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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 law in 2001 and Race to the Top program in 2009  
3 shifted national education priorities from inquiry-based  
4 teaching to standardized testing. Following enactment of those  
5 federal programs, Hawaii's public school system spent growing  
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, reduces arts  
10 and cultural education, causes teachers to teach to the test,  
11 decreases vocational programming, and creates a climate of  
12 compliance and fear among students, teachers, and  
13 administrators. Moreover, research shows that the negative  
14 impacts of standardized testing most directly harm students in  
15 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.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to promote real-  
4 world learning experiences for Hawaii's children by limiting the  
5 amount of time students spend participating in standardized  
6 testing.

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

10 "§302A- Standardized testing limitations; opt out. (a)  
11 Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, the department shall  
12 only administer standardized tests that are required by federal  
13 law.

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

17 (c) For the purpose of this section, "standardized  
18 testing" means any assessment that is scored in a consistent  
19 manner and intended to measure a student's academic readiness,  
20 achievement level, learning progress, or skill acquisition,



1 including any diagnostic, interim, or practice test used to  
2 prepare for such an assessment."

3 SECTION 3. The board of education shall amend any  
4 necessary board policies relating to standardized testing or the  
5 evaluation of teachers and educational officers to conform with  
6 the requirements of this Act.

7 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.  
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# H.B. NO. 2147

**Report Title:**

Standardized Testing; Opt Out

**Description:**

Limits DOE to administering only those standardized tests required by federal law. Requires DOE to provide notice to students and parents or guardians of the opportunity to opt out of standardized tests.

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

