
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STANDARDIZED TESTING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the federal No Child
2 Left Behind Act of 2001 and Race to the Top program in 2009
3 shifted national education priorities from inquiry-based
4 teaching to standardized testing. Following the enactment of
5 these laws, Hawaii's public school system spent growing amounts
6 of time, money, and energy on standardized testing at the
7 expense of authentic learning.

8 The legislature further finds that an overemphasis on
9 standardized testing narrows academic curricula, reducing arts
10 and cultural education, causing teachers to teach for the
11 standardized testing, decreasing vocational programming, and
12 creating a climate of compliance and fear among students,
13 teachers, and administrators. Moreover, research shows that the
14 negative impacts of standardized testing do most direct harm to
15 students in low-income communities.

16 The legislature additionally finds that the federal Every
17 Student Succeeds Act in 2015 permits states to reduce the amount



1 of time that students spend preparing for and taking
2 standardized tests. Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to
3 promote real-world learning experiences for Hawaii's children by
4 limiting the amount of time students spend studying for and
5 participating in standardized testing.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
8 and to read as follows:

9 "§302A- Standardized testing limitations; op out. (a)
10 Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the department shall
11 only administer standardized tests that are required by state
12 and federal law.

13 (b) The board shall notify students and their parents or
14 guardians about the right to opt out of participating in
15 standardized testing.

16 (c) For the purpose of this section:

17 "Standardized testing" means any assessment that is scored
18 in a consistent manner and intended to measure a student's
19 academic readiness, achievement level, learning progress, or
20 skill acquisition, including any diagnostic, interim, or
21 practice test used to prepare for such an assessment."



1 SECTION 3. Section 302A-638, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 " ~~[+] §302A-638 [±]~~ **Evaluation of teachers and educational**
4 **officers.** The department shall establish an evaluation program
5 for all teachers and educational officers. The evaluation shall
6 be performed at least once in each school year. The program
7 shall define the criteria for evaluation and assign
8 responsibilities for the application of the criteria. The
9 evaluation of a teacher or educational officer shall be on the
10 basis of efficiency, ability, and such other criteria as the
11 department shall determine~~[-]~~; provided that standardized tests
12 results shall not be used to evaluate the performance of any
13 teacher or educational officer, including in any evaluation
14 performed under this section."

15 SECTION 4. The board of education shall amend any
16 necessary board policies relating to standardized testing or the
17 evaluation of teachers and educational officers to conform with
18 the requirements of this Act.

19 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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H.B. NO. 725

Report Title:

Standardized Testing; Exemptions; Evaluation; Teacher;
Educational Officers

Description:

Limits public school students' participation in standardized tests and provides notice to students and parents or guardians of the opportunity to opt out of standardized tests. Prohibits use of standardized test scores for the evaluation of teachers and educational officers.

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