

**WRITTEN COMMENTS**

**Date:** 04/20/2012

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Resolution:** SCR 120, SD1(sscr3447)

**Purpose of Resolution:** Requesting the Board of Education and Department of Education to apply to the United States Department of Education for a waiver of the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii Department of Education will submit a detailed request to the U. S. Department of Education for flexibility under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in September 2012. This request must identify the State's plan to address four key principles: 1) adopt, transition, and assess college- and career-ready academic content standards; 2) develop and implement a system of differentiated recognition, accountability and support that improves the quality of instruction for all students while closing achievement gaps; 3) develop and implement new teacher and principal evaluation and support systems that include a significant emphasis upon student growth; and, 4) reduce overall administrative burden.

The plan will also require the State to set ambitious yet achievable annual performance goals for students known as annual measurable objectives in at least English language arts and mathematics. Finally, the State must demonstrate that key stakeholders have been consulted and that considerable public support exists for this endeavor.

This is a unique opportunity for Hawaii to better define what an effective school looks like, and align our individual evaluation systems for teachers, principals and complex area superintendents around this vision of school accountability. The end result will be ambitious yet achievable learning goals for students with an evaluation system that helps the adults in the system all drive towards the same objectives.



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**TESTIMONY FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 120, SENATE DRAFT 1**

**House Committee on Education  
Hon. Roy Takumi, Chair  
Hon. Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair**

**Friday, April 20, 2012, 3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

Honorable Chair Takumi and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 150 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of SCR 120, SD1, requesting that the Department of Education seek a waiver from the requirements of No Child Left Behind.

On February 9, 2012, President Barack Obama freed ten states from the strict requirements of NCLB, giving states more leeway over how they boost student achievement and evaluate educators. At that time, 28 other states, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, had signaled that they, too, would seek an exemption from the law's draconian, overly punitive mandates. Currently, NCLB requires that all students be proficient in math and reading by 2014. If a waiver is granted, however, our state will be exempt from this idealistic requirement, provided that we demonstrate viable procedures for making students college and career ready—something Hawaii has already accomplished through its successful Race to the Top grant application. Put simply, scholastic improvement predicated upon meeting unique student needs requires maximum flexibility at the local level, something NCLB does not provide.

For these and other reasons, the IMUAlliance wholeheartedly supports a resolution requesting that the DOE seek a waiver from the requirements of NCLB. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this resolution.

Sincerely,  
Kris Coffield  
*Legislative Director*  
IMUAlliance