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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO  
REDUCE THE USE OF STANDARDIZED TESTING IN HAWAII'S PUBLIC  
EDUCATION SYSTEM.

1           WHEREAS, enactment of the federal No Child Left Behind Act  
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, the nation's schools spend growing amounts of  
7 time, money, and energy on standardized testing, in which  
8 student performance on standardized tests is used to evaluate  
9 individual students, educators, and schools; and

10  
11           WHEREAS, an overemphasis on standardized testing has  
12 adversely affected 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 programs; and creating a climate of  
16 compliance and fear among students, teachers, and  
17 administrators; and

18  
19           WHEREAS, the adverse effects of standardized testing most  
20 directly affect low-income students, English-language learners,  
21 students from ethnic-minority 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, 72 percent of teachers feel  
26 considerable pressure to improve test scores and a majority of  
27 teachers report spending too much time on testing and test  
28 preparation, with the average teacher spending approximately 30  
29 percent of the teacher's time on tasks related to standardized  
30 tests; and



# H.C.R. NO. 37

1           WHEREAS, a 2014 PDK/Gallup poll on public attitudes toward  
2 public schools found that only 31 percent of parents support  
3 using standardized test scores to evaluate educators; and  
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5           WHEREAS, there is a diverse and bipartisan movement to opt  
6 out of standardized testing led by students, parents, teachers,  
7 administrators, and organizations, which includes the National  
8 Center for Fair & Open Testing and United Opt Out National; and  
9

10          WHEREAS, the Department of Education administers  
11 standardized tests in multiple grade levels that are aligned  
12 with the Common Core State Standards, including the Smarter  
13 Balanced Assessment; and  
14

15          WHEREAS, the Department of Education has active contracts  
16 with third-party entities to facilitate standardized testing and  
17 test-based curricula that total approximately \$60,000,000; and  
18

19          WHEREAS, the estimated cost of standardized testing does  
20 not include time spent on test preparation, interim testing,  
21 classroom materials related to standardized testing, computer  
22 equipment and personnel needed to administer standardized tests,  
23 and the opportunity cost of educational programs eliminated to  
24 increase time for standardized testing; and  
25

26          WHEREAS, in 2015, President Barack Obama criticized the  
27 proliferation of standardized testing throughout the nation and  
28 called on school districts to limit the amount of time spent  
29 preparing for and taking standardized tests to no more than two  
30 percent of a student's instructional time; and  
31

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



# H.C.R. NO. 37

1 WHEREAS, a survey of public school principals in Hawaii  
2 conducted by Ward Research in July 2016 found that:

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4 (1) 85 percent of principals agreed that instructional  
5 time spent preparing for and taking standardized tests  
6 should be reduced; and  
7

8 (2) 84 percent of principals felt that the Department of  
9 Education should consider changes in the Smarter  
10 Balanced Assessment; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, a survey of public school teachers conducted by  
13 Governor David Ige's Every Student Succeeds Act Team found that  
14 91 percent of teachers felt that the State should consider  
15 changes to its current testing program; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, Hawaii's Blueprint for Public Education, developed  
18 by Governor David Ige's Every Student Succeeds Act Team, called  
19 for reconsideration of Hawaii's membership in the Smarter  
20 Balanced Assessment Consortium; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, numerous states have begun implementing authentic  
23 assessments, which de-emphasize standardized testing and instead  
24 focus on student performance indicators that promote critical  
25 thinking, open-ended questioning, and collaborative learning;  
26 now, therefore,  
27

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
29 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
30 2019, the Senate concurring, that the Board of Education and  
31 Department of Education are urged to reduce standardized testing  
32 in the public education system; and  
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education and  
35 Department of Education are urged to replace standardized  
36 testing with authentic assessments that promote critical  
37 thinking and align classroom instruction with real-world  
38 problem-solving, including assessments based on project-based  
39 learning; and  
40

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is urged  
42 to amend board policies related to the evaluation of teachers



# H.C.R. NO. 37

1 and educational officers so that standardized testing will not  
 2 be used to evaluate the performance of any teacher or  
 3 educational officer; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant  
 7 Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Education, and  
 8 Superintendent of Education.  
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 10  
 11

OFFERED BY:

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MAR 05 2019

