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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION

RE: HB 1996 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2020

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **opposes HB 1996**, relating to education.

This bill would require the BOE to include evaluation of the Strive HI Performance System as a component of the superintendent of education's annual performance evaluation.

The Strive HI report continues to rely heavily on standardized test scores, further tying curricula to toxic levels of testing that erode creative thinking. In effect, the department's evaluation system is high-stakes for schools, administrators, teachers, and this bill would add this focus on the superintendent evaluations as well. Thus, HSTA opposes the STRIVE HI evaluation system being used to evaluate the HIDOE Superintendent. When school administrators are evaluated by a system that includes standardized test scores of students, and a pure percentage increase for our inclusion classes, without considering what inputs are not being provided to Title I schools that should be for their students to be successful, such as making sure there are enough licensed special education teachers for students with special needs, or enough additional supports for students such as school psychologists, speech pathologists, as well as enough resources for all students with class sizes small enough for teachers to be effective for the individual needs of all of the students in each class, etc. It is basically an evaluation system with an over-emphasis on outputs, heavily relying on standardized test scores, without a look at the inputs needed and if they were provided.

Adding STRIVE HI to the metrics of the Superintendent's evaluation system will contribute to the over-emphasis of standardized test scores on classroom instruction. Teachers deserve professional respect, and need more supports and resources, not another metric for an evaluation system on our superintendent that will further emphasize outputs and not inputs, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **oppose** this bill.