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# 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 increasing  
6 amounts of time, money, and energy on standardized testing at  
7 the 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; opt 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 department shall notify students and their parents  
14 or 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. The board of education shall amend any  
2 necessary board policies relating to standardized testing to  
3 conform with the requirements of this Act.

4           SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

5           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Standardized Testing; Exemptions; Evaluation

**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. (HB725 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

