

Date: 03/01/2011

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1055(hscr22) RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Repeal the administration of nationally normed reference test.

Department's Position: Supports

The Department of Education is in support of H.B. No. 1055 based on the following:

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are informed by the highest, most effective models from states across the country and countries around the world, and provide teachers and parents with a common understanding of what students are expected to learn. Consistent standards will provide appropriate benchmarks for all students, regardless of where they live and will define the knowledge and skills students should possess within their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs.

With the President of the United States endorsing the development of CCSS, the adoption by all states except two, the awarding of grants to consortiums of states SMARTER Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) and Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) to develop assessments aligned to the CCSS, the emphasis is to develop an assessment aligned to the CCSS with a common proficiency levels that could allow the comparison across states.

The CCSS assessment would be a direct match of the standards that are being taught in the classroom and a more precise reflection of the performance of a student's knowledge and skills of the standards. The assessment would measure the specific grade level standards for each content area. In addition, the assessment could allow multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills through a variety of responses, including performance items.

Presently, most states compare themselves to the nation through the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which is given at grades 4 and 8. These benchmark grades give Hawaii a chance to demonstrate where they fall nationally. Additionally, as the common assessments are developed and administered online, participating states will have another national measure.

By eliminating the Norm-Referenced Test, the cost savings to the Department of Education would be approximately \$500,000 per year and

an administration time savings of approximately 60 minutes per content area assessed. This translates into each student saving approximately two class periods by not having to take the NRT. The savings could be put towards other educational priorities that are in alignment with the Department of Education's Strategic Plan or in support of the Race to the Top goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of H.B. No. 1055.