

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/04/2025

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: HB 0098 RELATING TO AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENTS.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes public school complexes to use authentic assessments as part of classroom-based performance assessments.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HB 98 by providing comments.

The Department appreciates the Legislature's continued commitment to improving educational outcomes for Hawaii's students and the effort to explore ways to enhance assessment practices in our schools.

The first part of the bill addresses standardized statewide assessments, and the remainder addresses formative assessment, conducted regularly by classroom teachers, and authentic assessment, which classroom teachers can use as a summative measure of learning should they choose to do so.

The bill asks the Department to "authorize use" of authentic assessments. Many teachers already use authentic assessments in their classrooms, and the Department encourages teachers to do so, because authentic assessments provide engaging, challenging, and relevant measures of student learning. Teachers are neither prevented nor discouraged from using them.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 98.



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TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAI'I HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Item: **HB 98 - RELATING TO AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENTS**

Position: **SUPPORT**

Hearing: **2/4/2025, Conference Room 229, 2:00pm**

Submitter: **Osa Tui, Jr. – President, Hawai'i State Teachers Association**

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association stands in strong support of HB 98, which authorizes public school complexes to use authentic assessments as part of classroom-based performance assessments.

Authentic assessments offer several advantages over standardized tests, especially when used as part of classroom-based performance assessments. These advantages include:

Real-World Application

Authentic assessments: Focus on applying knowledge and skills to real-world scenarios, mirroring situations students might encounter in their lives or future careers.

Deeper Understanding

Authentic assessments: Require students to demonstrate a deeper understanding of concepts by analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating information. This promotes critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Skill Integration

Authentic assessments: Allow students to integrate various skills and knowledge from different subject areas, reflecting the interconnectedness of real-world tasks.

Personalized Learning

Authentic assessments: Can be tailored to individual student needs and learning styles, allowing for more personalized feedback and instruction.

Motivation and Engagement

Authentic assessments: Tend to be more engaging and motivating for students as they see the relevance of their learning and have more autonomy in demonstrating their understanding.

Comprehensive Picture of Learning

Authentic assessments: Provide a more holistic picture of student learning by showcasing their strengths, weaknesses, and progress over time through portfolios, projects, and presentations.

Development of 21st-Century Skills

Authentic assessments: Promote the development of essential 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, collaboration, and creativity.

For all these reasons, we believe that authentic assessments are valuable tools for classroom-based assessment, providing teachers with insights into student learning and guiding instruction. The Hawai'i State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

HB-98

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 10:28:00 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Linde	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this measure. Authentic assessments, especially in the early years, are accurate and valuable ways to understand and appreciate students' growth. They allow for a teacher to highlight the strengths of the student and identify appropriate ways to support their learning. Authentic assessments are often more developmentally appropriate than traditional tests and especially tests administered via computer programs.

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 9:35:28 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha committee members of the House Committee on Education,

I am testifying in support of this bill.

Being a former High School Science teacher in Hawaii, I am very familiar with standardized testing. I have an intimate understanding of how the curriculum can be narrowed down to focus on aspects of a standardized test, as opposed to growing intelligence and how to think. The standardized testing (and the correlating curriculum that is taught) doesn't help students grow and develop. Especially for the students in Hawaii, where our culture and environment is very different than the ones who are develop the testing (continental U.S.). This leaves our students at a disadvantage, not having actually connected with their studies, making it difficult to understand and acquire the concepts and skills being taught. Standardized testing also leaves our keiki at a disadvantage because the ideas and concepts do not connect with what's happening in our real world environment.

Allowing authentic assessments will empower the schools to teach lessons that connect haumana to their environment, their culture, and the world around them. This will not only make it easier for the students to connect with their assignments, but also to learn how to think and increase their intelligence.

In my personal experience as a teacher, tailoring our assignments, and thus testing, custom to their environment and the world around them, will make it so much easier for the students to learn and grow and become smarter.

Please consider supporting this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:46:11 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cat Orlans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Catherine Orlans, and I am the parent of a child with a disability. I am writing to share my support for this bill, as it will have a positive and transformative impact on my child’s education and the education of many other students with disabilities.

As a parent, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges my child faces with traditional standardized testing. It has become clear to me that standardized assessments do not accurately reflect my child’s abilities, nor do they consider the unique challenges that come with their disability. This bill's focus on authentic assessments—such as project-based learning, problem-solving tasks, and portfolio writing—offers a more individualized and flexible approach that better represents the true potential of students like my child.

Improved Learning Environment - Authentic assessments provide an opportunity for my child to demonstrate skills and knowledge in a way that is not restricted by the rigidity of standardized tests. My child has learning disabilities that often make it difficult to perform well on traditional tests. The shift to more personalized and flexible assessments allows my child to showcase their strengths in a more meaningful and relevant context, ultimately promoting personal growth and skill development. Moreover, the bill aligns more closely with the principles of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), which ensures that students with disabilities are provided with an education that meets their unique needs. With authentic assessments, accommodations and modifications can be more easily integrated, ensuring that my child—and others with disabilities—are not penalized but assessed fairly based on their abilities.

Inclusive and Diverse Assessment Practices - I appreciate how this bill emphasizes the use of multiple forms of measurement beyond standardized testing. My child can excel in project-based or performance-based tasks that allow for more accurate demonstrations of knowledge and skills. For students like my child, these types of assessments are more relevant and meaningful, as they connect classroom learning to real-world problem-solving. Additionally, many students with disabilities, particularly those with anxiety or emotional disabilities, experience significant stress around standardized testing. The focus on authentic assessments can reduce this anxiety by making evaluations more engaging and less high-stakes, fostering a more inclusive and supportive learning environment.

More Timely and Relevant Interventions - The shift to authentic assessments will also allow teachers to gather more timely and accurate feedback on my child's progress. For students receiving services under IDEA, this means that interventions can be better tailored and adjusted

to meet their needs. With authentic assessments, educators can modify individualized education programs (IEPs) based on real data about my child's performance, rather than relying on the limited snapshot provided by standardized tests.

Potential for Increased Educational Equity - This bill also holds the potential to address educational inequities by providing all students—especially those with disabilities—with opportunities to be assessed based on their strengths, rather than their weaknesses. Standardized tests often fail to capture the full range of abilities that students with disabilities possess, and this bill moves toward more equitable evaluations that align with the goals of IDEA and FAPE. It's encouraging to see that this bill aims to level the playing field for students like my child, ensuring that they are not disadvantaged by a system that doesn't reflect their true abilities.

However, I have Concerns and Recommendations for Improvement on this Bill - While I strongly support this bill, I have a few concerns that I hope can be addressed to ensure its success:

- **Equity in Implementation:** We must ensure that all schools, particularly those in underfunded or rural districts, have the resources and training needed to implement authentic assessments effectively. Without proper support, there is a risk that some students—especially those with disabilities—may not benefit equally from these changes.
- **Training and Support for Teachers:** It is essential that teachers receive ongoing professional development to properly implement authentic assessments for students with disabilities. Training should focus on how to adapt assessments to meet each student's individual needs, including ensuring that accommodations and modifications are effectively incorporated into these assessments.
- **Monitoring and Accountability:** Finally, to ensure that authentic assessments are implemented with fidelity and are benefiting all students, regular reviews and accountability measures are necessary. This will help ensure that the changes made through this bill truly result in better outcomes for students with disabilities.

In conclusion, this bill represents a significant and positive shift toward more inclusive and equitable educational practices for students with disabilities. By moving away from standardized testing and toward authentic assessments, we are giving students like my child a more fair and accurate way to demonstrate their abilities. However, to ensure its success, we must invest in teacher training, provide necessary resources, and ensure that the implementation of this bill benefits all students, particularly those with disabilities. I urge you to support this bill and help create a more inclusive education system for all children in Hawai'i.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 2:15:15 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Jose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a general education teacher at LCPCS, a small rural charter school on the Big Island of Hawaii. I strongly support HB 98 because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to authentic, meaningful learning experiences for our students.

As an educator, I have seen firsthand how standardized testing narrows the curriculum, discourages creativity, and disproportionately harms students in under-resourced schools. Authentic assessments—such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing—allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world.

School should serve as a place where students can gain a variety of skills that can help prepare them for an ever changing world. Not where they feel discouraged because they were not able to pass a test. Even though they have shown they know the content through other methods of expression (ex. discussions, debates, written responses, ect.)

I would like to add that I am a product of the public education system. I have witnessed first hand how standardized testing can impact, and discourage, a young developing mind. After ten years of post high school education, I came back to support my small community by working at my alma mater. As a second year teacher, it is somewhat disheartening to see that not much has changed with the system as far as assessing students.

HB 98 is a step toward a more equitable, student-centered education system, and I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**Victoria Jose
Social Studies Teacher, Laupahoehoe Community Public Charter School**



HOUSE BILL 98, RELATING TO AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENTS

FEBRUARY 4, 2025 · EDN HEARING

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** HB 98, relating to authentic assessments, which authorizes public school complexes to use authentic assessments as part of classroom-based performance assessments.

Life is not a standardized test. With that in mind, we should authorize schools to implement authentic assessments as a replacement to standardized tests, which have been repeatedly shown to correlate most heavily with socioeconomic status. Impoverished students and under-resourced communities perform worse on standardized tests for numerous reasons according to education research, including limited access to educational resources, inconsistent home learning environments, nutritional and housing deficiencies, physical and mental stress from poverty, and underfunded schools in low-income areas.

Authentic assessments, on the other hand, are aligned with real-world problem-solving and empower students to connect classroom content with complex concerns that exist in their home communities. Unsurprisingly, the same students that underachieve on standardized tests often flourish when authentic assessments are employed to evaluate their learning growth, since they can use the knowledge they attain to create evidence-based solutions to problems that impact and reflect the life experiences of themselves, their families, and their peers.

The overuse of standardized tests in Hawai'i's schools has become an epidemic. Rather than focus on student learning, our schools devote increasing amounts of time to “test and punish” frameworks, in which critical thinking and applied knowledge are replaced with rote test-taking skills that adversely impact a teacher's or schools’ statistical assessment. According to the American Federation of Teachers report “Testing More, Teaching Less: What America's Obsession with Student Testing Costs in Money and Lost Instructional Time,” test preparation and testing in heavily tested districts can absorb up to a month and a half of school time.

The grade-by-grade analysis found that students spend from 60 to more than 110 hours per year on test preparation, at an estimated cost per pupil of \$700 to \$1,000 in heavily tested grades. In Hawai'i, similar studies have found that each test costs roughly \$65, but that does not include resources and personnel needed to administer each test, the cost of test-linked curricula, the price of test preparation materials and testing security contracts, and more. Though the HIDOE has worked to streamline its testing protocols in recent years, the fact remains that an emphasis on test-based outcomes still drives the pedagogical philosophy of our public school system.

HIDOE spent at least \$60 million on external testing-related contracts from 2015 to 2018, including a \$36.4 million contract with the American Institutes of Research to furnish the Smarter Balanced Assessment and HSA alternate assessment, the state's predominant standardized tests. Rather than eliminate this costly burden in favor of authentic learning opportunities, HIDOE leaders renewed AIR’s multi-million-dollar contract for subsequent years.

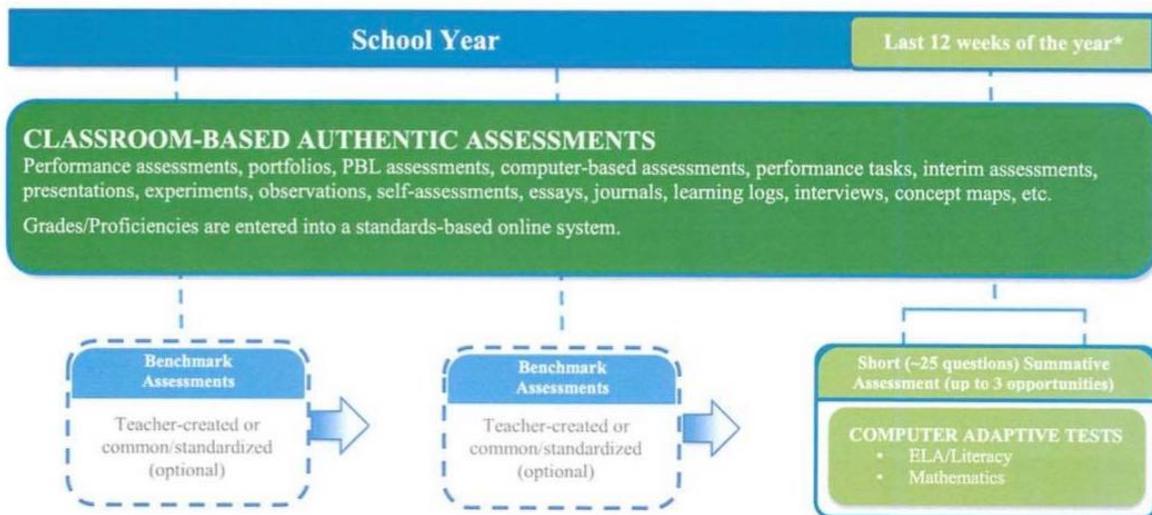
Notably, in 2020, the HIDOE sent the U.S. DOE a letter of intent about applying to be one of seven states participating in a newly created innovative assessment pilot program. The department consulted with education stakeholders to develop a model authentic assessment program focused on project-based learning, an initiative that the department relaunched in December of 2021. Currently, however, the status of HIDOE’s efforts to utilize and expand authentic assessments remains unclear, especially post-COVID.

HIDOE officials have stressed that authentic assessments should be a part of each school’s assessment portfolio. At a 2023 hearing on a previous version of this measure, Deputy Superintendent Heidi Armstrong said, “Our Office of Strategy Assessment and Performance currently has an initiative underway to develop our teachers skills and abilities to ensure that these assessments they are creating are appropriate and measure what they’re intending to measure. **The department does agree that authentic assessments are very meaningful and valuable for our students and teachers.**”

4 of 4

Hawaii Innovative Assessment Model: A Balanced Assessment System

SY 2020-21: Grade 4 English Language Arts/Literacy and Grade 8 Mathematics



Toxic testing undermines our schools’ curricula, our teachers’ autonomy, and our students critical thinking skills. We should replace the millions of dollars spent on external testing contracts and redirect that revenue toward culturally relevant assessments and student performance indicators that may be developed by Hawai’i’s local educators and academic experts, and that are aligned with the critical thinking and problem-solving skills needed for success in real life.

Contact: educationcaucusdph@gmail.com

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 3:12:38 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsy Kai Yamamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a teacher & parent and I strongly support **HB 98** because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to **authentic, meaningful learning experiences** for our students.

As an educator, I have seen firsthand how standardized testing **narrows the curriculum**, & discourages creativity. Authentic assessments—such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing—allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world.

HB 98 is a step toward a more **equitable, student-centered** education system, and I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Kelsy Kai Yamamoto
Waipahu High School

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:07:27 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Strong Makaiau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a parent and professional educator. I strongly support HB 98 because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to authentic, meaningful learning experiences for our students. Why does this matter? Authentic assessments help to ensure that teachers design classroom experiences that are relevant to students’ lives and the needs of our community at large. They also support students in retaining what they learn, so that they can apply classroom-based learning to their lives outside of school.

As an educator, I have seen firsthand how schools that ONLY place value on standardized testing narrow the curriculum, discourage creativity, and disproportionately harm students in under-resourced schools. Schools that focus solely on preparing students for standardized tests do not adequately prepare students for their future careers, family life, and civic engagement. These schools might produce graduates who are “good test takers,” but they do not create the thoughtful innovators, problem-solvers, entrepreneurs, and community leaders that our future depends on.

On the other hand, schools that integrate authentic assessments—such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing—allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world. They help to create lifelong learners who are prepared to solve the future’s toughest challenges in collaboration with their fellow citizens. In all honesty, most highly effective and well-regarded schools already use authentic assessments. Let’s ensure that all students have access to high-quality educational programming, rather than just a privileged few.

HB 98 is a step toward a more equitable, student-centered education system, and I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Amber Strong Makaiau

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 5:43:01 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moriah Salter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a teacher and parent and I strongly support **HB 98** because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to authentic, **meaningful learning experiences** for our students.

As an educator, I have seen firsthand how standardized testing **narrows the curriculum**, discourages creativity, and **disproportionately harms students in under-resourced schools**. Authentic assessments—such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing—allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world.

HB 98 is a step toward a more **equitable, student-centered** education system, and I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Moriah Salter
Hanahau‘oli School

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:44:06 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Zirolì	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a Woodshop Teacher at Laupahoehoe Community Public Charter School and I strongly support **HB 98** because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to **authentic, meaningful learning experiences** for our students.

As an educator and vocational instructor, I have seen firsthand how standardized testing **narrows the curriculum**, discourages creativity, and **disproportionately harms students in under-resourced schools**. Authentic assessments—such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing—allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world. Many of the students have mentioned that woodshop has been their very first example of applying the knowledge that they have learned to real world problems. Woodshop is a place where all the students can demonstrate practical skills and has been a lifeline for many of the students who tend to not exceed academically. It gives them something to work towards and to be proud of. In short: vocational education is drastically changing the lives of some of our students for the better. It is showing them that the education they are receiving has actual value and real world applications.

HB 98 is a step toward a more **equitable, student-centered** education system, and I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Jordan Zirolì

Woodshop Teacher

Laupahoehoe Community Public Charter School

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:36:47 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Burns	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I have been a teacher in public school for 26 years now and I know that standardized testing is actually hurting our kids a lot. It hurts their self esteem because when they don't do good on a test which is very disconnected to real life that they feel terrible about themselves and tend to go downhill in everything. Self image is everything so if we focus more on portfolio based where every child can shine at their gifts than we will have an empowered generation that will contribute to society in all kinds of great ways. Especially in the age of AI information is not what is important but being a problem solver (real world) and being able to work with others collaboratively and feeling good about yourself are way more important than seeing where their reading skills and math skills are at. We need this change badly to begin to have school actually match the real world and be a safe place that people want to be. Please make this change as the old ways I views as criminal because it is hurting our youth and that needs to stop now.

Mahalo Nui Loa

Paul Burns

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:36:47 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uriah Leedy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a Student and I strongly support HB 98 because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to authentic, meaningful learning experiences for our students.

As a student, I have seen firsthand how standardized testing narrows the curriculum, discourages creativity, and disproportionately harms students in under-resourced schools. Authentic assessments—such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing—allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world.

HB 98 is a step toward a more equitable, student-centered education system, and I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Uriah Leedy,

Waiakea High School

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:42:20 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Jacinto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a student, and I strongly support HB 98 because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to authentic, meaningful learning experiences for our students.

As a student, I have seen firsthand how standardized testing narrows the curriculum, discourages creativity, and disproportionately harms students in under-resourced schools. Authentic assessments—such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing—allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world.

HB 98 is a step toward a more equitable, student-centered education system, and I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Hannah Jacinto
Waiakea High School

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:46:56 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaimie Yonemoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a teacher and I strongly support HB 98 because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to authentic, meaningful learning experiences for our students.

As a teacher, I have seen firsthand how standardized testing narrows the curriculum, discourages creativity, and disproportionately harms students in under-resourced schools. Authentic assessments—such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing—allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world.

HB 98 is a step toward a more equitable, student-centered education system, and I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Jaimie Yonemoto

Waiakea High School

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:48:43 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoki Tunufai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a student and I strongly support HB 98 because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to authentic, meaningful learning experiences for our students.

As a student, I have seen firsthand how standardized testing has shot students creativity into the ground, discourages second chances, and disproportionately harms students in under-resourced schools. Authentic assessments—such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing—allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world.

HB 98 is a step toward a more equitable, student-centered education system, and I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Keoki Tunufai

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:50:55 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaylyn Noble	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

As a student, I can confidently say that authentic assessments have transformed my learning experience in school. Instead of just memorizing facts for a test, I get to understanding and skills. For instance, in my biology class, we conducted a field study on urban expansion and how it would affect wildlife.

These assessments push me to think critically and apply what I've learned in meaningful ways. Projects, presentations, and hands-on activities make the learning process more dynamic and enjoyable. Plus, the continuous feedback I receive helps me improve and understand my strengths and areas for growth.

Authentic assessments have made my education more relevant and practical, preparing me better for real-life challenges. I believe they are an essential part of modern education.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Shaylyn Noble

Waiakea High School

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:24:06 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Yuen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a public school teacher at Kahuku High and Intermediate School and a parent of 4 children and I strongly support **HB 98** because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to **authentic, meaningful learning experiences** for our students.

As an educator, I have seen firsthand how standardized testing **narrows the curriculum**, discourages creativity, and **disproportionately harms students in under-resourced schools**. Authentic assessments—such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing—allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world.

HB 98 is a step toward a more **equitable, student-centered** education system, and I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Carol Yuen
Kahuku High and Intermediate School

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:25:11 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tabitha Snader	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a student at Waiakea High School and I strongly support HB 98 because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to authentic, meaningful learning experiences for our students.

As a student, I have seen firsthand how standardized testing narrows the curriculum, discourages creativity, and disproportionately harms students in under-resourced schools. Authentic assessments—such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing—allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world.

HB 98 is a step toward a more equitable, student-centered education system, and I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Tabitha Snader
Waiakea High School

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:16:45 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoelaniokakai Willems Wailani Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a [Student] and I strongly support HB 98 because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to authentic, meaningful learning experiences for our students.

As a student, I have seen firsthand how standardized testing narrows the curriculum, discourages creativity, and disproportionately harms students in under-resourced schools. Authentic assessments—such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing—allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world and

HB 98 is a step toward a more equitable, student-centered education system, and I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

[Kanoelaniokakai Willems Wailani Nihipali]

[Waiakea High School]

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:17:24 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kingston Collins	Student of Waiakea High School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a Student of Waiakea high school and I strongly support HB 98 because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to authentic, meaningful learning experiences for our students.

As a student, I have seen firsthand how standardized testing narrows the curriculum, discourages creativity, and disproportionately harms students in under-resourced schools. Authentic assessments—such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing—allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world.

HB 98 is a step toward a more equitable, student-centered education system, and I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**Kingston Collins
Waiakea High School**

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:18:55 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Nicolas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a student. and I strongly support HB 98 because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to authentic, meaningful learning experiences for our students.

As a student, I have seen firsthand how standardized testing narrows the curriculum, discourages creativity, and disproportionately harms students in under-resourced schools. Authentic assessments—such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing—allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world.

HB 98 is a step toward a more equitable, student-centered education system, and I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**Alexis Nicolas
Waiakea High School**

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:20:28 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian Mateo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a Student at Waiakea High School and I strongly agree and support HB 98 because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to authentic, meaningful learning experiences for me and my fellow peers.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**Christian Mateo
Waiakea High School**

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:20:43 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aidan Moszkowicz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a student and I strongly support HB 98 because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to authentic, meaningful learning experiences for our students.

As a student, I have seen firsthand how standardized testing narrows the curriculum, discourages creativity, and disproportionately harms students in under-resourced schools. Authentic assessments—such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing—allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world.

HB 98 is a step toward a more equitable, student-centered education system, and I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aidan Moszkowicz

Waiakea High School

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:21:33 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Awdisy Victorino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a student and I strongly support HB 98 because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to authentic, meaningful learning experiences for our students.

As a student, I have seen firsthand how standardized testing narrows the curriculum, discourages creativity, and disproportionately harms students in under-resourced schools. Authentic assessments—such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing—allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world.

HB 98 is a step toward a more equitable, student-centered education system, and I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Awdisy Victorino

Waiakea High School

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:22:21 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roldan Ramelb Jr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Roldan Ramelb and I strongly support HB 98 because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to authentic, meaningful learning experiences for our students.

As a student, I have seen firsthand how standardized testing narrows the curriculum, discourages creativity, and disproportionately harms students in under-resourced schools. Authentic assessments such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world.

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:23:01 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Admon Htay	Waiakea high school	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a student and I strongly support HB 98 because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to authentic, meaningful learning experiences for our students.

As a student, I have seen firsthand how standardized testing narrows the curriculum, discourages creativity, and disproportionately harms students in under-resourced schools. Authentic assessments—such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing—allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world.

HB 98 is a step toward a more equitable, student-centered education system, and I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Admon Htay

Waiakea High School

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:23:42 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makana Thoene	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a student and I strongly oppose HB 98.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Makana Thoene

Waiakea High School

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:24:02 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laakea Kaawaloa-Okita	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Laakea Kaawaloa-Okita and I strongly oppose HB 98.

Mahalos for the time!!!!

**Laakea Kaawaloa-Okita
Waiakea High School**

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:24:19 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nonon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am student and I strongly support HB 98 because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to authentic, meaningful learning experiences for our students.

As a student, I have seen firsthand how standardized testing narrows the curriculum, discourages creativity, and disproportionately harms students in under-resourced schools. Authentic assessments—such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing—allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world.

HB 98 is a step toward a more equitable, student-centered education system, and I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**Nonon
Waiakea High school**

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:26:59 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathaejer Jibas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a student at waiakea high and I strongly support HB 98 because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to authentic, meaningful learning experiences for our students.

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:27:39 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaiann Ah-Sing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committe,

I am a student and I strongly support **HB98** because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to **authentic, meaningful learning experiences** for our students.

As a student I have seen firsthand how standardized testing **narrows the curriculum**, discourages creativity, and **disproportionately harms students in under-resourced schools**. Authentic assesments--- such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing--- allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world.

HB98 is a step toward a more **equitable, student- centered** education system. and I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Shaiann Ah-Sing

Waiakea High School

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:28:47 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaelynn ahulau-ha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a student and I strongly oppose HB 98 because it will not help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to authentic, meaningful learning experiences for our students.

As a student, I have seen firsthand how standardized testing narrows the curriculum, discourages creativity, and disproportionately harms students in under-resourced schools. Authentic assessments—such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing—allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world.

HB 98 is not a step toward a more equitable, student-centered education system, and I urge the committee to not pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**Jaelynn Ahulau-Ha
Waiakea High school**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025
STATE OF HAWAII

Testimony in Support of H.B. No. 98
Relating to Authentic Assessments

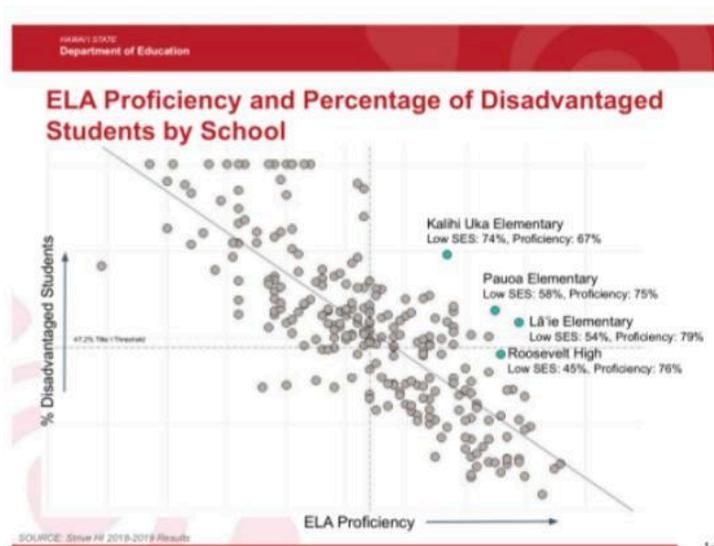
Chair Woodson, and Members of the Education Committee:

I am writing in strong support of H.B. No. 98, which seeks to authorize public school complexes to incorporate authentic assessments as part of classroom-based performance assessments.

Too often, student assessment is tied to excessive amounts of standardized testing—“toxic testing”—and curricula of which such testing is a part and designed to facilitate. Since the enactment of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and Race to the Top program in 2009, Hawaii has been obliged to shift its public education focus from teaching to testing. Undue emphasis on standardized testing leads to teachers spending more time being directed by their administrators to preparing students to take tests and less time actually leading students through meaningful learning inquiry.

Authentic Assessments is assessment through problem-based, projectbased, and place-based learning, which should be the focus, and of which research has shown engages our students more while they retain more information from these types of learning models.

- Current standardized testing is highly correlated not to school performance, but poverty as shown in slide below:



CURRENT
STANDARDIZED
TESTING IS
HIGHLY
CORRELATED
TO POVERTY

- Tests do not help students learn and should not be the focus. Recently, a study of 8,000 students in Alaska confirmed there is no relationship between high stakes tests and college achievement.
- The only reliable predictor of college success was a student's grade point average. Previous studies of more than 100,000 students in California and New York found the same thing. You want to promote college readiness, than high school grades are what matters. (Hodara & Cox, 2016).
- According to a 2014 study conducted by the National Education Association, 72 percent of teachers feel considerable pressure to improve test scores. Over half of teachers surveyed reported spending too much time on testing and test preparation, with the average teacher forced to spend approximately 30 percent of their time on tasks related to standardized tests.
- The data for Authentic Assessments shows that students with special needs in the New York Consortium Schools, which use authentic assessments have a graduation rate of 50%, significantly higher than the 24.7% rate for students with special needs in other NYC high schools. The Consortium also boasts a higher overall 4-year graduation rate of 68.6% compared to 59% for other NYC high schools, based on students enrolled for two or more years. Finally, the dropout rate within the Consortium is notably lower at 5.3% compared to the 11.8% dropout rate in other NYC high schools.
- A study published in Teachers College Record on April 4, 2019, explored the methodological challenges in evaluating educational interventions for students with disabilities. The PACE program, authentic assessments narrowed or even reversed the achievement gap between students with and without disabilities when¹ controlling for prior academic achievement.

This no longer needs to be the case. The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), passed in December of 2015, allows states to choose what test to use for annual student assessments. Our state could, in fact, move to using authentic assessments, instead of a standardized fill-in-the blank and give a short essay answer, types of tests. We must seize this opportunity. As a state, we must turn toward a system of authentic student assessments that foster whole child education.

We support a more holistic vision of education with more project-based learning and similar approaches that involve integrated teaching that “links individual subjects, instructional units, and lessons to their larger meaning; helps students see connections incorporating a variety of instructional approaches,” and promotes “a deep sense of community and acceptance.” This “whole child” approach to instruction requires not only

broadening the curriculum, but also examining the struggles faced by students who come from underprivileged ethnic and social classes.

Thus inquiry-based, project based, and place-based education is crucial to giving students the skills necessary to solve community problems, and authentic assessments go hand-in-hand with these types of deeper learning opportunities.

HB-98

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:59:37 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kori Oros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a teacher for 15 years and I strongly support **HB 98** because it will help shift our focus from high-stakes standardized testing to **authentic, meaningful learning experiences** for our students. This year alone, we have spend over 20 percent of our school year, over 15 days, on testing and practice testing. This takes away instructional time.

As an educator, I have seen firsthand how standardized testing **narrows the curriculum**, discourages creativity, and **disproportionately harms students in under-resourced schools**. Authentic assessments—such as project-based learning, historical analysis, and portfolio writing—allow students to engage deeply with content, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate their learning in ways that are relevant to the real world.

HB 98 is a step toward a more **equitable, student-centered** education system, and I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Kori Oros
Kipapa Elementary