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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REDUCE THE USE OF  
STANDARDIZED TESTING IN THE PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM.

1           WHEREAS, enactment of the federal No Child Left Behind law  
2 in 2001 and Race to the Top program in 2009 shifted national  
3 education priorities from inquiry-based teaching to standardized  
4 testing; and

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6           WHEREAS, our nation's school systems spend increasing  
7 amounts of time, money, and energy on standardized testing, in  
8 which student performance on standardized tests is used to  
9 evaluate individual students, educators, and schools; and

10  
11           WHEREAS, an overemphasis on standardized testing has  
12 negatively impacted public schools, teachers, and students by  
13 narrowing academic curricula, reducing arts and cultural  
14 education, causing teachers to teach to the test, decreasing  
15 whole child and vocational programming, and creating a climate  
16 of compliance and fear among students, teachers, and  
17 administrators; and

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19           WHEREAS, the negative impact of standardized testing most  
20 directly affects low-income students, English language learners,  
21 students from minority ethnic backgrounds, and students with  
22 disabilities; and

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24           WHEREAS, according to a 2014 study conducted by the  
25 National Education Association, seventy-two percent of teachers  
26 feel considerable pressure to improve test scores and a majority  
27 of teachers report spending too much time on testing and test  
28 preparation, with the average teacher spending approximately  
29 thirty percent of their time on tasks related to standardized  
30 tests; and

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32           WHEREAS, the 2014 PDK/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes  
33 Toward the Public Schools found that only thirty-one percent of  
34 parents support using standardized test scores to evaluate  
35 teachers; and



# S.R. NO. 119

1 WHEREAS, there is a diverse and bipartisan movement to opt  
2 out of standardized testing led by students, parents, teachers,  
3 administrators, and organizations including the National Center  
4 for Fair and Open Testing and United Opt Out National; and  
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6 WHEREAS, the Department of Education administers  
7 standardized tests in multiple grade levels that are aligned  
8 with the Common Core State Standards, including the Smarter  
9 Balanced Assessment; and  
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11 WHEREAS, in the 2014-2015 school year, approximately 93,000  
12 Hawai'i public school students in grades three to eight and grade  
13 eleven took standardized tests aligned with the Common Core  
14 State Standards, at a cost of \$65 per test; and  
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16 WHEREAS, the estimated cost of standardized testing does  
17 not include time spent on test preparation, interim testing,  
18 test-driven curricula, classroom materials related to  
19 standardized testing, computer equipment and personnel needed to  
20 administer standardized tests, consultants contracted to assist  
21 with assessment preparation and delivery, and the opportunity  
22 cost of educational programs eliminated to increase time for  
23 standardized testing; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, in 2015, President Barack Obama criticized the  
26 proliferation of standardized testing throughout the nation and  
27 called on school districts to limit time spent preparing for and  
28 taking standardized tests to no more than two percent of a  
29 student's instructional time; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, the federal Every Student Succeeds Act provides  
32 states with increased flexibility in the use of standardized  
33 testing, including eliminating federally mandated inclusion of  
34 standardized tests in teacher evaluations, allowing states to  
35 choose what test to use for annual school assessments,  
36 permitting states to institute a cap limiting the amount of time  
37 that students spend preparing for and taking standardized tests,  
38 and providing funding to states for auditing and streamlining  
39 assessment systems; and  
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41 WHEREAS, numerous states have begun implementing authentic  
42 assessments, which deemphasize standardized testing and,



1 instead, focus on student performance indicators that promote  
2 critical thinking, open-ended questioning, and collaborative  
3 learning; now, therefore,  
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016,  
7 that the Department of Education is requested to reduce the use  
8 of standardized testing in the public education system; and  
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is  
11 requested to develop and implement authentic assessments for  
12 schools that do not require extensive standardized testing; and  
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
15 requested to limit the number of days a student spends preparing  
16 for or taking standardized tests, including practice and interim  
17 tests, to no more than three days per school year; and  
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
20 requested to inform students and parents about the purpose,  
21 potential impact, and protocol of any standardized test that a  
22 student is expected to take, including the right to opt out of  
23 statewide standardized testing; and  
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
26 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor,  
27 Chairperson of the Board of Education, and Superintendent of  
28 Education.  
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OFFERED BY: Michelle Indiani  
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Fozanne Chun Alalau

M. H.

