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

April 1, 2009

MEMO TO: The Honorable Garrett Toguchi, Chairperson
Board of Education

FROM: The Honorable Maggie Cox, Chairperson
Committee on Curriculum, Instruction & Student Support

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION ON PROPOSED BOARD POLICY 2125, "FINE ARTS POLICY"

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Education (Board) approve the proposed Board Policy 2125, "Fine Arts Programs Policy," as specified in Attachment A.

2. RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon Board approval.

3. RECOMMENDED COMPLIANCE DATE (if different from the effective date)

Upon Board approval.

4. DISCUSSION

a. Conditions leading to the recommendation

The Board recognizes the significance and benefits that Fine Arts programs offer students. This proposed policy defines the role of, and clarifies the goals of Fine Arts programs in the Department of Education (Department):

- Provide access to these programs for all students (K-12);
- Ensure the appropriate support to these programs;
- Integration of Fine Arts in the class room; and
- Community partnerships.

In 2006, the Hawaii Secondary Student Conference (SSC) passed Resolution 50, concerning "a request for adequate appropriations to the Hawaii State Secondary School Council (HSSC) specifically for the establishment, renewal and maintenance of fine arts programs." Students from schools around the state recognized the significance of fine arts programs and believe such programs deserve proper attention.

The Center for Education Policy's (CEP) 2007 national report indicates that 44% of school districts have an average of a 16% decrease of instruction time for art and music. In school districts around the nation, fine arts programs have undergone unprecedented deterioration (lack of funding, support, neglect, etc.). Providing proper focus and support to these programs is essential to maintaining them.

On March 4, 2009, the Board deferred the proposed policy to the Department for further assessment. The Department has strong reservation on the proposed policy and does not support the current version of the policy, nor do they believe there is a need for the proposed "Fine Arts Policy." The Board has many policies that integrate fine arts as part of the academic program for students.

b. Previous action of the Board on the same or similar matter

The Board passed amendments to Board Policy 2104 "Hawaiian Education Programs" in January 2009. The proposed amendments clarified the role and goals of Hawaiian Education in public schools. Proposed Board Policy 2125 has similar goals reflected in Board Policy 2104.

c. Other policies affected

- Board Policy 2030, "Curriculum Development And Implementation Policy"
- Board Policy 2100, "Academic Program Policy"
- Board Policy 2235, "Developmentally-Appropriate Teaching Strategies Policy"
- Board Policy 2240, Instructional Materials Policy

d. Arguments in support of the recommendation

The Board recognizes the significance of Fine Arts programs in schools. Fine Arts reach students that would otherwise be unconcerned about their education and fulfilling the goals of a public school graduate (Board Policy 2000).

The proposed policy provides guidance to an organizational structure already in place by setup, ensuring access, support, and community engagement in

schools. The goals set forth by the proposed policy will ensure the progress of fine arts programs; it cultivates the demand and the upkeep of such programs.

e. Arguments against the recommendation

The Department does not support the creation of a "Fine Arts Policy" because the Board has policies that include fine arts as a part of the academic program for schools. The adoption of such a policy would duplicate policies already in place.

f. Findings and conclusions of the Board Committee

On March 4, 2009, the Committee referred the proposed policy to the Department of Education for further assessment and recommendation.

Based on the Committee on Curriculum, Instruction & Student Support, (Committee) discussion on April 1, 2009, the Committee recommended approving the Model 2, Attachment A, to the full Board for approval.

g. Other agencies or departments of the State involved in the action

None.

h. Possible reaction of the public, professional organizations, unions, Department staff and/or others to the recommendation

Professional organizations, unions, and Department staff may agree with the intent of the policy; however, they may express concerns regarding implementation issues. The development of a clear implementation plan is essential to mitigate any misunderstanding.

The Hawaii Government Employees Association and the Hawaii State Teachers Association submitted a response on the proposed policy.

i. Educational implications

The number of students enrolled in fine arts programs may increase. Appropriate assistance needs to be provided to students in order to ensure proper instruction.

j. Personnel implications

The Department may seek ways to ensure the goals set forth by this policy are effectively executed. In addition, to properly implement this policy additional

staffing maybe requested for various programs, resource teachers, and/or content specialist.

k. Facilities implications

Additional facilities may be needed to accommodate those students who enroll in these programs. Improvements to existing facilities maybe needed.

l. Financial implications

Schools may seek to include funds in their Academic and Financial Plans for support services for various Fine Arts Programs.

5. OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

Attachment

ATTACHMENT A

PROPOSED POLICY

2125

FINE ARTS PROGRAMS

POLICY

The Board of Education (Board) recognizes the importance of fine arts programs, which includes dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, as an integral part of the academic program for all students (K-12) and that the value and benefits of fine arts education has been extensively acknowledged. The Board recognizes that the arts help students broaden their understanding of the world and the diverse cultural influences that surround them. Fine arts education enables students to develop critical thinking skills, creativity, character, discipline, and an appreciation of diversity.

The Board is committed to supporting fine arts programs in public schools. Therefore, the Department of Education (Department) shall assist all schools in establishing and maintaining fine arts programs.

The goals of fine arts programs shall be to:

- Provide access to fine arts programs for all students (K-12);
- Ensure appropriate staff, materials, equipment, and facilities are available to support these programs;
- Exist as an integral part of the curriculum, providing understanding appropriate to the maturity, needs, and interest of students;
- Empower classroom teachers with a basic knowledge of Fine Arts concepts;
- Ensure that students in Hawaii's public schools will graduate with a proficient level of understanding of fine art concepts; and
- Maintain and develop partnerships with fine arts organizations, professional artists, and the community to ensure expanded and diverse opportunities.

Approved: _____

Approved by the Committee on Curriculum, Instruction & Student Support on April 1, 2009 for Board of Education Action