

**SCR219**

Date of Hearing: Friday, March 19, 2010

Committee: Senate Committee on Education and  
Housing

Board: Education

Person Testifying: Garrett Toguchi, Chairperson, Board of Education

Title of Resolution: S.C.R. No. 219, Urges the Board of Education to Provide Academic  
Credit or Some Other Incentive or Penalty to Motivate Students to  
Take the Adequate Yearly Progress Tests Seriously

Purpose of  
Resolution: Urges the Board of Education to provide academic credit or  
penalty to motivate students to take the Adequate Yearly Progress  
tests seriously.

Board's Position: Chairperson Sakamoto, Vice Chairperson Kidani, and members of the  
Senate Committee on Education and Housing, thank you for the  
opportunity to testify on S.C.R. No. 219.

The Board of Education (Board) has not taken an official position on  
this concurrent resolution; however, we would like to offer the  
following comments:

- Attributing students' test results to students who do not take the  
Hawaii State Assessment seriously, students who deliberately flaw  
the test, and students who are unmotivated to take the test—all of  
which are cited in S.C.R. No. 219—without taking into account  
other factors, may have unintended consequences on how  
students are supported in their learning. Instead, emphasis should

be on giving students the necessary educational supports, providing adequate preparation, and providing quality instruction for students to learn and achieve.

- High-stakes testing in relation to student achievement and preparing students for college and the workforce is a matter of continued discussion and review by the Board and the Department of Education.
- The move to the Common Core State Standards Initiative among 48 states and two territories that have committed to this initiative and efforts to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (currently called the No Child Left Behind Act), suggest significant changes currently and on the horizon to the educational policies, practices, and requirements of states.
- Regarding high-stakes testing and any academic incentives or penalties brought to bear on students due to their test results, this is an area that merits far greater consideration and dialogue, especially in light of the reform efforts taking place nationally.

For these reasons, S.C.R. No. 219 is unnecessary. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.