



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

Date: 01/31/2018
Time: 02:45 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2080 RELATING TO STANDARDIZED TESTING.

Purpose of Bill: Limits the number of standardized tests a student shall take in a school year. Requires the board of education to conduct a statewide survey of school administrators and teachers to determine the time spent on preparing for standardized tests and the impact of preparation time on the quality of instruction.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) offers the following comments on this measure. The Department recognizes the value of standardized testing as a valid, reliable, and efficient means to ensure that students graduate equipped for college and career success. Standardized testing provides information on academic progress to students, parents, teachers, and educational administrators, while aggregated results inform educators and policy-makers by providing a measure of accountability of the public education system. Standardized test data also remain the best way to hold schools accountable for their academic performance. Outside of standardized test results, no objective measure exists for policymakers to identify student academic achievement. In addition, the administration of assessments is mandated under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), section 111(b)(2)(B) and use of the results is required in state accountability plans. In school year 2015-2016, the Department conducted a review of its statewide testing portfolio which resulted in the school year 2017-2018 reduction of the number of state-mandated tests being reduced to the federal minimum. The effort extended to complexes and schools with the summer of 2016 statewide training on conducting assessment audits and ensuring that the number and types of tests administered to their students closely align to instructional needs. The Department is not able to honor opt-out requests. The Department in consultation with the Attorney General's office has determined that students who are educated in Hawaii's public schools must participate in the statewide assessment program. Materials providing guidance on dealing with parental requests that their child not participate in testing was distributed to schools.

Given that the Department is actively engaged in maintaining a balance between federal testing requirements, the accountability benefits of testing and the instructional practices utilized by schools and teachers to meet their student's needs. We respectfully suggest that SB 2080 is not necessary at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

SB-2080

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 3:17:01 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marcia Linville	Info Services	Support	Yes

Comments:

Senate Education Com
18

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Chair Kidani and members of the committee

I am Marcia Linville SCC Education Caucus Member of the Democratic Party speaking in support if SB 2080.

Testing has been considered a valuable tool to evaluate the progress of student learning. However, when the test becomes the object of learning rather than the tool for evaluation great damage is done to the student and to the educational process. Accumulating data has shown that this is what has been happening in Hawaii's schools. This has caused frustration in both teachers and students. SB 2080 will correct some of these problems.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Marcia Linville

536-4466

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB2080 –RELATING TO STANDARDIZED TESTING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Jenny Nomura, a librarian at Aiea Intermediate School. Please pass SB 2080 to limit standardized testing in public schools.

Students are tested for a whole month at our school with testing of English, Math and Science. The teachers are instructing the students on how to pass these tests. Curricula that would be of most interest and keep students in school as well as having them become life long learners are thrown on the side. There is no time to have these innovative hands on kind of teaching to occur when so much time is spent on learning how to pass the tests as well as time on taking these standardized tests.

We need to adopt a new model of education that encompasses the whole child education. This means that we should broaden our curricula to include such classes as art, music and languages.

Please support this bill and thank you for your consideration

Jenny Nomura
Aiea Intermediate School
Oahu

EDU Testimony

From: tsuji@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 2:46 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: RE: SB 2080 - RELATING TO STANDARDIZED TESTING

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Jenifer Tsuji, currently a 2nd grade teacher at Mountain View Elementary School on the Big Island in the Kea'au/Ka'u/Pahoa complex area. Please pass SB 2080 to limit standardized testing in public schools.

My 2nd graders, who are not even in a 'testing' grade for SBA, are already subjected to an overload of testing at our school. We are expected to complete DIBELS Benchmark reading tests for each student 3 times a year, with 2x monthly progress monitoring tests as follow ups. (These are individual 1 minute tests where speed and accuracy are the focus). We also have iReady, an online computer program, where they are again tested 3X a year in math and reading, and these tests are over an hour long and very comprehensive. Our school also mandates us to have unit/module pre and post tests for each unit/module in Reading Wonders and Origo Stepping Stones math. Our K-1 students have similar testing, and 3rd 4th and 5th graders have all of this in addition to SBA testing.

Our school is in a rural, high poverty area. Our attendance numbers have been an issue, as well as students having access to technology and stable living conditions at home. The results of these multiple tests are not high enough yet, and we are being told to devote even more time during the day to reading and math, at the expense of all other subjects. As a former music teacher, I have been forced to return to the classroom because our test scores are not considered high enough for our school to allot funding in the arts. The test results and subsequent data drive our school's curriculum and permeate everything we do, to the point where reading and math are all that seems to matter. These students, who are already at a cultural disadvantage, are then forced to narrow their education further because their test score are not high enough.

Please, please, pass this bill so that our schools can focus on educating the whole child and not just on raising test scores. Thank you.

Jenifer Tsuji
Mountain View Elementary
Hawaii Island (East Hawaii)

SB-2080

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:41:34 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandy Webb	Mililani High School	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 2080! I have been a high school science teacher in Hawaii for 25 years and the Biology End of Course test has limited the time I can spend implementing problem-based, project-based and inquiry-based lessons. These types of lessons are vital for the development of higher order thinking skills in my students and instrumental in curriculum that is relevant and engaging to students. Do we still need to have our students memorizing the parts of the cell? I think not, and yet, questions of this nature are a part of this standardized assessment.

Another key example of the detrimental impacts of standardized testing are the weeks during which large numbers of school computers are used for testing and unavailable for other learning activities. Teacher developed assessment, which include performance based assessments provide more useful information for teachers and students to improve teaching and learning. Please pass this bill to limit the negative impacts of standardized testing and increase opportunities for meaningful assessment and learning.

EDU Testimony

From: mykie ozoa <meozoa@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 3:51 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 2353

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

S.B. 2353 – RELATING TO DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION

Senate Committee on Education

January 31, 2018, 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice-Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee:

I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of S.B. 2353, which would enact a state version of Title IX by prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs and activities that receive state financial assistance.

S.B. 2353 is urgently needed in light of the current federal administration's overt and concerted effort to dismantle federal anti-discrimination laws. The Trump administration has reversed the federal government's previous interpretation of the prohibition against discrimination based on "sex" that included discrimination based on sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression. The administration also rescinded protections for transgendered students that had been put into effect by President Obama. In addition, USDOE rescinded its guidance on the investigation of campus sex assaults. As a result, those who have suffered sex-based harm must now contend with weaker protections from sex discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual assault. This war on women, girls, and LGBT individuals calls upon all of us to take action.

The recent University of Hawai'i Climate Survey Report, which polled 44,671 adult students across ten UH campuses, further reveals the necessity for a state-level solution. For example, 1 in 8 students felt that it was likely that they would experience sexual assault or sexual harassment while on campus, while 1 in 4 felt that an off-campus, university-sponsored event incident was likely. [1] In addition, 1 in 16 UH survey participants system-wide reported non-consensual sexual contact at any time while enrolled at UH. [2]

Accordingly, I SUPPORT S.B. 2353. I respectfully urge your Committee to PASS this important bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Mykie E. Menor Ozoa, J.D.

[1] Loui, P. “University of Hawai‘i Student Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Violence: Executive Summary,” Sept. 11, 2017.

[2] Id.