affiliates – Honolulu Theatre for Youth, Maui Arts & Cultural Center.